

Pleasant Highlands Neighborhood Association



<http://www.PleasantHighlandsNA.org/>



October 2011

2010-2011 OFFICERS

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

President:	Steve Abramson 360-571-3386 abramson@lifescipartners.net
Vice President:	Ed Frankel 360-597-4313 edf07@comcast.net
Secretary:	Michelle Girts magirts@comcast.net
Treasurer:	TBD
Mail List Manager:	Michelle Girts magirts@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor/Producer:	Mona Moyer PHNAssoc@gmail.com
Website Manager:	Mona Moyer PHNAssoc@gmail.com
Transportation Planning Liaison:	Jake Schnoebelen 13818 NE 45 th Avenue 360-571-0652 yms1eis2@aol.com
Liaison to the Highlands HOA:	Irene Schnoebelen 13818 NE 45 th Avenue 571-0652 yms1eis2@aol.com

Web Site: Mona Moyer, PHNA's communications manager, has recently upgraded our web site on the Neighborhood Link network, so that our residents can browse the site for the newsletter archive and other useful information, without distracting advertisements. We will be gradually updating the site with local and county news and other items of interest. Check it out at <http://www.pleasanthighlandsna.org/> and sign up as a member.

Neighbors on Watch: The Neighbors on Watch program is now underway in earnest. The Vancouver Police Department allotted to the county a very few places in its current class for volunteers, which began in September. The really good news is that the Sheriff's Department is dedicating the resources to establish its own training academy for NOW volunteers, and is developing a manual, training procedures and other resources in order to reduce its need for assistance from the Vancouver Police Department. The first class is planned for the spring of 2012. In the meantime, Denis Valtierra of the sheriff's Community Outreach office, is encouraging residents interested in volunteering to apply early, so there is ample time to complete required background checks before the class starts. Ms. Valtierra can be reached on Fridays at 397-2211, extension 3303, or by E-mail at Denise.Valtierra@clark.wa.gov.

BPA: The *Columbian* recently reported that both of Washington's US Senators, as well as Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler, have written to administrator Steve Wright urging that the routing for the 500 kV transmission lines planned by the Bonneville Power Administration affect as few homeowners as possible. This pressure by our congressional delegation and many state officials is a direct response to the activities of concerned county residents, including several of our Pleasant Highlands neighbors, aimed at protecting the superb quality of life we enjoy.

Interest Groups: Your officers are forming interest groups to work on topics of importance to PHNA, in order to increase our overall effectiveness, to make our voices heard in Clark County and other levels of government - and also to promote involvement by you, our residents and good neighbors. The first of these interest groups will work with Mike Mabrey of the County Planning Department on refining the sub-area plan for Pleasant Highlands. Mike will also attend our November 9th meeting to get this interest group started on a good footing, with all your input. An event planning group will also be formed, and the officers welcome your suggestions of projects for additional PHNA interest groups. There will be sign up sheets for those groups that the PHNA leadership has identified from your comments at previous meetings.

Elections: It's time to pick officers for the 2011 - 2012 term. At our November 9 meeting, we will have the election for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and communications manager. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for one of these offices, send an E-mail to our
(continued, next page)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

To all our neighbors,

Once again, my fellow officers and I would like to express our appreciation for the strong turnout for our June meeting and the lively discussion following the presentations. I am pleased to report to you that there has been substantial progress on important areas of interest and concern that have claimed our attention over the past year.

Road Upgrades: Thanks to a recent infusion of funding to Public Works, the planned improvements to the very troublesome intersection at 119th Street and 50th Avenue have been given a high priority, and active planning is now underway. There is a report in this issue of the newsletter on an open house held on the topic this week. We are pleased that the project manager, Ms. Robin Washington has agreed to update us all at our upcoming meeting on Wednesday, November 9.

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secretary Michelle Girts (magirts@comcast.net) before the November 7th deadline.

PHNA's mission is to promote direct contact between our neighborhoods and the county government, both to keep all of our neighbors informed of projects and events that interest and concern us, and to transmit back to the county our interest and concerns, to help the neighborhood and the county as a whole remain a comfortable, welcoming and wonderful place to live. The more of you who attend our meetings, and become involved in our projects, the better PHNA can achieve its primary goal, which is to make our lives in our part of the county as fulfilling and enjoyable as possible.

