



Cascade Highlands Herald

<https://cascadehighlands.weebly.com/>

August 2025

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

Upcoming CHNA Events

August 9 - Green Bag Food Donation Pick Up

October 11 - Green Bag Food Donation Pick Up

November 8-9 - Leaf Box Weekend

November 26-30 - Leaf Box Weekend

December 13 - Green Bag Food Donation Pick Up

December 29 - Friends of Trees -- Signup Deadline

January 5, 2026 - Friends of Trees -- Order Deadline

January 24, 2026 - Friends of Trees -- SE Vancouver Tree Planting

Dates for Leaf Boxes Set

The next dates for leaf boxes to be available are November 8-9 and November 26-30. On these "Leaf Box Weekends", we will have boxes at the usual location (19th at 159th Place). These boxes are for leaves only and are a **free** amenity paid for by the city because we are a recognized neighborhood association. Because of this, it is to our benefit to follow the City's directions and make sure that only leaves are deposited: thanks!

Curb Number Painted/Repainted?

If you'd like your curb number painted, please contact chair Jean Kent. She has the equipment and will get to your curb when the weather cooperates and she has time and enough umph. There is no charge for this service.

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2025 Neighborhood Cleanup is IN THE BOOKS

We lucked out with the weather as it only rained while the high school site was being set up for the cleanup. It was overcast and breezy but NOT rainy. Having the event in mid-April could have offered us a different experience, for sure.

And we survived my (Jean Kent's) error of typing the incorrect date on the cleanup coupons. Major OOPS. We tried hard to get the message out that the cleanup was indeed on the 19th.

According to the coupon count (which is iffy - some people fill out both the dumpster and the yard debris coupons but only use one, and MVNA does not require their residents to bring their coupon although some do) we had 88 people dump stuff at the packer trucks, 16 use the yard debris (no chipper this year), and 29 Mountain View people used their coupons. (Many did not bring them since they weren't asked to.)

Here's a big thank you to Pat, Erika, Joseph, Chris, Norm, Sylvia, Mark, Kevin and Jean. If you know one (or more) of those kind people, please thank them for making this excellent event a reality. Without volunteers, cleanups don't happen! Mountain View N.A. also provided volunteers for one shift, so we're grateful to them too.

Statistics? 1,045 pounds of food (and personal care products) donated to F.I.S.H. of Orchards; \$63.00 to CHNA and to MVNA and \$62.00 to F.I.S.H. of O; 12.67 tons of garbage/bulky items; 1.36 tons of yard debris; Eight bicycles donated to Wheel Deals (several more bikes were left off but were taken by neighbors needing bikes); several small engines were accepted by Kevin (some small engines ended up in the metals box, oops); and over 4,720 pounds/2.36 tons of scrap metal yielding \$212.00 income for us (and for MVNA - we split the proceeds). Those statistics are close to last year's.

This year we tried a Too Good To Toss idea and I guess it went ok. I didn't hear otherwise. Anything left at the end (noon) went into the packer trucks and thus the Oregon landfill.

CHNA 2025 Garage Sale Report

The weather pretty much cooperated for the three days of our 2025 neighborhood garage sale. Friday started out a little iffy with some light mist and Sunday moved to the high-side of comfortable, but people came, people saw and some bought. Overall, our 36 sellers were happy with their sales.

The local thrift stores got some nice donations once Sunday was over and sellers got rid of their unsold items.

There were two bizarre events - someone from a nearby neighborhood removed 7 of the 8 clips holding the two placards on one of our sandwich boards, 'borrowed' one of the placards, turned over the other one, scrawled some directions to their sale (not in CHNA), and reattached the card all cattywampus.

The other was that a CHNA neighbor who wanted to participate mailed in his registration and money but the envelope never arrived in the organizer's mailbox. Expenditures (for the Columbian ad, balloons and photocopying of 400 two-sided maps) were \$272.64. Income was \$255.00. So, we're 'in the hole' for \$17.64.

If you had a registered sale, thanks for promoting our neighborhood!

Wondering What to Do when Encountering Someone Displaying Mental Health Issues?

If anyone is interested in learning skills when encountering folks in mental health crisis, NAMI SW Washington has a training. Their mission is to provide advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that everyone affected by mental illness can build better lives. For more information: <https://namiswwa.org/>

April Green Bag Donation Close to the Most Collected EVER!

