



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

June-July 2013

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

Upcoming events:

Garage Sale - July 19, 20, 21 (look for signup sheet in this newsletter)

Summer Dessert Meeting - July 22

Cleanup - July 27 (look for the coupons in this newsletter)
We need volunteers for the cleanup, please. Two-hour shifts, five job choices per shift: greeter, unloader, recycler, metal-er (! - new this year), and yard-debris-er. Call or email Jean to reserve a spot in this great community event. (896-7291, jeaken@pacifier.com)

Agenda for July Meeting - so far!

Top Ten Landscaping Ideas - Erika Johnson
Fire Safety and Practices - Capt. Kevin Murray
City of Vancouver - Judi Bailey

Did You Snag Your Yard Debris (and Tire) Coupons?

The sheet of coupons was in your April Waste Connections bill. There are two coupons to enable you to drop off yard debris for free, and one coupon for four tires. If you receive an e-bill, there should be a link for you to click to print off a set of the three coupons. These coupons expire June 30th.



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, Gary Bohman, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Mark Crawford, Cecil Davies, Marion Dittman, Son Do, Edith Hartley, Ann Horstman, Brenda Jensen, Jean Kent, Larry

and Carol Kirk, Cat Lauer, Annette Idler, Yu-Ying Liu, Sheila McKay, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Holly Orr, Pat Poe, Roseanne and Tony Ranft, Barbara Scherr, Steve Schmidkofer, Marianne Stein, Mike Stroy and for helping with the newsletter.

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CHNA GARAGE SALE SIGNUP SHEET

(Sale is July 19, 20, & 21, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

You may participate in one, two, or all three days. Please note that below.

print name _____

address _____

email address _____

phone _____

All 3 days __, Fri. only __, Sat. only __, Fri. & Sat. __, Sat. & Sun. __

optional: select categories (max of 5) _____

Categories: **A** appliances; **B/C** babies, children; **B** books; **C** clothing (adult);
C/A camping; **D** dish-ware; **E** electronics; **F** furniture/antiques; **G** general;
H holiday; **J** jewelry; **K** kitchen; **L** linens/towels; **M** miscellaneous; **M/C** motorcycle;
P plants; **S** sports; **T** toys; **T/L** tools; **W** wedding.

The cost for participating in the sale is **\$5.00**.

_____ check for \$5.00 enclosed (made out to *Cascade Highlands N.A.*, or *CHNA*)

_____ \$5.00 in cash enclosed

Please fill out this signup sheet and mail or bring it, along with your \$5.00 to: 14902 SE Greenpark Cir., 98683. You will be put on the map if your registration is received by the deadline.

Registration Deadline: 9:00 p.m. Monday, July 15, 2013

You are responsible for signs directing people to your particular location. The N.A. will put up signs at the 9 major intersections on McGillivray, Mill Plain, Village Loop, 164th, and 160th Ave. Each participant will be given maps of participating houses to give to garage-sale goers. Any signs you put up should be stand-alone signs, not attached to city-owned poles such as stop signs, street signs, light poles, etc.

Any comments?

Thanks!



Bi-Annual Garage Sale Is This Summer

July 19, 20 and 21 are the dates for the CHNA's bi-annual garage sale. Garage sale registration/signup forms are included in this

newsletter. The sale will be from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day. You may participate one, two, or all three days.

If you wish to be placed on the map, the sign-up form and your \$5.00 fee must be received by Jean Kent by 9:00 p.m., Monday July 15. You may mail or bring your form to 14902 SE Greenpark Cir, 98683.

The form gives you the option of specifying what categories of items you are selling. One or two days before the sale, you will be given 1) one, two or three sets of three balloons to post out front of your house, 2) 15 or more sale-location maps to give to your customers, 3) a large number to post with your balloons corresponding to your location on the map, and 4) a sale-evaluation form which we would like you to fill out and return to us so we can adapt your recommendations in future sales.

You will need to post your own specific directions signs to your house as the N.A. is responsible only for the 8 big signs posted on the main N.A. entrance streets (Blairmont, Briarwood, Parkcrest, and 160th). Please remember to put your signs on stand-alone structures (i.e. **not** stop signs, street signs, or light poles) and to remove them promptly when the sale is over (at 3:00 p.m.).

