



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

March 2016

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

East Precinct Reopened to the Public

The Vancouver Police Department recently reopened the East Precinct, located at 520 SE 155th Avenue, to walk-in traffic. The East precinct location has not had front counter service available since 2010 when staffing reductions forced the closure.

Both the West Precinct and the East Precinct now have front-counter staff available to take police reports during regular office hours - Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, excluding holidays. Reports can also be made over the telephone during the same business hours by calling [\(360\) 487-7500](tel:3604877500) or [\(360\) 487-7355](tel:3604877355). Also, unwanted medications (no liquids, creams or patches) are accepted at both the West and East precincts during regular business hours.

For a list of other services that the Vancouver Police Department performs please visit www.vanpolice.org and click the *How Do I?* button.

To contact Clark County dispatch for response to non-emergencies, please call the Clark County non-emergency number 311.

For all emergencies, call 911.



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CHNA Fiscal Report by Treasurer Son Do

Fiscal activity since Sept. 2015.

Initial balance: \$1,036.74 minus

\$15.61 for photocopying of maps to be used by distributors of this newsletter plus \$1,075 by a Watershed Alliance Grant for purchase of 25 trees and ooze tubes for the CHNA Friends of Trees planting. This amount was taken out again in order to pay Friends of Trees for the planting. Final balance as of February, 2016 is \$1,021.13.

311 for Non-Emergency Law Enforcement

Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA) announced a new number for the community to use to report non-emergency law enforcement issues.

Historically, Clark County has provided one number to call to connect with local law enforcement. This meant that if you had a non-emergency complaint (like someone had stolen your bicycle overnight) you had no choice but to call 911 to report the crime. Now community members can call 311 or [360-693-3111](tel:360-693-3111) to reach the 911 dispatchers. Using this line will help prioritize incoming calls at the 911 center and keep 911 open for emergencies.

When you call 311 you may be placed on hold or you may be placed in a queue. You may hear a recorded message with information about alternative numbers or resources you may use instead of waiting for a dispatcher to speak with you. CRESA is busy place, serving as both the 911 answering point for all of incorporated and unincorporated Clark County and is also the dispatch center for local law enforcement and fire / EMS responders. Please be patient, as the people answering 911 emergency calls and dispatching responders are the same people answering the 311 calls.

Here are a few guidelines to follow to help you decide if you want to call 911 or 311:
Always use 911 for any fire and medical call, no matter how minor you think the medical complaint is.

Call 911 if your police complaint involves a gun, is a crime happening now, or a situation that needs police to prevent or stop an injury or property damage.

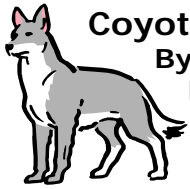
311 is the number to report non-emergency-law-enforcement related complaints.

If you are unsure, call 911 and we will get you the right help or refer you to the right resource. Visit www.cresa911.org for more information.

Proposed Parking Code Changes

These proposed changes were originally identified during the 2014 parking code reorganization as tools to improve the efficiency of the City's parking management program.

1. **Street Sweeping Program Improvements:** The proposed code changes would expand the current downtown street-sweeping boundary to include new roads in the waterfront development area, clarify public notification requirements, and allow for the citation or removal of vehicles that repeatedly block sweepers from cleaning a street. Street sweepers need to be able to travel directly along the curb to pick up sediment, leaves, litter, and other debris.
2. **Prolonged Parking Management Tools:** The proposed code changes would limit vehicle parking to no more than 24 hours and provide clear steps City staff can follow to cite and potentially tow a vehicle, including the ability to cite abandoned/stored cars with expired tabs.
3. **On-street Parking Reservation Program:** The proposed code changes would establish a formalized program as well as fees for reserving on-street parking spaces in downtown, Uptown Village, the Arnada neighborhood, and parts of the Hough neighborhood, allowing parking spaces to be reserved by contractors, event companies, businesses and individuals.
4. **Obstructing Traffic Clarifications:** The proposed code changes would create a definition of a bike lane and add specific language stating that drivers cannot obstruct traffic by parking in a bike lane. (CHNA has requested bike-lane signs be installed on the west side of Parkcrest between Meadowpark and McGillivray. The city receives frequent complaints about cars parked in bike lanes.
5. **Law Enforcement Permit Program:** The proposed code changes would establish a process to allow for the distribution of parking permits to City or County law enforcement staff who use unmarked law enforcement vehicles for official business at metered parking spaces.



