

NOVEMBER 2009

# Shumway Neighbors

News & information for Shumway residents and Businesses within the boundaries of 39th St., Main St., 4th Plain Blvd. and Interstate 5

## NEWS & NOTES

~ **VPD Hosts District 1 Community Forum.** West Precinct staff will be discussing crime trends and community policing initiatives that effect citizens within West Precinct District 1 boundaries. Neighbors, residents and managers of apartment complexes, and business owners are encouraged to attend. VPD has invited other city departments to sponsor tables at this event. OoN will be there and we look forward to seeing you! *Wednesday, November 4, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Fruit Valley Elementary School, 301 Fruit Valley Road.*

~ **Tree Talk Workshops.** Turn over a new leaf at two upcoming TreeTalk Workshops by learning proper tree pruning tips from an industry professional and getting involved in a new community tree awareness campaign.

The first workshop is designed for community residents and takes place from 2 to 4 p.m., Oct. 24 at Marshall Community Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd., and begins with the Vancouver Urban Forestry campaign: "Think Before You Top. Get the Facts." Learn about the hazards of topping and how you can help prevent them by getting

involved in the tree awareness campaign. Next, discover how to prune your trees with the assistance of an industry professional. The workshop will then move to the Street Tree Arboretum for a hands-on demonstration of proper pruning techniques. This workshop is designed for the general public.

The second workshop is designed for professionals in the tree care industry. Learn about Vancouver's Tree Awareness Campaign while discussing proper pruning practices. This workshop will focus on restorative pruning techniques during a hands-on training session. Space is limited for the Oct. 30 workshop, so sign up early!

To ensure your place at the TreeTalk Workshop, register in advance by calling (360) 619-1108 or emailing [urbanforestry@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:urbanforestry@ci.vancouver.wa.us). Space is limited. For more information, please visit [www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry).

~ **H1N1 Flue Vaccine Update.** As vaccine arrives in Southwest Washington, information will be posted at [www.flunewsswwashington.org](http://www.flunewsswwashington.org). Residents can also call 877-510-2772 for information on vaccine availability.

## NEXT MEETING:

November 5, 2009  
Vancouver School of Arts and  
Academics Media Center  
3101 Main Street ~ 7:00 p.m.  
Entrance off of F and 31st  
Streets

## AGENDA

~ **Linda Franklin, Clark County Assessor, will talk about our home assessments.** Linda attended our neighborhood association meeting some time back and promised to return to discuss the impacts of Columbia River Crossing on assessments. Now is the time to talk about fair market values and assessments.

~ **Vancouver Police Department's "Neighbors on Watch" (NOW)** Matt Ferrier, Shumway resident and NOW member will come and speak briefly about the program.

Greetings,

I'm excited to take over the reigns as Shumway Neighborhood Newsletter Editor. I've lived in Shumway for a little over a year at the corner to 28th and I St. I'm active in the community as Editor of The Vancouver Voice, an alternative newspaper for SW Washington, and involved in local arts and entertainment. The Shumway Neighborhood has historically been very arsty, according to Chairperson Anne McErny Ogle. One of my goals of the newsletter is to highlight some of our budding artistic talent of the neighborhood. Feel free to contact me if you're an artist, singer, musician, etc., or know of a neighbor who is.

Cheers,  
Ossie Bladine

## [NEW] Shumway Neighborhood Officers

*Elected October 1, 2009 for 2009-10*

~ **Chairperson** Anne McErny Ogle, 695-5124, [macogle@pacifier.com](mailto:macogle@pacifier.com)

~ **Vice Chairperson** Lisa Ghormley, 993-2139, [unraveledyarns@hotmail.com](mailto:unraveledyarns@hotmail.com)

~ **Secretary** Michele Wollert, 993-0106, [michelewol@aol.com](mailto:michelewol@aol.com)

~ **Treasurer** To be elected November 5th

~ **Newsletter Editor** Ossie Bladine, 971-237-1397, [ossie@vanvoice.com](mailto:ossie@vanvoice.com)

~ **City Liaison** Terry Weiner, Assistant City Attorney, Civil Division 696-8251, [terry.weiner@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:terry.weiner@ci.vancouver.wa.us)

**Shumway Neighborhood Association Meeting  
October 1, 2009  
Vancouver School of the Arts and Academics**

**In attendance:** Anne McEnerny- Ogle, Chair; Lisa Ghormley, Vice-Chair; Michele Wollert, Secretary; Lisa Brown; Dave Brown; Manfred Plikat; Terry Ogle; Terry Weiner (City of Vancouver); Cynthia Thornton-Tang (Lincoln Neighborhood Association); Beth Burda; John Caton; Laura Meyer; Don Meyer; Suzan Hoffman

**Guests:** Casey Liles, Carley Francis, and Doug Ficco of the Columbia River Crossing Project; Matt Ransom of the City of Vancouver Transportation Services

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Anne McEnerny-Ogle at 7:00.

