



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

May 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 – 7:00 p.m. Homestead Park, south end.
Annual CHNA dessert meeting, election of CHNA officers.

July 29, 2017 - CHNA Cleanup

Fiscal Report

\$1,034.66 (the balance as of January 2017) plus \$120.00 for participation in the Recyclingest Neighborhood Program. Total balance as of April 2017 is \$1,154.66.

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".



Thank you to all of our dedicated newsletter distributors - you help make Cascade Highlands a great place to live! Thank you to *Jackie Andrewjeski, Judy and Dick Bird, Joe Bruzda and Kim Peterson, Joe Byrne, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Mark Crawford, Peter and Jennifer Day, Son Do, Julie Dunn, Doug Gaub, Marc*

Hadenfield, Jim and Shareefah Hoover, Ann Horstman, Annette Idler, Brenda Jensen, Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Pearl Liang, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Holly Orr, Pat Poe, Roseanne and Tony Ranft, Steve Schmidkofer, Reland Short, LeeAnn Stewart, Teddy Peetz and Sharon Wilton for helping with the January 2017 newsletter.

C.H.N.A. LEADERSHIP

Chair

Jean Kent 896-7291
jeaken@pacifier.com

Vice-Chair

Gary Bohman 254-2009
pegarma@aol.com

Treasurer

Son Do 891-0923
Son-do@hotmail.com

Secretary

Mark Johnson 260-9140

City Liaison

Natasha Ramras 487-8484
Natasha.Ramras@cityofvancouver.us

Newsletter Editor

Mark Johnson 260-9140

Newsletter Distributor

Erika Johnson 260-9140

Website Coordinator

Dan West
dan@westofnorthwest.org

Neighborhood Police Officer

Corporal Jim Burgara
487-7540
772-2567 (cell)
Jim.Burgara@cityofvancouver.us



Street Resurfacing in Cascade Highlands

This summer CHNA is slated for the following street maintenance:

1) Resurfacing Work:

Park Crest, from Mill Plain to Blairmont/15th Street

SE 160th Ave, from Mill Plain to SE Village Loop

Village Loop, from McGillivray to 167th Ave

2) Rehabilitation Resurfacing Work:

SE 15th Street from about SE 152nd to Briarwood

Briarwood, from SE 15th Street south to just past Stevenson

The pavement work that is planned for Park Crest, SE 160th Ave, and Village Loop is resurfacing with a mill and inlay. That means that a mixture of coarse rock and asphalt, about two inches or more in depth, will be applied to provide additional load carrying capacity and a smoother ride.

The pavement work that is planned for SE 15th St. and Briarwood is rehabilitation work with a similar hot mix asphalt application. Rehabilitation means that the existing asphalt will be taken out and replaced with new asphalt.

The City's new street funding revenue is allowing a portion of the resources to be used to address these very poor-condition neighborhood streets.

Street Sweeping Schedule

Street sweeping schedules are posted at two-week intervals at this website:

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

Curb Ramp Upgrades

Cascade Highlands, 40 corners; Mountain View, 6 corners.

The City's contractor for the ADA curb ramp resurfacing project is Advanced Excavating Specialists of Longview, Washington. In general, work is expected to take place between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, but may run as late as 8 p.m. if needed. The work will include pavement cutting, construction of the ADA ramps and curbs, and pavement striping and landscaping at some locations. Completion is targeted for early June, in advance of asphalt resurfacing of an estimated 20 lane miles of street this summer.

A full list of the intersections will be posted on the City's Pavement Management webpages at www.cityofvancouver.us/pavement, see Annual Curb Ramp Program page. A list of the ADA ramp improvements related to the preservation portion of the 2017 Pavement Management Program will also be posted on the webpage as it is finalized, as will the list of streets scheduled for resurfacing (asphalt paving) and preservation treatments (microsurfacing, slurry treatments, etc.).

While traveling in the construction zone, the public is encouraged to watch for signage, flaggers, equipment, lane or shoulder closures and no parking notices. The city and contractor will work to minimize impacts to neighborhoods related to the construction.

Per the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), streets receiving treatments that are considered an alteration, such as the upcoming asphalt overlay paving, are required to be upgraded so that existing curb ramps meet current ADA requirements. In areas where ADA-compliant ramps exist, no changes are needed.