Unbelievably together we donated 1,563 pounds and \$135.00 to F.I.S.H. of Orchards in April! Fifteen-hundred plus pounds! That's amazing. In all the years we've been participating in this project, the only time we gathered more than that was December of 2020 (1,680 and \$260.00) at the height of the pandemic.

CHNA residents should be very pleased! Donors contributed to a neighborhood project which really makes a difference. Rex (the manager of F.I.S.H. of O. where we donate our food) said that while the regulars show up frequently, each day there are new people in need of help and the line is long. **You as donors** are part of that help.

We filled 25 banana boxes and needed six more! The peanut butter and adult diaper amounts were spectacular! Do you know that one 'package' of six peanut butter 'jars' weighs 51 pounds? Well, now you do! LOL

Thank you to Pat and Paisley - our stalwart helpers (driver and packer) and Pat's sturdy truck.

June's collection was equally notable... 1,184 pounds and \$525.00. Pat was unavailable but Liam stepped in as a runner.

Do you want to join us? Contact Jean Kent at jeaken@pacifier.com to get signed up, get your spiffy green bag, and get ready to help others in this easy and community-minded way.

Thanks to everyone who donated!

MyVancouver App is Going Away

The City is looking to enhance its reporting system tools. While the intent is to have it in place by late fall, it could take a little longer. The MyVancouver App will remain active until the enhanced system is available. Messaging to residents about the change will occur prior to the switch. This is a work in progress, so we do not have specific details and dates.

Reminder - Summer is Here and So Are the Relatives!

Recreational vehicles and motorhomes, boats/boat trailers, and cars-for-sale cannot legally park on public streets except temporarily, and that's for active loading and unloading purposes only.

To park a vehicle mentioned above on the street, a permit is required and is good for seven days. Permits are available at City Hall in the Building Permit Center or online at Recreational Vehicle Permit Form.

Return the form to Code Compliance c/o City of Vancouver P.O. Box 1995, Vancouver, WA 98668.

Rental Housing License Starts in 2026

Starting in January 2026, all long-term rental property owners will be required to register their units each year and to pay a \$30 per-unit fee. This fee will be waived for the first year for units registered within the first 90 days of the program's launch. Rental registration will require submission of unit-level data, such as address, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, year built, and whether the unit is income-restricted.

Inspections will begin in mid to late 2027 after the registration system is established and shaped with community input.

The ordinance also establishes a tenant relocation fund to help lower-income households move from uninhabitable units. Certain types of housing, such as short-term rentals, shelters, hospitals, and owner-occupied units, are exempt from the requirements, and fee waivers are available for qualifying income-restricted properties.

For further information: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/vancouvers-rental-registration-program-to-improve-quality-safety-of-rental-housing/>



Save Those Tree Watering Bags!

by Maureen Humbert

If you have ever bought a tree and planted through the *Friends of Trees*, then you received not only a tree, but a tree watering bag. Weekly, you filled this bag with water for the first three years to keep your tree consistently watered. Even if your tree is well on its way and you are no longer using it, this bag is still useful!

Trees are constantly being planted in our neighborhood, and we can reuse your bag to give these new trees a good start. If you still have your bag and would like to donate it, simply drop it off on my porch at 1719 SE 162nd Ave or contact me.

If this has been the first year you acquired a tree, please keep this donation in mind for after your tree is established and doesn't require weekly watering (3 years).

We will schedule drop-off opportunities to distribute donated bags in the future. Thanks!

Recycling 101 - A Class About Blue Cart Items

You can take this class too! We highly recommend it. Sign up at:

www.cityofvancouver.us/recycleu

Brief take-aways:

1. Flatten your cardboard (no boxes, only FLAT cardboard)
2. No packaging which has contained items in the fridge (throw in garbage).
3. All items recycled must be clean, dry, and larger than a fist.
4. Glass which has been used only for food - no other glass (and remove the lids, the corks, and if appropriate, the citrus)
5. No lithium batteries. For other batteries tape the ends before putting them in a clear plastic bag on top of your blue cart.
6. At the street leave three feet between carts so the Waste Connections truck's machine's arms have room to work easily.
7. No plastic bags or other film.