**Election of Officers:** Anne opened up the floor for nominations for Shumway Neighborhood Association Officers.

Lisa Ghormley moved to nominate Anne McEnerny-Ogle for Chairperson. Dave Brown seconded the motion. There were no additional nominations for Chairperson. The motion carried unanimously.

Suzan Hoffman moved to nominate Lisa Ghormley for Vice-Chairperson. Michele Wollert seconded the motion. There were no additional nominations for Vice-Chairperson. The motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Ghormley moved to nominate Michele Wollert for Secretary. Lisa Brown seconded the motion. There were no additional nominations for Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

Anne announced that Shumway resident and Vancouver Voice editor Ossie Bladine, not present tonight, has volunteered to serve as Newsletter Coordinator. Anne suggested that nominations for the position of Treasurer be postponed until the November 5th meeting until Jim Martin could be contacted to confirm his interest in running for this position again. There were no volunteers for the position of Treasurer.

**SR 500/I 5/Fourth Plain Interchange Alterations:** Casey Liles of the Columbia River Crossing project summarized the two interchange options for those who were not in attendance at the September Shumway meeting (see September meeting minutes for details). Carley Francis distributed a 4 page memorandum to the Shumway Neighborhood Association with 7 map attachments showing potential property effects and peak hour traffic operations impacts for both options. This additional information was requested by several Shumway residents at the September meeting. Anne took the extra memo copies for interested neighbors not in attendance tonight.

When asked what the cost difference between the current plan (no 4th Plain exit from SR 500) and the new proposal (restoring the 4th Plain/SR 500 exchange), Casey Liles explained that he could not provide a specific amount for either option at this time.

Suzan Hoffman, a resident of one of the I Street properties that will be impacted by the construction, explained to the CRC representatives how difficult it is to live with the uncertainty of whether or when she would be losing her long-time residence. She also complained that, as a rental resident, she did not receive a letter or personal visit by the CRC team about possible property acquisition as other I Street residents did. Carley Francis approached her to get her home address and other information and apologized for the error.

Casey Liles explained that the Right of Way acquisition of I Street properties is estimated to begin in early 2011 and pointed to the timeline estimates in the memo.

Doug Ficco, Project Director of the CRC, added that the property acquisition process is governed by the Federal Relocation Act and provides certain tenant and property owner protections (for more information see: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/realstate/ua/index.htm>).

Michele Wollert asked how the use of Eminent Domain power might come into play in the property acquisition process. Doug Ficco explained that this would be used only as a very last resort and that it is rarely used, less than 1 percent of the time, in his experience.

Anne McEnerny-Ogle asked the CRC reps who or which agency specifically asked for the new option of preserving the 4th Plain/SR 500 exit. Casey Liles said that the issue first came up in a West Vancouver Freight Alliance Meeting with CRC. City of Vancouver representatives at that meeting also expressed an interest in studying that new option, rather than eliminating it.

Matt Ransom added that commuters have been using the SR 500 to 4th Plain exit for years and its total elimination concerned many stakeholders, and generated an interest in evaluating the impact of its removal, as well as the impacts of retaining it in new construction.

Anne McEnerny-Ogle explained that she and others had been told that CRC identified C-Tran as being the sole agency that initially asked for the SR500/4th Plain interchange to be retained, yet a C-Tran official at an Arnada Neighborhood Association voted against the new interchange. Casey Liles answered that C-Tran is only one of many stakeholders interested in studying the impacts of closing or maintaining the interchange.

Anne McEnerny-Ogle asked about the specific numbers shown in the memo attachments of peak hour traffic that is projected to divert onto smaller arterials like St. Johns Road or 39th Street if the interchange is not built. Matt Ransom explained that these were obtained by license plate surveys on the specific traffic corridors, as well as using a regional traffic

modeling tool to forecast future patterns on these streets.

Anne McEnerny-Ogle, after studying the data provided, observed that 4th Plain would be receiving over 2,000 more cars in average daily traffic than Mill Plain in 2030 if the SR500/4th Plain Connection is maintained. She expressed concern that 4th Plain may need to be widened and improved to accommodate such an increase, bringing increased negative impacts on neighborhoods and residents along 4th Plain's path. She expressed concern that for Shumway, building the SR 500 to 4th Plain interchange means not only a loss of 20-40 homes, but over 2,000 more vehicles a day on 4th Plain. Anne added that the implication is that 4th Plain will be replacing Mill Plain as the main freight route and she is concerned that this has not been part of a larger and more open discussion.