This work is significant to CHNA neighbors because the three curb cuts installed in our neighborhood (Park Crest at Greenpark - SE corner, Park Crest at McGillivray - NW corner, and Village Loop at McGillivray - NW corner) were all designed so that water and mud collects where the curb cut is located. Pedestrians have been forced to avoid the mess by either exiting to the street over a curb or to wading through a muck of mud and water. These three curb cuts will be redesigned to eliminate the collection of water and dirt. Thank you, city of Vancouver!



Sidewalk-Owner Responsibilities

Many of us in Cascade Highlands do not benefit from having a sidewalk along the front or side of our houses or along our back fences, but those who do have additional responsibilities. Please do your best to clear your sidewalk of snow, volcanic ash, dust or debris as described in the municipal code Section 11.30.030. (Shoveled items should be put in the yard, not the street.) Please also look out for bushes which encroach on the space where people walk or move their wheelchairs. In January, many of you did remove the snow. On behalf of all sidewalk-using pedestrians: thank you very much!

Radon in CHNA?

YES! There is radon exposure within the CHNA boundaries! Several years ago I, Jean Kent, tested for radon in my home and found when I left the vent blocks blocking the holes in my house's foundation that the soil produced a too-high concentration of radon in my house (greater than four picocuries per liter of air). When I removed the vent blocks and retested, the concentration barely registered on the test kit. I strongly recommend that you not leave vent blocks installed for any length of time. If you have a room built on a concrete slab directly on the ground, you need to take other mitigation actions or else not use the room. Please - consider removing those vent plugs!

Don't Drip and Drive

A recent article in the *Columbian* reported on how leaks of various fluids from your vehicle(s) can be repaired using a new state-wide program. You can learn about finding a participating shop and obtain coupons at the website www.fixcarleaks.org. This is a Washington-state campaign to help vehicle owners afford to fix, and consequently motivate them to repair, vehicle liquid leaks. Every AAA-approved repair shop in Clark County is offering a free visual inspection and up to a 10% discount up to \$50.00 on leak repairs. You do not have to be an AAA member to participate.

Outdoor Burning in Vancouver

1) Burn Barrels and Garbage

The use of a burn barrel was banned in the State of Washington effective April 13, 2000. Burning garbage has been illegal in the State of Washington since 1967.

2) Recreational Fires

Recreational fires not wider than 3 feet or taller than 2 feet are allowed. Only firewood or charcoal may be used in a recreational fire. A permit is not required from the Vancouver Fire Marshal for a recreational fire.

3) Bonfires and Yard Debris

Generally, it is not legal to have a bonfire or to burn anything other than firewood or charcoal.

A permit may be obtained from the Fire Marshal to have an outdoor fire for religious or ceremonial purposes when allowed by Southwest Washington Clean Air.

Visit the Southwest Clean Air Agency web site, or call [\(360\) 574-3058](tel:3605743058) for more information.

4) Total Burn Bans

Occasionally, a total burn ban is initiated by the Fire Marshal or by Southwest Washington Clean Air. During these times all outdoor fires are prohibited. These bans happen when the weather has become so dry that the vegetation has the potential to spread fire more rapidly than normal. Additionally, during times of air inversions smoke can become a threat to the health of nearby neighbors.

5) Nuisances

Consideration of neighbors will always be an important factor in choosing whether to have a recreational fire. The Vancouver Municipal Code and the Southwest clean Air Authority prohibit recreational fires which become a nuisance. If wind or smoke drift conditions could make the smoke a nuisance to a neighbor then the fire is required to be extinguished immediately.

CHNA's Shareefah Hoover Wins Award

Shareefah Hoover won the 2017 Clark County Green Neighbor Award for her promotion of recycling and sharing of ideas. She attended a wonderful ceremony on March 23 at Kiggins Theatre with folks from across the region who are also supporters of recycling.



5 Tips to Step Up Your Recycling Game

By Shareefah Hoover

Are you already recycling at the curb but want to do more? These five tips can help you boost your "A" game in keeping valuable materials out of the landfill:

1) Hold the Plastic Bags

It goes without saying that plastic bags, which clog and damage sorting equipment at recycling facilities, don't belong in your curbside recycling cart. Save them for reuse, or take them to one of the many local grocery stores that recycle them. Another option: Ditch the disposable bags altogether, and shop with washable cloth versions instead.

