



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

September 2024

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

Upcoming CHNA Events

October 12 - Green Bag Food Pick Up

November 9 - 10: Leaf Box at Standard Location

November 18 - Account creation deadline for ordering trees

November 25 - Tree Order deadline

November 28 – December 1: Leaf Box at Standard Location

December 14 - Green Bag Food Pick Up

December 14 - Friends of Trees tree planting date for SE Vancouver

Financial Report

By Maureen Humbert

The last finance report indicated the association’s balance was \$5,631.42. Since then, \$400 from park benches donations, \$54 general donation, \$194 from metal recycling from the clean-up event, \$100 from Resource Conservation Challenge, \$120 from RecycleU and \$1,000 grant from the City for the park benches were deposited.

This brings the new balance to \$7,499.42. (Later this summer we expect to be billed \$6,000 by the City to cover the association’s contribution to the new benches in our park.)

Hope everyone is having a wonderful summer!

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<https://www.cityofvancouver.us>



Neighborhood Cleanup Report

It was threatening rain and there was a nice breeze (which tried to blow the canopy away a few times) and varying gray clouds overhead, but Saturday, June 15 was when our neighborhood cleanup had been scheduled. The city and Waste Connections sent three packer trucks and the chipper and we filled them all!

In all, 79 dumpster coupons, 31 chipper coupons and 56 Mountain View coupons totaled 166 trips to the Mountain View H.S. parking lot within the four-hour window.

We collected and recycled 7,080 pounds (3.5 tons) of metal and earned \$194.00 for our bank account and donated 17 bicycles to Wheel Deals. We 'produced' 14.59 tons of bulky items which was way more than last year (8.48 tons) and collected 1.26 tons of yard debris (not including the chipper) which was almost the same as last year (1.44).

One volunteer commented that the Waste Connections employee was super careful about how he packed the metal into the big container. He fitted odd-shaped items together, filled every nook and cranny, and was super-efficient with the allotted space.

Volunteers (as well as the city Solid Waste Dept. and Waste Connections) make this event possible so here's a big thank you to Norm, Joseph, Chris (who filled in an amazing number of roles from packing food, carrying heavy food boxes, loading the bikes into the truck, loading furniture, picking up sandwich boards), Sylvia, and Jean all contributed time and energy.

We donated 1,058 pounds of food to F.I.S.H. of Orchards as well as \$55. CHNA and MVNA's accounts each benefited from \$54.00 (we divided the donated \$163.00 by three). We also received a donation for the Homestead Park benches. Both

neighborhoods successfully met the Resource Conservation Challenge and earned \$100.00 for each neighborhood.

If you missed participating, Waste Connections has a program where, once a year, you can have them come to your home and collect up to 5 bulky items.

This is a curbside pick-up of up to five broken or worn-out items that are too large to fit in your garbage cart. This program is available annually to all households in Vancouver which have an active Waste Connections account.

You can also take your 'stuff' to the dump but will be assessed a dump fee. The cleanup definitely saves time and money when we decide to get rid of our stuff.

Disposing Of Bulky Items (through Waste Connections) - an error in the email address.

In the last edition of this newsletter there was a typo in the email address to sign up for your once-a-year-up-to-5-items pickup. I regret the error! You can schedule the pickup by going to <https://wcnorthwest.com/> and clicking on "Free Bulk."

The city and Waste Connections also will pick up one appliance - stove, fridge, washer, dryer, etc.) for free each calendar year. To schedule that, please contact: Contact Waste Connections to schedule a pickup. Call: 360-892-5370 or Email: customerhelp@wcnx.org.

New NPO Cole Larson

We have a new Neighborhood Police Officer: Cole Larson. Officer Larson covers Police District 4 (which includes 25 additional neighborhoods). You can email him at Cole.Larson@cityofvancouver.us or you can call him at 360-903-8020.

June and August's Green Bag Reports

For June the weather might have been a bit muggy and hot, but you donors came through with 1,121 pounds of food and personal care products, plus \$195.00. Ellie joined Paisley in the back of Pat's truck and packed your donations into the banana boxes so that it was a snap to deliver the 23 boxes of products to F.I.S.H. of Orchards Saturday morning.

In August CHNA donors gave 1,161 pounds of food (and personal care products), \$155.00, plus many adult diapers. Rex, the F.I.S.H. of Orchards manager, said that the diapers go like hotcakes. Paisley packed and Pat drove and retrieved. What a great team we are!

