

# CITY OF VANCOUVER Newsletter

A QUARTERLY NEWS UPDATE FOR THE COMMUNITY

AUGUST 2024 | VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 3

## Introducing Vancouver's next City Manager

After conducting a national search that included community and employee input, the Vancouver City Council voted to appoint Lon Pluckhahn as Vancouver's next City Manager on Aug 12.

"With his extensive experience in city administration and a proven track record of leadership, the Council is confident that Lon is uniquely qualified to lead Vancouver now and into the future," said Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle. "His understanding of the community and his commitment to transparency, community engagement and innovation will be invaluable as we continue to address the needs and aspirations of our residents."

Pluckhahn has 30 years of local government experience, including extensive experience in city management. Before his current role as one of Vancouver's deputy city managers, a role he has held since 2021, he served as the City Manager of Marion, Iowa, for nearly 15 years. He graduated from Iowa State University, where he earned master's degrees in both Community and Regional Planning and Public Administration. He also has a bachelor's degree in political science with an emphasis on public administration. He is currently serving as President of the International City/County Management Association.



Lon Pluckhahn has 30 years of experience in local government.

"Vancouver is a growing city with immense promise and potential, and I am deeply honored to serve as its next City Manager," said Lon Pluckhahn. "I look forward to collaborating with the community, City Council, and our talented staff to help build on our current momentum with a focus on sustainability and community resiliency."

Lon's experience, knowledge, and strengths built over 30 years in local government were a good fit for the expectations identified in the candidate profile developed by the Council with community and employee input. The current City Manager, Eric Holmes, will work with the Council and Pluckhahn to ensure a smooth leadership transition. Pluckhahn's appointment is effective at 5:01 p.m. on Oct. 11.

Lon's full bio can be found at [cityofvancouver.us/citymanager](https://cityofvancouver.us/citymanager).



Vancouver Police officers

## Police Services Levy placed on the ballot

### What to know about Proposition 4

On July 15, the Vancouver City Council unanimously approved a resolution to place Proposition 4, a property tax levy lid lift to fund police services, on the Nov. 5 General Election ballot. If approved, it will fund police, public safety, and related services (equipment, technology, facilities, supporting staff, and related criminal justice costs).

### Why is Proposition 4 on the ballot?

Community growth has contributed to a 30% increase in call volume for police services and an 87% increase in reported crimes since 2018. In addition to higher call volume, the increasing complexity of calls frequently requires multiple officers for extended periods of time, resulting in the diversion of resources from other parts of the City. Proposition 4 will help maintain and improve the overall capacity to provide police and public safety services in Vancouver.

The levy lid lift recommendation was developed by a 13-member Police Advisory Committee of Vancouver residents convened by the City Manager.

The committee met six times over three months to help identify community safety needs, service gaps, and ways to improve policing and public safety. The committee will continue working with the City Manager's office to provide community transparency and accountability for implementing the levy if passed and to provide a forum for ongoing community understanding of evolving public safety needs in Vancouver.

### How much will Proposition 4 raise?

The City's 2024 general fund property tax levy is approximately \$2.0897 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The Proposition 4 levy lid lift would increase this levy by approximately \$0.41/\$1,000 of assessed value for 2025. The levy lid lift would be permanent and authorize a 5% annual levy increase for six years. The estimated impact on the owner of a \$500,000 home would be an additional \$205 in property tax in the first year and \$585 in 2030. In the first year, the levy lift is estimated to raise approximately \$15.5 million; in 2030, it will raise approximately \$36 million.

### What will Proposition 4 pay for?

If approved by the voters, Proposition 4 would fund increased staff and supportive services, including:

- Add up to 80 full-time equivalent sworn officers in a range of ranks and assignments
- Add up to 36 full-time equivalent non-sworn police positions
- A traffic enforcement camera program
- Additional operating and related services, including the impact of the additional staffing on jail, corrections, and public defense
- Maintenance and facility expenses to provide police services
- Expand Homeless Assistance & Resources Team (HART) response
- Equipment, technology, and vehicles consistent with current and future standards
- Administrative and staffing costs related to police staff and services

### Where can I learn more?

Scan the QR code or visit the City's website at [cityofvancouver.us/prop4](https://cityofvancouver.us/prop4).



The City of Vancouver newsletter is published quarterly for residents and those who receive services from the City.

Questions, comments and suggestions can be sent to Laura Shepard at [laura.shepard@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:laura.shepard@cityofvancouver.us).

The information is current as of the publication date. Visit [cityofvancouver.us](https://cityofvancouver.us) to verify meeting dates and status of events.

Scan the QR code for translations in Español, Русский, Tiếng Việt and 中文.