2) Turn in the Block Foam

More and more neighbors are trying to cut waste by seeking products with less packaging, but almost everyone encounters block foam at some point. Take any clean, white, dry No. 6 block foam to Central Transfer and Recycling Center near Orchards; save it for one of the next countywide Recycling Day Events that occur on various dates from spring to fall; or ask if anyone needs it for a craft project.

3) Remember *Gemtext*

Got old toys, worn clothes, household linens, or small appliances the thrift stores won't take? *Gemtext* will. Just put them – any condition, even torn or nonworking – in a tied bag, and drop them in the *Gemtext* collection box at the neighborhood Whole Foods parking lot.

4) Give Your Lids a Lift

Plastic lids and clamshell packaging aren't recyclable at the curb, but New Seasons Market here in the neighborhood will take 'em off your

hands. Place them in the bin labeled "Plastic Lids & Clamshells" in front of the store.

5) Consider Composting

Food-soiled pizza boxes are a no-no for your recycling bin, but they're a terrific, carbon-rich addition for backyard compost piles. Just rip or cut them into pieces first. Not composting yet? It's easy to get started and a great way to reduce waste, save money, build fertile soil, and grow healthy plants.

These quick tips make it easy to take your recycling and waste-reduction efforts beyond the curb. Learn more about recycling and composting at www.RecyclingA-Z.com and www.ClarkCountyComposts.org.

Block Foam Now Accepted at Clark County Site

Here's some great news for Clark County residents! Block foam can be dropped off at Central Transfer and Recycling, 11034 NE 117th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98662. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8am - 6pm and weekends from 8am - 4pm.

Remember: only RAIN down the street DRAIN

Please dispose of car-washing solution in your toilet or in your sink so those fluids can be treated by the city sewage treatment facility. Please do not dump liquids in or on the street as they go directly, and completely untreated, to the river.

Spring Cleanup Coupons Available Now

The annual spring yard debris and tire coupons are scheduled to go out to City residents with active garbage service in the April Waste Connections bills. The coupons will be good April 5 through June 30, 2017. Residents who receive electronic bills should have received an email in early March telling them about the coupons and letting them know how to request a set of coupons.

Reference Guide for Recycling Items not Accepted in Blue Roll Cart

1. Block foam - Far West Recycling (farwestrecycling.com, or [503-643-9944](tel:503-643-9944)) or recycling day events put on by Clark County Green Neighbors (charkgreenneighbors.org/recyclingday)
2. Building supplies and materials - Habitat for Humanity 213-1313
3. Computers, TV's, electronic waste - Goodwill (on 12th St. opposite the movie theater's backside)
4. Fluorescent light bulbs - local drop off sites Parkrose Hardware (16509 SE 1st St.) and Batteries Plus Bulbs (2100 SE 164th Ave. Suite A103), additional site addresses are available through lightrecyclewa.org
5. HHW (Hazardous Household Waste) (full or partially full aerosol cans with chemicals, automotive fluids, oil filters, gasoline, diesel, household cleaners, household polishes, fluorescent light bulbs, fuel and propane tanks, poisons, pesticides, lawn and garden chemicals, paints, solvents) - Central Transfer station (11034 NE 117th Ave.), West Van Materials Recovery Center (6601 NW Old River Rd.), Washougal Transfer Station (4020 S Grant St. Washougal) certain restrictions apply, (mainly days of acceptance)
6. Shingles and Asphalt Roofing - transfer stations plus H&H Wood Recyclers (8401 NE 177th Av.) not free disposal
7. Tires - spring cleanup coupons, recycling day events and the transfer stations (not free disposal at transfer stations)
8. Large appliances - Waste Connections by appointment (892-5370) (1 free per year if you have W.C. garbage service), Clark Public Utilities - old frigs and freezers, Appliance Recyclers (695-8149), Five Corners Appliances (254-5629), JACO Environmental (800-414-5072), Pacific Coast Shredding (737-8335), transfer stations. Fees may apply.
9. Concrete - Cemex (254-7770), City Bark (253-8461), H&H, Triangle Resources (834-7253) fees apply



Nominations/Elections of CHNA Officers for 2017-2019

We will be holding elections for CHNA officers again this summer as 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.

