



# Cascade Highlands Herald

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands)

February 2018

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

## Upcoming CHNA Events

**July 16, 2018** – Annual Dessert Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Homestead Park. CHNA election for two-year term of: Chair, Treasurer, and Newsletter Distributor during meeting.

**July 28, 2018** – CHNA Annual Cleanup, 8:00 a.m. until noon, volunteers will be needed, at MVHS parking lot.

**Note:** the next garage sale isn't until July 2019 (it's held every two years).

## Fiscal Report

Balance for September was \$4,068.97. Minus payment to Friends of Trees for \$1,376 to pay for 32 trees and gator bags (watering aids), and \$602 to Watershed Alliance to refund part of their grant to us. We planted only 32 trees instead of the grant amount of 46 trees. CHNA balance for January 2018 is \$2,090.97.



**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, Debbie Burkland, Joe Byrne, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Mark Crawford, Marion Dittman, Son Do, Julie Dunn, Doug*

*Gaub, Marc Hadenfield, Jim and Shareefah Hoover, Mary Ellen Hunt, Ann Horstman, Maureen Humbert, Brenda Jensen, Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Pearl Liang, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Holly Orr, Pat Poe, Rose Ann and Tony Ranft, Steve Schmidkofer, Reland Short, LeeAnn Stewart, Teddy Peetz and Sharon Wilton* for helping distribute the Sept. 2017 newsletter.

## C.H.N.A. LEADERSHIP

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487-7540  
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## CHNA's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Planting



It was a little rainy on our tree-planting afternoon, but the crews worked cheerily enough. We planted 32 young trees within our boundaries (actually, we only planted 31 trees as one didn't arrive from the nursery. However, it's due soon and will be planted pronto!) Thank you to all who participated, and special thanks goes to Erika Johnson who applied for and was awarded a grant to offset the cost of the trees for our CHNA residents who also receive a tree-gator bag free and must only pay \$10.00 per tree. The gator bag makes watering the trees (for three years until they're established) a lot easier.

### **Plant a tree, Save Some 'Green' - With the City's TreeFund Program**

Planting quality trees can now provide even more 'green' benefits to Vancouver residents.

Under the Vancouver Urban Forestry TreeFund Program, a residential property owner who plants up to five approved trees on his/her lot in Vancouver is eligible for a special 50% rebate, up to \$50 per tree. Customers who make the switch to the City of Vancouver Utility's eBilling program, eliminating regular paper bills, can get back as much as \$100 on the cost of the first tree planted.

Here's a brief summary of how the City's TreeFund program works:

- You must own residential property within the City of Vancouver. Select a tree that best fits your residential property from a list at [www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry). Look under the "TreeFund" section on the main Urban Forestry website.
- Visit your local nursery, purchase your tree, and properly plant it in your Vancouver yard.
- Save your receipt. Complete a TreeFund application (which is also available on the Urban Forestry website), and submit the application and the receipt by mail to the City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry Program.
- Vancouver Urban Forestry staff will stop by your site to verify that the tree or trees you've planted meet program requirements. Refunds for eligible trees will come by mail.

Important: To plant a street tree, property owners should first complete and submit a street tree permit prior to purchasing the tree. Street trees are defined as trees in which the trunk is wholly or partially located within the right of way. If you're interested in planting a street tree, Urban Forestry staff will come out, measure your right-of-way space and give you a list of appropriate trees for that location.

Adjacent property owners are responsible for maintenance of street trees in the City of Vancouver.

To be eligible for a Treefund, trees must meet size, planting and other requirements. Treefund guidelines and procedures can be found online at [www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry) or by calling (360) 487-8308.

Vancouver Urban Forestry, part of the city's Department of Public Works, recognizes trees as a valuable asset to our community and an important component of managing stormwater.

Treefund encourages residents to plant trees--specifically those species that contribute to clean water sources and waterways. Trees naturally filter stormwater, which the Pacific Northwest has in abundance. A healthy tree canopy in urban areas also helps improve air quality as well as our quality of life, long into the future.

Treefund is made possible by the City Tree Account where donations, penalties and mitigation funds are deposited so that trees can be planted throughout Vancouver to benefit the community. No General Fund tax dollars are allocated to the program.