We will put an ad in the *Columbian*, on *NextDoor.com*, and on Craig's List. Questions? 896-7291

The Annual Cleanup is Coming!

Our annual neighborhood cleanup, sponsored by the City of Vancouver and Waste Connections, our garbage and yard waste hauler, will be **Saturday, July 27th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Mtn. View H.S. north parking lot** (1500 SE Blairmont).

Items accepted at the cleanup include:

1) yard waste (the chipper/shredder will be there) - large yard debris, clippings, leaves, branches, bushes, small stumps, grass clippings, etc. No plastic bags, rocks, inorganic items, tires, nor lumber, please.

2) junk - kitchen sink, play sets, broken patio furniture, rotten fencing, deck boards, plumbing items, etc.

3) "dead" lawn mowers, rototillers, etc. (these will be fixed up and reused if possible)

4) selected useable items for Goodwill

5) bicycles for the Community Cycling Center (\$5.00 donation with each bicycle)

6) other recyclables - computers, TV's, cardboard, block foam. We are segregating these items for recycling. We need pickup drivers to help us with the recycling tasks. Please volunteer, or at least volunteer your vehicle! (896-7291)

Please, no hazardous waste - no paint, aerosol cans, automotive fluids and oil filters, cleaners and polishes, fluorescent light bulbs, fuel/propane tanks, household batteries, lawn and garden chemicals (pesticides or fertilizers), mercury thermometers, sharps or any container with the words poison, corrosive, combustible, caustic, volatile, flammable, danger, caution, or warning written on it.

This newsletter has a green coupon attached it which will be your ticket to participate. We will also be collecting canned goods, paper products, and personal hygiene items to donate to F.I.S.H. of Orchards, so please plan to bring these items with you as well.

We need volunteers to work 2-hour shifts at the cleanup. Jobs are: greeters, unloaders, yard-debris-bin-minder, metal separator, and recyclers for each shift. Please call 896-7291 (or email jeaken@pacifier.com) to sign up.

The Goodwill Industries truck will take: shoes, wood, books, linens, cardboard, glass, electronics, 'hard goods' (picture frames, kitchen items, pots and pans, wood decor, metal decor, toys, tools, etc.), and clothing.

Plastic garden pots (smaller than a 5-gallon bucket) can be recycled in your blue recycling cart.

This year we - CHNA - will be making any profit gained from selling the separated metal, so **SAVE YOUR METAL** for the cleanup!

Blue (Recycling) Bin Basics

NO plastic bags. NO electronics. NO plastic except containers with a neck and some 'tubs.' NO block foam ('styrofoam'). NO glass. We repeat - **NO PLASTIC BAGS** in the blue recycling roll cart! Thanks.

*** * DUMPSTER COUPON * ***

Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Association Cleanup

Good for drop-off of bulky items. No hazardous waste nor concrete, please.

Mountain View H. S. Parking Lot (1500 SE Blairmont)

VALID: Saturday, July 27, 2013

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. only

You must live between SE Blairmont/Parkcrest and SE 164th Aves.,
and McGillivray and Mill Plain, please.

*My signature releases all CHNA volunteers from any damage that may occur as a result of the
neighborhood cleanup.*

signature

street address

Please bring these/this **coupon(s)** and some canned, non-perishable **goods**, household cleaning, or
personal care **products** to **donate**. Thank you!

ONE COUPON PER LOAD - NO LIQUIDS of any kind.

*** * CHIPPER COUPON * ***

Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Association Cleanup

Good for drop-off of large yard debris, clippings, leaves. No plastic bags nor wood, please.

Mountain View H. S. Parking Lot (1500 SE Blairmont)

VALID: Saturday, July 27, 2013

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. only

You must live between SE Blairmont/Parkcrest and SE 164th Aves.,
and McGillivray and Mill Plain, please.

*My signature releases all CHNA volunteers from any damage that may occur as a result of the
neighborhood cleanup.*

signature

street address



July Fireworks Guidelines

The City of Vancouver fire marshal is urging residents to keep Fourth of July fireworks celebrations safe and legal. The sales season for fireworks is seven days long. The

fireworks discharge season is four days long.