Newsletter Distributors Needed

If you're willing to help deliver a CHNA newsletter route (usually about 35 houses), or even act as a substitute when regular distributors are unable to deliver, please contact Erika Johnson or Jean Kent. Thank you!

Interested in being a 'Guest Writer' for the Newsletter?

If you enjoy writing and would like to submit an article to be published in our *CHNA Herald*, let us know! Possible neighborly-topics are: pet safety/wellness, recreation, home decorating tips, outdoor lighting (neighbor and sky-glow friendly), tech-tips, gardening tips, home improvements, recipes. Articles cannot be an 'ad' for a product or business and should be 500 words or fewer.

Some 'Plain' History, if you're Interested

Did you ever wonder what happened to Plains One through Three, since we know about Fourth Plain - the Boulevard, anyway. According to a 1993 publication from Newland Northwest the developer of our area, a series of plains, or open spaces in dense forest, stepped up from the river. Above the sawmill lay the Mill Plain. Second Plain was about where 18th St. and Andresen are now. Third Plain was near what has become Vancouver Mall. Second and Third Plain ended up growing together. Then came Fourth Plain. Fifth Plain survives in the name of Fifth Plain Creek (which runs up near Ward Rd. north of Proebstel and Livingston, and east of Orchards).

Summer Dessert Meeting Speaker

The City of Vancouver has more than 1,810 lane miles of streets. Each year, the Pavement Management Program evaluates streets for the most cost-effective methods to extend pavement life and provide better driving conditions. Some of these methods include pavement preservation treatments such as micro-surfacing, slurry seal, chip seal and cape seal. Chris Sneider, Pavement Program Manager, will attend our upcoming Cascade Highlands Neighborhood meeting (on July 24) to give a brief overview of the coming summer work and answer related questions.

You Can Reserve the City's Radar Speed Trailer

The Speed Monitor Awareness Radar Trailer (SMART) is an educational device that shows drivers in real-time their driving speed as well as the speed limit for that portion of road. 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 oncoming vehicles. The trailer is placed alongside the roadway, usually for one week from Monday to Friday.

Once you submit a request form (www.cityofvancouver.us/SpeedTrailerRequest) you should receive a brief 'thank you' message with some additional information about general traffic calming tips/resources.

The city has a team of volunteers who deploy the trailer on a Monday and bring the trailer back on the Friday of that same week, so weekly scheduling of the trailer is based on volunteer and equipment availability. During the week of deployment, the trailer should be fine, but requesting residents are asked to try to keep an eye on it.

Mulch Madness!

For those interested in nurturing your trees, March can mean only one thing: Mulch

Madness! So lace up your boots, pull on your gloves, and mulch some trees!

Mulching is one of the best things you can do for your trees, shrubs, and landscape plants. Mulch moderates soil temperatures, reduces soil moisture loss, reduces soil compaction, provides nutrients, improves soil structure, and prevents mower and trimmer damage to a tree trunk. Bark chips make good mulch. Simply apply the 3-3-3 rule: 3 inches of mulch in a 3-foot ring with a 3-inch space around the tree trunk. The results: healthier trees, plants and soils.

If you're mulching a small number of plants, bark mulch is available at most nurseries and gardening stores. If you're taking on a larger project, bark mulch can be purchased in bulk from a local wood recycling company. (Taken from the Urban Forestry March e-newsletter.)

CHNA Board Meeting Summary

The CHNA Board (Jean Kent, Gary Bohman, Mark Johnson, Erika Johnson, Dan West and Son Do) met on April 8, 2017 in order to check in and discuss various topics. A few notes:

1. Son Do will now be taking on the printing and distribution of CHNA's Newcomers' Welcome Kit (a collection of printed neighborhood resources given to each new resident).
2. The Board noted that with the City of Vancouver providing the main services for addressing neighborhood crime, it's important that any crime be directly reported by residents to the Vancouver Police Department.
3. Jean Kent noted that she would be interested in having a volunteer take the lead on July's neighborhood garage sale if there was interest. Dan noted that he would be interested in having a volunteer join him in attending monthly National Traffic Safety Administration meetings.
4. The board agreed to look further into doing a street tree inventory (tree type, health, etc).
5. Mark noted that it would be helpful to have a few additional newsletter distributors and Dan noted the idea of having guest writers for the newsletter as well.



