

# Pleasant Highlands Neighborhood Association

## Newsletter

[http://.neighborhoodlink.com/pleasant\\_highlands/](http://.neighborhoodlink.com/pleasant_highlands/)

June 2011



### 2010-11 Officers

Pleasant Highlands Neighborhood Association officers welcome your questions, comments and concerns.

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### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

My fellow officers and I were most appreciative of the strong attendance of local residents at our meeting in November and for the evident interest and lively discussions that followed the presentations from our several presenters. We are planning our next meeting for **June 8th, 7-9 pm, at Vancouver Fire Station Number 7, 12603 Northeast 72nd Avenue.** At that meeting we will continue to explore several local issues which residents indicated in November were important to them.

- Clifford Cook, the Police Chief of Vancouver, will discuss how his Neighbors on Watch program is working within the city, and ways in which the Vancouver Police Department can work with Sheriff Gary Lucas' department to help extend the program to our area of the Clark County. Deputy Sheriff Mike McCabe may also be on hand for this discussion.
- Mike Mabrey, Community Planner III in Clark County Planning, will speak on "Managing Change through Sub-area Planning" which will provide a framework to continue the discussion on traffic, pedestrian and other development projects that are in the works for our neighborhood.
- We hope to also have more information on first aid and CPR classes that the local Fire Station offered to provide to residents, and that generated intense interest at our last meeting. We have recently learned that our excellent local fire captain, Dave Seabrook, has been promoted to battalion commander, and we hope to have some

### EMAIL

We have been distributing a lot of information via email. Our goal is to get as many email addresses of those within the boundaries of Pleasant Highlands Neighborhood Association as possible. If you have not been receiving email notices from the Association and would like to, please send us your email address to Michelle Girts, [magirts@comcast.net](mailto:magirts@comcast.net).

news for you on the search for his replacement.

- As many of you know, there has been continued interest and intense discussion about plans of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to extend its power transmission facilities through Southwest Washington. A representative from BPA will be on hand to answer questions and update us on the current state of its expansion plans.

Our neighborhood association exists to give our residents more direct contact with county administration and to help transmit the interests and concerns of you, our neighbors, back to county government. The more of you who come to our meetings and make your voice heard, the better we can serve you.

Steve Abramson, President

## **November 10, 2010 PHNA Meeting Summary**

The PHNA President, Steve Abramson, opened the meeting with introductions and a statement of his objectives for the Association: to come together and act as a community on issues of significance that affect all of us.

Steve then introduced the Fire Chief, Dave Seabrook, who reviewed the mission and capabilities of Vancouver Fire District 7. Their mission is station-based service delivery, with the primary objective of emergency services. Their most active area of services include: smoke detector checking, which they provide for free; fall and injury prevention, for which the station receives 1 call/day; wildfire safety; address identification; and Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT). Each station has a captain who tries to build a sense of community in the area served by the station. As of January 1, 2011 they have 3 paid professional fire fighters, which is essential staffing due to the decline in the number of volunteers. They also have a trained

paramedic. They have the capabilities to offer classes in First Aid, CPR, Heart Attack Response, and Emergency Preparedness, if the PHNA is interested in sponsoring such a class. The audience expressed interest in participating in such classes.

Next, Deputy Mike McCabe of the Clark County Sheriff's Office spoke about the Neighbors on Watch program, which is a program that aims to engage volunteers in keeping our neighborhoods safe (see article that follows). The PHNA leaders asked the audience whether there would be interest in volunteering for such a program – several people requested additional information about the training and commitment required, before being willing to be involved. The Deputy also handed out a flyer on the Neighborhood Watch program.

Steve Schulte, Clark County Department of Transportation Manager, gave an overview of the upcoming transportation projects planned within the boundaries of the PHNA. There was general surprise at the number of projects planned but that they were planned for relatively far into the future, given current transportation problem areas. People spoke about the problems with speeding on NE 139th Street, and poor site distance conditions that have lead to numerous accidents in the vicinity of the NE 50th Ave/NE 119th Street intersection; Steve highlighted that NE 119th Street and 72nd Avenue records the most injury crashes/year, while they don't see the number of injury crashes growing at the NE 50th Ave/NE 119th Street intersection. There was general concern that with development taking place in the area, and the current problems with speeding, that driving, bicycling, and walking would become considerably more dangerous in the neighborhood – and that these problems need to be addressed. Participants generally agreed that they would like to hear more about Clark County plans to address transportation issues. See article below.

Erna Sarasohn, of Stop the Towers now, summarized the status of their meetings with Bonneville Power Administration regarding the proposed 500 kV transmission line route from Cowlitz County to Oregon. At the time of the PHNA meeting, a public meeting had recently been held with BPA Administrator Steve Wright's participation. There was limited discussion about an Oregon route. At least one eastern route was being considered and evaluated, but DNR was resistant. PHNA meeting attendees were interested in routes being considered at the time. Letters questioning the routing of the line through densely populated areas have been sent (some since our last meeting) to BPA by the Washington Education Association US Senator Patty Murray, Washington State Senators Craig Pridemore and Joseph Zarelli, and State Representatives Jim Moeller, Tim Probst and Ed Orcutt. See article below for an update.