For more information on Vancouver's Urban Forestry Program and what you can do to improve our community with trees, visit [www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry) or call (360) 487-8308.

### **Do You Have a Sidewalk Out Front (or Back)?**

If you're lucky enough to actually have a sidewalk in front (or behind your back fence) of your house, please remember that it's your responsibility to keep it free of debris/leaves/snow/ice and to make sure it's not slippery. Thanks.



## **Homestead Park Maintenance – Phase II**

The weather for the day was described in the newspaper as being 'a river of water' and the eleven volunteers who worked Saturday, Oct. 21 will attest that yes, indeed, it was raining for the four plus hours we worked that Saturday. Four students looking for community service credit from Clark College were there, as were four neighbors, the AmeriCorps member (Sam Moullet), the volunteer coordinator from New Seasons, and the CHNA chair.

We finished distributing bark dust to the Phase I areas (we had run out of bark dust during that first-phase effort) and went on to distribute the remaining dust around most of the young trees (which we dug around first), trimmed the many bushes, pulled weeds, collected downed branches, and accomplished some light pruning.

New Seasons brought some treats to eat as did Sam, and neighbor Sharon shared some freshly baked peanut-butter cookies with the volunteers. There's more work to be done and Phase III has yet to be scheduled, but the park is definitely looking better these days.

Here's a big thank you to the city for providing the debris box, the bark dust, and Sam as well as her city truck stuffed all the yard-maintenance tools we could ever need.

## **Homestead Park Maintenance - Phase IV**

(yes, IV, NOT III: Phase III will be scheduled soon.)

We decided to jump to Phase IV because the area of the park included in the fourth phase has the parking area along 160th. That area needed bark dust! People have to slish through the mud to get from their parked cars to the park's 'road/trail' so walking on matted-down bark dust will be a LOT nicer than picking through sticky, east-Vancouver mud.

Several high school students from around the area in need of volunteer hours for their community service requirement, and four adults (Sam, the AmeriCorps member who works for the city Volunteer Department and who organizes these phases, stalwart CHNA volunteer-star Pat Poe, the manager of

*BATTERIES PLUS* Tiffany Schleif, and Jean Kent) worked through the fairly steady light rain to distribute 7 cubic yards of bark dust, dig weeds, rake leaves, clip unwanted, and generally spruce up the north end of the park. The untamed bushes will be trimmed by city crews - soon, we hope.

## **Homestead Park Maintenance - Phase III**

Phase III (our LAST planned phase) to do neighborhood maintenance for the park is scheduled for Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. -until 1:00 p.m. We need neighborhood volunteers for this. Sam (the AmeriCorps member who coordinates these projects for the city) will bring her city truck which has tools and gloves, so all you need to do is be dressed for the weather and bring your willing hands.

## **Glass to Discard?**

Please do not put glass into your big blue roll cart. Glass should be placed in a separate container. It is picked up at the same day your blue recycle roll cart is emptied.

## **Please Do NOT Recycle Plastic Bags or Film in Your Curbside Bin!**

Take your plastic bags, wraps and film to a grocery store or other retail establishment which accepts this material for recycling.

## **Update on Park Crest Puddled Curb Cuts and McG/VL Lakelet**

The two newish curb-cuts on Parkcrest at Greenpark and at McGillivray which form a big puddle any time it rains are hopefully fixed by time this newsletter is published and distributed. The work for those repairs was attached to a far larger project on McArthur Blvd. and that project took longer to complete than expected, so our repair project was temporarily postponed. Additionally, the new 'lakelet' formed by the repair of the Village Loop/McGillivray curb-cut-repair will also be mitigated sometime before next summer is over. Thank you for your patience!



## Leaf Box # 1 Report

Nov. 11 and 12 were the dates for the first-of-two leaf drop boxes for this winter season. The box became quite full on Saturday and was changed out on Sunday, mid-day. The change out caused some angst however, because during the time the change-out was going on there was no box into which people could dump their leaves. In the past, the drivers brought an empty and left it when they took the full box. We have communicated this situation to the city of Vancouver Solid Waste Dept. (which coordinates this amenity for us). It's possible that there were multiple boxes in use around the city that weekend and temporarily removing a full box is the only way to have it changed out.