Thank you for your generosity and your organization and for remembering to put your bag out for us to collect.

If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile program, please contact Jean Kent (jeaken@pacifier.com).

West Side of 160th Is Cleaned up a Bit

On Saturday, July 13, on one of those hot days we've had this summer, four residents of Homestead Place, one from Homestead Acres, a giant yard debris cart from another Homestead Acres resident, and Jean all worked to spiffy-up the right-of-way on the west side of 160th between 159th Place and Village Loop. We trimmed, cut, sawed, chain-sawed, swept, scraped, clipped, string-trimmed, power-hedged and blew a tremendous amount of hedge, weeds, moss, leaves, bushes, and berry vines from the area.

Here's a big Thank You to the volunteers for helping make our neighborhood look more cared for and our well-used sidewalk be safe for pedestrians.

Transportation Options in Our Area

Since we live near Mill Plain Blvd there's a new program just for us, designed to help us find new ways to get around and explore our community.

Sign up for *Get There* to receive a FREE Hop card (loaded with a Regional Day Pass to use on The Vine and other C-TRAN and TriMet buses), transportation resources, events, prizes, and more. It's all available to help you explore by bus, bike, walking + rolling, or carpooling. GetThereSWWashington.org/GTV.

This pilot program is funded by a WSDOT Regional Mobility Grant and is available from July 2024 to February 2025. Brian Hartl has been representing CHNA in this group's meetings. If you have any questions, you may contact olivia.kahn@cityofvancouver.us.

Ash Trees Removed in Homestead Park

As noted in the neighborhood association meeting minutes (7, H) the city cut down our park's ash trees to prevent them being killed by the emerald ash borer beetle. The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an extremely destructive insect which poses a serious threat to ash trees. The iridescent green female beetles deposit eggs in ash bark crevices. As the larvae hatch from the egg in late summer, they immediately chew their way into the tree and feed in the nutritious tissue just beneath the bark. Larvae wind back and forth as they feed, creating S-shaped tunnels called galleries under the bark. The larval stage is the most destructive because their feeding behavior disrupts the flow of nutrients through the tree. However, this won't happen in Homestead Park because our ash trees have been removed. New trees will be planted in those locations.

What is the City of Vancouver's HART Team

The Homeless Assistance & Resources Team (HART) provides compassionate outreach and assistance to those living unsheltered. It also serves as a point of contact for community members with safety or sanitation concerns.

Services:

Responds to reports of active or abandoned campsites,

Assesses campsites for hygiene/sanitation needs,

Provides outreach, assessments and referrals to services and resources to individuals experiencing homelessness,

Educates the community about the city's role in addressing homelessness and the legal parameters we work within,

Serves as part of the community's crisis response system, focused on homelessness-related street and encampment crises.

Use the *MyVancouver* mobile app or online submission form to report issues to the HART team or ask questions related to homelessness in Vancouver, including:

- Non-emergency issues, such as behavioral health concerns, unwanted occupation of property, parked vehicles which are being lived in, etc.
- Illegal camping or issues associated with active or abandoned camps.

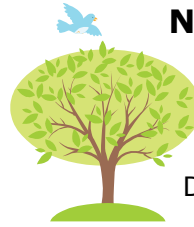
[Note: for urgent issues requiring a police officer, please call 9-1-1]

Contact information:

www.cityofvancouver.us/myvancouver-app

hartteam@cityofvancouver.us

360-487-8626



Need a Tree or Two?

You can participate in our Friends of Trees (FoT) planting scheduled for December 14. Go onto the FoT website and create an account. This does not obligate you to purchase a tree but does allow you to look at the tree list to see what's available and appropriate for your site. Decide on your tree (the list for street trees - trees to grow in the planting strip between the sidewalk and the street - is somewhat different from the yard tree list). Fill out the form. FoT will contact you for what happens next. Due to the grant, we obtained you'll need to pay only \$25.00 per tree. You'll get a watering bag and some mulch to help your tree grow. You just need to agree to water the tree weekly for three years (but not when it's raining).

What are "Complete Streets"

Streets up until now have addressed vehicular traffic only; however, the philosophy of transportation is changing. Our city council has adopted the Complete Streets philosophy. This is an approach to planning, designing and building streets that enables safe access for all users. The city would like to make streets "complete" by making sure they are available to alternative forms of transportation such as walking, scooting, rolling, and biking. In a couple words, it's 'safe mobility.'

