

BELLA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2022/2023 Volume 27 Issue 1

***Thanks to Natalie Howard, the **Bella Vista Neighborhood has a website.**

Check out [https:// bvna.info](https://bvna.info) and watch for more information and content.***

Neighborhood General Meeting!

We haven't had a general meeting for this neighborhood for a long time, primarily due to Covid restrictions and erring on the side of caution. But the time has come and there is a lot to talk about. This year's meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, March 21st, from 6pm to 8pm at Gustav's Pub & Grill, 1705 SE 164th Ave, next to Walgreens and in front of Big Al's. Our neighborhood liaison Chad Eiken is assisting us in arranging guest speakers. Laura Peterson of WSDOT will update us on the progression of the SR-14 widening project and the sound wall that will be of great benefit to us. We will also hear about the McGillivray Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project. Gustav's is a full service restaurant serving European and Northwest specialties fare. So don't cook that night. Come to the meeting, have some food and beverage and learn about recent projects affecting our neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD ANNUAL CLEAN-UP

Covid was responsible for many changes in our lives and our neighborhoods. One such change was that of our annual clean-up that used to take place every November at Behrens Woods. As the City strove to return to a semblance of "normal", some variations were implemented. Our 2022 clean-up was partnered with four other neighborhoods and was held on the grounds of Riverview Elementary school. Several Bella Vista neighbors took advantage of the opportunity to dispose of yard debris, trash items too large for curbside pickup, scrap metal and even donation items termed "too good to toss". The cleanup was a great success, and many participants made a financial donation, which was split amongst the neighborhoods. It was such an organized success that the City will implement it again in 2023, probably around the same time, mid-November.

BEHRENS WOODS

In 1968 the singing group Mamas and the Papas recorded a great song called For the Love of Ivy. Also in 1968, Sidney Poitier filmed a movie called Love of Ivy. But in our own Behrens Woods, we do not have any love of Ivy. In this case, it is English Ivy and it is defined as an invasive species in the west and Pacific Northwest of the United States. English ivy has invaded California and the northwestern United States and is particularly a problem in regions near the coast.

It originally came from Europe and is the cause of serious problems. English ivy quickly takes over other vegetation, and can also kill trees and prevent the sprouting of new saplings. English ivy can also affect local wildlife by displacing the plants they depend on.

Once established in an area, English ivy is very costly and labor intensive to eradicate. English ivy can overrun your garden, climb fences, and invade your neighbor's yard and nearby



natural areas. The leaves and fruit of English ivy are toxic to humans and livestock and the sap can irritate skin. Despite the economic and environmental cost, nurseries continue to sell English ivy, and consumers continue to buy and plant it in



their gardens. Although this plant may seem like a great ground cover for empty spaces, please don't plant this species, and instead choose an effective alternative without the negative consequences.

Mr. Varun Rathi, our neighbor on Bella Vista Loop is an Adopt-A-Park Volunteer for our own Behrens Woods and has organized **Ivy Pulls for the second and fourth Saturdays of each month rain or shine** for the coming months. Come for 20 minutes or two hours, whichever fits your schedule. Bring gloves and cutters or use what is provided by the City. Please consider being a part of this wonderful program.

GIVE A HOOT

During a recent Ivy Pull in Behrens Woods a Great Horned Owl was spotted perched on a branch in one of the tall trees. We hope it is taking up residence here. If so, it should be given a neighborhood name. Owl Pacino has already been taken by a Portland news crew for an owl that frequently appears in one of their camera shots. Two possibilities for our owl could be Owl Capone? Weird Owl Yankovic? Have a suggestion. We will reveal it at the General meeting.

HUMMINGBIRDS

Have you ever wondered what Anna's Hummingbirds, our year-round resident hummers, eat in the winter when there are so few flowers to provide nectar? They like and need nectar from flowers and feeders but 80% of their diet is insects and spiders. If you make your own nectar, mix four parts water to one part regular granulated sugar. Stir to dissolve and change twice a week to inhibit mold growth. Nectar will keep in the fridge for two weeks.

Apparently, the hummingbird menu includes insects such as ants, aphids, fruit flies, gnats, weevils, mites, mosquitoes, and even spiders! In addition to grabbing insects' mid-flight, hummingbirds even pluck trapped insects from tree sap and raid spider webs to grab a quick meal and any hapless insects trapped there!



