



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

January 2017

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

Upcoming CHNA Events

July 21, 22 and 23, 2017 – Biannual CHNA garage sale

July 24, 2017 – Annual CHNA dessert meeting, election of CHNA officers

July 29, 2017 - CHNA Cleanup

Fiscal Report

\$2,509.66 as of August 31, 2016, Minus \$1,075.00 paid to Friends of Trees for trees and Ooze Tubes for November tree planting. \$1,034.66 is the balance as of January, 2017.

NEXTDOOR.COM website

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



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CHNA's 14th Friends of Trees (FoT) Planting

Although CHNA's very first FoT planting was back in November of 2002, Saturday November 19, 2016 was the wider-area SE Vancouver neighborhoods tree planting event for this year. Ten neighborhoods participated and 124 trees were planted, 26 in Cascade Highlands. CHNA neighbors took advantage of the grant Erika Johnson received from the Vancouver Watershed Alliance and only had to pay \$10.00 (plus tax) per tree - for both the tree and for a Treegator watering 'jacket'. These 'ooze tubes' watering jackets are really convenient - they're easy to put on the tree (they have a sturdy zipper, and easily zip around the trunk of a tree - almost like putting a jacket on a cooperative toddler), and are easy to fill (a hole near the top). They hold 20 gallons of water so they need to be filled once a week for three years until the tree can meet its own needs as far as its water requirements are concerned.

For the planting itself, we were very fortunate with the weather in that it was cool but not rainy. We had enough pickups to transport all the trees to the planting locations, the holes were dug by FoT in advance, and all the trees, equipment and supplies for the planting, as well as the trained crew leaders and volunteers, were all-set and ready to go. Our cheerful crew were mostly seniors from Camas H.S. earning some community service hours. They took particular satisfaction from placing selected rocks (plentiful and gleaned from the debris from the holes) around the mulch after the trees were planted. Here's a big thank you to all of those who supported this great community effort.

Plastic Bags in the Blue Recycle Roll Cart?

No: please don't put any plastic bags in the blue recycle roll cart. Plastic bags get caught in the sorter. The sorter has to be shut down and people have to climb over the rollers and cut away the plastic bags with box cutters. It's tedious work, wastes time, raises the cost of the recycling, and can also be dangerous for the people cutting off the taut, stretched plastic. So next time, please remember: no plastic bags in the recycle cart. Thanks!

Garbage/Recycle/Yard-Debris Etiquette

Roll carts can be put out at the curb the night before, but please bring in the carts as soon as you can after they are emptied. Also, please be sure there are 3 or 4 feet between the carts as the 'grabber' arms from the automated trucks need that much room to snag your roll cart safely. One other item to keep in mind is overhead clearance. The cart is lifted up and over the top of the truck as part of the dumping procedure, so if there are overhanging branches where you leave the cart they can interfere with the emptying-motion. Bottom line? Out by 6:30 a.m. on pickup day (with 4' separation between carts); In as soon as you can after they're emptied. Thanks!

159th Place/Homestead Park Hedge Trimmed

In mid-September, the city fulfilled their promise to trim the hedge bordering 159th Place (Homestead Place) as well as the hedge growing in the center island. The city also gave us use of the watering truck for the summer and so the center island trees received water almost every week, as did the youngest park trees. Hopefully that will revive the young 159th Place trees so they will begin to thrive in that location. The dead tree was removed and will be replaced this planting season. With the trimming and the replacement street light, the center island is looking pretty good these days!

Homestead Park Road Resurfaced

The last phase of the fitness equipment upgrade to our Homestead Park occurred during the week of September 26, 2016 when the 'road' was seal-coated. The city went through the irrigation system this fall and made all necessary repairs so that the sprinklers will be activated and used next summer. The city has now completed all scheduled improvements to Homestead Park; we should be able to enjoy green grass in the park all year long!