Typical elements that make up a complete street include sidewalks, bicycle lanes (or wide, paved shoulders), shared-use paths, designated bus lanes, safe and accessible transit stops, and frequent and safe crossings for pedestrians, including median islands (sometimes called refuge islands). This philosophy is behind what is proposed by city transportation staff for McGillivray and other streets in Vancouver.

Homestead Park Play Structure Area Garbage Can - Gone

If you're a park user perhaps you've noticed. The plastic garbage can by the play structure is missing. There's a sign saying it will be replaced when the new play structure is completed. Here's the back story of that garbage can.

The park has always had two garbage cans which the county crew emptied (at the north and south ends of the park where the picnic tables and barbecues were). People complained that those garbage cans were always full. I, Jean, got permission to put a 3rd garbage can by the play area as there was always a lot of litter there because of the number of visitors to the play area. Part of the agreement was that we would change out the bags and take the full bag to the south end garbage can and the bag would be picked up when that south can was emptied. We did that for years including after the city annexed Cascade Park.

I suppose you know that two entities, the county and the city, empty the garbage cans on a non-schedule. There is no coordination nor schedule regarding these pickups! This can cause frustration. The north garbage can is frequently (like almost every week) overflowing because some employees of the businesses east of SE 160th like to eat their lunches in a lovely setting like our beautiful park and they leave their lunch detritus at the garbage can. I get calls and emails about the condition of this garbage can and I know the city is contacted also because people tell me they've reported the situation.

Somewhere along the line, both the city and the county crews began stopping at the plastic can located at the play structure and emptying it too (and replacing the plastic liner). I was super happy about this! We were all happy! That meant there was less pressure on the end garbage cans to contain what was mostly

dog poop because the play structure is very near two entrances and kind of near a 3rd entrance and dogs are happy to relieve themselves quickly when they get to the park. This has been the situation for several years - that all three cans were emptied and re-bagged regularly by both crews.

However, out of the blue I was contacted by email about the plastic can. Remove it or we will! I was very surprised to hear that grounds wanted that can gone. The message was clear - plus do it by next week (which was a while ago by now).

I checked with Terry, the city staffer who is overseeing the choice and installation of the new play structure, and he said that yes, we'll get a 'sanctioned' garbage can as part of the new structure. So, a third can is in the offing, but not for several months.

Deposits from the City to Our Bank Account

We received two deposits from the city to our bank account lately. One, for \$100.00 is called the *Resource Conservation Challenge*. To earn that we: recycled metal and small engines, set aside bicycles and delivered them to a bike shop, and separated yard and chipper debris from the garbage at our cleanup. We also participated in the Friends of Trees tree planting last November. The other is for \$120.00 for the *RecycleU program*. We had an article in the February newsletter about the proper disposal of dog poop and one about plastic film recycling plus we attended the 101 Recycling class (and the 101 Organics class and the 201 Recycling class).

Leaf Box Information

Leaf boxes will be available again for CHNA residents from 11/9-11/10 and 11/28-12/1. The location is SE 19th St. at SE 159th Place. Leaves only, please - no yard debris or other items.



Recycling and Garbage 101

First of all, you can take this interesting class if you'd like. Just go on the city's website:

<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/events/recycling-101-class-the-basics/> and sign up. It's free and only takes an hour. More classes will be added soon.

Secondly, there are a couple things to keep in mind while recycling:

1. items must be empty, clean, dry, and larger than your fist
2. the mechanical sorter separates 3-D items from 2-D items so paper and cardboard should be flat (2-D), and 3-D items need to be as stated in #1 - empty, clean, dry, and larger than your fist.
3. any 'To Go' items go into the garbage. They cannot be recycled.
4. if a lid pops off, it stays off; if it screws on it stays on (the recycled item)

Recycling glass? It should be food-grade glass only. This is because food-grade glass melts at a different temperature than windowpanes, mirrors, candle containers, etc. All that kind of glass goes into the garbage and cannot be recycled.

We have such an advantage here in CHNA because our garbage/recycling company, Waste Connections (W.C.), also does the hauling and also owns the land where the garbage is hauled to. This saves us money! Speaking of money, recycling does not make money for W.C. The company loses money on recycling. Upsettingly, even if there was no scavenging of aluminum cans, W.C. would still lose money on the recycling program.

