



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

March 2015

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

Upcoming CHNA Events

July 20, 2015 Dessert Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Homestead Park

July 25, CHNA Cleanup, 8 - noon, Mtn. View H.S. parking lot

July 31 - Aug. 2, CHNA Neighborhood Garage Sale

Happy Birthday to Us!

In December 2014, the Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Association celebrated its 15-year anniversary as a recognized Vancouver neighborhood association.

2015 Cleanup Date Reminder

July 25, 2015 - Vancouver Solid Waste allowed us to sign up for next year's cleanup so the date will be Saturday, July 25 from 8 a.m. until noon. Start saving your junk/recyclables now! We'll have the chipper, metal recycling, the Goodwill truck and the usual Waste Connections trucks for bulky items and for yard debris.



Thank you to all of our dedicated newsletter distributors - you help make Cascade Highlands a great place to live! Thank you to *Jackie Andrewjeski, David Bilby, Judy and Dick Bird, Gary and Peggy Bowman, Dave Bush, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Mark Crawford, Cecil Davies, Son Do, Julie Dunn, Greg Eldridge, Terri Fraser,*

Doug Gaub, Debra and Ranielle Gray, Sandy Hadenfield, William Hauser, Jim and Shareefah Hoover, Ann Horstman, Annette Idler, Brenda Jensen, Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Pearl Liang, Bob McDaniel, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Holly Orr, Pat Poe, Barbara Scherr, Steve Schmidtkofer, Reland Short, Mike Stroy, Mari Vedeu and Bill Wilton for helping with the newsletter.

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Homestead Park Adult Fitness Equipment Is INSTALLED!



Rather than having to wait through three grant-application cycles in order to complete the Homestead Park fitness equipment purchase and installation, the city was able to supplement our CHNA funds and Clark County Park Foundation grant money so the project could be completed all in one swoop, achieving some economies of scale for the purchase, transportation, and installation of the equipment.

Each station suggests several exercises you can do using the equipment.

Thank you, City of Vancouver, for supporting our project from the germ of the idea through the development into a viable project.

CHNA Fiscal Report

by Treasurer Son Do

Fiscal activity since Sept., 2014. Initial balance: \$4,033.97. Check written to Parks Foundation for \$3,500.00 in December 2014 for park fitness equipment 'match.' Donation of \$30.00 received/deposited December, 2014. Closing balance \$563.97.

Thanks to People who Donated Water

Bob S., Charlie, and Linda allowed us to fill the buckets in the pickup to water mostly the park trees, but also some of the bushes and new roses we've planted. Thank you for your generosity and neighborliness!

Donating for Homestead Park Maintenance 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. You may contact our treasurer Son Do for help with that.

Could we Pay to Water Homestead Park Once in the Middle of the Summer?

We asked this question of the Parks Department, thinking that our Foundation \$450.00 might pay for one deep watering in the middle of the dry season and thus (hopefully) save the bushes and foliage which suffer due to lack of summer watering.

While this is an elegant and useful idea, unfortunately, it is not feasible due to the following two reasons:

- 1) The sprinkler system would have to be checked, upgraded and repaired. This involves checking for leaks in the underground piping system, replacing sprinkler heads which were damaged or which broke, checking, and replacing if necessary, the booster pump. This is the most time-demanding and cost-prohibitive part of this idea.
- 2) Perhaps you've noticed that after our clay soils dry out it takes an astonishingly long period of slow soaking for the dirt to 'loosen' enough to allow water to penetrate the surface. Slow-watering is not the type of watering which occurs with a sprinkler system and if we lengthened the regular 20 minute cycle for this single summer event, it would result in a major run-over of water.

We thank the Parks Department for providing this information and for having considered our proposal.

'New' (Replacement) Trees for the Duds on 159th Place

City of Vancouver Urban Forestry replaced the sickly, zero-growth flowering pear trees in the 159th Place median (two of which had been stolen) with eight hardy (we hope!) hornbeams. Go, HORNBEAMS!



New Signs for the Neighborhood

Perhaps you've noticed that there are new CHNA signs on Parkcrest and on Blairmont. [The one on 160th Ave. has not been replaced: Yet, anyway.] We asked why our original signs were taken down rather than augmented with new signs at additional locations within the neighborhood. "As a benefit of being a recognized neighborhood association in Vancouver, the City has provided up to three signs which are placed at key points, welcoming people to the neighborhood. Over time, many of these signs became damaged, faded and worn, not in good condition at all, and were in need of replacement. Also, they seemed to be graffiti magnets in those neighborhoods that have problems with graffiti, so many of them are badly faded from being cleaned over and over.

"The new neighborhood signs have an updated look and help create a sense of place consistent throughout the community. The new signs also have an anti-graffiti coating. A survey of the neighborhood leaders was taken and the new design won a 70% approval rating. Signs will be replaced throughout the fall and winter months, with priority given to those neighborhoods who self-identified as having signs in poor condition, or in need of replacement.

"Funding for this project is coming from a one-time savings in the neighborhoods program budget, and is being done in cooperation with Vancouver Public Works."