Coyotes Sighted

By Jean Kent

Keep your cats inside. There have been recent reports of coyotes occasionally roaming around in CHNA during the night time. Two other reasons to keep your cats inside are: 1) cats kill billions of song birds each year, and 2) statistically, cats live longer if they live indoors.

C-Tran Changes to Affect CHNA

C-Tran has announced route changes, one of which will affect bus # 80 which transverses CHNA on the west side (Parkcrest/Blairmont) and the south side (McGillivray from Blairmont to Village Loop). If the proposed changes are implemented, the westbound bus will travel on McGillivray and not turn north on Blairmont (where the high school is located) as it currently does but will continue west on McG. until turning north on 136th Ave. The eastbound bus will reflect the same route change.

There will be opportunities for public input during March and a public hearing in April. The board's decision will be made in May and changes will be implemented in September.

Grant Awarded to Complete Parkcrest Curb Cuts

CHNA was awarded \$80,000 for our Curb Ramp Traffic Calming project. Curb ramps will be installed along the east side of Parkcrest (that's where the sidewalk exists) at Meadowpark, Greenpark, and McGillivray (all four corners).

We are very grateful to receive this funding to almost complete this large and on-going Parkcrest project which has been 'in the works' for many years (first streetlights, then trees, speed humps, a few curb cuts, more curb cuts - these project-grants were distributed over several years).

After these curb ramps are installed [which will probably be this summer], there is only one other intersection along this busy street which needs curb ramps installed (SE 13th Circle at Parkcrest). We tried to apply for a grant to cover the cost of installing those curb cuts this year, but there are no funds available in that particular pot of money. We will apply as soon as this type of funding is available.

Unfortunately, this will not be a completely straightforward project as a catch basin will need to be moved on the north side.

Save Metal for 2016 Cleanup Which is July 30th, 2016

We raised \$90.00 for the neighborhood account this year by recycling the metal dumped off at our cleanup. If you have the space, please consider setting aside your 'tin' cans, fixtures, scraps, bent screws, stripped or headless bolts, unusable socket parts, rusty tools, squished aluminum cans, etc. for our next July N.A. cleanup.

Missing Streetlight to be Replaced on SE 159th Place

Although the project is on a back burner, CHNA is in the queue to get the missing 159th Place streetlight replaced. One bit of trivia which is interesting and completely inconsequential is that NE 159th Ave. has double-headed street lights in its median just like SE 159th Place used to.

NEXTDOOR.COM website

CHNA is a participant in the Nextdoor website. Please consider joining. [Homestead Acres has its own and separate account.] Nextdoor now allows you to select whether or not you can read and send posts by/to nearby neighborhood's members. cascadehighlands.nextdoor.com/join/ Common posts have topics like - found cat. Coyote nearby. Good plumber recommendation? Moving boxes available for free.

LED vs. CFL light bulbs



LED's...

1. last longer
2. are more expensive
3. turn on instantly
4. fade at their end of life
5. are hardier
6. can be tossed in trash when dead
7. can be made into a variety of shapes, sizes and types (candelabra reflector, different 'colors')
8. can be dimmable

CFL's...

1. take a moment to reach full light output
2. go dark instantly at the end of life
3. need careful handling as they are breakable and contain mercury; they must be recycled

*See article from Energy Adviser, 1/14/2016
Columbian Newspaper*



Meeting with City Manager

Topics covered at the February meeting of neighborhood leaders and city manager Eric Holmes were:

1. Parking code update (please see the article regarding this topic in this newsletter)
2. *MyVancouver* app is being developed. This app is an additional tool and will not replace the City of Vancouver website, but will be in addition to it. The app will not be for emergencies and will possibly launch around the beginning of April. It will be GPS-enabled (helpful for locating a burnt-out streetlight bulb, if you're trying to report it) and can be used to report situations (streetlights, pot holes, clogged catch basin), and to pay bills.
3. Transportation benefit district - Since the council approved the additional funds to be used for transportation projects (utility tax, vehicle license tax fee, business license surtax surcharge, plus state gas tax along with the current debt service retirement) the street-sweeping schedule will be returned to pre-recession levels, ½ of the new funding will be used to take care of our existing streets (our street system is our biggest asset), and there will be 5 more hires for street & median maintenance. Certain streets will be resurfaced and future capital projects will be done on a "pay-as-you-go" basis.
4. Parks maintenance - there will be a phased-in-approach regarding having city parks remain 'green' in the summer. 'Green' parks require more than just the application of water - the sprinkler system needs to be returned to service after years of non-use, then there's the cost of the water, the cost of the mowing, plus turf-maintenance costs. A plan is being formulated.
5. The city of Vancouver is mid-stream in its journey from small suburb to urban city (ex: changes in the down-town street-sweeping situation, the judicial system which is semi-shared with the county, reexamining county contracts) so expect future changes.