W.C. makes money because the cities (Vancouver, Washougal, Battle Ground, etc.) and Clark County pay W.C. to haul away our garbage. W.C. does not make money from recyclables.

W.C. gathers and fills 315 thirty-one-ton containers with Clark County garbage each WEEK! These containers are barged up the Columbia to Boardman, OR. Please work to have less 'stuff' go through your hands so we'll produce less garbage.

The methane which is collected from our garbage (in Finley Butte) is used to dry onions at the next-door onion farm. The Finley Butte facility is built to last for about another 100 years and is a state-of-the-art facility.

Styrofoam - styrene - used for transporting food is now illegal in Washington.

Lastly, consider learning about *Extended Producer Responsibilities* (EPR). What is EPR? Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a strategy to add all of the estimated environmental costs associated with a product throughout the product's life cycle to the market price of that product (what you pay). Said another way, it is an environmental policy that requires producers to pay the total cost of dealing with the waste they produce from when an item is packaged through the end of that item's life.

Some research showed that implementing EPR programs in U.S. would: Increase overall residential recycling rates by as much as 48 percentage points, create nearly universal recycling access, and increase overall participation in recycling.

Disposing of Batteries?

Put batteries in a clear bag on top of your recycle cart. But first, please tape the ends of the batteries so that they can't rub together. Batteries, even ones that seem to have no charge, can cause fires. Improperly disposed of batteries are one of the leading causes of accidents at the transfer station.

You can also take your batteries to the transfer station.

Notes from the July 9 Dessert Meeting

by Mark Johnson

1. **Greetings and Introduction** of Executive Board Members – Jean Kent (Chair), Mark Crawford (Vice-chair), Erika Johnson (Newsletter Distributor), Mark Johnson (Secretary and Newsletter Editor), Maureen Humbert (Treasurer) and Rich Humbert (Website Coordinator).

2. City update from **Mayor Ann McEnery-Ogle** -- the mayor gave out copies of her *This Week's Mayor's Update*, which can be found on the City of Vancouver website. She then went over several highlights from the update:

a) She noted that it's budget season. With slower sales of cars and other things that bring in revenue, there will need to be some significant cuts in the budget (separate from Police and Fire, which are the top priority for the City).

b) She noted that the City has a tiered water structure. Use more water, pay a higher rate; use less water, pay a lower rate.

c) There are 4 Safe Stays and a Safe Park (for RVs).

d) The City is building a Bridge Shelter (150 beds) ('Bridge' refers to a time between homelessness and successful residency somewhere)

e) The City Manager (Eric Holmes) is retiring. Three final candidates are being considered for the role and there will be community sessions to gain input from residents before making a final choice.

f) The I-5 Bridge Replacement is continuing forward. The first step will be to construct the part of the bridge that is in the water (during the construction, the old bridge will remain in operation).

g) The City is in need of more police (up to 80 more), which will also necessitate the need for more jail space and staff to oversee it. The request will be coming to the voters. You can contact the Mayor at A.McEnery-Ogle@cityofvancouver.us

3. **Omar Guzman** -- landscape developer for the City of Vancouver on plans for the park's new play structure.

Next steps: they've applied for permits and next will go through the contract bidding process. Looking to break ground in September and wrap up the work by the end of the year.

4. **Rose White** – Public Spaces Stewardship Specialist, City of Vancouver

Finishing up her AmeriCorps service year. Two main programs – Adopt a Park Program and a Naturespaces program that puts native plants in local parks.

5. **Lieutenant Sean Dumas** and **Officer Cole Larson** (our new Neighborhood Police Officer), City of Vancouver Police Department.

Overall, there's been a downtick in crime (in all categories). This is due to a combination of things, including an increase in jail capacity and a change of some laws (back to what they were pre-COVID).

6. **Elections of Officers** for Chair (Jean Kent), Treasurer (Maureen Humbert) and Newsletter Distributor (Erika Johnson).

All three of the current officers were unanimously elected for another two-year term.

7. Executive Reports:

A. **Fiscal Report** – Maureen Humbert. Currently have \$6,279.42 (in part due to fundraising effort to pay for two new park benches). Once we pay for the benches, we should still have over \$1,000 left for expenses such as insurance.

B. **Homestead Acres** – Mark Crawford. Raise \$5,000 or so a year for Homestead Acres Projects. 40-45 residents give annually to the fund, hoping to reach 56 (at least half of the total residents in Homestead Acres) this year.

