



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

April 2018

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

Upcoming CHNA Events

CHNA election for two-year term of: Chair, Treasurer, and Newsletter Distributor during meeting.

Annual Dessert Meeting, Monday, July 16, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Homestead Park

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

CRESA (Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency) Meeting, Oct. 9, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, at Mill Plain Elem library.

Fiscal Report

CHNA balance for January 2018 was \$2,090.97 and this balance remains, as there was no activity in the account between January and April.



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, Sharon Wilton and Niel Wolfe for helping distribute the February 2018 newsletter.

C.H.N.A. LEADERSHIP

Chair

Jean Kent 360-896-7291
jeaken@pacifier.com

Vice-Chair

Gary Bohman 360-254-2009
pegarma@aol.com

Treasurer

Son Do 360-891-0923
Son_do@hotmail.com

Secretary

Mark Johnson 360-260-9140

City Liaison

Natasha Ramras 360-487-8484
Natasha.Ramras@cityofvancouver.us

Newsletter Editor

Mark Johnson 360-260-9140

Newsletter Distributor

Erika Johnson 360-260-9140

Website Coordinator

Dan West
dan@westofnorthwest.org

Neighborhood Police Officer

Corporal Jim Burgara
360-487-7540 or
360-772-2567 (cell)
Jim.Burgara@cityofvancouver.us



Final Planned Phase of Homestead Park Maintenance Completed

Rain was expected but it basically held off for most of the time as the twenty volunteers worked for four hours in the final un-maintained area of Homestead Park. We had to take the canopy down though, as the blustery wind threatened to topple it. We dug berry vines, removed ground cover which was choking trees, bushes and climbing neighbor's fences, pulled weeds, and distributed a lot of bark dust.

Students from a Clark College communication class, volunteers from around the area, and four CHNA neighbors all worked. We filled up the yard debris box the city delivered for us to use. There was a cheerful, friendly orange cat who kept us company (and amused us it chased blowing leaves), asking for petting and watching us from the top of the fences. Thank you to Sam Moullet, AmeriCorps volunteer with the city, who organized all four work parties and brought tools for us to use. New Seasons provided treats and coffee for the volunteers.

Theoretically we're done with the planned maintenance but work remains to be done. In addition, we've taken the first step towards getting a grant from the Watershed Alliance to purchase bushes and ground cover to replace what died when summer watering ceased during the five years of the recession. One grant will not fill in all the park's 'holes' where plants used to grow. This will definitely be an on-going and multi-grant effort to restore our park to its former beauty.

We need 'sweat equity' to fulfill the terms of the grant - if you're willing to help, please contact Jean Kent. Thanks!

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

CHNA is a participant in the Nextdoor website. Please consider joining. Homestead Acres is now part of the CHNA account. Nextdoor now allows you to select whether or not you can read and send posts by/to nearby neighborhood's members.

Posts have topics like - "Found dog", "Know a good landscaper?", and "Need moving boxes!"

Go to: cascadehighlands.nextdoor.com/join/.

Eastside Farmer's Market

Is anyone willing to post a blurb on nextdoor.com before each Thursday starting in June through August to remind residents that the eastside farmer's market is now open at the Columbia Tech Center? If so, please contact s.haynes@vancouverfarmersmarket.com.

Guidance with the '11' Numbers

911 - all fire police and emergency services (cresa911.org)

811 - call before you dig (washington811.org)

711 - telecommunications relay service (for hard of hearing) (DSHS.WA.Gov)

611 - telephone company repair service

511 - statewide travel information (wa511.org)

411 - telephone directory assistance

311 - non-emergency law enforcement (cresa911.org)

211 - health and social services referrals (211info.org)

Can I send a text to 311?

No. When calling 3-1-1 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 to **Call if you can, Text if you can't**.

C-Tran Is Developing Plans for Fisher's Landing Transit Center

C-Tran is considering putting in transit-oriented development on the northeast portion of the Fisher's Landing Transit Center's property which is currently undeveloped. "Transit-oriented" development often brings in a blend of housing, office space, retail and sometimes other amenities - all close to public transportation. There will be two public workshops this summer and fall for you to attend if you are interested.

