Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands September 2010

A little time, a little effort, makes for a better neighborhood!

Newsletter Publishing /Distribution

For the past several years, we've published the ***Cascade Highlands Herald*** every other month (Jan., March, May, July, Sept., Nov.) each year. In the future, due to both printing costs and less pertinent information being available and needed for printing, we will be publishing the newsletter only on an as-needed basis.

We do need additional newsletter distributers however. If you like to get outside and take a nice walk and are willing to deliver newsletters to around 35 houses (give or take a few, depending on the route), please contact Erika Johnson, 260-9140. We need YOU, if you're willing to help. THANKS.

Save the Dates

1)Tree Planting

Our planting is November 6.

Current CHNA Bank Balance

Current Balance - is $1,247.60.

New Move-Ins to the Neighborhood

If you just moved in (or have a newly moved-in neighbor) and would like to receive our welcoming newcomer 'information sheets', please contact Jean Kent 896-7291. THANKS, and *welcome to the neighborhood!*

Thank you to all of our dedicated newsletter distributors - you help make Cascade Highlands a great place to live! Thank you to *Judy and Dick Bird*, *Eileen and Joe Blackman, Gary Bohman, Joe Byrne, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Cecil Davies, Marion Dittman, Son Do, Edith Hartley, Jim Hoover and Shareefah Abdullah, Ann Horstman, Brenda Jensen, Erika Johnson, Jean Kent, Annette Leone, Yu-Ying Liu, Sheila McKay, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Holly Orr, Pat Poe, Diane Pudans, Ron and Shirley Royer, Barbara Scherr, Steve Schmidlkofer, Marianne Stein, Jim Strouse, Mike Stroy, Anne Vitort and Bill Wilton* for helping with the last newsletter.

C.H.N.A. LEADERSHIP

Chair
Jean Kent 896-7291
jeaken@pacifier.com

Vice-Chair
Gary Bohman 254-2009
pegarma@aol.com

Treasurer
Nathalie Pinzone

Secretary
Mark Johnson 260-9140

City Liaison
Antoinette Gasbarre 619-1008
antoinettegasbarre@ci.vancouver.wa.us

Newsletter Editor
Mark Johnson 260-9140

Newsletter Distributor
Erika Johnson 260-9140

Website Coordinator
Dan West
dan@westofnorthwest.org

Neighborhood Policing Officer
Corporal Charlie Ford
487-7540
charlie.ford@ci.vancouver.wa.us

The Annual Cleanup Report

The cloud cover was glorious, offering all the cheerful and dedicated workers a perfect cleanup weather experience for our July 31, 2010 Neighborhood Cleanup. Mark, Erika, Joe, Son, Sandy and Jean worked the calm first shift, but once Rob, Dan, Pat, Jill, Jean, and Joseph moved into place for the second shift, the neighbors really starting coming: 130 dumpster coupons and 56 chipper/yard waste coupons arrived fast and furiously. According to the transfer station tickets, this year's statistics are: 2 truckloads of bulky items totaling 8.58 tons, and 2 drop boxes of yard debris totaling 5.11 tons. The disposal cost for the bulky items was $659.77 and the disposal cost for the yard debris was $263.63.

We filled 1.5 pickup truck beds with plastic garden pots (which, by the way, can be recycled all year in your big, blue recycling roll carts) and 2.5 pickups full of block foam (which also can be recycled at once-a-month events rotating between Clark College and Fisher's Landing Bus Station), and Ralph piled the metal higher than you thought metal could be stacked in three large pickups and hauled it away. Larry's truck left stuffed with dead lawnmowers and other such small-engine items. The noon-to-cleanup crew of Shareefah, Joe, Jim, Jean, Rob, Bob, and Gary watched the tide of 'dumpers' slow to a trickle and then, once the site was closed, worked to leave the parking lot cleaned up, the food (900 lbs again this year!) and $55.00 of cash donated to F.I.S.H. of Orchards packed in that truck, and all the signs, cones, and equipment stashed away.