'Chirping' Walk Signs at Signalized Intersections

Have you noticed the installation of speakers which emit 'chirping' sounds when it's safe to begin crossing a signalized intersection? We asked city staff (Jennifer Campos, Senior

Planner) about this aide for pedestrians, especially those with vision challenges. Just the devices themselves can cost about \$1,000-\$2,000 to install; this charge includes all the equipment, including the speakers. The difference in cost depends on the technology employed - the newer technology which meets the current federal standards is more expensive because it is able to communicate more options for the blind and deaf. [There are even more complicated devices which have vibrating arrows and locator tones which can cost up to \$8,000 per intersection.] The devices typically are installed at intersections because of citizen requests.

According to an article in the *Columbian* (1/19/2015), it is not necessary to beat on the signal button to get the walk signal to trigger. It only requires 0.8 ounces of pressure to successfully communicate with the signal control box.

Fluorescent Bulb Dead? What Should You Do With It?

Dead fluorescent bulbs do not belong in the garbage because they have a small amount of mercury in them. Mercury is toxic.

As a Washington resident you can now recycle fluorescent lights and other mercury-containing bulbs for free at 130 sites throughout the state, with more to be added in the months ahead. LightRecycle Washington collection sites will take traditional fluorescent tubes (including straight, curved, and circular tubes), the twisty compact fluorescent lights, and the high intensity discharge lights which are commonly used in outdoor lighting fixtures. The program does not accept lighting fixtures or ballasts.

Both individuals and businesses can drop off lights for recycling, although there is a limit of 10 bulbs per day. Visit www.lightrecyclewa.org to find a collection site near you. For more information visit

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2015/001.html>.

Two drop-off locations close to us are:

Batteries Plus Bulbs: 2100 SE 164th Ave., and

Parkrose Hardware: 16509 SE 1st St.

This is a CHNA Garage Sale Year



Here's how the neighborhood garage sale works. There will be a signup sheet in the June/July newsletter. Fill out that signup sheet and get it to Jean Kent by the cut off date and pay \$6.00. Your

location and sale-categories will be put on the map, copies of which are given to all participants to distribute out to those who come to the sale.

The sale is Friday, Saturday and Sunday (July 31 – August 2). You may participate one, two, or all three days. The N.A. takes care of the signage on the major streets and for ads in the *Columbian* and on Craig's List. You are responsible for signage to your specific location. Our experience is that if you can get your immediate neighbors to participate, then more potential buyers will come to your location.

Your map number, envelope, and optional evaluation form are collected after the sale for use in the next event (which will be summer of 2017). This year we are avoiding the date-conflict with a neighborhood sale held by Fairway/164th N.A. If anyone is interested in taking on the organization of this sale, please contact chair Jean Kent.

Save METAL for our next cleanup

We raised \$176.00 for the neighborhood account last year by recycling the metal dumped off at our cleanup. Please consider setting aside your 'tin' cans, fixtures, scraps, bent screws, stripped or headless bolts, unusable socket parts, rusty tools, etc. for our neighborhood association cleanup on July 25.

Should You Leave Lids on Jars/Bottles for Glass Recycling?

No, please do not leave the lids on. If the lids are metal they can be recycled in your blue cart (or, even better, saved until July and recycled in the metal bin at our cleanup), or if the lids are plastic, you can recycle them at New Seasons (or you can toss them in your garbage).

Chimney Safety

Between October of 2012 and April of 2013, the Vancouver Fire Department responded to 28 active chimney fires. Of those, five had already spread to the structure by the time they were reported. Chimney fires can be prevented with regular inspection and cleaning. The Vancouver Fire Department encourages property owners to have their chimneys inspected once a year and cleaned as needed, based on the results of the inspection. There are several chimney inspection and cleaning services in the Vancouver area and even more in Portland.

Chimney fires occur when creosote which has built-up within the chimney catches fire. Creosote is a byproduct of burning wood and other combustibles and is very flammable.

Brick and mortar and metal pipe chimneys which are designed to convey heat and smoke out of the fireplace are not designed to contain a creosote fire. Creosote fires inside a chimney can burn through the mortar between the bricks and enter the structure, or fires can overheat a stove pipe to the extent that it "cooks" the wood around it, making that wood more flammable. Sparks and embers from a creosote fire within a chimney can also float down to the roof shingles and gutters, where there may be flammable debris such as leaves or tree needles. The bottom line – please consider getting your chimney inspected every year.

[NEXTDOOR.COM](http://nextdoor.com) website

CHNA is participating in the next.door website and we enthusiastically urge you to consider joining. [Homestead Acres has its own and separate account.] next.door now allows you to select whether or not you can see posts by nearby neighborhood members. cascadehighlands.nextdoor.com/join/

Newsletter Distributors Needed

Do you enjoy reading this publication and enjoy walking? If so, please consider volunteering to be a distributor. Our newsletter-distributor organizer, Erika Johnson, 260-9140, will be happy to offer you a route. 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 to his/her a route. Thank you for volunteering!



CHNA Elections Coming This July

At the July meeting we will be holding elections for CHNA officers - positions are: chair, vice chair, secretary/newsletter

editor, treasurer, newsletter distributor, and website coordinator. Terms are for two years and the current board is willing to serve for another term. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please let one of the current board members know and we'll put you on the ballot.