Purchase: Legal fireworks may be purchased for a seven day period beginning at noon on June 28 and continuing through July 4.

Use in the city of Vancouver: Legal fireworks may be discharged on:

- July 1 to July 3 from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- July 4, from 9 a.m. to midnight

Illegal fireworks: If they aren't legally sold in Vancouver please don't discharge them in Vancouver. Illegal fireworks such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, M-80s, M-100s and blockbusters can cause serious injury or death.

Penalties:

1. Illegal fireworks: Violations start at a \$500.00 penalty.
2. Legal fireworks: Violations start at \$250.00 for a first time violation. A second violation is \$500.00 and a third is \$1000.00

Additional notes:

- Use in a public park is prohibited.
- Use, possession or sale outside the legal dates and times is prohibited.
- Modifying legal fireworks is prohibited.

Current CHNA Bank Balance

Previous Balance was \$2740.33. We deposited \$120.00 for participating in the Recyclingest Neighborhood program, an additional \$30.00 (\$20 donated by a gentleman grateful that we were cleaning up McGillivray and \$10.00 for a curb number painting, and \$100.00 for the bus bench which was damaged but purchased for what we paid for it years ago).

Current balance as of May, 2013 is \$2990.33.

- Park maintenance funds of \$660.
- Monkey bars replacement portion is 2330.33.

We are saving money to go towards the installation of replacement monkey bars in our park plus the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) upgrades which are required as part of the installation, approximately \$10,000.00.

Not a part of the above current balance, we also have an additional \$425 in our park foundation account in the Park Foundation of Clark County.

At this moment (June 16) Jean is obtaining information regarding applying for a grant to pay for the installation of the monkey bars and the related ADA improvements to the park. News/info will be forthcoming.

Never Miss Garbage/Recycle Collection Day Again

Vancouver residents can now check collection schedules and sign up for reminders for garbage, recycling or yard debris days, just by entering a home address in an online Garbage & Recycling webpage tool at www.cityofvancouver.us/solidwaste.

You can print out a calendar of collection days for your address. You can also set up a handy email, phone call, calendar or private Twitter message reminder that makes your missing garbage or recycling day a thing of the past. You can even choose when you'd like to receive the reminder, selecting a time and choosing either the day before or the day of collection. As always, carts need to be at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on collection day.

There is no additional cost for this much-requested new service and the idea gives residents the ability to get information when, where and how it is most convenient.

Reminders may also provide useful information related to garbage service and reducing, reusing and recycling the items you use.

An iPhone and Android app are also part of the service and are expected to be rolled out in the coming weeks as well.

To check your home garbage-and-recycling schedule or for more information on this helpful new online service tool, please visit www.cityofvancouver.us/solidwaste.

Locking Mailbox?

If you don't use a community mailbox have you considered investing in a locking mailbox? It might be a preventative measure for which you'd be grateful. There have been no reports about mail theft in CHNA, but there have been some incidents in other neighborhoods. You might want to keep that horse in the barn by locking the gate now.



Meeting with the City Manager

On April 30th the City Manager Eric Holmes met in a regularly scheduled leadership meeting with neighborhood association folk. Since the main topic was police operations interim chief Chris Sutter was there to answer, clarify, and specify topics as they came up.

Due to the structural deficit faced by the city (please see **City Service Funding** elsewhere in this newsletter) providing adequate public safety services are an ongoing challenge. The city received a 170 page operational assessment report in March (available on the city's website at

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/cmo/page/operational-assessment-vancouver-police-department-finds-strengths-opportunities>)

which called for some operational recommendations. It gives a clear picture of the force's strengths and weaknesses and calls for:

- a) a differentiated call response (prioritize calls and respond to the most urgent first)
- b) match the shift/deployment schedule to the demand curve (10 a.m - 8:30 p.m. shift)
- c) increase the force by 10 officers
- d) keeping in mind that the goal is preventing and slowing crime
- e) reviewing resumes of potential chiefs for the long term.

There is no plan to move away from the community policing philosophy (the force will retain our Charlie Ford, NPO's position). The city will continue to support and encourage the citizen NOW (Neighbors on Watch) program.