City of Vancouver Washington  
415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660-1995

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# Homelessness response

## City clears 50 tons of waste and a path to stable housing

This summer our Homelessness Assistance and Resources Team (HART) continues to provide daily outreach to those living unsheltered, including assessments for housing placement and referrals to our Safe Stay/Safe Park communities and other services. Since June, this seven-person team has responded to more than **300 non-emergency encampment concerns** reported by our community and **cleaned up more than 50 tons of solid waste** on public property (as of July 31).

Officers cite those who commit lower-level crimes, like unlawful camping or storage of property in public

*“Community Court is amazing. This process brought my humanity back, my hope back.”* —PHILIP HOCH

places, into the Community Court program. This program provides an alternative to fines or jail time, which have historically created barriers to transitioning out of homelessness.

Participants are connected to needed services and complete community service hours to graduate from the program and have charges dismissed. Since opening in April 2023, **46 people have graduated**. People like Philip Hoch, who completed treatment,

got sober and moved into supportive shelter at Kiggins Village, one of the City’s four Safe Stay Communities.

“I was living in my trailer, moving around and almost completely enslaved by addiction,” said Philip. “Community Court is amazing. This process brought my humanity back, my hope back. I love my son so much, but the drugs just robbed me of being the father I knew he deserved.”

Thanks to the collaboration of HART, Community Court and its network of service providers, Philip’s now enjoying visits with his son again and on a path to stable housing.

This summer, the court moved into a larger space at 5107 E. Fourth Plain Boulevard.

Learn more about our response to homelessness, how to report encampment concerns and how to help at [cityofvancouver.us/homelessness](http://cityofvancouver.us/homelessness).



Philip Hoch celebrates his graduation from Community Court with sister Elizabeth and his son Ethan.

## Progress on a bridge shelter

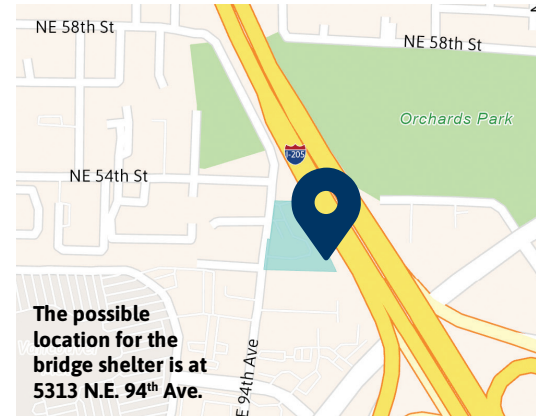
Even with the success of our efforts to address the issue of homelessness in the community, Vancouver does not have adequate shelter capacity to support the more than 500 people who remain unsheltered without a place to go.

After declaring a homelessness emergency last year, City Council adopted an action plan that identifies the opening of a 150-bed bridge shelter as a critical and urgently needed tool to reduce the impacts of camping across Vancouver and support more people on their journey from houseless to housed. The shelter would be managed 24/7 by a non-profit and provide behavioral health and other supportive services.

After researching several properties, we’ve identified one that could be a good option for a shelter. The property, located at 5313 N.E. 94<sup>th</sup> Ave. in the Van Mall neighborhood, could work because of its size, appropriate zoning, and proximity to public transit and existing services. City staff continue to evaluate the site for use as a bridge shelter.



Later this fall, the community will be invited to share feedback on the proposed shelter. Learn more at [beheardvancouver.org/bridgeshelter](http://beheardvancouver.org/bridgeshelter).



## Back to School Safety: What you need to watch for as kids return to class



Students are heading back to school. Help keep them safe by following the rules of the road.

School is almost back in session and the Vancouver Police Department is ready to keep students safe when they return. Our traffic unit will regularly enforce school zone safety throughout the year.

Follow these tips for a safe back-to-school season:

- When driving in school zones, the speed limit is 20 mph when children are present or school zone signs are flashing.
- Obey crossing guards and school bus paddle signs.
- Never use your cell phone while behind the wheel.
- If you drive kids to/from school, ensure that kids 16 and under are always restrained properly.

Pedestrians can also take steps to stay safe. When on foot, always make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street, look left-right-left for traffic in all directions, don’t text and walk, and obey school crossing guards.

Visit the City website for more information about how to stay safe whether you drive, walk or ride to school.



## Four questions to prepare for the unexpected

As your child returns to school, do you know:

- The school’s emergency plans and how often they practice?
- How you will be notified and how to get emergency information updates?
- About parental access and what is expected of you during emergencies?
- Evacuation and parent-student reunification plans?

**Don’t forget to:**

- Advise the school if your child has special need for mobility or communication assistance.
- Update your Emergency Contact Information.
- Talk with your child about emergencies.

Visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) to learn more about preparing your home for an emergency.





## Providing space for the arts to flourish

In 2023, the City purchased the former community library building at **1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd** to transform this beloved space into a place that celebrates the arts in Vancouver.

With feedback from arts organizations, local galleries and artists of all ages and disciplines, we created a concept for a flexible arts hub to serve as a gathering space where people can create and learn together. The concept is still being developed with the community. In the meantime, we are offering this space to artists for meetings, classes, workshops, rehearsals and more for up to 49 people. Several building improvements need to be completed before we can accommodate larger groups.

The building is currently a blank canvas, providing an exciting opportunity for artists to experiment with using the space and help us ensure the future arts hub will be designed to meet their needs.

Visit [cityofvancouver.us/artshub](https://cityofvancouver.us/artshub) or scan the QR code to learn more.



The Vancouver arts hub will provide a variety of spaces for creating, learning and sharing.

# Congratulations, Jordan!

Vancouver's Jordan Chiles competed in the 2024 Olympics in Paris this summer as part of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team. Chiles brought home a gold medal in the Women's Artistic Team All-Around. Chiles grew up in Vancouver, trained locally, and graduated from Prairie High School. Congratulations, Vancouver is very proud of you.



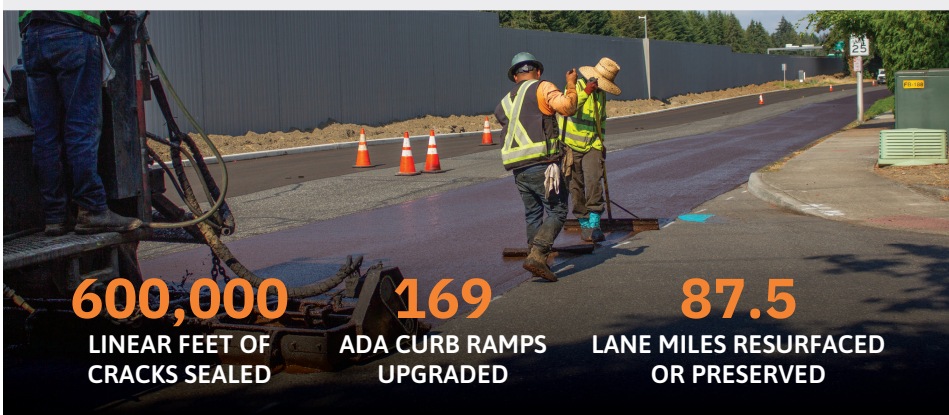
Jordan Chiles celebrating at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France. Photo: Laurent Zabulon/Abaca/Sipa USA (Sipa via AP Images).



Jordan Chiles was presented with the key to the City following her silver medal win in the 2020 Olympic Games.

## Summer construction Your patience, our progress

Thank you for your patience during road closures and delays and for slowing down to keep crews safe while they improve and preserve streets across the city. Work completed as of publication date:



**600,000** LINEAR FEET OF CRACKS SEALED  
**169** ADA CURB RAMPS UPGRADED  
**87.5** LANE MILES RESURFACED OR PRESERVED

| Location  | Pavement work                       |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Fourth Plain Boulevard</b>                               | RESURFACING WEST OF ANDRESEN ROAD   |
| <b>N.E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street</b>                           | INSTALLING 2,800 FEET OF WATER PIPE |
| <b>S.E. First Street &amp; N.E. 137<sup>th</sup> Avenue</b> | STREET UPGRADES                     |
| <b>Fourth Plain Boulevard &amp; Franklin Street</b>         | NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL                  |

Learn more about Public Works construction at [cityofvancouver.us/publicworksprojects](https://cityofvancouver.us/publicworksprojects).



A makeover for the ages:

## Main Street

Nearly 30 years in the making, the transformation of Main Street from Fifth to 15<sup>th</sup> Streets will reconstruct the roadway, sidewalks and adjacent outdoor spaces to improve safety, foster a sense of community, and revitalize the heart of Vancouver. This complete makeover will balance innovative upgrades with the preservation of several historic streetscape features. Many businesses have notable entryways with colorful terrazzo and tile that will remain. Other historic markers within the corridor, some dating back to the late 1920s have been carefully cataloged for preservation.

Visit Main Street to support our local businesses. Learn more at [beheardvancouver.org/mainstreetpromise](https://beheardvancouver.org/mainstreetpromise).

Above: Streetcar line construction on 6<sup>th</sup> and Main Street in 1908. Below: Rendering of Main Street after construction is completed.