John Caton observed that he had been under the impression that Mill Plain has traditionally been considered by Vancouver to be the official freight route to the Port of Vancouver.

Lisa Ghormley remarked that in retaining the SR500/4th Plain exit, freight companies might prefer 4th Plain over Mill Plain due to the fact that Light Rapid Transit is proposed to cross Mill Plain at Broadway, Main and Washington. She explained that this essentially interrupts freight traffic flow on Mill Plain due to the fact that LRT has signal priority. She was concerned, like Anne, that 4th Plain would become the main freight corridor to the Port of Vancouver as a result. She cited the Port of Vancouver's freight study that indicates delays on Mill Plain are currently longer than 4th Plain. Shumway is not only negatively impacted by the 20-40 proposed property acquisitions, but it is also negatively impacted by increased 4th Plain traffic and the necessary improvements it needs to accommodate such increase. She expressed concern that the affected neighborhoods have not been given the full picture of possible impacts and have not been given a fair voice in the decision-making process.

Matt Ransom explained that there are vacant lands that will be developed in the Port and Fruit Valley areas that will need freight access to them. He acknowledged that there are competing priorities between commercial growth and the neighborhoods. He also said that improvements to 4th Plain have been part of Vancouver's growth plan for some time now and do not necessarily include widening the street. He said that there are other ways to improve roads, such as intersection enhancements. He stated that Mill Plain needs improvements, as well and that the City of Vancouver believes that LRT will have minimal impact on Mill Plain traffic. He acknowledged, however, that the Port of Vancouver is concerned about Light Rapid Transit impact on Mill Plain.

Anne McEnerny-Ogle expressed additional concern that the CRC's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) identified only one Shumway property for acquisition. Now that a much larger range of 20-40 homes have been identified by the CRC for acquisition, the draft EIS needs to be updated to reflect this or it will be in significant error. She also asked CRC staff what measures have been documented that shows the project has avoided the taking of properties.

Doug Ficco responded that the adverse impacts were taken into account by Environmental Justice and that right-of-way takes were avoided as much as possible.

Anne asked for examples of specific property acquisition avoidance factors that were considered and rejected by the project in making their recommendation to take 20-40 homes and in considering either interchange option on the table. She then asked if this documentation will be available for CRC's presentation to Vancouver City Council on November 16th.

Casey Liles replied that this information would not be ready in time for the presentation. When asked by Anne, he outlined the proposed November 16th presentation agenda.

Anne asked for additional comments and concerns by neighbors in attendance:

Dave Brown expressed concern that the negative environmental impacts to affected neighborhoods on either of the proposed plans have not been adequately studied.

Lisa Ghormley stated that she is not convinced that the true freight impacts on 4th Plain and 39th Streets have been adequately studied, either, with respect to the SR500/4th Plain exchange preservation. She reported that she cannot support either of the design options until she is provided with better truck traffic data.

Anne McEnerny-Ogle reiterated her reservations about the SR500/4th Plain exchange in that 20-40 properties will be gone on I Street and Shumway and bordering neighborhoods will see more vehicle traffic on 4th Plain. Anne stated that it appears that 4th Plain is replacing Mill Plain as the freight route to the Port and this was not included in the discussions with neighborhoods.

Cynthia Thornton-Tang, Lincoln Neighborhood representative, expressed concern about Lincoln needing more information about these proposals and explained that the next two meeting agendas are full. She noticed that there were Lincoln properties on the potential acquisition list that she had not previously seen. Carley Francis and Casey Liles offered to meet with Lincoln Neighborhood Association leaders at the CRC office or a neighborhood meeting.

Manfred Plikat said that if the SR500/4th Plain exit is not preserved, he is concerned that 39th Street, with a new overpass to avoid trains, will also see increased traffic that it might not be equipped to handle. He was also concerned about the impacts to St. Johns and other smaller neighborhood arterials and asked why there are no property impacts on the East side of I 5.

Casey Liles responded that there are minor property impacts on the East side, but no displacements as on the West side.

Peter Van Nortwick introduced himself and said that he is a residential and commercial appraiser. He said that some Shumway residents may have been under the impression, due to statements made in the September meeting, that they would be fully compensated for any improvements made on their properties between now and the acquisition process. He wanted to be sure that residents understand that this is not a reasonable expectation. While home improvements (new roofs, painting, etc) are factored into appraisals, home owners are not fully compensated for these improvements dollar-for-dollar.