Perhaps you've noticed that our precinct is not open for police business very frequently due to cutbacks in the police financial support - in 2010 40% of civilian staff was lost - that situation might be addressed in the near future by using non-commissioned people.

There has also been an effort to breach the divide between the police guild and the leadership - perhaps you remember that the guild voted a 'no confidence' opinion about our previous chief (Chief Cook). The union is now working with Interim Chief Sutter to look for commonalities and places of agreement.

AED units are to be part of the standard supplies in each police vehicle. The Crown Victoria vehicle is no longer being manufactured

by Ford so the police went with some Dodge Chargers. However while these vehicles are stable they have small trunks into which some equipment doesn't fit, plus they are more expensive to maintain. Now the department is turning to GM's SUV (Tahoe-type) vehicles which are more affordable and cost up to 50% less to maintain.

In transitioning to fire information, the city manager jokingly mentioned that the two departments are sometimes called *guns and hoses*.

The Fire department is concerned about replacing three stations and improving the buildings of 7 to 10 other fire station buildings. Fortunately, our station on SE 15th St. is new and needs no upgrades. The stations of concern would most likely sustain damage from an earthquake and thus personnel and equipment would be unable to help the populace. The fire department is using SUV's to answer medical calls as it's much cheaper to use a SUV rather than a full fire engine. That program is still new so there's not much data yet.

At the end of the meeting there were questions about parks maintenance - some of the park funding is limited to the purchase and development of property and cannot be used for park maintenance.

There is huge concern regarding the lack of funds for maintaining our roads since the streets are our largest physical asset and they are very visible, yet with current funding we are unable to maintain this asset in a manner which protects and increases their longevity.

'Borrow' Water Again this Summer?

May we use your water once or twice this coming summer to water the young trees and bushes in the neighborhood? If so, please email Jean Kent (jeaken@pacifier.com) or call and leave a message (896-7291). Thank you VERY much!

Sweeper Scratch Marks

From the city OPS center comes the following information explaining the scratches in the street caused by the street sweeper after this last sweep; *The sweeper was just serviced and new drag shoes were installed. Until they wear down they will cause the scratches.*



National Night Out

We strongly urge you to get together with your immediate neighbors on National Night Out evening, August 6 (the first Tuesday in August) to promote neighborliness and familiarity with your neighbors. If you

would like to set up a *Map Your Neighborhood* focus, please contact Jean Kent (896-7291 or email) and she will get you the DVD and paperwork. This is a hugely worth-while program and which will be a boon to you and your participating neighbors. There are several websites for those interested in ideas of things to do, or how other communities plan this evening - just google National Night Out 2013.

Radon and CHNA

We have radon in our soils, people! Radon is a gas which is the decay product of radium, which itself is the decay product of uranium. We have uranium/radium/radon because floods brought Montana surface dirt and rocks here and deposited them in the downstream side of the volcanic chimney in Camas.

When you inhale those decay products, it exposes your lungs to radiation. Radiation in your lungs can cause lung cancer. Please test your house for radon levels: you can buy a kit at Fredgies or Parkrose Hardware (and others).

Do not block your under-house vents except for very short periods of time. If all or parts of your house are on a slab of concrete you will probably need to do more to keep the radon gas from affecting your lungs. Out-of-doors, radon is not a problem because it is so diluted by air. Inside your home though, and in the CHNA area, it is a problem and can and does cause lung cancer.

Animal Waste - by Laura Peterson

Hello Neighbors! I would like to ask all you cat and dog owners to think about "poop"! I think it is fabulous that you walk your dogs, leashed or not. As you are walking down the street and your baby does his business in our yard, please pick it up. I love dogs, but I don't want one and I certainly don't want to clean up after one.

CATS....same thing. Planting my Spring flowers is a joyful project...until I have to clean up more "poop". We should have the same rules for cats as we do for dogs, leash them up! When you open your door and let your cat

out.....it uses my yard as it's litter box. Last Summer a cat actually sprayed my patio furniture!

We have put up with this for years and I am fed up. I love our neighborhood and my neighbors. Please show some responsibility for your animals and courtesy for your neighbors.