Incense Cedars and Seiridium Canker

Perhaps you've noticed the incense cedars trees in Homestead Park are getting hammered by a canker this year. What is a canker? A canker is a localized area of dead tissue on a stem, branch, or trunk, often appearing as a sunken or discolored lesion. They are typically caused by fungal or bacterial infections. Urban Forestry states that the attack is broad and seen throughout the community. Here's some information about it:

Symptoms/Damage

1. Foliage on affected branches yellows and turns brown. Small branches are usually infected first, and then larger ones will die.
2. A sunken canker can be found on the branch below the infected foliage. The bark turns brown, and small fruiting bodies form in the cankered area. Drops of resin are frequently found in and at the sides of the canker.
3. Larger trees may slowly decline from the cumulative effects of multiple cankers.

Life Cycle

The disease is mainly transmitted by wind-blown spores on rain-wetted branches and foliage. Drought-stressed trees seem to be the most susceptible.

This is a fairly new disease that has been infecting Incense cedar trees in our region. The disease has been causing a severe branch dieback. Severities of dieback varies from tree to tree but more than 60% of branches can be killed.

The disease can infect many different kinds of trees in addition to cedars including Leyland cypress and junipers.

Treatment

Remove and destroy affected branches One-two feet above the infection or canker.

Water trees generously during drought periods and high temperatures.

Financial Report

by Maureen Humbert

The last finance report for the newsletter indicated the association's balance was \$1,394.41. Deposits totaling \$755 for grants, donations and Garage Sale Sign-ups have been made. Expenses totaled \$372.64 for insurance and the costs associated with the Garage Sale. Our new balance is \$1,776.77.

Hope you are having a great summer!

New Neighborhood Website Launched

By Bill Walters, website coordinator for CHNA

CHNA has a new website: cascadehighlands.weebly.com.

It's where you can always find the most recent edition of this newsletter — even after you throw out your paper copy! You might even find late-breaking updates for some articles.

There's also a Google Calendar with neighborhood events and dates to save, and a contact form for sending us suggestions and comments.

Are you thinking, "Why not just use Nextdoor"? For one thing, it has a pretty toxic ratio of angry rants over useful information. For another, its administrators haven't been responsive in setting us up as neighborhood leads. But we do check it now and then, to see if people have questions we can answer on the new website.

Sign Up to Adopt a Storm Drain

Protect your local stream, help prevent local flooding and inspire stewardship for our beautiful Columbia River. Adopt-a-Drain WA is now in Clark County and we're looking for some residents to be our first adopters.

It's easy as 1-2-3:

1. Sign up online at <https://wa.adopt-a-drain.org/>
2. Keep your storm drain clear.
3. Track your impact.

You'll get a yard sign AND get to name your drain!

<https://wa.adopt-a-drain.org/>

We Compost Community Hubs

Food waste dumped in with your garbage ends up in landfills and creates methane gas, a major contributor to climate change.

Clark County and Waste Connections are partnering with local organizations to reduce the amount of food waste going to the landfill. The *We Compost* pilot program offers several Community Hub locations across Clark County; these hubs offer free and convenient food waste disposal for all residents.

This program is for people who do not have yard debris carts which are emptied every other week so is particularly beneficial for residents with limited access to composting services, such as those living in apartments and condos.

At the community hub locations food waste is deposited into green food waste carts. These carts are serviced weekly by Waste Connections of Washington. The food waste is then transported to our commercial compost facility Dirt Hugger in Dallesport, WA.

After just a few short months food scraps will be transformed into nutrient rich compost, ensuring that all nutrients are cycled back into the soil.

The nearest to us is Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church at 12513 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

Access information: Parking lot is just off Mill Plain Blvd on SE 126th Ave. Cart is on SE back corner of the church building. Carts are accessible for drop off at all hours, every day.



Take a Tour at the West Vancouver Materials Recovery Center

Waste Connections hosts tours at the west

Vancouver Materials Recovery Center (MRF) otherwise known as the transfer station or dump. We received a tour with Sami who was able to fluently spout off interesting facts and statistics.

We saw two substantial piles of tires - one pile with rims and one without; huge bails of smashed together plastic jugs; huge bails of aluminum cans and scraps; weighty cubes of paper and cardboard; heaps of food-grade glass (remember to remove the lids and any contaminants); a recycle truck emptying its load; members of the public in their vehicles waiting to be emptied of their loads; the before-after scale so it's known how much the discarded items weigh for accurate payment; spaces for appliances, household hazardous waste also known as HHW, yard debris and organics, motor oil, antifreeze and battery disposal.