Notes from Neighborhood Leadership Meeting with City Manager - Feb., 2017

1. In April the utility tax will go up 3.5%, which will raise \$12.5 million over four years, and then it will be maintained at the inflation level. The funds will be dedicated for the police department for the processing, approval, recruitment, hiring and training of new police officers as well as new 'unsworn' i.e. civilian personnel. The city does accept 'lateral' police officers (officers trained and experienced from other jurisdictions). Goals are (were): 2016 - 8 new sworn (filled), 4 civilian (filled); 2017 - 9 new sworn, 5 civilian; 2018 - 11 new sworn, 7 civilian; 2019 - 8 new sworn, 3 civilian; and 2020 - 6 new sworn, 0 civilian. Specific job descriptions are available. This hiring will reduce the overtime budget which has been at \$2.5 million/year. It takes close to a year for an officer to go from being hired to being trained and out on the street. We used to have Clark County keep our police records at a cost of \$1.7 million, but then C.C. changed systems which forced the City to decide how to handle record-keeping. Vancouver Police now maintain their own 'best practice' system using 19 civilian employees.

2. The city is growing 1.75% annually. Current city population is 176,000.

3. In 2016 voters approved the Affordable Housing Fund. This initiative will collect funds for 7 years to create affordable housing stock for the next 20 years. There are currently 100 housing projects with 4,100 housing units being built.

4. In four years we've moved out of crisis management and the city is better off financially than it has been in 20 years. We've restructured debt, retired debt, contained health care costs for employees, funded reserves, earned a high credit rating, have a balanced forecast through 2022, and have implemented the pay-as-you-go philosophy.

5. One goal is to have a WSU campus in downtown Vancouver. The Salmon Creek campus will get a new Life Sciences building and program.

6. In 2016 the city set five initiatives:

a. Police resources (see # 1 paragraph)

b. Work on affordable housing situation (see # 3 paragraph)

c. Set park standards – Need to consider the parks as a system, keeping safety, maintenance, and development standards in mind. The 'greening' of the parks will be phased in over 3 years. We currently have 16 undeveloped parks. The total needed for build out and to pay for maintenance backlog is \$55 million. The parks impact fees will be reviewed for effectiveness and efficiency. Some fees for community park reservations will be raised incrementally over time.

d. Complete streets – The complete streets taskforce came up with policy on how we spend revenues to provide street design that is safe, comfortable and convenient for all users. With this policy we will be able to leverage state and federal grants for improvements.

e. Annexation – A Blue print plan was adopted in 2007 and expires this year. 5,000 residents will be annexed in the Andresen-to-I-205 area (includes Home Depot and Costco). Basically, urban development should be within Vancouver city limits and the county should contain rural development.

7. Good news - the Vancouver Public Schools passed their \$530 million bond.

8. I-5 bridge condition is a barrier to new business. This is a bi-state asset and is under different governing structures.

9. Block 10 (downtown) may see construction in 2018.

10. Waterfront - six structures are under construction, there will be under-ground parking, watch for the construction cranes.

11. The strategic plan is available on-line at <http://www.cityofvancouver.us/citycouncil/page/strategic-plan>. A goal of the plan is to increase disaster preparedness.

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



Reporting Crime in Vancouver

www.vanpolice.org

Vancouver citizens may report certain crimes using a telephone or computer, providing greater access to police services.

Telephone Reporting

Citizens may make a telephone report Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. (excluding holidays) by calling (360) 487-7355.

Telephone reports may only be taken for crimes with no suspect information.

REPORT ONLINE:

www.cityofvancouver.us/CrimeReporting

Online Reporting

ONLY the following types of incidents may be reported online:

- Graffiti or tagging (damage less than \$750)
- Harassing phone call
- Identity theft or fraud
- Lost property
- Malicious mischief (damage less than \$750)
- Theft (amount less than \$750)
- Vehicle prowling
- Vehicle prowling—motor home

If the crime you are reporting is **NOT** on this list, or has suspect information, call 3-1-1 after the fact or 9-1-1 for an emergency or crime in progress.