Strategic Plan 2016 - 2021

We attended a meeting where the Vancouver City Strategic Plan was presented. There are 10 goals:

- 1) Ensure our built urban environment is one of the safest, most environmentally responsible and well-maintained in the Pac. NW (includes transportation and infrastructure).
- 2) Provide effective, innovative and well-resourced police, fire and emergency medical services (reliable and responsive service, and increased level of preparedness).
- 3) Create new programs that engage people of all ages, cultures, family configurations, educational backgrounds, trades and professions (community identity, sense of belonging, services available to residents).
- 4) Ensure that Vancouver's parks and trails system is of high equality and is complete (increase maintenance and opportunities).
- 5) Continue to build high quality historical and cultural experiences for residents and visitors (Ft. Vancouver, arts and cultural community).
- 6) Facilitate the creation of neighborhoods where residents can either walk or bike to essential amenities and services. Also called "20-minute neighborhoods" (neighborhood programs, and 'age in place' programs).
- 7) Build connections to the river and the waterfront (support redevelopment of waterfront).
- 8) Strengthen commercial, retail and community districts (downtown as a destination, as well as individual neighborhood business districts).
- 9) Build strong resilient economy (create infrastructure for job creation).
- 10) Support community partners' actions, projects and initiatives that improve livability and prosperity (assist with community projects).

Catch Basin out in Front?

If you are fortunate enough to have a catch basin (drain) for street water out in front of or near your home, please consider committing to keeping it free of debris so that water can drain freely. Thanks!

Fisher's Landing Transit Center Parking and C-Tran Fares

Recently the transit center added 198 parking spaces and five electric-vehicle charging stations, several disabled spots, and improved lighting to the parking 'lot' at Fisher's Landing. The number of available parking spaces went from 561 to 759. C-Tran also adjusted its fares to match Portland's buses and trains.

Hazardous Tree Workshop

In November, we attended a hazardous tree workshop put on by Urban Forestry. We were thinking about 'hazardous' trees since the birch bark borer beetle has killed many birch trees in Cascade Highlands and the branches of those affected trees just seem to drop off. Vancouver currently has 18.6% tree cover and a healthy percentage is 40% so we have a ways to go to get our percentage to the goal level.

Tree failure is not a random event and is usually precipitated by one or more conditions: the specific species, root decay, leaning, cracks/seams, site disturbance history, cankers/decay pockets, mounding of the soil, topping, multiple trunks, weakly attached branches and cavities.

Signs of a tree in stress are: premature fall color, excessive seed production, conk growth ('mushrooms' on the tree are a sign of internal decay) and age.

Wound dressings (like tar) should not be used and, in fact, can be toxic to the tree. Open air is best but if you want you can attempt to make the wound as cleanly-edged as possible. Trees seal off damaged tissue.

Lists of 'approved' street trees and yard trees are available - these lists state the common name, the scientific name, the height, width and shape of the mature tree, the features/considerations for each tree, the drought tolerance, and soil type.

Do not 'wind sail' a tree or use spurs to climb a tree. It's better to wear gear which is like the kind used for rock climbing.



Save Metal for 2017 Cleanup

We raised \$99.53 for the neighborhood bank account this year by recycling the metal dumped off at our cleanup. If you have the space and inclination, please consider setting aside your 'tin' cans, fixtures, scraps, bent nails and screws, stripped or headless bolts, unusable socket parts, rusty tools, squished aluminum cans, etc. for our next year's cleanup.

Reserve the City's Radar Speed Trailer

The Speed Monitor Awareness Radar Trailer (SMART) is an educational device that shows drivers in real-time both their speeds and the City's speed limit. This awareness tool can also help residents get a better understanding of traffic speeds in their neighborhood. The radar speed trailer is solar-powered and uses a radar gun to display speeds of passing vehicles. The trailer is placed alongside the roadway, usually for one week from Monday to Friday.
www.cityofvancouver.us/SpeedTrailerRequest

Leftover Paint?

We can now recycle unused or leftover paint at all Miller Paint and Parkrose Hardware stores in Clark County. (Miller Paint, 111 N.E. 164th Ave., and Parkrose Hardware, 8000 E. Mill Plain Blvd.)

'Dead' Electronics?