Sadly, the battery barrel was almost empty and only had about 3 batteries resting in the bottom but we've seen it filled to the brim with batteries taped at both ends to help prevent them from catching fire.

The site has a 100,000 gallon water tank as fires are a frequent happening there. Yard debris is either burned for energy or ground up and shipped to West Rock and used as hog fuel.

All organics (yard debris and food waste) collected are stored in a separate bay away from the rest of the materials brought to the MRF. The organic materials are trucked out at the rate of 1,000 tons per month to Dirt Huger in Dallesport, WA where the material is turned into compost.

Since it was an outside tour, we wore appropriate dress and sturdy shoes, plus high visibility vests and hard hats. We saw the detention ponds which catch the

runoff water from the paved surfaces and allow the water to settle and be cleaned and then flow into the retention pond. All of that is to protect the wetlands and the wildlife, including the salmon that come upstream every year to spawn.

It was amazingly clean considering what goes on there, but cleanliness is important and a preventative all by itself. There are employees that go around consistently with a blower to push all the debris back into the MRF to keep litter and debris from ending up in the wetlands which surround the Transfer Station.

What you as an individual can do to help this process and help our community is to: buy and dispose of less stuff, put only clean and dry recyclable items in your blue cart, and be grateful that you live in a community which does recycle and promote a recycling ethic.

Any questions you may have can always be sent to

" recyclehelp@wasteconnections.com ", or you can call Customer Service at 360-892-5370. Waste connections also has a "Recycle Right App" where you can find most answers, as well as their website " <https://wcnorthwest.com/> ". The website has a resource on it called "A-Z Directory" where you can type in your material to let you know how/where to dispose of it.

1st St. Finally Opening?

The following is from Ryan Lopossa, City of Vancouver transportation and streets head: "We're close. The contractor encountered some unforeseen delays as they constructed the retaining wall along the north side of SE 1st Street. However, I was out there last week [July 7 - 11] and we have the first layer of asphalt paving completed as well as all the concrete work including curb, gutter, sidewalks and bike lanes.

They have also completed the concrete work for the new roundabout at SE 184th Avenue. We still have one more layer of asphalt to place and then the final striping. I'm thinking we should be able to reopen by the first or second week in August."

Where do the items in our Blue Recycling Cart Go after Collection?

First, the contents of the blue recycling cart are sorted at the Material Recovery Facility located at the West Vancouver Transfer Station (see report about the tour of this facility on page 6).

Materials are sorted by size, shape and type utilizing a variety of processes including staff sorting by hand and automated sorting systems.

After materials are sorted, they are sent to various facilities that reprocess materials. At the time of this writing, most waste is reprocessed domestically. Glass is sent to Glass to Glass, a Portland based glass recycler.

Mixed paper is sent to Norpac in Longview, WA.

Cardboard is sent to Georgia Pacific in Toledo, OR.

Plastics have multiple end markets domestically in California and Michigan with some plastics going to British Columbia.

However, please know that most plastics cannot be recycled. It's best to just not purchase them to begin with. But if you do then put the plastic in your garbage cart.

Stormwater Facilities - Catch Basins and etc.

When it rains, it drains. And 'it' has to go somewhere. That's when our neighborhood stormwater facilities get to work.

Here are eight examples of local stormwater facility types that you can spot the next time you're out for a walk. (Thank you to the City of Washougal Stormwater Division for providing this information.)

1) Bio-retention planter – a shallow landscaped depression with a designed soil mix and plants that receive stormwater from a contributing area.

2) Biofiltration swale – a flat-bottomed channel that uses grass or other dense plants to filter out sediment and oily materials.

3) Detention pond – a pond that temporarily holds stormwater runoff.

4) Infiltration pond – a pond that holds runoff and lets it soak slowly into the ground.

5) Catch basin – traps sediment or debris.

6) Filter catch basin – traps sediment or debris.

7) Filter vault – underground stormwater facilities with various technologies to treat stormwater.

8) Outfalls – the point at which a stormwater facility discharges into a body of water.