There are currently 759 parking spaces on other locations on the transit property.



Does Our Neighborhood Action Plan Need Updating?

CHNA has an action plan which we created in 2002. The

purpose of an Action Plan is to identify issues which are a concern to the residents and to devise strategies for addressing those concerns. It is developed with the help of the city government because the solutions almost always involve action from city personnel in some manner.

Various city departments can be involved - parks, traffic control, street improvements, operations, etc.

Our 2002 Action Plan included three main concepts and their related objectives:

- 1) *Maintenance and appearance of residences and community* (encourage people to maintain their property and utilize legal vehicle parking, encourage planting of trees to enhance appearance and slow traffic)
- 2) *Mobility Management* - (installation of curb ramps and traffic calming devices, and encouragement of safe driving habits by using the "three E's" engineering, education and enforcement)
- 3) *Public Safety* - (graffiti-free, well-lit passthrough on 15th St., install streetlights on Parkcrest, make crime-watch info available for areas of the neighborhood, paint house numbers on curbs, and have pooper-scooper doggie bags in the park)

We have achieved two of these objectives: streetlights on Park Crest and doggie bags in the park (installed and maintained by CHNA neighbors). We help organize a tree-planting every year. We have curb ramps on Park Crest and some curb cuts on Briarwood. We offer to paint house numbers on curbs every summer (although few people take advantage of this service). We maintain the passthrough and paint out graffiti where ever it occurs in the neighborhood, but those are on-going projects which have no specific end. We've attempted to get additional signage to slow traffic and keep parking legal on Park Crest. We publicize opportunities for residents to take part in programs (N.O.W.) or obtain information regarding crime-watch recommendations.

In other words, we have either addressed the problems we identified back in 2002 or dealt with the ongoing situations as they come up.

Do you think there are issues we as a neighborhood association are experiencing which are not being addressed?

Do you think there is a need to update the NAP?

If you do think the NAP needs to be updated, are you willing to participate in the process?

The process is as follows:

- 1) Create a NAP committee which talks about issues and creates a survey.
- 2) NAP committee identifies action steps in current plan that have been completed and helps the CHNA celebrate any successes.
- 3) The survey is distributed and then collected from neighbors.
- 4) Survey results are compiled and new draft action plans and objectives written.
- 5) The draft action plan is distributed to all CHNA and plans and objectives rewritten to accommodate the responses, if any.
- 6) The plan is forwarded to the city OON (office of neighborhoods) so affected staff and departments can be consulted.
- 7) If changes are necessary they are taken back to the neighbors for their approval, finally.
- 8) The new revised action plan is taken to city council for consideration and, hopefully, acceptance.

The executive board is interested in your thoughts: if you have any, please contact chair Jean Kent. Thanks.

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. Please let us know. Thank you!



Recycling Update

Now that China is no longer accepting our recyclables, City of Vancouver, Clark County and Waste Connections are continuing to work together to develop

strategies to strengthen our recycling system and increase its resilience.

The county is still able to recycle all of the materials on the list that Waste Connections sends to its customers. Materials that have been found in the recycling that **don't belong** include wood, clothing, plastic bags, freezer boxes, and food-contaminated paper.

Please remember that recycling saves energy, resources, and reduces greenhouse gases. Just keep these best practices in mind:

Ensure your recyclables are clean and dry. Food residue is a contaminant. Water gets paper wet and decreases its value.

When in doubt, throw it out. If an item is not clearly listed as an accepted material for collection, err on the side of throwing it away. Non-recyclable items decrease the effectiveness of the system and can reduce the value of other recyclable materials.

Plastic bags and film can NOT be recycled in the blue bin. Also remember that the most important item to recycle is aluminum.

Spring Cleanup and Tire-Disposal Coupons Available

Vancouver's spring cleanup coupons are now available. City residents who receive paper Waste Connections bills should check their April garbage/recycling bill for their free yard debris and tire disposal coupons. City residents who receive Waste Connections bills electronically should look for a special email from Vancouver Solid Waste with instructions on how to get their coupons (which are available only to City of Vancouver residents, good through June 30).

