



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

September 2011

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

Current CHNA Bank Balance

Current Balance - \$752.24. Plus \$5.00 x 29 (garage sale participants) minus \$140.41 costs for garage sale (*Columbian* ad, photocopying, poster board), plus \$120.00 recycling neighborhood participant, plus \$100.00 for recycling so much during our cleanup, plus \$223.50 for metal recycled at our cleanup. Total: \$1,583.33 (\$380.00 of that is for park maintenance).

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!*

Upcoming CHNA Dates

1) **Annual Neighborhood Tree Planting (through Vancouver Urban Forestry and Friends of Trees)** – Saturday, January 14th (see newsletter article for more information).



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, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Cecil Davies, Marion Dittman, Son Do, Edith Hartley, Jim and Shareefah Hoover, Ann Horstman, Brenda Jensen, Erika Johnson, Jean Kent, Larry and Carol Kirk, Peggy Liang, Yu-Ying Liu, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Holly Orr, Pat Poe, Diane Pudans, Barbara Scherr, Steve Schmidkofer, Marianne Stein, Jim Strouse, Mike Story, Anne Vitort and Bill Wilton* for helping with the last newsletter.

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2011 CHNA Cleanup

July 30th began with a nice cloud cover which kept the morning feeling cool for the 98 dumpster/Goodwill dumpsters and the 36 chipper/yard debris unloaders who participated this year. Our volunteers were helpful and cheery, as usual: Here's a big **Thank You** to unloaders Erika, Steve, Rob, Dan and Bob, recyclers and Goodwill truck babysitters Barbara, Joe, and Pat, plastic bag removers Nancy and Rosie, and greeters Jill, Eileen, Cynthia, and Jean. Without you we couldn't offer a cleanup! We had five pickups 'donated' for service also: Thank You Pat, Joe, Bob, Jean and Rob! It should be noted that 11 of those super volunteers have worked the cleanup before, several of them multiple times.

We collected two huge bags of block foam (BTW: this packaging material can be recycled monthly at other locations now), and one of bicycles (the 7 bicycles and \$35.00 [\$5.00/bike] were donated to the Cycling Center in Portland).

Other workers included three gentlemen from Waste Connections, two Vancouver City staff members 'manning' the chipper, and Elsie, Solid Waste coordinator for the city. Larry recycled our lawn mowers, and Ralph's truck wouldn't start so he was unable to pick up our metal. We were able to put all the metal in a large bin and, thankfully, it was recycled.

We collected food and personal care products for FISH of Orchards as well as \$4.00 cash. [Despite several contacts with F.I.S.H., we have not received our donation poundage yet.]

According to the transfer station tickets there were two truckloads of bulky items totaling 7.93 tons and one drop box of yard debris weighing 2.54 tons. [This doesn't include what was processed in the chipper.]

The stream of customers, however seemed quite slow [2010 - 56 chipper coupons, 130 dumpster: 2009 - 61, 109; 2008 - 64, 132; 2007 - 57 130; 2006 - 69, 129] so, as a result, and because of the costs incurred by this event, we will not hold a cleanup next year, but will wait a year for our next one. Thus our next cleanup will be in July of 2013.

A few questions arose:

- 1) Do we collect tires at the cleanup? No, we do not. The city issues coupons for the free disposal of four tires in the spring.
- 2) Do we collect burned out fluorescent light bulbs? No, we do not. You can recycle these bulbs at the transfer stations or through Clark Public Utilities.
- 3) Do you need to reside in the CHNA boundaries to dump anything at the CHNA cleanup? Yes, you do. Cleanups are provided for organized neighborhood associations by the city and by Waste Connections and are organized by neighborhood leadership.

We have a few pamphlets left over regarding the safe disposal of medications. If you would like one of these, please contact Jean Kent.

2011 Garage Sale

Twenty nine residences participated in our neighborhood garage sale this year. The weather was great and Friday especially was an excellent sale day. Participants paid \$5.00 each, and our expenditures were: \$91.41 at Office Max, and \$59.00 for the 4-day ad in the *Columbian*. That's a total of \$4.59 profit for the N.A. kitty.



Have you a Dog in Your Family?

Anecdotal evidence around the neighborhood seems to indicate an increase in two items:

- 1) Waste:** it appears that more dog waste is being left by people walking their dog, rather than being properly picked up as law requires.

When you're out walking your dog, PLEASE:

- a) Scoop the poop.
- b) Bag it.
- c) Toss it in the garbage.

Many people do not realize that pet waste left on the ground often gets washed into our storm drains which lead directly to our streams and wetlands, affecting the health of not only aquatic wildlife, but ourselves and our children.