Washing your Vehicle?

Please do not dump the bucket of sudsy water into the street. Street water drains directly and without treatment into the river. Instead, dispose of the water into the sink or toilet

where the water can be treated before it enters the river system.

Homestead Place Hedge Maintenance and Trimming

This past fall residents of Homestead Place raised enough money to hire a professional to trim over half of the 'hedge' which lines both the center and the west side of SE 159th Place. Our Friday and Saturday September effort went far more quickly because half of the work was done before we even started!

The city helped tremendously by providing us with a near-by yard-debris dumpster and also by paying for those disposal costs. Hopefully next year we can raise enough funds to pay for all the work to be done by professionals. There is some loss of the goodwill which is generated by any neighborhood project involving volunteers working together to achieve a common goal.

Resident volunteers trimmed the foliage on the 'outside' of the fence along 160th and Village Loop and were able to dump the yard debris in the debris box.

Thank you to all the volunteer workers and to the city for the use of the debris box. Please consider contributing to next September's trim-the-hedge effort.



Recap of 2015 Tree Planting

Nov. 21st was the date for our area's annual tree planting.

Due to a Watershed Grant, the first 25 trees which people ordered cost only \$10.00 each.

The weather was beautiful

(meaning that it wasn't raining and the ground wasn't frozen when we had to dig in it).

Friends of Trees looked up the CHNA plantings in their records and gave us the following data.

2003: 32 trees planted, 2004: 53, 2005: 15, 2006: 133 / 1 Replacement (for a Friends of Trees tree that died), 2007: 34 / 1 Replacement, 2008: 26, 2009: 36 / 1 Replacement, 2010: 9, 2011: 1, 2012: 21, 2013: 44, 2014: 3 / 1 Replacement, 2015: 30, 2016: 1 (thus far) for a total of 434 trees and 4 replacement trees planted within our CHNA boundaries. Thank you, Megan Van de Mark and Erika Johnson, for this information. Thank you new tree owners and tree-planters for helping our neighborhood be more tree friendly. Be sure to water 10 gallons per week for three years.



Recyclingest Neighborhood Training Information - Part Three

(the first 1 - 15 hints were printed in two previous editions of our newsletter)

16. 'Chasing-arrows' symbol does not mean that the item is recyclable.
17. Gable-top containers (juice and milk) can be recycled in the blue cart. Rinse them first, please.
18. Freezer or fridge cardboard containers (like for TV dinners, frozen food, pop/beer can boxes, ice cream, etc.) can NOT be recycled (despite looking like regular gray 'card' board) because the packaging is treated with a special substance which prevents it from breaking down if it gets wet. This substance (called 'wet strength') also prevents that packaging from being recycled successfully. This cardboard should go into your garbage can. Other cardboard to go in your garbage can (rather than recycle cart) includes cardboard detergent boxes and any pizza box which has even a smidgeon of grease on it.
19. Packaging with a foil-like shine to it cannot be recycled. This includes packaging for products like Colgate toothpaste, aluminum foil containers, some greeting cards and envelopes, and some wrapping paper. Put this packaging/greeting-card in your garbage can.
20. Do not place pet waste in the yard debris containers. Recyclers have to test for coliform bacteria when we put pet waste in the yard debris bins.
21. If we're not buying recycled products, we're not recycling.
22. Aluminum foil is not recyclable.
23. The recycling industry is very dynamic which means that it changes radically and quickly as the demand, or lack of demand, for recycling products waxes and wanes.
24. It is illegal to remove recyclables from a recycle cart once it has been pushed to the street for pickup. The material inside, and thus any profits from the sale of that material, belongs to Waste Connections.