Prescription & Over-the-Counter Drug Take Back Event

The event is Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Kaiser Permanente Cascade Park (12607 SE Mill Plain Blvd. in Vancouver). Prescription and over-the-counter medication including pills,

liquids & inhalers will be accepted (Sharps and syringes will also be accepted at this event location). Medications may remain in original containers (but don't have to be) and labels do not need to be removed.

CHNA is the Location for a Streetlight LED Pilot Project

The city is planning to retrofit the twelve current HPS (high-pressure sodium) Greenpark St. streetlights with LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs as a neighborhood pilot project to gather neighbors' thoughts about the new lighting. The east end of this project will be at SE Briarwood Dr. The west end will be the light pole in the cul-de-sac (SE Greenpark Cir.).

Our neighborhood's existing light fixtures are called *Post Tops* (other streetlight types commonly in use in Vancouver are cobra head and acorn). The conversion will consist of bypassing the internal ballast system and installing a LED Lamp/module in place of the existing 100W HPS lamp. The plan is to have these new bulbs installed within the next few weeks, depending on when the materials are delivered.

The color temperature for the current standard HPS lights in all of the neighborhoods and roadways is around 1900-2100 Kelvin. The lights that the city will install as a test will all be 3000 Kelvin. This will be the city's standard city-wide.

Perhaps you have noticed the new lights installed at the Firstenburg Center (related to the new signal). They are 5000 Kelvin. It's the city staff's opinion based off a lot of research from across the country, that those fixtures are too bright and can be an annoyance when installed in and around neighborhoods.

If you want to see right now what the new bulbs look like there are new LED bulbs in the 'acorn' fixtures on Olympia Drive between SE 1st and Mill Plain, as well as on NE 4th St. between Olympia and SE 136th Ave. near the post office.

Once the new bulbs and ballast have been installed on Greenpark, and you've had a chance to get used to the new look and lighting, if you have an opinion to share, please contact chair Jean Kent. She will be compiling the list of thoughts about the new lighting and communicating that information with the city. The deadline for expressing your opinion is one month after the last fixture has been switched.



CHNA NPO Program - Meeting Our Needs and/or City Goals?

By Jean Kent (with edits
by Police Lieutenant Tom Ryan)

On February 9, CHNA vice chair Gary Bohman and I (CHNA chair Jean Kent) met with CHNA's NPO (Neighborhood Police Officer) Corporal Jim Burgara. Cpl. Burgara is responsible for CHNA and 27 other neighborhood associations on the east side of town (in district 4). At that meeting, we learned that the average number of emails received by the NPO per day is about 300 and there are an unknown number of phone messages that are left on his work phone, as well as many others on his cell phone. This partially explains why callers and emailers do not receive any kind of reply from the NPO.

Another topic which arose after this meeting was whether the amount of oversight received by the NPO's role is sufficient. The city's website lists the following duties for the NPO officers: *attending meetings, answering questions, being the main contact person regarding crime and livability issues, and assisting citizens with problem-solving strategies* and it was our opinion that none of those tasks are being carried out at this time. Lastly, we learned and were concerned to discover that the only way recommended by the NPO to report graffiti was to use a smart phone along with the city's app, otherwise the information might not be communicated successfully to city staff members.

As a result of that meeting with the NPO, Jean and Gary met on Friday, March 16, with Lt. Tom Ryan of the Vancouver Police Dept. (Cpl. Burgara's supervisor). We wanted to discuss what we had learned about the NPO program from our meeting with our NPO and to share with the Lieutenant how the program is actually working for neighbors of CHNA.