Lastly, President Steve distributed information from the Clark Conservation District about native trees and plants that they will have available this winter for a nominal fee.

## PHNA Transportation Improvements – Planned Activities

Steve Schulte stated that the Board of County Commissioners' priorities for transportation are:

- Safety
- Job creation and economic stimulus

The current 6-year Road Program was adopted on November 16th 2010; public meetings had lead up to the adoption, including a booth at the County Fair.

A Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was approved by the Commissioners on November 23rd, 2010. The Plan was developed to make it safer and more convenient for people to get to major destinations on foot or by bicycle. The plan identifies ways to improve the transportation network by integrating existing

sidewalks, bike lanes and trails. This will require design standards that work well with Clark County's transportation network for motor vehicles. Steve stated that bicycle lanes on NE 50th avenue would not be added any time soon; as development takes place, sections will be added, but there are no plans for a bike lane that will connect with existing bike lanes on NE 99th Street or Salmon Creek Avenue. Additional information is available at:

[Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan - Community Planning](http://www.co.clark.wa.us/planning/bikeandped/index.html)  
<http://www.co.clark.wa.us/planning/bikeandped/index.html>

As part of the planning process for the next Growth Management Plan which is revised every 5 years and looks out 20 years, the Clark County Community Planning Department is undertaking subarea plans. The Pleasant Highlands Community Plan is expected to be formulated in 2011-2012 – this year. These plans look at roads, zoning, and the vision for smaller areas. Slowing of traffic is a possibility, including traffic calming, on NE 50th Avenue and on NE 139th Street. He noted that the safety question is the biggest issue – is the street really unsafe? He commented that the posted speed is generally set at the speed at which people are comfortable driving. He indicated that there were no viable mechanisms for incremental road improvements, the focus is on large corridor projects. On the urban fringe, these large corridor projects have a “ripple effect” on traffic patterns (both long distance and short distance flows).

A list of topics that Steve highlighted in the meeting included:

- NE 72nd Ave/119th Street Intersection – to 87th Avenue; 5 lanes; over the next 4-6 years
- NE 119th Street project – 3 lanes including a center turn lane, sidewalks and bike lanes; 6+ years into the future
- NE 50th/119th Street Intersection – probably a signal, plus shaving the hill on 119th to the east and raising the hollow

where the roads intersect; construction in next 3 years assuming there is funding (not a given)

- NE Salmon Creek Avenue/119th Street Intersection
- Salmon Creek Interchange project – Bid in December 2010, construction begins in the spring and lasts 3 years, 139th Street is Phase 1
- WSU-Vancouver campus expansion – with expansion to a 4-year institution, a doubling of traffic from today's level is expected
- NE 50th Avenue – Salmon Creek bridge repair – structural upgrade
- Pleasant Highlands Urban Holding – was lifted in 2010
- NE 50th Avenue vertical curves – are an issue
- NE 72nd Avenue turning issues – major problem, including crashes at signals but more so turning L across gaps in traffic.

## **Neighbors on Watch Opportunity**

The Neighbors on Watch program is a program that aims to engage volunteers in keeping our neighborhoods safe. The program was started by Clifford Cook, the Chief of Police for the City of Vancouver, and the City has 42 people fully trained (as of November). Through training offered by the City, neighborhood volunteers patrol identified areas in a neighborhood to be on the lookout for problems and illegal activity. Working in pairs, the volunteers then notify the Sheriff's Office the particulars of problems and activity observed, for further follow-up. Volunteers complete an application and background check, and then participate in 24 hours of academy training over 6-8 weeks. Volunteers receive a uniform, radio, code, flashlight, and sticker for their car; and are obligated to be on patrol 4 hrs/month. They focus on problem areas specific to the neighborhood, including speeding.

PHNA leaders will provide additional information in future programs, to determine whether there are people who would commit to the program in this neighborhood. In the interim, additional information can be found at:

[Neighbors On Watch \(NOW\) Citizen Volunteer Program - Community Partnerships - Police Department - Services & Public Safety - City of Vancouver, Washington, USA](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/police.asp?policeID=31529&policeSubID=50671)

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/police.asp?policeID=31529&policeSubID=50671>

## **Bonneville Power Administration 500kV Transmission Line Route Update**

There have not been any public meetings in which BPA has participated since the November 4 meeting at Skyview High School, which was organized by the Clark and Cowlitz County Commissioners. The primary issue for discussion was the reason why a routing for the new line through Oregon instead of Southwest Washington was never formally considered as a serious option by BPA. Stephen Wright, the Chief Administrator of the BPA, was questioned extensively by the commissioners and by several residents on this and several other issues. An excellent summary of that meeting was included in the January 2011 newsletter distributed by Another Way BPA and Citizens against the Towers. This newsletter and several other informative documents can be easily downloaded from <http://www.nowaybpa.com> and <http://www.stoptowersnow.com>. The latter web site provides links to letters and press releases from several public officials, including US Senator Patty Murray, and the Washington Education Association, supporting the routing of any new 500 kV transmission lines through unpopulated areas in Eastern Clark County.