- 2) Barking:** please keep your dog from continuous barking (especially outside), as noise can travel easily to other households.



Property Maintenance Problems

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Contact: Code Compliance 360-487-7810 or on-line:

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/CodeEnforcement.asp>

This is the time of year when grass and weeds spring up at both developed and vacant or abandoned parcels of land. Just like complaints about other property nuisances (housing conditions, garbage and junk) there are things the city can and cannot do. For instance, the city does not have the authority to go onto private property to abate violations such as to mow grass or clean up junk unless it has a court order. Even with a court order, the city only has the staff and budget to deal with the highest ranking violations for safety, health or fire hazards. Tall grass/vegetation is not in and of itself a fire hazard.

The city's Code Compliance program has a priority ranking for projects. Life-safety issues such as substandard buildings, health hazards from garbage, and safety hazards to motorists and pedestrians are the highest priority. Tall vegetation is the lowest priority. As code compliance officers have time they respond to lower level complaints and follow-up with notification to property owners of the violation.

At issue currently, is the large number of vacant and foreclosed properties where no one is accepting responsibility. Many of these properties are in some sort of legal limbo and it can take many months to resolve an issue when there is not voluntary compliance by the property's owner. Code compliance is working with all of its available resources to identify and work with appropriate property owners on affected properties. However, it is a continual challenge to identify property owners and persuade lending institutions to take corrective action when needed.

Vancouver's Minimum Property Maintenance Ordinance, passed January, 2004, explains in detail the property owner's responsibility. <http://www.cityofvancouver.us/CodeEnforcement.asp>

The New Community Mediation Services (CMS) offers choices

The new Community Mediation Services (CMS) is providing Clark County residents and organizations with an informal, private way to improve communication and resolve disagreements. You may remember it as the Community Mediation Center which was previously part of the City of Vancouver.

Recently the door was re-opened as a new community-based non-profit program. CMS offers dispute resolution services, mediation, facilitation, and training to community members, schools, government offices and workplaces. They are here to help the residents and organizations of Clark County resolve differences within the community, and create understanding within our neighborhoods.

CMS provides a wide range of conflict resolution and prevention services. Community Mediation's services include helping neighbors resolve concerns with each other in a non-adversarial manner. Some examples include disputes over boundary lines, cultural differences, and concerns involving animals, vegetation, and interpersonal conflicts. They also mediate issues between landlords and tenants including eviction issues, security deposits, property maintenance and repairs. Often, cases that end up in Small Claims Court can be resolved using mediation instead. Fees for these services are based on a sliding scale.

Neighborhood Mediation Services are offered at a reduced rate of \$10 per household. No one will be turned away for lack of ability to pay. We encourage you to offer CMS as a resource for your neighbors who may need conflict resolution assistance. Please contact CMS to learn more about their services or if you would like to schedule a presentation for your association. Send an email to cms.clarkcounty@gmail.com, mail to gwencms@gmail.com, or call (360) 334-5862.



Using Electricity

If you are interested in wanting to shift your electricity use to non-peak hours, you should try to not use the power between 6-9 a.m. and 4-7 p.m.



Donating for Homestead Park Through the Foundation Website?

If you would prefer donating towards the upkeep of Homestead Park through the Foundation website, please enter in your browser the URL below and type in "Homestead Park Maintenance" in the notation box. That way you will receive a receipt from the foundation for the tax-deductible donation.

<http://www.parksfoundation.us/DonateNow.php>

Perhaps you have noticed that the Homestead Park trees' leaves are turning much earlier than usual and appear unhappy. The following is from Charles Ray, Urban Forester for Vancouver; "All trees are showing signs of stress in previously irrigated sites now that the City has turned off the water. The early fall color is natural when a tree is stressed. The established trees should be fine once they get use to the reduced watering."

Since the water has been turned off for this summer, the trees are not being watered and they are trying to adjust to a change in their environment. If you would like to help them, consider bringing a water bottle or a milk jug of water to the park each time you visit it, and water a tree (or two). Friends of Trees recommends 10 gallons a week for each young tree. Established trees generally do ok after they figure out the new 'schedule' of watering (i.e. dry in the summer). If we're able to raise \$4400.00 for next summer's watering/mowing costs, our grass, shrubs, and trees will be watered again next year. Can YOU donate some money for our park's maintenance? If 88 CHNA neighbors paid \$50.00, we'd have the \$4400.00 to maintain the park.