Our conclusions from that second meeting are the following:

1. Gary and I agree that the philosophy and goals of the NPO program are excellent. Lt. Ryan notes: *VPD will continue to evaluate ways to improve the service delivery to our community partners. Resources in the police department are finite and there is hope to expand the NPO program in the future. Until*

then, please remember that the NPO program is meant to address livability issues and chronic problems. Lt. Ryan will look into a more efficient way to take calls and e-mails from concerned neighborhoods during non-business hours. When a contact requires a police-level-trained person then that information will be passed along to the appropriate unit. In addition, Lt. Ryan will examine the city's website page and see about altering the information stated there to reflect what is actually happening on the ground with the NPO program at this time, especially taking into consideration the number of officers and the number of resident contacts.

2. The neighborhood will do its best to communicate the following to the residents of CHNA:

- a. To report any non-emergency crimes, call 311.
- b. We learned and were concerned to discover that the only way recommended by the NPO to report graffiti was to use a smart phone along with the city's app, otherwise the information might not be communicated successfully to city staff members. This remains a viable way to report graffiti issues, but you may also use the 3-1-1 non-emergency number. Please be aware that graffiti and other low level, no-suspect information calls for service are often given low priority and may wait until a Public Service Technician is available to take the call. You may also not be contacted if you are not the "victim". One example of this is the recent graffiti issue we had in the park. The City of Vancouver is the 'victim' in this case. If you wish to have direct contact, you can specifically ask for it when reporting the damage.
- c. To report acute, crime-related, active situations, or emergencies, call 911.
- d. To report chronic, on-going, or one-off problems call 311, call or email the NPO (see Cpl. Burgara's contact information on page 1), or call 360-497-7355 (east precinct), or visit the lobby of the police precinct between 8 - 5, M - F.

3. Lt. Ryan believes that there is sufficient oversight regarding the NPO officers because he meets with Cpl. Burgara once a week and reviews the NPO's activities and issues.

(article continued from page 5)

In addition, other agencies such as Code Compliance also attend those regularly-scheduled meetings.

4. Lt. Ryan will help find an officer to attend our annual CHNA dessert meeting on Monday evening in July (which is our NPO's night off).

5. Problems caused by the NPO lack of response to calls and emails are not limited to CHNA but affect other neighborhood associations also. As a way of explanation, Lt. Ryan notes the following: *Our NPO is required to prioritize the responses to the community. Given that our association is in a district that ranges from the Columbia River north to NE Fourth Plain; and I-205 east to 192nd Ave., his time is limited. Lt. Ryan has given me his contact information and he will work with our NPO, patrol officers, crime analysts and code enforcement officers to provide the support our community needs. Lt. Ryan stressed that it was never the intent of the NPO program to be the primary responding unit for crimes that occur within the neighborhoods. Rather, the NPO should be aware of crime trends and livability issues that require longer-term responses or strategies.*

The CHNA Board appreciates both Cpl. Burgara and Lt. Ryan's willingness to meet and discuss how to best address resident concerns and we look forward to continuing the dialogue in the future.

Have You a Sprinkler System?

Before you turn it on for the season, please make sure your back-flow prevention device has been inspected and is in good working order. The requirement for annual testing of back-flow devices is a state law and is intended to make sure that our drinking water supply remains safe and non-toxic. If you need the name of a back-flow state-certified tester you can go to: clarkpublicutilities.com

Help Keep The Columbia River Clean

Please remember - what goes in/on the street goes into the Columbia River. Please keep oil and vehicle washing soaps and fluids from our streets as there is no water-treatment from liquids collected in our storm drains.

New Seasons has 'Adopted' Homestead Park

New Seasons has gone through the process of 'adopting' our Homestead Park. This means that they will provide at least four work parties at the park per year. These will be supported by the city's volunteer office. The first work date was April 9: we will plan to post remaining work party dates on Nextdoor and in the newsletter as we are able. Some of these events may include a debris drop box and a pile of bark dust: once the remaining work parties are scheduled, feel free to come out and join in the efforts to beautify our park!

July Nominations/Elections of CHNA Officers

We will be holding elections for some of the two-year CHNA officer positions this summer at the July CHNA neighborhood meeting, as 2018 is the end of the current term of office. Current officers in these roles are open to continuing in their positions: if you are interested in running for CHNA Chair, Treasurer or Newsletter Distributor, please contact one of the CHNA Board members. Thanks!

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