Newsletter Distributors Needed

We need individuals willing to be a distributor of this newsletter. Please call Erika, our newsletter-distributor organizer, at 260-9140. She will be happy to set you up with a route. THANK YOU. At this time we need four routes covered; each route has about 35 houses. We also need subs for when a regular deliverer is temporarily unable to deliver his/her route.

CHNA Neighborhood Garbage Cans

A few years ago the general consensus was for CHNA to put out two 'garbage' cans - one in the park for dog 'deposits', and one near the passthrough at 15th St. Two steadfast gentlemen stepped up to monitor and maintain these containers: Mike Stroy carries the park garbage bag to the picnic table garbage can location and the city disposes of both bags (thank you City workers and thank you Mike!). Mike also keeps plastic bags in the containers he's placed around the park to assist dog owners with their doggie duties.

Don Stewart has replaced plastic bags in the passthrough can and disposed of the litter herein with his own personal garbage since we set up that can. A while ago some selfish person was using the neighborhood passthrough garbage can for his/her own garbage, particularly pizza boxes, so after some discussion with Charlie Ford (our Neighborhood Police Officer) we decided to replace the large cans with smaller-than-pizza-box sized cans, so that is what is located there now.

Here's a big thank you to Mike and Don for their faithful and dedicated service to the neighborhood!

Welcome CHNA's New Liaison

Natasha Ramras is CHNA's new Liaison (Antoinette Gasbarre is no longer employed by the City of Vancouver). Natasha is the deputy finance director and works in the budget, performance management and internal audit areas of our city government.



Loving Tree Care

Trees are happiest when they have a grass-less ring around their trunks as well as no compaction of the dirt. Installing mulch in that area reduces competition from grass and other plants and also protects the tree base from grass care tools (since you don't have to mow or weed-whack close to the trunk). It's also best to avoid the placement of heavy objects like rocks or substantial gravel. Be sure the mulch is not right up against the bark or the bark may be damaged, thus hurting the tree.

If a chunk of the outer bark is removed, that stops the feeding of the tree in that particular area. A tree with a large area of its trunk missing is readily visible on the center divider of Mill Plain just east of Parkcrest/Hearthwood. That poor maple is always the last to put out leaves, has lichen-filled branches, and struggles to survive, all because a bunch of it's bark got torn off (when a vehicle clobbered it) leaving the tree unable to feed itself in that area and forcing the rest of the trunk to make up for that deficit.

City Services Funding

Due to two state-wide initiatives (I-695 the car-tab initiative, and I-747 the initiative which holds property tax revenue increases to a maximum 1% annually) as well as the elimination of the city's B&O (business and occupation) tax, the city has experienced a structural financial deficit - the costs of maintaining what services we currently have are not covered by income to the city. 'Structural' means that it's built in and will not change if we continue the same practices.

Expenditures generally increase 3 to 4% per year (mainly due to inflation and population increases), yet income increases only 1% to 2% per year. That is a severe problem! As a result each year the city has had to cut services to ensure it has a balanced budget which is required by law. Additionally each year there are increases in population which costs more to serve, yet the city does not get more money to support those added services.

It is also true that residential areas do not pay for themselves, service-wise. It costs more to provide water, sewer, police, fire, street maintenance, street lights, park maintenance, etc. etc. than is paid in by residents.

There are two sources of crews to maintain public areas like the center divider on McGillivray: 1) OPS (operations)/parks crews and, 2) offender crews. The operations crew people have been cut by more than half in recent years and there are costs in sending out offender crews.

Back when the city had sufficient money to pay for these crews, our public areas were maintained on a regular basis. Now there is too much territory to service and too few people to do the work.

Please remember - you are paying less in taxes so you get fewer services.

Ahhh - Spring, When We Fertilize our Lawns and Wash Our Vehicles

And, as a result of those two, and other actions, we pollute the Columbia River. If you choose to fertilize your lawn, please take care to allow no fertilizer to fall into the street where it will be washed into the drains.

If you wash your car or other vehicle, please do not toss the sudsy wash water into the street as those suds will be washed into the storm drains.

Where do the drains 'drain' to? They go directly to the Columbia - those liquids are not treated before they are dumped into the river. Please remember that what goes on the ground goes into the river.

One might conclude that fish and other aquatic life prefer dirty cars and unfertilized lawns!