The Parks Foundation can be reached: Parks Foundation of Clark County • 415 W. 6th St, PO Box 2397, Vancouver, WA 98668-2397 • 360-487-8370, <http://www.parksfoundation.us/> Please specify **HOMESTEAD PARK MAINTENANCE FUND**. We currently have \$605.00 specified for park maintenance (that's the total from the foundation account as well as monies donated to CHNA specifically for park maintenance). There's only \$3,795.00 to go!

Painting the Public Side of Public Fences

Those of you who live on the periphery of Homestead Place and Morningside may certainly paint your own fence at any time. Several years ago we organized a fence-painting project and most all of you painted your own fence with paint purchased as a group. Please feel free to paint away (kill the moss spores and pressure wash first for a satisfying and long-lasting result) - the color is white (an easy match!), and it would definitely spruce up the public appearances of 160th Ave., Village Loop, and McGillivray.

Executive Board Terms

by Jean Kent

I failed to notice that the executive board's terms of office were up in July. We should have published that nominations for office were open in our previous (February) newsletter, and should have held an election at our July meeting in the park. I apologize for this error. All board members are willing to serve another two year term and ballots were available at the cleanup for people to vote if they cared to. Of the ballots filled out and turned in, the results were unanimous - the board is reelected. If you would like to be a board member, please contact one of the current board members. Thank you for your patience and understanding about this mistake.



Describing our Roadways

Here are the interesting definitions of words added at the end of our street names.

Avenue (Av) - A street running north and south.

Place (Pl) - A non-extendable street running north and south between streets.

Court (Ct) - A cul-de-sac street running north or south.

Street (St) - A street running east and west.

Way (Wy) - A non-extendable street running east and west between streets.

Circle (Cr) - A cul-de-sac street running east or west.

Lane (Ln) - A meandering, irregular street

Drive (Dr) - A diagonal, irregular street.

Boulevard (Bv) - A primary arterial street



Thoughts on Crime

by Jean Kent

1. Law enforcement is only as good as the quality of the information shared by the population.

2. Criminals are lazy, so make it hard for them: don't leave things in plain view and lock your car.

3. Make use of the policies available to you: NOW (Neighbors on Watch), MYN (Map Your Neighborhood), Safe Communities Task Force, Neighborhood Police Officer.

4. If you're a victim of 'road rage' don't drive home, drive to a police precinct, or to a public area with lots of witnesses.

Additional safety tips:

See anything suspicious? Please call 9-1-1, even if it doesn't seem like an emergency.

Out and about in the neighborhood park? Keep your cellphone camera handy in case you notice anything suspicious. The footage could prove helpful for police if a crime occurred.

When possible, secure your vehicles in your garage. If you must park them in the driveway, remove valuables or anything that might look valuable, lock all doors and activate any alarm systems.

Avoid leaving house doors unlocked and garage doors open while working in the garden or yard.

Establish a phone tree with nearby neighbors - especially those whose front, side or back doors can be seen from your own windows and entrances. In addition to calling 9-1-1, alert your neighbors if you notice anything suspicious.

Moving to Electronic Newsletters?

The feedback we've received about possibly switching to electronic newsletter has been 100% in support of maintaining the paper product and hand-delivering it. Thank you to all who weighed in.

Minutes from July 18, 2011 CHNA Dessert meeting, Homestead Park, 7:00 p.m.

1. Jennifer Chariarse – Energy Trust Presentation, Northwest Natural

Jennifer is the Washington representative of the company, which provides services and cash incentives for energy-efficiency improvements (adding insulation, sealing duct work and windows). It also provides energy advisors that can come to your house and advise you about possible improvements you can make. Jennifer noted a few things people can do right now to reduce energy costs (turn down water heaters, switch out light bulbs for more energy-efficient ones). Jennifer also noted that Clark PUD has a similar program for those who get their energy from electricity, rather than natural gas.

2. Paula Person – Communication

Coordinator, Vancouver Police Neighbors on Watch (NOW) program

NOW is a volunteer organization sponsored by the Vancouver Police Department three years ago. Paula said they act as "eyes and ears": they go out to a neighborhood looking for suspicious activity (one person on a three-person team is at home on the radio, calling in concerns to the police). Examples of these concerns include vacant houses with doors open or broken windows in cars. For those interested in joining, there are two sets of training classes each year (one night a week for seven weeks). Paula noted that car prowls dropped 60% in a specific neighborhood after putting out educational information about prowling around the area. If you have an issue in your neighborhood and would like a NOW team to patrol, you can request that a specific neighborhood or street be put on their "hot list".

3. CHNA Cleanup – July 30; need volunteers for 2-hour shifts. Please sign up.

4. CHNA Garage Sale – July 22nd, 23rd, optional on 24th; fill out paperwork for participation. 25 people had signed up so far. CHNA will put an ad in the both the paper and Craigslist.