C. **Newcomers** Report (June '23 to June '24). Total of 24 new Cascades Highlands neighbors: 2 from California, 9 from Oregon, 1 from Louisiana and 12 from Washington. (Note: Brian Hartl oversees this work but was unable to attend the meeting).

D. **Clean up west side of 160th** – Saturday, July 13th – need your debris cart.

(continued from p. 7)

E. **Green Bag Food Project**, next pick up is August 10.

F. **NTSA** – basic responsibilities (other than grant awards) have been taken over by the Transportation and Mobility Commission.

G. **National Night Out** – August 6. Neighbors are encouraged to have small get-togethers with their closest neighbors.

H. Trees that were recently cut down in **Homestead Park** were **ash trees**. Urban Forestry is proactively removing or treating ash trees in public spaces due to the damage that can be done by the emerald ash borer (which is expected to reach our area soon). The trees will be replaced with a different species.

I. Starting in early July, work will begin on the installation of **stormwater treatment filters**, manholes and storm sewer pipe on **Mill Plain Blvd.**, between SE 139th and 164th Aves. The filters will collect runoff water from the street and treat the sediment before releasing it below the ground to help keep our groundwater clean.

General work hours are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., M-F. There will be impacts and delays for traffic along SE Mill Plain Blvd. Crews will install filtrations systems mainly in or near the median along Mill Plain, working from west to east as the project progresses.

Pavement will be restored after the work is finished. The project is expected to be completed toward the end of November. The Project Manager is Maddie Burke.

This project is separate from the drywell at Mill Plain and Park Crest. The Stormwater Operations department is rehabbing this drywell. The drywell work will be completed before August.

J. **Topics of Interest or Concern**: a concern regarding the planned changes for McGillivray from a four-lane road to a two-lane road were discussed.

Important Contact Information for When You Need It

1. Code Compliance questions or concerns:

Call 360-487-7810 or go to:

<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/cdd/page/code-compliance>

2. Rules for Recreational Vehicle parking: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Recreational-Vehicle-ROW-Permit.pdf> (Scroll down for the rules.)

3. "One Stop Shop" for concerns (parking, traffic, code compliance, public works like potholes and lights). Go to: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/services/report-concern/> and scroll down.

4. Contact City Council members: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/departments/mayor-city-council/#form> and click on "Requests and Contact Form" to get to "Contact City Council."

5. Information about city council meetings, agendas, and minutes: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/government/mayor-and-city-council/meetings-agendas-minutes/>



Thank you to all our dedicated newsletter distributors - you help make Cascade Highlands a great place to live! Thank you to *Jackie Andrewjeski, Judy and Dick Bird, Gary and Peggy Bowman, Mark Crawford, Tim and Kathy Davis, Son Do and Jessica Tu, Pat Henderson, Jim and Shareefah Hoover, Ann Horstman, Maureen Humbert, Mary Ellen Hunt, Annette Idler, Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Pearl Liang, Julie Nakao, Holly and Rob Orr, Pat Poe, Rose Ann and Tony Ranft, Donna Schaefer, Steve Schmidkofer, Reland Short, Mike Small, Lee Ann Stewart and Teddy Peetz, Paige Tyson and Bryan Schofield and Niel Wolfe* for helping distribute the May 2024 newsletter.

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Printed by the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods

Free Leaf Disposal Coupon

Prevent street flooding – **never** blow or place leaves in the street.



City of Vancouver
Public Works



Vancouver and Clark County Residents Only

Valid October 1 – December 31, 2024

Present this coupon at a participating drop-off location for up to 5 cubic yards of **leaves only**. No bags, trimmings, yard debris or mixed loads accepted.

Complete the following information:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ Zip: _____

City of Vancouver residents: Funding for this program is provided through your garbage rates.

Clark County residents: Funding for this program is provided through Clark County Public Works.

Drop-off locations:

Call ahead to verify operating hours. Loads must be covered and secured.

H&H Wood Recyclers

8401 NE 117th Ave., Vancouver, WA
360-892-2805

McFarlane's Bark

8806 NE 117th Ave., Vancouver, WA
360-892-6125

West Van Materials Recovery Center

6601 NW Old Lower River Road,
Vancouver, WA | 360-737-1727

Triangle Resources

612 SE Union Street, Camas, WA
360-834-7253