Upgraded Signalized Intersections Add Flashing Yellow Left-turn-arrow Signals

The work, which has begun and will continue over the next month, will replace the existing left-turn traffic signal head at 16 intersections around Vancouver. Instead of the typical green ball with a "Left Turn Yield on Green" sign, the new signal head will show a flashing yellow arrow to indicate left-turning traffic may proceed after first yielding to oncoming traffic. Some intersections in Vancouver are already equipped with these flashing yellow left-turn arrow signals which are becoming more widely used throughout the country.

Installation is expected to take about a day or less at each affected signalized intersection. During that time, the signal will be either turned off or placed on a four-way flashing red with flaggers directing traffic while the new hardware is safely installed and tested. Construction hours are expected to be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with some variations to accommodate locations near schools. Drivers are asked to stay alert to installation equipment and crews, and be prepared for lane closures.

Intersections where the signal upgrades will occur are listed below. Order of installation may vary:

- * Northeast 18th Street and Northeast 141st Avenue
- * Northeast 138th Avenue and Northeast 22nd Street
- * East Mill Plain Boulevard and North Devine Road
- * Northeast 136th Avenue and Northeast 4th Street

- * Northeast Fourth Plain Boulevard and Northeast 106th Avenue
- * Southeast 34th Street and Southeast 176th Avenue
- * Northeast 28th Street and Northeast 119th Avenue
- * Northeast 28th Street and Northeast 132nd Avenue
- * Northeast 28th Street and Northeast 138th Avenue
- * Northeast 28th Street and Northeast 135th Avenue
- * West Fourth Plain Boulevard and Kauffman Avenue
- * Northeast Fourth Plain Boulevard and Northeast 78th Avenue
- * Northeast Fourth Plain Boulevard and Thurston Way
- * West Fourth Plain Boulevard and Columbia Street
- * Southeast Ellsworth Road and Southeast 10th Street
- * Northeast 192nd Avenue and Northeast 13th Street

Here's how the upgraded signals work:

Steady Green Arrow: Proceed with left turn. Drivers and bicyclists making a left turn have a protected turn from oncoming traffic.

Flashing Yellow Arrow: Proceed with left turn after yielding to oncoming traffic. Oncoming traffic has a green light, so drivers and bicyclists must determine if there is adequate time to turn.

Steady Yellow Arrow: Prepare to stop. Traffic is warned that the left-turn signal is about to turn red; prepare to stop or complete the left turn if already within the intersection.

Steady Red Arrow: Stop. Traffic turning left must stop and wait.

Please note: At some intersections left turn will begin with the green arrow, while at others, the left turn will begin with the flashing yellow arrow

More information about the flashing yellow left-turn arrow signals, including a handy instruction card, can be found online at www.cityofvancouver.us/SignalsSigns.



Recycling 101 class: Learn about Recycling

The first 2015 Recycling 101 class for neighborhoods is scheduled for 6 p.m to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 26, at the Cascade Park Library, 600 NE 136th Avenue. A second class is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Marine Park Engineering, 4500 SE Columbia Way. Future classes will be held at West Van Materials Recovery Center and will include a tour of the processing facility.

To pre-register, please contact Elsie Deatherage at 619-4122 or

elsie.deatherage@cityofvancouver.us.

Vancouver Launches Search Technology for City's Cemeteries

Much of Vancouver's history rests within its cemeteries. In a project that sheds light on that history, the City of Vancouver is launching a new online searchable database that will make it easier for genealogists, history buffs, family members and others to access burial records and locations of those interred at City cemeteries. The new search tool is available through the City's webpage at www.cityofvancouver.us/cemeteries.

Information in the City's database for cemeteries comes from original plot records, as well as information gleaned from cemetery markers and monuments. In addition, a key part of this project was mapping the City's three cemeteries on satellite maps using GPS coordinates. Using the City's web-based search tool to access key data and a map of the interment location requires entering at least the surname, or last name, of the deceased. Users are reminded that old records, in particular, may be incomplete or contain spelling inaccuracies.

In addition to linking family members to past generations, the project will also help the City streamline operations. Cemetery staff will use the system to search for burial records and access records from the field. And for the first time, after decades of working with files and files of paper records, City staff will have the ability to digitally generate Rights of Burial at customers' requests, run electronic reports and view digital maps.

The City of Vancouver owns and manages three cemeteries:

- Park Hill Cemetery, at 5915 E. Mill Plain Blvd., covers 54 acres and is the final resting place of more than 25,000 people. Park Hill, which is open to new interments, also includes some early 1800s graves moved to this cemetery years ago.

- Old City Cemetery, at East Mill Plain and Grand boulevards, is one of Vancouver's oldest established cemeteries. It is the final resting place of Esther Short, Charles Wilbur Slocum, Sarah Jane Anderson and many other well-known figures of our local history.

- Fisher Cemetery, at 16509 Evergreen Highway, dates back to 1852 and is thought to be the oldest pioneer cemetery in Clark County.

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