ZOMBIE TREE OUTBREAK

Zombie trees are the freeze damaged trees, palms and shrubs on commercial and residential properties that are a result of the cold front that came through in early 2021. The damage caused by the freeze resulted in a lot of dead wood and sucker growth. The sucker growth is the trees attempt to come back from whatever living tissue was left. The trees will sucker back as a stress response, trying to replace that growth that was lost. This is not normal growth for a tree and these trees are never going to recover completely



and thrive as a tree again. These trees are not going to have the original shape and growth. The freeze damage caused the stunted growth and stressed the trees that probably will result in permanent damage. The proper thing to do at this point is to remove the trees and replant as needed. Many people still think there is a chance that the trees will return to its pre-damaged state. In addition to the sucker growth, there is a lot of dead wood from the frost/freeze damage that also needs to be removed. Can you manage it, trim it back? Yes. But it will never return to the tree's original aesthetic which is why we are recommending is to remove the trees, shrubs or palms and start over.

Vancouver Bee Project

There are over 20,000 bee species worldwide, 3,600 in North America, 600 native species in Washington State, and likely **over 90 species here in Clark County!** Bees and other pollinators like wasps, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other insects are critical to human survival and they need our help. Acre for acre, cities apply more fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides than farms. But there is hope for the pollinators in our community. The VANCOUVER BEE PROJECT suggests the use of more native plants in our parks, patios and neighborhoods to provide homes, food and nesting sites for these critical insects. The Vancouver Bee Project is a recently formed nonprofit formed to educate the public as they strive to make Vancouver a Certified Bee City USA. You can learn more about Vancouver Bee Project on their website and social media:

Website: <https://www.vancouverbeeproject.org/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/vancouverbeeproject/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vancouverbeeproject>

HAS A COYOTE POOPED IN YOUR YARD?

Coyotes have been seen very recently in our neighborhood and caught on motion cameras. Two were seen traveling together and appeared to be large and very healthy. Keep in mind that coyotes are highly adaptable and have become an urban fixture in many cities. They are opportunistic feeders and will help themselves to chickens and small pets. Their droppings, or scat, can contain dangerous microbes and should be handled with gloves. Coyotes belong to the family of dogs, and they are believed to be the primary carrier of rabies, other deadly viruses, and disease-causing pathogens. They are part of the dog family, so their paw prints are hard to distinguish from that of a dog. Their poop can vary in

color depending on what they eat from winter to summer and will often have tufts of fur in it from rodents and other animals that they have eaten. So please, watch out for your pets, particularly at night when coyotes are active.

NAME OUR RAPTOR!

1) Owl Capone- yes _____ no _____

2)Weird Owl-yes _____ no _____

3)Your suggestion- _____

Donation: \$20 _____ Other amount \$ _____

Nothing now, wait 'til after taxes ;) _____

Would you like to be on the Board of Directors for the Bella Vista Neighborhood? It's free, it's casual, it's informative and only meets once every three months. Join us.

Yes, I am interested: Name:

Yes, I would like to try attending an NTSA Zoom meeting

Please use this page and the enclosed envelope for your response returns,

Thank you!

Board of Directors: President: Nancy Roth; Vice President: Bob Rowe; Treasurer: Kathy Carmody; Secretary: Cheryl Higgins; Food Garden: Ruth Wilmoth; Rose Garden: Penni Howard; Fred Garmire; Perry Elliott; Kate Altenhof-Long.

City Liaison: Chad Eiken Neighborhood Police Officer: Cpl. Jeremy

Cpl Free can be reached at 360-487-7372 and at email address:

Jeremy.free@cityofvancouver.