Steve Abramson, President

PHNA New Website URL

Please find the **new URL for PHNA** in the header on page 1. We've upgraded our website through Neighborhood Link, and have eliminated the ads and extraneous information from the site. The upgrade included selection of a unique web address for our use. Check it out and let us know what you think; send your suggestions, recommended links, etc., to PHNAssoc@gmail.com



Pleasant Highlands Neighborhood Association

Meeting Agenda

November 9, 2011 7-9 pm

Glenwood Fire Station (7), 12603 NE 72nd Ave

7:00 – 7:10	Welcome, Introduction of Officers, General Update	Steve Abramson, President
7:10 – 7:40	Planned Road Upgrade: NE 119 th St & 50 th Ave	Robin Washington, Project Mgr Clark County Public Works
7:40 – 8:10	Overview of Subarea Plan of Pleasant Highlands.....	Mike Mabrey, Clark County Community Planning
8:10 – 8:15	Election Introduction and Distribution of Ballots	Michelle Girts, Secretary
8:15 – 8:45	Brainstorming for Subarea Planning Interest Group	
8:45 – 9:00	Election Results, General Discussion, Announcements	Steve Abramson, President

ENERGY TRUST PROGRAM

Cash-in on energy-saving home projects with Energy Trust incentives.

Give your budget a break and make your home more comfortable with energy-saving home improvements. NW Natural customers in Washington now have access to energy-efficiency programs through Energy Trust of Oregon. Call Energy Trust today at 1.866.368.7878 or visit www.energytrust.org/washington to find out more about these programs.



1. Evaluate your home for energy savings
2. Choose upgrades that make sense for you.
3. Work with an Energy Trust trade ally contractor, or any Washington licensed contractor, to install the improvements. Visit www.energytrust.org/findacontractor or call 1.866.368.7878 to find a trade ally near you.
4. Apply for Energy Trust cash-back incentives, which apply to energy-saving improvements, such as gas furnaces, gas water heaters, insulation, windows and many more.

Top 5: Low-cost tips to save energy at home

There are plenty of simple, affordable—and often, free—ways to make your home more energy efficient. Complete Energy Trust of Oregon's top five and you can start saving energy immediately.

1. Unplug battery chargers for power tools, mobile phones, laptops and other devices when not in use.
2. Caulk small holes and cracks around plumbing pipes, exhaust fans, dryer vents, sink and bathtub drains, and fireplaces and under countertops.
3. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, which last up to 10 times longer and can save \$30 over the life of each bulb.
4. Recycle that old fridge or freezer in your garage—you may be able to get free pickup and a cash-back incentive through Clark PUD, plus save up to \$200 per year on energy costs.
5. Install an ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostat so it adjusts automatically.

Find more no-cost, low-costs tips on Energy Trust's website.

Contact Jennifer Chariarse, Washington Program Representative with any questions you may have about the program; 360-831-4953.

PHNA Meeting June 8, 2011, Fire Station 7

A public Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Association meeting held in early June highlighted a number of topics, further exploring and updating two topics that were previously discussed in a 2010 meeting.

Neighbors on Watch Program

Clifford Cook, Vancouver Police Chief, described his experiences with the Neighbors on Watch program in Texas and in the City of Vancouver to date. He started the program in 2007 in Fort Worth, TX, starting with a couple hundred volunteers, which grew to 2,500 in just a few years. In Vancouver, he has seen the crime rate decrease by 50% in the Hough neighborhood, just as a result of calling in suspicious activity observed through the NOW program. In 2010, 80 volunteers contributed 5,976 hours to the Vancouver NOW program. Volunteers are CPR and First Aid certified, and use secure police radios that connect to another volunteer who acts as base and contacts the police. Clifford Cook would like to extend the program to the county, including a mounted team that works through the Parks Department and patrols on horseback. Though the program contributes to safety, the Clark County Sheriff's department is likely concerned about costs, whether donations could be obtained to support such a program, and wants to have some commitments that once started, such a program will last. The Vancouver program was set up initially with grants, which could be written by a volunteer.

The next step is to identify an area of interest and a team of at least 12 volunteers, and set up a pilot program with training and using Vancouver's full-time coordinator to assist. PHNA will be asking for volunteers in our next meeting, as well as a person to work with the volunteers on behalf of PHNA. Vancouver volunteers will be glad to participate in the next PHNA meeting, if there are further questions.

Managing Change through Sub-area Planning

Mike Mabrey, Community Planner with Clark County Community Planning, is heading up the Pleasant Highlands Sub-area Plan for the County. The Sub-area planning effort was launched in 2007 when the last plan was adopted; it was thought that each neighborhood where there was significant growth planned needed to bring residents together to identify the aspirations and potentials of the neighborhoods. There is an Advisory Council which oversees the Plans and process; it meets every other month. Also, each Sub-basin Plan has a Steering Committee. Three Creeks, the Fairgrounds area, and the area around SR 99 have participated in Sub-area planning to date, each with different emphasis. Multiple projects to enhance the objectives of the area residents and businesses have resulted from these planning efforts.

As Mike explained in a subsequent meeting with PHNA leaders, the Pleasant Highlands Sub-area Planning area includes land south of NE 119th Street and west of NE 50th Avenue, in addition to the PHNA area; maps will be provided for a kick-off meeting of a PHNA Interest Group. Mike wants to know the visions and interests of the residents and potential developers. Some of the topics that might be explored include: history of the area; existing conditions; vision, goals, & strategies; land use and zoning; housing and community design, transportation and mobility – including walking trails

and cross-circulation; schools, public health and safety, utilities and stormwater infrastructure; parks and open space, and environmental constraints and opportunities. The County would be interested in meeting with the PHNA Interest Group twice before the end of 2011, to begin developing a vision; such meetings might include or be complemented with driving/walking tours of the area. The County creates a webpage with a logo for the Plan. Once the Plan is drafted, the adoption process takes about 6 months, with the Plan going to the Planning Commission for hearing, followed by a public hearing with the County Commissioners.

PHNA will be asking for people to sign up via e-mail or at the next public meeting, to participate in the Sub-Area Planning Interest Group.

BPA Tower Project Update

Doug Johnson of Bonneville Power Administration made available a map of the current alternatives under consideration as of May 2011, for the I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project. The map identifies the options that will be considered in the draft EIS. This map and more detailed maps are available at: www.bpa.gov/go/i5. Some questions regarding the options were put forth; answers are primarily expected to be made available in the draft EIS.

Underground Utilities Color Codes for temporary road markings

The [American Public Works Association](http://www.apwa.org) (APWA) Uniform Color Codes for temporary marking of underground utilities are listed below:

Red	electric power lines , cables, conduit, and lighting cables
Orange	telecommunication , alarm or signal lines, cables, or conduit
Yellow	natural gas, oil, steam, petroleum, or other gaseous or flammable material
Green	sewers and drain lines
Blue	drinking water
Violet	reclaimed water , irrigation, and slurry lines
Pink	temporary survey markings, unknown/unidentified facilities
White	proposed excavation limits or route



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C/O M MOYER
14012 NE 47TH AVE
VANCOUVER WA 98686-1691

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Planned Traffic Improvements at 119th Street and 50th Avenue

The Engineering & Construction Group of Clark County Public Works held an open house on Tuesday October 11 at Fire Station 7 to acquaint affected landowners with planned improvements to the intersection of Northeast 119th Street and 50th Avenue. The estimated 30 residents and landowners attending the meeting discussed details of the project and its impact on adjoining private properties with project managers Robin Washington and Matt Hall, engineer Bruce Klug, and several other representatives from Public Works. Several poster-size maps, grade cross sections and overhead photos, with outlines of the proposed street margins and re-grading areas, were available to help residents in understand the scope of the project and to assist in discussions with County staff.

The improvements are designed to increase the traffic handling capacity of the intersection and mitigate sight limitations and other factors that have compromised the safety of the site. Several changes are planned to achieve these objectives. Re-grading will improve sight distances in both directions on 119th Street and to the north on 50th Avenue by raising the intersection itself and eliminating the steep rise to the east of the intersection on 119th Street. Traffic flow will be aided by installing a signal light, and adding left-hand turn lanes, as well as right-hand turn lanes eastbound on 119th Street and northbound on 50th Avenue. Sidewalks and bicycle lanes will also be installed for several hundred feet along each approach. Thanks to recently available new funding, construct is expected to begin in the Spring of 2013. The extensive grading activity is an added complexity that will require extensive rerouting and is expected to take up to 6 months. Nevertheless, Public Works plans to keep the intersection open to traffic throughout the construction period.

Ms. Washington, the overall project manager, is planning to attend the PHNA meeting on Wednesday November 9 to present details of the project to our members, to summarize important issues raised during the recent open house, and to discuss your questions and concerns. She welcomes questions from residents at any time and can be reached at 397-6118, extension 4572, or Robin.Washington@clark.wa.gov. For technical questions about the construction, the E-mail address of the project engineer Bruce Klug is Bruce.Klug@clark.wa.gov.

Would you like to be kept up to date on issues affecting the PHNA area? PHNA sends out e-mails to PHNA residents between newsletter mailings to update neighbors on issues of interest or concern that affect 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 magirts@comcast.net.