The public relations consulting firm EnviroIssues has been retained by BPA to

provide various services to support BPA's communication with the public on issues related to the new transmission lines. In response to a request from EnviroIssues, PHNA has invited a BPA official to attend our next neighborhood meeting to address the group and answer questions about the current status of the transmission line project. EnviroIssues has also requested that the following message from BPA be included in this issue of our newsletter. The message is reproduced verbatim from the text provided by BPA's consulting firm.

*"The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project, which calls for a new 500-kilovolt transmission line to run between potential new substations at Castle Rock, Wash., and Troutdale, Ore. The distance between the two proposed substations is approximately 70 miles. The line is needed to relieve projected congestion on the regional transmission grid due to growth in southwest Washington and northwest Oregon.*

*"As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, BPA has identified a number of route segment alternatives that will undergo further analysis in an environmental impact statement (EIS). The analysis will look at the potential environmental and community effects of each segment according to a variety of factors including, but not limited to, impacts on social, cultural, and economic resources, as well as natural resources. This analysis will assist BPA in determining if the line should be built, and if so, what the most appropriate route would be.*

*"In January 2011, BPA released a Non-Wires Screening Report that includes an updated electricity demand forecast and suggests that construction of the new transmission line could be delayed if aggressive energy efficiency measures are implemented and if BPA can find a way to*

*temporarily shift where power is generated when the transmission system is stressed. However, the report stresses that the non-wires options remain unproven and uncertain so they will be examined in a more detailed study to test their feasibility. BPA expects the results of that more in-depth analysis later this year. If the measures outlined in the report are not feasible, BPA would face tight deadlines to build the power line in time to ensure reliable electric service. This means that BPA will continue to follow the same project schedule that calls for the draft EIS to be issued in late 2011 and a final decision on whether and where to build the transmission line in 2013."*

*BPA continues to take public comments on the project. For more information, visit [www.bpa.gov/go/i5](http://www.bpa.gov/go/i5).*

## New Website Available

Please visit the recently updated PHNA website at:

[Pleasant Highlands Neighborhood Association - Clark County, WA 98686](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Pleasant_Highlands)

[http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Pleasant\\_Highlands](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Pleasant_Highlands)

Let us know how the website could be of value to you – what information and/or links would help you to acquaint you with our neighborhood, and improve the quality of your family's lives.

Send comments to Mona Moyer at [2moyer@comcast.net](mailto:2moyer@comcast.net), and we will address as we periodically upgrade and update the website.

**For Your Information and Use:  
Washington Department of  
Ecology Litter Hotline**

Call 1-866-548-8371 [1-866-LITTER-1] with the following information:

- License plate number, state, and type (Disabled, University, etc.)
- Vehicle description (make, model, type, color)
- Who littered (driver, passenger, unsecured load, etc.)
- Description of what was littered
- Date and time of incident
- Location (Hwy, Road, intersection)
- Direction of travel
- Nearest town

The vehicle owner will receive a letter describing litter laws and fines

## **For Your Information and Use: Clark County Code Enforcement**

Clark County Code Enforcement responds to citizen complaints regarding building, zoning, land use and nuisance code violations. When a complaint does not result in a violation, Clark County recommends mediation services as an alternative to resolving issues with your neighbors. An easy way to file a complaint is to use the on-line complaint form. Read more about the program and access the form at:

[Code Enforcement - Community Development - Clark County Washington  
http://www.co.clark.wa.us/commdev/code-enforcement/indexn.html](http://www.co.clark.wa.us/commdev/code-enforcement/indexn.html)

Alternatively, you can call 360-397-2408.

## **For Your Information and Use: Clark County Speeding Tip Line**

A meeting participant noted that there were significant speeding problems on NE 139th Street between NE 50th and 72nd Avenues. Deputy Mike McCabe suggested that speeding incidents be reported to the Desk Sergeant at 360-397-2211.

## **For Your Information and Use: Clark County Commissioners Public Open Meeting**

This is held the first Tuesday night of each month, at 6 pm, in the Commission hearing rooms.



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# 2011 SPRING MEETING

## AGENDA

**Date:** Wednesday, June 8, 2011

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Fire Station 7 – NE 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave./126<sup>th</sup> St.

7:00 – 7:05	Welcome	Steve Abramson, President
7:05 – 7:35	Neighbors on Watch Program	Clifford Cook, Vancouver Police Chief Mike McCabe, Clark County Deputy
7:35 – 8:05	Managing Change through Sub-area Planning	Mike Mabrey, Community Planner III Clark County Community Planning
8:05 – 8:35	BPA Tower Project Update	Bonneville Power Administration Representative
8:35 – 9:00	Questions and Concerns from Residents General Discussion & Announcements	Moderated by Steve Abramson, President

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Would you like to be kept up to date on issues affecting the PHNA area? PHNA sends out e-mails to PHNA residents between our twice-yearly newsletter mailings to update neighbors on issues of concern in our area. If you are not currently receiving e-mail from PHNA and would like to be included in the e-mail distributions, please send your e-mail address to Michelle Girts at [21Hmagirts@comcast.net](mailto:21Hmagirts@comcast.net)