Donating for Homestead Park Through the Foundation Website?

If you would like to donate towards the upkeep of Homestead Park through the Parks Foundation website, please enter 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. The one negative to donating in this manner is that the credit card companies deduct their fee from your donation amount.

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

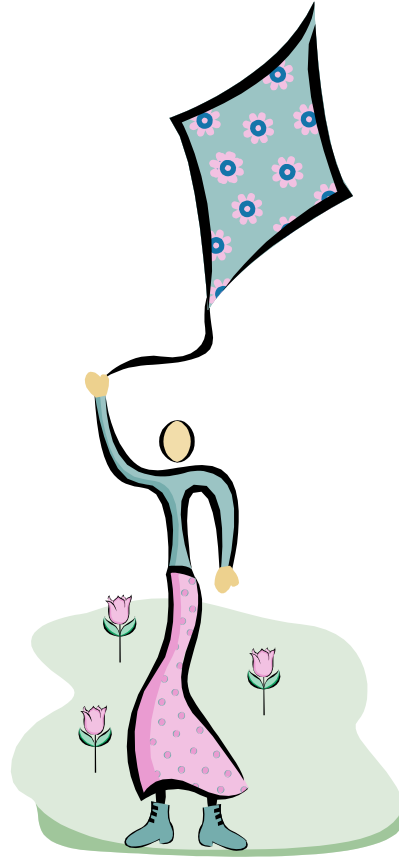
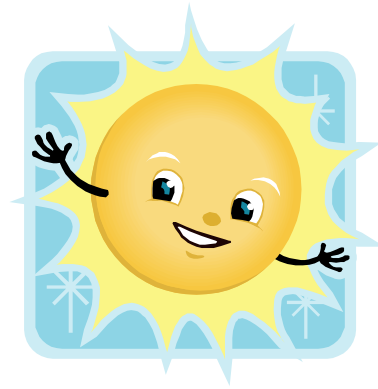
You may also donate directly to the CHNA account, but you won't receive a tax deduction for your donation.

NEXTDOOR website

CHNA is participating in the nextdoor website and we urge you to consider joining. Homestead Acres has its own account. nextdoor now allows you to select whether or not you can see posts by nearby neighborhoods or not. Some recent posts have covered topics such as: bed for sale, found dove, lost cat, participate in Habitat for Humanity fund raiser, etc. Go to cascadehighlands.netdoor.com/join/.

Homestead Place Fence Painting

We will be contacting residents of Homestead Place with "outside" fences (those on 160th, Village Loop or McGillivray) about getting the fences maintained this summer. Please look for memos on your front porches: thanks!



CHNA wishes you a great summer!

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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Recycling Hints

Plastic bags or wrappers do NOT belong in the blue recycle roll carts. Neither do veggie trays or lids, plastic bubble packaging, or just about anything which is plastic (other than plastic bottles with a neck and cottage cheese/yogurt tubs). Plastic bags get caught in the sorting machine forcing it to be stopped and the plastic bags removed. This costs YOU money! Please don't put your plastic bags in the blue roll cart.

Frozen food packaging does NOT belong in the blue recycle roll carts either. Boxes for frozen or refrigerated foods are treated with a chemical named 'wet strength' which keeps the cardboard from disintegrating when it gets wet. That chemical makes the cardboard extremely difficult to recycle, so put cold-food packaging in the gray garbage roll cart.

Additionally Styrofoam (™) packaging and food containers do NOT belong in the blue recycle roll carts. Kleenex and paper towels do NOT belong there either.

What DOES belong in the blue roll cart? Paper egg cartons, newspapers, aluminum cans, catalogues, junk mail, rinsed food cans, cardboard, plastic containers with a neck (please remove the lid and squish), magazines, phone books, paper bags, cereal boxes, milk cartons, empty aerosol cans (please remove the plastic nozzle), scrap metal, etc.

Glass goes in the old bin we used to use - the green one if you have a choice, but the brown or cream one is ok too.

Shredded paper can be put in the blue recycle roll cart but please first put it in a paper bag and staple the bag shut so the little fru-frus of paper don't escape.

You do not HAVE to set out your cart every service day - you may prefer to set it out only when it is full or mostly full.