Non-working electronics (TV's, screens, cords, phones, game controllers, ear buds, etc.) can be recycled at Goodwill Industries, (1200 SE 162nd Ave) across from the movie theater.

Nominations/Elections of CHNA Officers for 2017-2019

We will be holding elections for CHNA officers again this summer as July 2017 is the end of the current term of office. If you are interested in being on the executive board in one of the positions, please let us know. (jeaken@pacifier.com, 896-7291 msg) THANKS.

What Can You Compost?

The 'yeses' are: banana peels, cardboard, citrus fruit, coffee grounds, corn cobs (although cobs take years to disintegrate), eggshells (ditto from corn cobs), feathers, grass clippings, hair (ditto from cobs), hay, straw, leaves, manure, soil, seafood shells, seaweed, sod, tea leaves, toadstools, weeds, wood chips. The 'no's' are: dairy products, diseased plants, meat and bones, pet waste. The 'maybes' are ashes, dish water, dust and lint, evergreen needles, fabrics, fish, nutshells, paper, rhubarb, sawdust, soup. For details regarding this advice, consult the Clark County Master Composter Recycler Program (clarkcountycomposts.org).

Homestead Acres Periphery Maintenance

Since the economic downturn and consequential layoffs of many city maintenance staff people residents of Homestead Acres (that's the development just west of 164th) have donated annually to a fund set up to hire professionals to maintain the foliage and clean up the sycamore leaves. Mark Crawford and Jay Altenhofen have spearheaded the effort to manage the funds and the contracts. We were hoping that with the city's additional income that there would be city crews which would resume the maintenance of the ROW (right of way) areas (these are the areas 'outside' of residents' back fences which are visible from 15th, 160th, and Village Loop). We have reached out to the Operations department and now know that the city will maintain the 163rd Place/164th fence foliage and the two 'islands' at 17th and 18th once/year but the rest of the periphery remains the responsibility of the individual residents. Thus, we will continue to collect funds from (hopefully) all residents so we can hire a maintenance company to perform that work on a twice/year basis. The landscaper will augment the work done by the city in those specific areas listed above. We are grateful to the 48 households who regularly donate to this effort! We hope that those residents who do not donate will consider doing their part, even if they do not own any of the ROW since they benefit when Homestead Acres' foliage is maintained to high standards.



Leaf Box Weekends

City Public Works crews delivered a leaf box to CHNA for two weekends, one in November and one in December. CHNA leadership works with City staff to plan for weekend dates, but it's always a guess as to when people will most need the boxes. This year many of the leaves seemed to drop pretty early (well after we picked the dates). Instructions for this year changed – no Kraft 'paper' leaf bags were allowed, as proclaimed by a sign attached to the box. Despite these instructions, people dumped bagged leaves in the box. In addition, some people left their leaves close to the box opening rather than dumping the leaves at the farthest end of the box. This meant that the leaves fell out on the ground, piled up, and some blew around the area. It's our responsibility to keep the area clean and to follow the guidelines set up by this beneficial service. The city changed out the boxes twice - once Saturday and once on Sunday on the November weekend that we had plenty of room in which to dump our leaves. Thanks to all who followed instructions and who dumped their leaves away from the opening. Also, thank you to City Public Works crews for delivering the boxes and Solid Waste for paying for this beneficial neighborhood program.

Resurfacing 15th St. between 152nd Ct. and Briarwood?

City staff member Brooke Porter checked with staff in the city's Pavement Management Team, and SE 15th Street, between 152nd Court and Briarwood, is still on the preliminary list for a surface reconstruction. This would mean pulverizing and repaving the full width of the street. It would also include upgrades to any existing, non-compliant ADA curb ramps. The list is still not finalized yet, but staff seem fairly certain the street will remain on the list.

Brooke wrote that they appreciate everyone's patience as we plan for this surface reconstruction. The new street funding revenue is allowing the City to use a portion of the resources to address these very poor-condition neighborhood streets like SE 15th and to target this type of work in various parts of the City.

We will check-in again with Brooke in February, and will see then where the city is on possibly resurfacing this failing surface.