Pat, Rob, Joe, Jean, Bill, and Shareefah and Jim all shared use of their pickups - thank you so much. We couldn't have this successful a cleanup without your pickups! Casey, Tim, Bob and one other employee from Waste Connections (we don't know his name, sorry!) worked hard to help us sort the dumpster-doomed from the recyclable. Two city employees kept the chipper grinding away at our yard debris. Goodwill's truck had 'melons' (those big cardboard boxes) for: electronics, shoes, linens, wood, cardboard, clothing, glass, hard goods (toys, tools, picture frames, kitchen cordless-items, metal decor, wood decor, etc.), and books.

A few people went above-and-beyond to help neighbors get their needs accommodated: Jill, her friend, and Son drove to the Mill Plain trailer park to pick up yard debris, Rob drove his pickup to a lady's home to get her metal, and Sandy was willing to take an enormous bag of block foam to the recycling center using her van. Additionally, several neighbors made multiple 'deposits' in an effort to clear their yards and homes of no longer wanted items.

So, in conclusion, here's a big thank you to Waste Connections and to the City of Vancouver for paying for the chipper, the packer trucks, the dumpsters, and the tipping fees at the dump, as well as the city and W.C. worker salaries to make our cleanup a success. Plus a huge thank you to the volunteers from CHNA who work as partners with positive city and company staff members who all make this worthwhile event possible.

Thanks again to all who helped out!

A Chance to Share From Your Abundance

Do you have a fruit or nut tree and would like to share the bounty with Vancouver's Emergency Food System? Would you like to help harvest fruit from neighborhood trees which will be donated to local food pantries? Thousands of pounds of fruit and nuts fall to the ground each year creating messes in yards across Vancouver yet many in our community go hungry or lack access to fresh, healthy foods each day. Urban Abundance's gleaning program offers tools for our community to register trees to be harvested as well as volunteers to help bring in the harvest. Join us for our first year of gleaning fruit and nuts.

To register your fruit tree or sign-up as a gleaner check us out online at: www.myurbanabundance.org/gleaning or call Warren @ 360-771-1296

8th Annual Neighborhood Tree Planting

In partnership with Friends of Trees and The City of Vancouver Urban Forestry

Plant trees in your yard!

- Increase your property value
- Reduce cooling and heating bills
- Beautify your property
- Screen an undesirable view
- Soften the suburban hardscape

Neighborhoods with more trees

- Have less crime
- Have higher property values
- Sell homes faster

Planted along streets

- Trees slow traffic

$50 buys a nursery-stock 6 to 14 foot tall, 2-inch caliper tree. Holes are dug for you. Utility lines are marked. Trees include a one year replacement guarantee.

Step 1: visit www.friendsoftrees.org
Step 2: create an account (does not obligate you)
Step 3: order trees (parking strip trees require inspection first)
Step 4: plant alongside your neighbors with the help of trained crew leaders

Note: Trees offered for our width of parking strip are selected because their roots will not crack or raise the sidewalk.

Important dates:

October 8: last day to create an account

October 22: last day to order

November 6: Tree planting Day!

The tree planting event is a great way to meet your neighbors, have fun, and make a positive impact on your community. Children welcome! Contact Erika at erikalovesnature@hotmail.com with questions. Thanks!

Stats about our Fire Department

The Vancouver Fire Department is the fourth largest fire service agency in Washington, protecting over 245,000 people in a consolidated service area of 90.6 miles including the City of Vancouver and Fire District 5. Last year, Vancouver firefighters ran over 21,000 emergency calls. Firefighting equipment requires a lot of space in an emergency. A typical truck is over 50 feet long, 8-feet wide, and over 11-feet high. In addition, when operating the aerial ladder at a fire, firefighters must use outriggers for stabilization. This equipment extends the truck width to 20 feet.

Is Your Street Address Visible?

The Fire Department asks: Is your home's address easily seen from the street? Please consider posting your address in a highly visible place. In an emergency, you might really benefit, plus anyone arriving for a first-time visit would appreciate your thoughtfulness also.

One Traffic Calming Clinic Remains

On SEPTEMBER 21, 2010 the NTSA MEETING: 7 - 7:30 p.m., Transportation Office, 4400 NE 77th Ave, 3rd floor will feature the final (of three) Traffic Calming Clinic.

SAFE STREETS CLINIC 3: Twenty-two Benefits of Urban Street Trees, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Building upon the philosophy and research of *Walkable Communities* founder Dan Burden, this workshop will explain the benefits of street trees and their relationship to traffic calming and community livability. Participants will learn how to implement these ideas on residential streets. This session will be hosted jointly with the Vancouver Urban Forestry Program.

Upcoming Block Foam (Styrofoam®) Recycling Dates

Recycle your clean, dry block foam, also known as polystyrene or Styrofoam ®, at an upcoming free event. Participation is open to residents of Vancouver and Clark County. Participants must wait on site to have materials accepted. No loads larger than what fits in a passenger van, please. Questions? Call Vancouver Solid Waste Services at 360-619-4120. Please note: NO packing peanuts of any type and NO polyurethane foam can be accepted at these events. (Polyurethane is that stiffer 'foam' which doesn't break easily or produce those little annoying pellets.)

• Saturday, Sept 4, 2010: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Clark College Yellow 1 Parking Lot, Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver

• Saturday, Oct 2, 2010: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fishers Landing Transit Center, 3510 SE 164th Ave., Vancouver

North Runway Closes for Two Months

The north runway at Portland International Airport (PDX) has temporarily closed as of Tuesday, August 3. The closure is scheduled to last approximately two months and is needed to complete work on the North Runway Extension (NREX) project which is part of a three-year runway rehabilitation program at PDX. Due to the closure, the crosswind and south runways will carry higher than normal volumes of air traffic until the north runway reopens this fall. Neighbors near the airport are likely to notice this change in aircraft operations, especially underneath the arrival and departure pattern for the crosswind runway. If you have any questions you can contact either:
Brooke Berglund, Community Affairs, 503.415.6532
Noise Management Hotline, 503.460.4100 / 800.938.6647

Will You Help with Setting up a Community Garden?

Would you be willing to participate in a work party to set up a new community garden for our neighbors in that rectangle of property between the gym and Goodwill just east of 160th (and south of 12 St.)? We are in discussions with the Kessid Community Center to set up a community garden just north of their property (and south of Goodwill). We'll need help to get the site up and running, so keep an eye out for a notice in our next newsletter regarding this volunteer effort. THANKS!

Maintaining Homestead Park with Reduced Parks Funding

At our request, city personnel are currently working with the Parks Department and Public Works (who maintains the park) to address how the neighborhood parks may be affected by future budget cuts. As they complete their analysis and allocation of resources this fall, they will also identify how neighbors and partners can help. They anticipate creating some form of "adopt-a-park" model so neighbors can assist with the maintenance of their local park. Some folks are interested in volunteering while others would like to fundraise to help cover maintenance. We greatly appreciate the support and plan to have a model in the coming months that we can implement for 2011-12. They will keep us informed as we identify solutions.

Questions can be communicated to:
Jane Tesner Kleiner, RLA
Parks Manager
Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Department (VCPRD)

Plastic Garden Pots May Be Recycled in Blue Bin

Rinse 'em out and toss 'em into your big blue recycling bin.

To Periphery Residents of Homestead Acres and Homestead Place

Have you any missing black-ball caps on your fence posts and want to replace them? A few neighbors have inquired and here's what Home Depot has listed as a 'wooden post cap'; it's not exactly the same as we have, but is similar and has the flat, although fancier, board between the ball and the top of the fence post which is also missing from some of our posts. The unit would need to be primed and painted prior to being installed on the top of the fence post.

4 in. x 4 in. Cedar Ball Post Cap
Model 5100500040405000 **$13.97**

With tax these cost about $15.25 per cap and the store on 192nd has them. If you are interested in obtaining replacement caps you can certainly do this yourself, or, if you want to participate in a 'group' capping project, please call or email Jean Kent. The deadline for contacting Jean about this is Sept 13th. Please know how many caps you need when you call and be prepared to pay for the replacement caps. 896-7291, jeaken@pacifier.com.

Block Foam and Electronic Recycling

For a list of free e-waste disposal sites that will accept old TVs, go to RecyclingA-Z.com. E-waste will be collected by Empower Up (formerly CREAM), a nonprofit organization that recycles electronics and offers free computer training. Empower Up prefers working electronic equipment that is no more than five years old. However, nonfunctioning and obsolete equipment will be accepted. More information is available at www.empowerupnow.org.
Recycling block foam packaging, or Styrofoam®, from electronics and other purchases saves space in your garbage cart and reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills. Total Reclaim, a Portland recycling business, grinds and melts Styrofoam® into ingots, reducing the foam's volume by roughly 98 percent. The ingots are shipped to other processors and turned into pellets. The pellets, which have the same quality as new plastic, are used to manufacture picture frames, office products and other items.
Block foam can be any color, but it must be clean and bagged or boxed. No plastic-wrapped yellow urethane foam or spongy polypropylene foam, no hot tub covers, no packing peanuts, and no foam with cardboard, tape or metal attached will be accepted. Only Washington-licensed cars may participate. All participants must remain on site until staff has examined and accepted the material. Unacceptable foam will be returned.
Businesses can bring in small loads of foam — no bigger than what will fit into a passenger or cargo van — at no charge. Larger business loads should be taken to Total Reclaim's site at 5805 N.E. Columbia Blvd., Portland, during the company's regular weekday business hours.
For more information, contact Elsie Deatherage, Vancouver Solid Waste Services, 360-619-4122.

CREAM is now EmpowerUp

CREAM (Computer Reuse Education & Marketing) where you used to be able to leave your TV's and consumer electronic devices is now called *Empower Up: Technology Reuse in Action*, a partnership between Clark County, the

City of Vancouver, Clark College, The Salvation Army, Waste Connections, Inc. (your garbage hauler), and Habitat for Humanity ReStore. The Education center, donation enter and computer and electronics thrift store is located at 5000 E 4th Plain Blvd. (Suites E 101 & F), phone 735-0888.

Save Metal for Ralph

Instead of tossing unneeded metal objects in your big blue bin for recycling or your garbage can, consider saving it for our cleanup. Ralph will take all metal disposed of at the cleanup and will recycle it!

Watering Trees

If you have a young (<5 yrs) tree, to help it thrive, consider giving it a good long drink every couple of weeks during the summer.

July 26, 2010 Homestead Park Dessert Meeting Notes

1. FVRL Library Presentation (Karin Ford – Vancouver Community Librarian). Karin noted that business has really increased (12% this last year). Part of this is due to the current economy: people using computers to look for jobs and borrowing books as opposed to buying them. Two libraries have been opened over the last year or so - in Battleground and in Cascade Park. The new Main Library for Vancouver on Evergreen and "C" Streets will be ready in June or July of 2011. Karin also noted that there is a district-wide levy that would restore the amount of money given to the library by residents each year to 50 cents for every $1,000 in property value (currently at 32 cents per $1,000). If the levy passes, they may open the main library 6 days a week, instead of 5 days like they currently do.

Feel free to both donate and purchase books to the Cascade Park Library book store (books sell for 25 cents for paperbacks, $1.00 for hardbacks).

2. Neighborhood Cleanup: Saturday, July 31st from 8:00-12:30. Names were taken for volunteers to help.

3. Homestead Park Maintenance: it was noted that there are 60+ parks the city staff cares for. There are currently 28 employees, but as of Nov/Dec, the staff will be cut to 14. 38 locations need irrigation/sprinkler maintenance and only one person does that job: the 15th worker out of the 28.

The city's irrigation budget is $120,000 per year and the water bill last year for Homestead Park was roughly $2,300. Also, collecting garbage from all the trash cans citywide costs approximately $100,000. Impacts of service level cuts have yet to be decided; however, parks administrators have talked about turning off water, removing trash cans and providing only basic services to keep the plants alive and the playgrounds safe.

4. Lights in the 15th Street Passthrough: Jean Kent let us know these lights will no longer be maintained for the future, as she's unable to get proper working equipment for the light. She noted there have been many separate attempts to maintain the lights since March of 2006 when we originally got the grant to have the lights installed.

5. Replacing the trees on the 159th Place just east of 19th St.: these trees are now on the Urban Forester's list to be replanted (don't know when).

6. Maintaining ROW (right of way) areas: we need to do this as best we can. Great examples were given: Mike Story pulled weeds on the center divider of 159th Place, Jay Boldra trimmed the bushes at 17th St and 160th Ave and Jean Kent has trimmed the thorny bushes on the west side of 160th Ave "as high as I can reach standing on a bucket" and also some on McGillivray and on Village Loop.

7. Update to projects to upgrade the intersections on 164th Ave. with Mill Plain Blvd., 12th, 15th, 20th, McGillivray and 34th St.: Jean brought report for meeting attendees to see.

8. List of sites in Clark County accepting computers, monitors and TVs: Jean gave out copies of the list to meeting participants who were interested.

9. Bank statements: Current balance is $1,222.60 + $20.00 for sale of 12' wooden ladder. That includes $120.00 we got for participating in the Recyclingest Neighborhood Program.

10. Upgrade to park signs: faded dog poop signs will be replaced and there is discussion about whether the main park sign needs to be replaced as well (checking the cost - we would pay it out of our N.A. funds).

11. Neighborhood Newsletter: the newsletter will only be published as needed in the future (rather than every 2 months, like it is now).

12. Upcoming tree planting (Erika Johnson): Erika noted that Urban Forestry plants about 800 trees every year. The 8th Annual neighborhood tree planting is November 6th, but residents can begin signing up for $50 trees (6' to 14' tall) now. Residents can register at www.friendsoftrees.org.

13. Sharing of Animal Stories

14. Vancouver Comprehensive Plan (Bryan Snodgrass: Principal Planner, Community Development/Long Range Planning). Bryan handed out a questionnaire regarding what things in a neighborhood were the most important to people. Also, Bryan asked the meeting participants for ideas he could put on two lists: things currently good about the neighborhood and things they would like changed.

Things that were good: parks (well-kept), walking trails, bike paths, good neighborhood association, schools, clean and well-kept houses, shopping, trees, safe neighborhood, quiet, close work-out facility, bookstore, library and post office close by.

Things people wanted to see changed: less/no litter, increased police supervision, some homes have too many vehicles, cars parked on grass, no toys on street (right of way), better, more complete, free/clear use of sidewalks, better sidewalk maintenance by neighbors, slower traffic on 160th, need a laundromat, music series at Tech Center Park, more sidewalks/ADA ramps, better and more upscale restaurants, designated area for food carts, use vacant commercial buildings before building more new ones, retrofitting of houses and more sustainable homes, encouragement of increased bicycle use, and composting.

Next Steps: Next year, the City will focus on zoning changes, as well as changes that require money (focusing on changes that will help make neighborhoods more cohesive). Then, they will develop a few policy changes and have hearings on those in Fall 2011.

Bryan brought a series of interesting maps showing the CHNA area; an aerial color photo (taken a year or two ago), a land use map, a zoning map, a residential ownership map, a transportation routes map, a 'residential properties distance from commercial and retail services' map, a residential properties distance from parks' map, and a residential properties distance from schools' map. If you'd like to see this packet of maps, call Jean Kent 896-7291, or email jeaken@pacifier.com.

15. Topics of Interest or Concern

a) There was a request to encourage people to pick up litter in the neighborhood when you're walking around.

b) It was noted that a new non-profit organization called *Re-gifting* will come to your home and pick up your items.

c) There was a request that people not just leave their garbage cans out in front of their house all week long, as it can bring rats to the area. It was also noted that grass growing over curbs looks bad.

d) Addressing the need to continue watering in the park despite city cuts, it was recommended that CHNA residents donate money to help water the park (would likely need a minimum of $2,300 total to do it, plus additional costs for mowing, other maintenance, etc.).

e) There was a question as to whether or not we're still painting address numbers on the curbs and yes, we are. Contact Jean if you want yours done.

16. Dessert.

Our newsletters can be viewed on line if you prefer that method. Either go to the city of Vancouver website (http://www.cityofvancouver.us/Default.asp) and follow the links through our community, neighborhoods, office of neighborhoods, to neighborhood associations, or use our direct link www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands.

The City of Vancouver supports the Neighborhood Associations in their effort to share vital information with residents to create a more informed public. However, the information provided and the opinions and views expressed in Neighborhood Association newsletters or other documents, do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Vancouver, nor does the City determine whether the information published is accurate or appropriate.

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