PICNIC

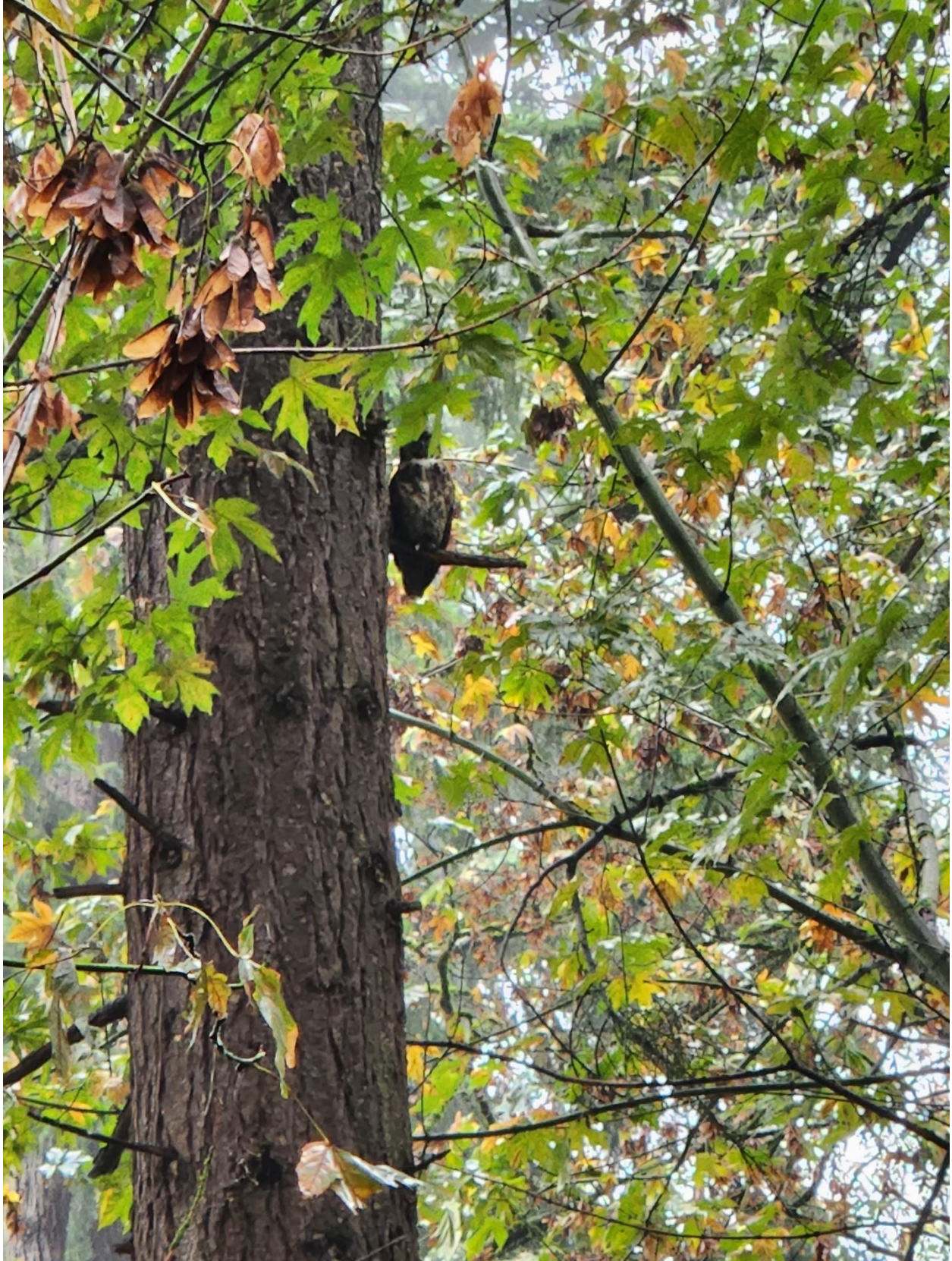
After a very long Covid pause, we will have a neighborhood picnic this summer, partnering with our neighbors of Cascade Southeast Neighborhood. The exact date and time are to be determined but will probably be in late August or early September. With that in mind, if you would like to make our standard \$20 donation to the Bella Vista Neighborhood Association, we will put it to good use towards the picnic, Rose Garden supplies, newsletter supplies and the like. For those 17 neighbors that generously gave with last September's newsletter, Keep your Cash and thanks!! By the way, Venmo, PayPal or something similar will be available soon for making the annual donation. We are also working on getting our Non-Profit 5013c status so that it will be tax deductible in the future. Ch-ching!!!

WINNERS!

We want to shout out a big THANKS to our four Bella Vista Park Mutt Mitt Volunteers: Charlie Hysmith, Sandra Sandberg, Brad & Charmaine Veld and Valeri Striplin. Charlie Hysmith is taking first watch. When he no longer wants the responsibility, we will reach out.

And congratulations to our Sparkle Award winner. Accolades go out to Jeri Hunt for her work in 2022. Hopefully we will be able to properly recognize her at the General Meeting in March.

Many in the neighborhood have expressed concerns about traffic in our neighborhood and have attended the Vancouver Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance (NTSA) meetings over the years. The NTSA had been meeting in City Hall once a month. When Covid prompted in-person meeting restrictions in 2020 the meetings ended until Zoom meetings became the norm. Fortunately for everyone, our own Michael Martin-Tellis, aka Zoom Master, was fluent in Zoom and was able to conduct the meetings since then until others got up to speed on the program. Michael has to give up those meetings at this time. Cheryl will step in until another volunteer offers their time. If you are interested in giving these Zoom meetings a spin in the comfort of your own home on the third Tuesday of each month. Let us know.



BELLA VISTA NEWS

Bella Vista Neighborhood Association

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The City of Vancouver supports the Neighborhood Association in their effort to share vital information with residents to create a more informed public. However, the information provided and the opinions and vies expressed in the Neighborhood Association newsletter 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.