Casey Liles agreed with Mr. Van Nortwick's statements and explained that a comment made by Mike Stricker, Real Estate Acquisitions, WA Department of Transportation, SW Region, at the September Shumway meeting was clarified with residents in personal discussions after the meeting adjourned. Mr. Liles emphasized that it was not Mr. Stricker's intention to give

neighbors the impression that they would be fully compensated, dollar-for-dollar, for home improvements. The improvements made will, however, be factored into an appraisal.

Beth Burda expressed concerns about negative impact on school and child safety: possible redistricting or new schools needed and increased dangers to walkers on 39th to Discovery Middle School.

Doug Ficco asked neighbors what other information was needed to help them make a decision.

Anne McEnery-Ogle requested more specifics on Environmental Justice issues and mitigation plans. Specifically, she wants to see evidence of what specific impacts were identified and reasons why they could not avoid some. The next step is minimization, Anne explained, and she would like to see the data CRC used to consider and reject any minimization of impacts to the neighborhood. Finally, Anne asked CRC staff, after considering avoidance and minimization options, how they planned to mitigate the neighborhood for any negative impacts.

Doug Ficco replied that most of their documents show that there are minimal adverse impacts to the preservation of SR500/4th Plain exit. Carley Francis said that the CRC is still gathering Environmental Justice information with respect to impacts on minority residents.

Anne McEnery-Ogle asked CRC staff if Mill Plain was a concurrency corridor.

Matt Ransom replied that 4th Plain is a city street and a concurrency corridor, but Mill Plain is a state route and is not. He then asked neighbors to think about what specific mitigation might be desirable and gave examples of turning the remaining land on I Street into community gardens, a small park, or city right-of-way. He asked that neighbors email him with specific suggestions at this address: matt.ransom@ci.vancouver.wa.us Mr. Ransom added that he would share Shumway neighbor concerns about the proposed project, as well, to City Council.

Dave Brown replied that this was a difficult question to answer because this issue has been a moving target, with multiple changes. He suggested that we wait until November to craft a thoughtful resolution.

Terry Ogle agreed with Dave's suggestion and stated that specific examples of mitigation plans will be helpful.

Lisa Brown observed that some of the houses on the West side of I Street will lose access to their driveways and wondered how this will be dealt with.

Matt Ransom stated that taking away access to a home is considered a full impact.

Michele Wollert expressed concerns about the danger to pedestrians and particularly students from VSAA who must cross a dangerous intersection at F and 4th Plain to and from school. As it stands now, many trucks and cars run red lights due to the long length of the light timing on F and she is concerned that these infractions will only increase with more traffic. There are no shoulders and sidewalks abut directly to heavy, fast traffic. She suggested a pedestrian overpass on 4th Plain in a couple of areas to increase safety as a possible mitigation.

Laura Meyer asked whether the City Council will be making a decision at the November 16th CRC presentation and Matt Ransom reported that they would not. They need time to discuss and study it, too. Laura then asked which agency would make the final decision as to the SR 500/4th Plain options and Matt explained that Vancouver City Council is the primary stakeholder.

Anne McEnery-Ogle reported that Rose Village is supporting Shumway in being opposed to the taking of 20-40 homes and that Arnada is opposed to a new connection to 4th Plain from SR500. She suggested that Shumway make an official resolution on our position on these issues at the November 5th meeting and asked for other business news or concerns.

**Street Mural Update:** Lisa Brown reported that we may need to apply for an extension of the grant awarded to Abby Brown because we cannot block access to the VSAA parking lot during events. The design needs to be converted to vector graphics files and we will need to be able to power wash and paint in one weekend. A better estimate for the street mural painting is targeted for spring break, when the weather is better and school is closed.

**Traffic Diversion:** Dave Brown announced that construction on the curb bump-out at F and 33rd has begun.

**Curbside Recycling Bins:** Suzan Hoffman asked about the forthcoming big blue recycling bins and mentioned that some neighbors were concerned that they would have to haul their recycling to a specific area. Anne reported that Shumway will be getting these rolling carts in two sizes and that they will stay with each resident. She suggested that some people consider the smaller size if pushing them to the curb is a concern.

**Leaf Collection:** Annual leaf collection dumpster will be at H and 26th again on November 7th and 8th and December 5th and 6th.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.

**Next meeting:** November 5t, 7:00 PM at the VSAA Media Center.

Respectfully submitted,

**Michele Wollert, Secretary**  
*Shumway Neighborhood Association*