5. National Night Out – Tuesday, August 2, 2011. There is a Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) activity that neighborhoods can do as part of the event. Neighbors could also do a Neighborhood Watch (ex: vandalism towards Homestead Park area homes).

6. Trees Planted on SE 159th Place – replacement trees now in.

7. Next CHNA Planting – Planting date is January 14. Prior to that, accounts need to be created by December 5 and orders need to be made by December 19th. Go to the *Friends of Trees* website to sign up.

<http://friendsoftrees.org/>

8. New Seasons Market – Danielle Halstead, manager of Fisher's Landing New Seasons Market.

The market is scheduled to open around October or November (no firm date has been set). They will be hiring for 150 positions as part of a Job Fair on September 22 (Check the New Seasons website for location and details). Also, management is interested in learning of any new community events or local non-profits that would like to work with them.

9. Homestead Park Maintenance -- \$4,400 we'd have to raise to maintain the green grass and keep it mowed. Currently, the city mows every other week. The Parks Foundation has set up an account for those that want to donate: however, Jim and Shareefah agreed to pay \$250 directly to CHNA towards this goal, if 10 people would agree to donate \$25 by the end of the month (10 people did agree to this at the meeting). While that money won't be tax deductible because its going through CHNA rather than the Parks Foundation, this will allow the money to be spent in another way to benefit the neighborhood if CHNA is unable to raise the full \$4,400.

10. Vancouver Sparkles Award – Toni and Willy Wyfells. They will receive a certificate, Vancouver pin, garden flag, and recycling bag for their efforts.

11. 2008 Grant up for possible funding – NTSA has some funds; many worthwhile grant proposals are in the running (CHNA requested curb ramps on Parkcrest). 5 projects are being considered for \$165,000 in funds (less funds than were available last year). Dan noted that NTSA has allocated over 6 million dollars over the years.

12. Topics of Interest and/or concern

It was noted that the 158th Street Loop can create a blind spot when cars are parked on both sides of the street (creating a narrowed street that will only allow one car through at a time). It was also noted that if there is a speeding issue in your neighborhood, then it is a traffic issue and you should call the Traffic Hotline (as opposed to 911). If it's a parking issue, call Code Compliance. Other items brought up by neighbors at the meeting included a request to have an age limit on the playground equipment at Homestead Park, as well as a discussion of compost vs. pesticides in the park. It was also noted that the ever-larger bushes on the west side of the park are sometimes used as cover for negative behaviors in the park.

13. Bank statements, recycling neighborhood payment to CHNA of \$120.00.

14. Sharing of Desserts and neighborly camaraderie

Minutes by Mark Johnson - THANK YOU, Mark!



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.

Printed by the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods

9th Annual Neighborhood Tree Planting

January 14, 2012

In partnership with Friends of Trees and 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:

December 5: last day to create an account

December 19: last day to order

January 14: 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.



FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DISPOSAL

Bring unwanted hazardous products to a
HHW collection facility or event.

Clark County residents may dispose of unwanted household hazardous waste products at one of the following county sponsored HHW collection facilities or events. Seniors and persons with disabilities who are unable to transport material to a HHW facility or event can call 360-397-2121 ext. 4352 to see if they are eligible for free pickup. Business-generated hazardous waste will not be accepted.

Central Transfer and Recycling Center

360-256-8482
11034 NE 117th Avenue, Vancouver
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday & Sunday

West Van Materials Recovery Center

360-737-1727
6601 NW Old Lower River Road, Vancouver
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday & Saturday

Washougal Transfer Station

360-835-2500
4020 S. Grant, Washougal
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Third Saturday

Mobile Collection Events

Call Clark County Public Works
360-397-2121 ext. 4352
for collection event schedules.

Coupon Not Required / No Expiration Date

WHAT IS HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Household hazardous waste (HHW) products include pesticides, paints, solvents, batteries, thinners, motor oil, and antifreeze. Look for signal words such as poison, danger, warning, caution or flammable on the label. To dispose of your HHW products:

DO:

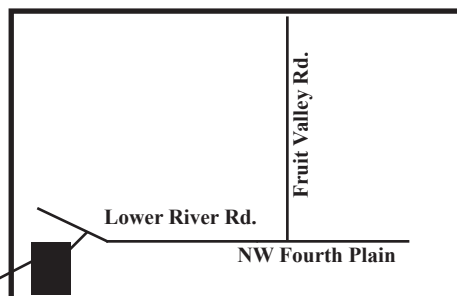
- Keep HHW products separate. Do not mix.
- Bring products in their original containers when possible.
- Seal products to prevent leaks and spills.
- Keep products away from the driver and passengers, such as in a trunk, truck bed, or trailer.
- Keep children and pets away from collection sites and events.