Would you Enjoy Reading a Pet Spotlight Column?

If you would like to write up a little report about your pet - what it likes, its little quirks, maybe one or two funny stories? Send me (jeaken@pacifier.com) your write-up. We'll see if the readers of this newsletter would enjoy having a regular column to read about our family pets.

CHNA Meeting Minutes - July 15, 2025

by Mark Johnson

1. Introduction of Exec. Board

Jean Kent - chair, Mark Crawford - vice chair, Maureen Humbert - treasurer, Mark Johnson - secretary – Erika Johnson - newsletter editor, Rich Humbert - website coordinator. Meeting Norms were agreed upon.

2. Mary Sisson, Executive Director, Columbia Play Project

This non-profit emphasizes exploratory play and has a goal of building a local Children's Museum. To date, they have bought a van and have a mobile museum running. They have received a \$500,000 state grant for planning and are about to hire their first Executive Director. If you'd like to get involved in their efforts, you can contact them at info@columbiaplayproject.org or 360-798-8768.

(continued from p.7)

3. Celebration of New Play Structure - Melody Burton and Omar Guzman (City of Vancouver Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services)

Melody and Omar set up a table across from our annual meeting location (giving out fans, sunglasses and snacks as well as outreach information).

Omar also spoke at our meeting, noting that the project in Homestead Park is now complete. As a part of this, in creating the new play structures, they separated the play space into two areas - for 2-5 year olds and for 5-12 year olds. The park also now has a total of four swings and an additional nature play area.

To help if the new play structure is vandalized, it was also painted with anti-graffiti material, so it's easier to remove graffiti.

Finally, two new benches that Cascades Highlands purchased were installed as a part of this project.

You can learn more about Park projects at cityofvancouver.us/parks.

4. Election of Officers

Mark Crawford (Vice-Chair), Mark Johnson (Newsletter Editor) and Bill Walters (Website Coordinator) were all voted in for their respective positions. Thanks to Rich Humbert for his work as Website Coordinator this last term.

5. Reports by Exec. Board

a) National Night Out -- August 5

National Night Out is the first Tuesday in August and residents were encouraged to meet with their immediate neighbors.

b) Garage Sale

There were 36 participants in all. There were a few weather issues (a couple of sprinkles one day, hot weather another), but overall, it went well. Note: if the garage sale is to continue, Cascade Highlands will need a new coordinator to organize it.

c) Library Levy Lid Lift election also August 5
The cost is \$16/month for a \$400,000 home. Our district is one of the five largest in Washington (encompassing three counties). It's one of only two items on the ballot.

d) Financial report - Maureen Humbert
Cascade Highlands had \$6,279 total as of the 2024 CHNA summer meeting. Since then, we've added \$5,910 in income (largely from grants received and donations) and spent \$10,260 (including the purchase of the two Homestead Park benches), for a closing amount of \$1,569. The year's worth of bank statements were available to view.

e) Green bag food project

The project continues and the number of residents participating has continued to grow - thanks to all that are donating food towards the project, some of whom were in attendance!

f) Newcomers report - Brian Hartl

Twenty-nine packets have been given out to new residents over the last year (including one from London!)

6. NPO - Jordan Rasmussen (relatively new police officer to CHNA and District 4)

Unfortunately, Jordan cancelled and was not able to attend.

7. Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle

Mayor Anne shared highlights from her most recent Mayor's Update, which residents can access at the City's website (cityofvancouver.us).

8. Home Share Clark County - Lynne Helmke

Lynne said her non-profit is like the 2025 version of seeing a sign that says "Room for Rent". The goal is to provide some additional income to those with housing that would like a roommate (have a spare bed, etc). They do background checks on both the renter and the homeowner. The ultimate goal is to provide additional opportunities for the houseless in our community, many of whom are elderly. To learn more, go to:

info.homeshareonline.org/ClarkCountyWA.

9. Topics of Interest or Concern

There were no additional topics of interest or concern.



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, Dave and

Susanne Bush, Mark Crawford, Don and Patty Feyh, Susan French, Sandy Hadenfield, Pat Henderson, Jim and Shareefah Hoover, Ann Horstman, Maureen Humbert, Mary Ellen Hunt, Annette Idler, Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Julie Nakao, Holly and Rob Orr, Pat Poe, 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 April 2025 newsletter.

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