Three-Day Emergency Supplies List

1) water (3 gal./day/person), 2) non-perishable food for 3 days, 3) radio with spare batteries or hand-crank, 4) flashlight with spare batteries, 5) first aid kit, 6) dust masks, 7) toilet paper, sanitary needs, moist towelettes, 8) plastic garbage bags, 9) tools to turn off the utilities, 10) bleach, 11) matches/lighter in water-tight container, 12) candles, 13) change of clothing, 14) dry blankets, 15) storage containers, 16) disposable eating and drinking utensils, 17) local map, 18) pet food, meds., and supplies, 19) whistle, 20) any medications. It's also wise to plan for an out-of-area contact and copies of important documents.

Street Sweeping 101

The increased street sweeping (2 week cycle) that resulted from the increase in funding for Vancouver's street system (Street Funding Strategy effort) is specifically related to arterial (major) streets. This sweeping, along with the restoration of City median and right-of-way maintenance, reflects a recommendation by the citizen-led Street Funding Commission to improve the look of our major travel corridors.

Neighborhood/residential streets are swept approximately every 8-9 weeks. (Keep in mind that heavy rains, leaf fall, and severe winter weather can affect that schedule.) That did not change with the change in Street Funding Strategy. Here's why: The primary focus of this street sweeping is to meet our state and federal water quality requirements to reduce runoff sediment and pollution, and is not for the purpose of aesthetics, though looking good is definitely a secondary benefit.

Stormwater/drainage utility fees support this sweeping.

Street sweeping schedules are posted at two-week intervals here:

www.cityofvancouver.us/streetsweeping. The coming week's schedule is also posted on the Public Works' Facebook page on Sunday evenings.

www.facebook.com/VancouverPublicWorks.

Residents are told that if there is a problem that necessitates a special street sweeping which is something outside of the norm and the regular schedule, please call our Operations Center at 360-487-8177 or submit a request online at www.cityofvancouver.us/servicerequest with

details of the location and the problem as well as contact info so the city can follow-up if needed.

The city recently did a quick, informal online check to see how often other cities and unincorporated urban areas in our region sweep residential streets. Of those 7-8 that were checked, it appears that Vancouver sweeps residential areas much more frequently (6.5 times a year) since about 3 to 4 times a year appears to be the most common interval.



Report regarding Neighborhood Leadership Meeting with City Manager

Thursday, October 13, 2016

1. Assistant City Manager (who will become the deputy city manager when the current deputy retires, which is soon) job is now filled by Lenda Crawford. She comes from Redmond, Seattle, and Snohomish County.

2. Streets Funding. Bill Whitcomb discussed: previous activity; a review of revenue streams for the program; a look at the 2017 work plan and budget recommendations; and a summary of the remaining activities for 2016. Bill answered questions about median maintenance, street sweeping (2 week cycle; see article above), and the sidewalk assessment inventory pilot program, including managing sidewalk closures and responsibilities for repair and replacement. Bill mentioned that as far back as 1889 property owners have been responsible for the sidewalks. It was suggested that the City coordinate with neighborhoods when sidewalk work is being planned. Questions were asked about using solar-powered traffic signals. The City is looking at LED signals, but not solar. The City has hired 4 additional staff members to assist with median maintenance as part of the Streets Funding program. Funds for the program will roll over from year to year and can be used as matching funds when applying for grants.

3. License Tabs. The City will look at who is included in the license tab fee collection, focusing on those residents who live in Vancouver and have out of state license plates. The *Neighbors on Watch* volunteers will be trained to identify out-of-state license plates which should be registered to Washington

State. They are working on a plan that will provide fair distribution and random selection of neighborhoods for enforcement. The plan includes education initially, followed up with enforcement that will coincide with the second license fee increase. Out-of-state licenses plates will also become a secondary infraction on traffic stops for VPD. (A secondary infraction is one that cannot be used to pull over a driver, but if it is found as part of the traffic stop it can be enforced.)

4. City Budget. The City Council was presented the 2017-2018 balanced biennial budget. It is completely cash funded, with zero new debt. The City is working toward paying down existing debt. There have been no staff layoffs in the last five years. This budget is adding 72 new positions: in police, grounds maintenance and internal functions such as I.T. security, and human resources.