DO NOT:

- Exceed 25 gallons or 220 pounds of HHW per visit.
- Bring unlabeled, empty or leaking containers, explosives or ammunition, radioactive or infectious waste, or business-generated waste.

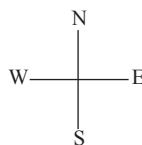
For more information, please call 360-397-2121 ext. 4352.

Maps to leaf debris sites

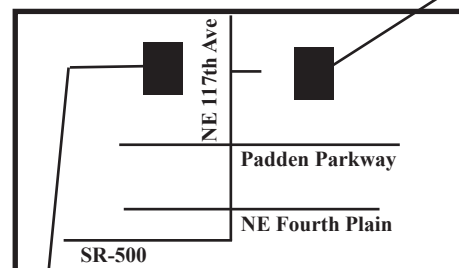


West Van Materials Recovery Center

6601 NW Old Lower River Road, 360-737-1727
Hours: 6 am to 6 pm Monday-Friday
8 am to 4 pm Saturday
Closed Sunday



H&H Wood Recyclers, Inc.
8401 NE 117th Avenue, 360-892-2805
Hours: 7 am to 6 pm Monday-Saturday (*in Oct*)
8 am to 5 pm Monday-Saturday (*in Nov/Dec*)
9 am to 4 pm Sunday (*all months*)
Closed Thanksgiving



McFarlane's Bark

8806 NE 117th Avenue, 360-892-6125
Hours: 8 am to 6 pm Monday-Sunday (*in Oct*)
8 am to 5 pm Monday-Saturday (*in Nov/Dec*)
Closed Thanksgiving and every Sunday in Nov & Dec

Composting

Master Composter/Recycler Training and Workshops

Compost is rich in nutrients that help plants to grow, acts to retain soil moisture and can help suppress plant disease. Using compost is good for your soil and can reduce the need to irrigate your garden or use toxic herbicides or pesticides. It's easy to turn your yard debris and kitchen scraps into compost. Just as in nature, leaves and plant debris feed and enrich the soil, you can recycle the food scraps from your kitchen and yard debris back into your soil.



Learn how by attending a Free Backyard Composting Workshop, or Wormshop (\$35 materials fee). The Master Composter/Recycler Program is a volunteer-based community program whose mission is to educate the community about recycling and help keep recyclable materials out of the waste-stream.

Compost bins are for sale at Columbia Springs; the FreeGarden brand compost bin is \$54.10.

To purchase a compost bin, find out more about the Master Composter/Recycler Program, or register for a class: call 360-882-0936, ext. 224, or e-mail MCR@columbiasprings.org

Their website is www.columbiasprings.org/MCR

Composting Workshops

Learn the basics of backyard composting.

Pre-registration is required.

Time	Date	Class
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Thurs. Sept 22	Backyard Composting
10 a.m. - noon	Sat. Oct 8	Backyard Composting

Wormshops

Participants will learn about the care and feeding of redworms for vermicomposting. Family Wormshop participants assemble their own worm bin to take home. (\$35 includes the cost of the workshop, bin and worms.) This workshop is family friendly. Pre-registration is required.

Time	Date	Class
6 - 7:30 p.m.	Mon. Oct 3	Intro to Vermicomposting (Free)
10 a.m. - noon	Sat. Oct 15	Family Wormshop (\$35)
10 a.m. - noon	Sat. Nov 5	Family Wormshop (\$35)

Free Leaf Disposal

For Vancouver and Clark County residents only

With this coupon

October 1 - December 20, 2011

Prevent street flooding – Don't place leaves in the street.

Instead, use this coupon for free leaf disposal at:

- **H & H Wood Recyclers** - 8401 NE 117th Avenue, 360-892-2805
- **West Van Materials Recovery Center** - 6601 NW Old Lower River Road, 360-737-1727
- **McFarlane's Bark** - 8806 NE 117th Avenue, 360-892-6125

See reverse side for map of above locations and hours of operation.

This coupon must be presented at the drop-off site and is for **leaves only**. Yard debris or mixed loads will be charged at the regular price. Leaves must be emptied from plastic bags.

To redeem coupon, complete the following information:

Name: _____ Street Address/Zip: _____

City of Vancouver residents: Funding for your participation in this program is provided through your garbage rates.

Clark County residents: Funding for your participation in this program is provided by Clark County Public Works and Environmental Services.

Sponsored by:

