



# **NORTHFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**

Volume 7, No. 1, Jan. 2012



## **ROLL OUT THE BARRELS!**

The Northfield Neighborhood Association's new board met on January 11, with all Directors present. There is still one vacancy, however.

The bank records were turned over to the new Treasurer, Gale Kraft, by the former Treasurer, Esther Schrader. New signature cards are required by iQ Credit Union.

City Liaison Janet Frank reported on how well the new City Hall is working out for the relocated City Departments. The most recent state audit gave Vancouver's financial records an outstanding rating, continuing an unblemished string of audits extending back many years.

Esther Schrader reported that the \$600 matching grant for Roll Out the Barrels! had been received from the Vancouver Watersheds Council, and the task force will soon be reconvened. Planning will move forward quickly, with the workshop scheduled for March 7. A couple of other neighborhoods have asked to be included, and they will be offered an opportunity to participate, assuming Northfield residents don't reserve all 20 barrels first. *(See article on page 2 for details.)*

Secretary Leigh McKinsey volunteered to attend the April 14 presentation and tour offered by Waste Connections, which will earn NNA \$100 or more as part of the Recyclingest Neighborhood Program.

Because all NNA Newsletters are delivered in person, Director Patti Hittner volunteered to help Waneta Filbin with the condos. Other volunteers deliver to the houses.

Third annual Northfield Neighborhood Cleanup has been scheduled for June 30 between 10 AM and 3 PM at Northfield Park. More details will be provided later.

The next NNA Board meeting will follow the general meeting on March 7 at F. S. #9.

## **THE PREZ SEZ...**

Our early winter was so dry! La Niña or just the pattern of weather changes we are seeing in the USA? This is why I have decided to put my money on the upcoming rain barrel project. Living in the condos doesn't allow space for more than one, which must not be visible from the street, but the houses could connect two of them and have water for spring and summer blossoms, herbs, and vegetables. I can grow a few items alongside my condo, and pots for tomatoes, so I want to save the water for that purpose. You can decorate your plastic, recycled food barrel with paint, which comes in many colors, and children can add fancy stickers. I'm thinking red for mine (they usually come in blue).

Your Northfield Neighborhood Association Board is still minus one Director. Please call me at 253-7987 if you are available and willing to serve your neighborhood. It doesn't take much time, and is very rewarding.

Our next General Meeting will be March 7, 7 PM, in Fire Station #9 on SE 15th St. We plan to have an instructor to help our residents learn to set up their rain barrels, which will be fully assembled prior to the meeting.

You will find full details on how to sign up, where to pay your deposit, and all the rest of the information in Esther Schrader's article later in this NNA Newsletter.

Happy winter days!

**Sarah K. Benson, President  
Northfield Neighborhood Association**

# Roll Out the Barrels!

There will only be 20  
Rain barrels!

ESTHER SCHRADER  
883-3272  
jeschrader@comcast.net



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **RESERVE YOUR RAIN BARREL NOW!** \*  
\* \*  
\* **DEPOSIT: Nonrefundable \$20, due by February 11.** \*  
\* **Deliver or mail to Esther Schrader, 1604 SE** \*  
\* **173rd Av, Vancouver, WA 98683** \*  
\* \*  
\* **BALANCE: \$20 final payment, due March 7 at the door** \*  
\* \*  
\* **WORKSHOP: March 7, 7 PM, Fire Station #9 on SE** \*  
\* **15th St. Receive instruction on how to** \*  
\* **set up your rain barrel and get the** \*  
\* **most benefit from its use.** \*  
\* \*  
\* **TAKE YOUR RAIN BARREL HOME!** \*  
\* \*  
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## Why Harvest Rainwater with Rain Barrels?

Besides helping the environment, one obvious reason is to save money. Depending on the size of your house and the amount of rainfall in your area, you can collect a substantial amount of rainwater with a simple system. This extra water can have a significant impact on your water bill. The use of rainwater combined with the domestic use of grey water can further increase your savings.

Rainwater stored in rain barrels has many uses. Some people find it mostly useful for watering their landscapes and gardens. Others find uses within the house as well. Rainwater can also be used for drinking, but requires special treatment with a filtration system. You don't need a filtration system for landscape uses. You can use it directly from your rain barrel on your garden.

If you're harvesting rainwater with rain barrels to use for watering your landscaping, the rainwater can help to improve the health of your gardens, lawns, and trees. Rain is a naturally soft water and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. For this reason, plants respond very well to rainwater. After all, it's what plants in the wild thrive on!

## USE CARE TO MANAGE TREES & PREVENT HAZARDS



Heavy winter rains can raise concerns about the condition and safety of large trees, according to the City of Vancouver's Urban Forester, Charles Ray. Careful understanding and management of tree defects in advance can help create a safer environment, reduce liability, and ease those concerns, he said.

While all trees have the potential to fall, only a relatively few actually do.

"Maturity is not what makes a tree fall," Ray said. "Most tree failure is due to an existing defect, such as tree cankers, decay, and root problems."

In the case of a fallen branch or other storm damage to a tree on your property, Ray urges you to stay calm and make a careful appraisal of the situation. Stay out of the way of branches that might fall, and stay away from downed utility lines.

"If a tree does not represent a hazard," he said, "take the time necessary to be sure it gets proper care and make a final decision about it in a few weeks or months."

The Urban Forestry Web site at [www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry) offers tips and resources to help Vancouver residents better recognize and manage hazardous trees throughout the year. The site also provides a list of certified arborists who can help identify and manage defects and potential hazards, as well as facts about regulations and permit requirements.

When severe weather issues arise that impact our Northfield Neighborhood, you will also find information and alerts posted online at [www.cityofvancouver.us/severeweather](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/severeweather).

For information or questions, call 487-8308, e-mail [urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us), or visit the Urban Forestry Web site listed above.

## EMERGENCY COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

Clark County has implemented an emergency community warning system that is able to send emergency messages via telephone, cell phone, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), and e-mail to residents and businesses within the county. This system may be used by emergency response personnel to notify specific homes and businesses at risk with specific information about the emergency event. You will only be called when the associated address will be impacted by an emergency.

The system is already programmed with landline phone numbers (both listed and unlisted) from phone company records.

### Type of Information You May Receive

- Police needing your help to solve crimes or find missing persons
- Knowledge about a hazardous situation near your home (fire, hazardous materials release, or police response activities)
- Emergency protective measures during a disaster.

**Sign up at: <http://cresa911.org/be-informed>**



**DIAL 2-1-1 FOR HELP!**

*(Editor's Note: we repeat this information from time to time because it is very helpful!)*

It can be difficult and frustrating to find local social services; sometimes it's hard to know where to start looking, or even what's available. Vancouver/Portland Metro area residents have an easy-to-remember three-digit phone number to call when searching for community services. Just dial 2-1-1 for information and referrals to health and human services for everyday needs and in times of crisis.

2-1-1 is about people talking to people. Callers can explain their situation in their own words and get the help they need on their own terms. Calls are answered by Certified Information and Referral Specialists, who will listen non-judgmentally and assess the situation. Using a database that is continually updated with listings for community, faith-based, and government programs, the 2-1-1 staff will provide referrals to available services. They can help you find:

- Food resources
- Health care
- Public agencies
- Legal services
- Employment services
- Counseling/support groups
- Housing information

You may call on your own behalf, for friends, or for family. Using a tele-interpreter service, information is available in over 150 different languages. Calls are anonymous, confidential, and free.

If 2-1-1 doesn't work from your cell phone, please dial: 1-877-501-0252.

2-1-1 is available Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 8 PM.



**CUT OUT & KEEP HANDY FOR REFERENCE!**

**NORTHFIELD HAPPENINGS**

- NFCA Board Meeting**  
Feb 1, 6:30 PM--F.S. #9
- Valentine's Day--Feb 14**
- Presidents Day--Feb 20**
- Condo Board Meeting**  
Feb 22, 7 PM--F.S. #9
- NNA General Meeting**
- Roll Out the Barrels!**  
Mar 7, 7 PM--F.S. #9
- St Patrick's Day--Mar 17**

**NORTHFIELD NA BOARD MEMBERS**

- President Sarah Benson..... 253-7987  
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- Vice President Patricia Hittner.....260-3166  
hitt0729@aol.com
- Secretary Leigh McKinsey.....718-2414  
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