In the capital budget there is \$140 million in new construction projects which include replacing Fire Stations 1 & 2, the waterfront park, upgrading sewer, water, & drainage infrastructure projects, as well as improvements to city neighborhood parks (see article above).

The City is now able to plan to finish development of neighborhood parks in parks-deficient areas of the city – mainly the northeast. The city-owned buildings at the West Barracks on the Historic Reserve are being renovated, with a tentative completion date of March 2017. There also will be maintenance on the city-owned tennis courts.

5. Police. The Vancouver Police Department has performed gaps-analysis in several service areas such as property crimes, traffic enforcement and community outreach, and have convened a Community Resource Team to provide recommendations for funding to fill the gaps. The group has met several times and is looking at several scenarios to provide a sustainable, equitable supplement to what funds are currently available.

6. Annexation. In 2007, there was a 20 year blueprint plan for annexation that was adopted by Clark County and the City of Vancouver. The plan identified an expanded Urban Growth Boundary. In 2007 the plan was updated, and the Van Mall North area was proposed for annexation. [The City looks for areas that provide a balance of revenues and expenses so that the annexed area and the whole city can be served, and the initial analysis shows that can

be done.] Owners of sixty percent of the property value must be in support. City staff has done an inventory of streets, signals and other infrastructure in the Van Mall North area which would need to be maintained. Community outreach to residents is currently taking place, and an analyzer is available to provide information to individuals as to the financial impacts to specific households. There are many aspects to be considered; for example, city utility customers will realize a reduction in rates. The annexation will likely be final by June 2017 if approved.

7. Homelessness. The Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO) opened November 1st. There is a day center on 4th Plain and Thompson. The location is not ideal but we are working with Clark County, SHARE, and the Vancouver Housing Authority to find a permanent place with more services like showers and laundry facilities. Vancouver is attempting to address the most chronic issues using a housing-first model. The city does not own a large facility that could be used as a shelter, such as the approach Portland is taking.

8. Strategic plan. The City is working on implementation of its Strategic Plan. Goal 6 addresses a "20 minute walkable neighborhood", planning for amenities to be within walking distance in neighborhoods. This will require sub-area plans to help transition neighborhoods. Fully built-out neighborhoods are going to require more time to transition. This is a long-range goal and will require a high degree of thoughtfulness as it moves toward implementation.

9. Waterfront. The Grant St. Pier construction is underway. The completion of the park is expected by December 2017. Private development is in process with plans for 2 restaurants, 2 apartment buildings, 1 office building, and 1 hotel, all in Phase One.

10. Proposed Oil Terminal. The City took a position of opposition to the proposed oil terminal at the Port of Vancouver. The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) has completed a five week adjudication process with hearings in Olympia. EFSEC is deliberating and will provide a recommendation to the governor, who makes the final decision.

11. Downtown Parking. There is more demand for parking downtown. Parking meters are being transitioned to pay stations, which will allow for more ways to pay for parking. Parking rates are

being adjusted to more of a market rate, including monthly-permit rates. This will help attract the private sector to further invest in parking facilities in the downtown areas. The city is moving towards parking enforcement of the entire parking management area – including both the downtown and the Uptown Village areas. Pay station revenue can fund parking enforcement. There will need to be a transition plan to address how this will impact the surrounding neighborhoods.

Answers to questions asked:

Citizens are responsible for repairing the sidewalks adjacent to their property.

The City is in the process of updating the street lights and traffic signals to LED. This will be a long-term project as lights are updated when bulbs burn out.

Besides some of the raised beds or areas weeded by volunteers, the weeds in city parks are sprayed. However, the City grounds maintenance is just beginning to start spraying again and have not done much of it yet this year. The spray is a commercial version of Round-up and is applied by city parks maintenance staff who are certified spray-license applicators.

Tennis courts, in general, are an area which is lower on the priority list for repair and maintenance. Prioritization is based on the following criteria: Risk and liability assessment, ADA liability and concerns, Age of asset, Amount of usage and popularity.

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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