Additionally, and despite several signs asking for no bags, someone left an almost six-foot tree trunk, a pallet, a pickup bed liner, and bags of leaves in or near the leaf box. Thank you to all who left **ONLY** leaves at the leaf box. If we want this service to continue we need to follow the directions and abide by the restrictions.

## Leaf Box # 2 Report

Dec. 9 and 10 was the 2nd weekend of the leaf-drop box. Fortunately, things went VERY smoothly this time! The city implemented the idea to post a sign for when the leaf boxes were being switched out which assuaged neighbors' concerns if they happened to stop by to drop off leaves in that switch-out period. The city ended up bringing us four empty boxes over the weekend and nobody left bags or other unacceptable material in the leaf boxes. We were worried that the December date might be too late, but this year it worked out well as each box ended up with a LOT of CHNA leaves in it. If you have an opinion as to the best two weekends for this amenity for next year, please contact Jean Kent, as we get to pick the dates we get the boxes.

## Block Foam Recycling in Clark County

Here's some great news for Clark County residents! Block foam can be dropped off for free at the Central Transfer and Recycling during business hours:

Central Transfer is located at 11034 NE 117th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98662 and is open all week.

Monday - Friday, 6:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday - Sunday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

If it works for you, you can avoid the weekend traffic by dropping off your block foam on weekdays.

Only white, stiff, clean, dry foam will be accepted – it needs to break with a snap! No squishy foam (such as cushions or insulation) will be accepted. The foam must be clean of stickers, tape, laminate, paper, cardboard, or any other material. No 'popcorn,' peanuts, colored, or dyed foam will be accepted.

## Can I send a text to 311?

**No.** When calling 3-1-1 (our area's non-emergency law enforcement line), please dial and wait for an answer. Texting 3-1-1 is **not** an option at this time.

## Can I send a text to 911?

**Yes.** Texting to 9-1-1 is available for emergency purposes, however texting is not to take the place of a voice call when you are able to call. Remember: ***Call if you can, text if you can't.***

## Police Offer 'Safe Exchange Zones'

The Vancouver Police Department offers the parking lots at their facilities as "Safe Exchange Zones" where individuals conducting legal online purchase transactions can meet to complete the transaction. For more information visit: [www.cityofvancouver.us/police/page/safe-exchange-zones](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/police/page/safe-exchange-zones)

## Additional Newsletter Deliverers Always Needed

If you're willing to deliver this newsletter to a route (usually about 35 houses) please contact Erika Johnson or Jean Kent. If you cannot commit to a regular route, would you be willing to be a substitute? We need people for when our regular distributors are unable to 'do' their route for some reason. Thank you!



## Home Ownership Education and Counseling Services Available

By Cheyanne Bare

The Community Housing Resource Center has been serving our community over twenty years through its comprehensive financial and homeownership education and counseling services because we know that building financial stability matters! Families who are financially self-sufficient help create a more vital and thriving community.

Certified financial counselors meet with our clients in classroom settings and one-on-one counseling. We address the issues that no one wants to talk about—poor credit, too much debt, not being able to get credit—the barriers to financial stability and a better life for them and their families. In addition, the CHRC addresses issues of mortgage default and foreclosure with clients.

The Community Housing Resource Center has partnered with IRS- certified Tax Aide Volunteers and United Way with support from the Clark County Asset Building Coalition, to assist families who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by providing FREE tax assistance for the 2018 filing year.

The EITC is available to individuals who have made at least \$1 in earned credit, meaning that even if you are not required to file you may qualify for EITC. The maximum amount of the credit is \$6,269 and is often the largest lump sum a family will have available to them that year. The goal of the CHRC is to help families to utilize this funding to achieve financial stability through education and counseling services.

Beginning January 30th, 2018 Clark and Skamania County residents may visit one of eight sites across the Clark County area to have their taxes prepared completely free of charge.

For locations and times visit:  
[www.homecen.org](http://www.homecen.org). Walk-ins are welcome at all locations.

Tax prep and counseling appointments can be made by calling: (360) 690-4496

For further information contact:

Cheyanne Llanos Bare  
EITC Outreach/ Assistant Counselor  
(360) 690-4496 x 107

## Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC)

As we age, we may need support in order to continue to live at home. The *Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of Southwest Washington* connects seniors, adults with disabilities, and family caregivers to information and services that can help. To learn more please call (360) 694-8144, email us at [IAClark@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:IAClark@dshs.wa.gov) or visit [www.HelpingElders.org](http://www.HelpingElders.org).