Tree Care Tips from Vancouver Urban Forestry

1. Protect your valuable assets - your trees are assets. Hire ISA-certified arborists to properly prune trees.
2. Do not top your trees - topping hurts trees and leads to damage, decay, hazards, and increased maintenance in the future. Repeated topping kills trees.
3. Call before you cut - for street trees (trees growing between the curb and the sidewalk), permits are required for planting, pruning, and removal.

Water Quality in Vancouver

Recently, national news has highlighted the tragic situation of lead-contaminated water in the City of Flint, Michigan. Lead is not present in our source water at Vancouver's Water Utility.

There are no lead water mains in Vancouver's water distribution system, and, unlike Flint and many East Coast cities, there are no lead service lines. (Many of us already know this because we've had to replace the plastic water pipe from the street to our homes because it was of inferior quality and it leaked.)

Vancouver Water Utility staff monitor the system daily by putting our water through rigorous testing to assure a safe, reliable, high quality water supply for all customers.

Prior to July each year, the City's Utility publishes and delivers to all customers a water quality report. Information about Vancouver's water quality, along with other consumer information, is also available online under www.cityofvancouver.us/water.

To help Vancouver's water customers, additional details about the quality of our water as well as simple steps you can take to reduce concerns about potential lead in your home plumbing (especially plumbing which dates back to 1986 or before) have recently been added to the website.

Are You Thinking About Getting Rid of Your Lawn?

The following article is excerpted from a June email from Rich McConaghy.

The City does encourage residents to look into landscaping options that reduce the volume of water required for irrigation, particularly during the hot summer months when water demand is at its peak. Our water conservation tips are posted here:

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/page/water-conservation>. There are many factors to consider when looking at options for reducing the size of your lawn and these depend on your site as well as your needs and interest for changing from your current landscaping. Note that when you initially install new plantings - even native and drought tolerant varieties - you may end up having to water more in the first couple of years to get young plants well established and thus water-usage reductions could take some time to be realized.

The Clark County Department of Environmental Services "Green Neighbors Program" offers some helpful information on natural gardening and options for doing something besides having a lawn in your yard --

<http://www.clarkgreenneighbors.org/Homepage-Feature/natural-gardening-resources.html> -

note that Green Neighbors is a regional program which is provided for residents of Vancouver as well as other cities and the unincorporated areas of Clark County.

The City's Urban Forestry Program does offer a "Treefund" program which provides incentives to plant certain species of yard trees on residential property so that they help contribute to the growth of our urban canopy - this could be a useful idea if planting trees fits with what you're looking for in a more natural yard. You can find details on that here:

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/page/treefund>. Other yard or street trees can

also be planted in City neighborhoods working through the Friends of Trees volunteer plantings-

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/page/volunteer-events-and-workshops-calendar> .

Generally, tree planting season runs from October/November through March/April so this may be something to consider when scheduling your project. More tree related information from the City is posted here

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/page/tree-planting-and-tree-care>.

In addition to looking at trees, a rain garden on your property might be something else to consider if that works on your site. You need to look at your soils, topography, site geometry/features and how the overflow connects with your neighborhoods' storm-water infrastructure. Workshops may be offered on this topic from time to time. This document is a great resource to learn more:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1310027.pdf>

Our City's Water Resources Engineer suggested these as other good websites to consult in looking at options for shrinking your lawn:

<https://green2.kingcounty.gov/gonative/index.aspx>

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/stewardship/nw-yard-and-garden/shrunk-lawn.aspx>

Finally, there is the artificial-turf option. There is some information available on the web about the features (pros and cons) of this product for sports fields, particularly when they support high frequency use, but less information about its use on urban property. The costs of doing artificial turf properly on a residential property are likely to be a significant factor and you might want to research the environmental pros and cons as well. In looking for independent reviews or information on this topic (those not sponsored exclusively by product manufacturers/vendors) you might want to look for a life-cycle analysis or eco-efficiency analysis component to a report to learn about a variety of environmental concerns to consider (<http://www.epa.gov/sustainability/analytics/eco-efficiency.htm>).

A few years back the Water Center took out a significant portion of the lawn and put in a Wildlife Habitat Garden - here is some information about that project.

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/page/our-facility-grounds-and-staff> .

Rich McConaghy

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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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