The AAAoDf SW recently expanded services to include two new programs that support both older adults and their unpaid family caregivers. Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC) enables unpaid caregivers to continue to provide care to their loved one and focus on their own health and well-being. The person you care for must be 55 or older, be on Apple Health (Medicaid), and need help with activities of daily living like bathing, walking and medication.

Tailored Supports for Older Adults (TSOA) is for individuals 55 and older who are not eligible for Medicaid. The person's income must be \$2,205 or less and resources must be below \$53,100 for an individual or \$108,647 for a married couple. There is no estate recovery or client participation for either program. Depending on the situation, a person could receive up to \$550 each month in services and supports.

## Have you Plans or Strategies Set to Deal with a Disaster or Critical Situation?

Here are a few resources available to you.

1) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program –  
<https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team>.

This program works to prepare you by training you in basic disaster readiness skills (fire safety, search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations). This program costs \$30.00 and the schooling runs for basically a month, generally in the fall.

2) Map Your Neighborhood –  
<https://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/preparedness/map-your-neighborhood>

This program guides you to develop steps with your immediate neighbors (11 to 15 dwellings is best) so that you learn what resources each of your neighbors have so you can help each other in case of an emergency.



## Vehicle Registration Enforcement

Recently, the Vancouver Police Department conducted a study to measure the prevalence of Vancouver residents registering their vehicle in another state. The study concluded that vehicle registration noncompliance is as high as 9.7% among Vancouver residents. This rate of noncompliance contributes to an estimated **\$300,000** in lost revenue generated from tab fees (which is used to maintain the roads and carry out transportation related projects).

Because of this, the Vancouver Police Department has begun a broad educational campaign called the Out-of-State Plate program, designed to encourage voluntary compliance among Vancouver residents.

To clarify the law, new residents to Washington State have 30 days from the time of their arrival to register their vehicle properly. Failure to do so is an infraction subject to a fine of \$529. Registration of a vehicle in another state to avoid taxes and fees is a crime punishable as a first offense by up to 364 days in jail and \$1,529 in fines.

To learn more information about the Out-of-State Plate Program, please go to: <http://www.cityofvancouver.us/police/page/out-state-plate-program>.

You can also get general licensing information at the Washington Department of Licensing website: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/>.

## Reminder -- Radon in CHNA Soils

Please consider not leaving your under-house vents blocked for any length of time even though our weather is chilly. Our dirt has radon in it. Allowing air to circulate under your house blows away any radon. Stopping up the vents allows the radon concentration to increase and to seep into your home. You then breathe radon which can cause lung cancer. You can test for radon contamination by purchasing and setting out a radon detector.

## C-TRAN Service Office Moved

During the week of December 25, the C-TRAN Customer Service Office at Vancouver Mall was scheduled to move from the north side of the mall to the south side of the mall, on the west end of the platform at the Vancouver Mall Transit Center.

The C-TRAN Lost and Found, located at the current Vancouver Mall office, was scheduled to close Friday, December 22. C-TRAN is continuing to accept and hold lost items after that date, but customers should call ahead at 360-695-0123 to claim them. Visit the C-Tran website for more info. *From Bill Lee, Neighborhood Leader Representative.*

## The Blairmont Replacement Trees are IN

The new species, *parrotia persica*, was chosen because the trees are upright, oval, small, deciduous, and have a slender silhouette.

Hopefully as they mature they will not run into problems with southbound buses making left turns onto McGillivray. Thank you City of Vancouver Urban Forestry for helping us replant the center divider of this busy street which welcomes visitors and residents alike into our neighborhood.

## NEXTDOOR.COM website

CHNA is a participant in the Nextdoor.com website. Please consider joining [We are working to make Homestead Acres part of the CHNA account]. Nextdoor.com now allows you to select whether or not you can read and send posts by/to nearby neighborhood's members. Go to: [cascadehighlands.nextdoor.com/join/](http://cascadehighlands.nextdoor.com/join/).

Posts have topics like – "Found dog", "Good concrete pourer?", "Moving boxes available for free", "Need moving boxes!", "Need wood finisher, any recommendations?", "Lost cat", and "Gutter-cleaner-outer-needed".

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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