**MAIN STREET PROMISE**  
Safe. Accessible. Connected.



INSIDE CITY HALL



**City Council**

Mayor & Council Office 360-487-8629

Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor  
Sarah J. Fox | Bart Hansen | Kim D. Harless  
Erik Paulsen, Mayor Pro Tem | Diana H. Perez | Ty Stober

**Call the City**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Abandoned Vehicles                         | 3-1-1               |
| Building and Permits                       | 360-487-7800        |
| Business License                           | 360-487-8410, opt 3 |
| Community Liaison                          | 360-487-8604        |
| City Manager's Office                      | 360-487-8600        |
| Code Compliance                            | 360-487-7810        |
| Garbage/Recycling                          | 360-487-7160        |
| Homeless Assistance and Resources Team     | 360-487-8626        |
| Operations Center (streetlights, potholes) | 360-487-8177        |
| Parking Services                           | 360-487-8650        |
| Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services    | 360-487-8311        |
| Public Works                               | 360-487-8177        |
| Utility Customer Service                   | 360-487-7999        |
| Vancouver Fire Department                  | 360-487-7212        |
| Vancouver Police Department                | 360-487-7400        |



Stay in the know, visit [cityofvancouver.us](http://cityofvancouver.us) for the latest events, meetings, updates and services.

# Closing the gap on the City's budget

Since sharing the City's \$43 million budget gap in the 2025 – 26 biennial budget, the City has been working to find solutions to close the gap by exploring a combination of service reprioritization, potential revenue, and expenditure reductions.

The gap is due to the compounding impacts of significant inflation across all spending categories, particularly labor costs. Also, a softening of revenues due to slowing growth and the incremental costs of added programs in recent years have contributed to a deficit between what it costs to provide services and what is available to provide them.

**Public Involvement**

Since the passage of the last budget, residents and businesses have given considerable input on what they value through advisory committees, surveys, the 2023 – 2029 Strategic Plan, Community Vision, and the continued development of the Comprehensive Plan. Over the summer, you shared your thoughts through our biannual budget survey and online prioritization exercise. The results will be published on the City's website once the data is compiled.

**Budget Schedule**

The City Council reviews the City's biennial budget in a series of public workshops and a public hearing. The schedule is as follows:

- April 22:** Budget & Forecast Workshop
- May 6:** Revenue Options Workshop
- June 10:** Revenue Strategy & Direction Workshop
- June 12 – 21:** Biennial Citizen Survey
- July 2 – Aug. 2:** Budget Prioritization Tool
- Oct. 1:** City Manager's Recommended Budget
- Oct. 14:** Operating Budget Workshop
- Oct. 28:** Capital Budget Workshop
- Nov. 4:** First Reading of Budget Ordinances
- Nov. 18:** Public Hearing, Second Reading and Adoption Hearing of 2025 – 26 Biennium Budget
- Jan. 1, 2025:** 2025 – 26 Operating and Capital Budgets go into effect

City Manager Eric Holmes will present his recommended 2025 – 26 Biennial Budget to the City Council on Oct. 1.



To learn more about the City's budget, scan the QR code or visit [cityofvancouver.us/budget](http://cityofvancouver.us/budget).

## PFAS second quarter testing results

We are monitoring, researching and planning to resolve the challenge of PFAS in our water supply. Recent testing showed that eight of the City's nine wellfields had samples that exceeded the EPA's finalized maximum contaminant levels for PFAS. Use the QR code or visit [cityofvancouver.us/pfas](http://cityofvancouver.us/pfas) to learn more and view all sampling results.



## Calendar of events

**August**

- 23 Friday Night Movies: Barbie (PG-13)**  
Pre-Show 7 p.m.; Movie at 9 p.m.  
Columbia Tech Center Park  
17701 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd.
- 26 City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

**September**

- 7 Ellsworth Springs East Ivy Pull**  
10 a.m. – Noon; *Registration required*  
Ellsworth Springs East  
1200 SE 98<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver
- 9 City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.
- 11 Patriot's Day Ceremony**  
9 – 10 a.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.
- 16 City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.
- 23 Recycling 101: Learn the Basics**  
5 p.m., in-person or virtual  
Water Resources Education Center  
4500 S.E. Columbia Way, Vancouver
- Council Community Forum**  
6:30 – 8 p.m.  
Location TBD

**October**

- 7 City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.
- 10 Recycling 201: Beyond the Curb**  
5:30 p.m.  
Water Resources Education Center  
4500 S.E. Columbia Way, Vancouver
- 14 City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.
- 21 City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.
- 28 City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

View more information and other events at [cityofvancouver.us/calendar](http://cityofvancouver.us/calendar)



## Live election coverage on CVTV

Clark/Vancouver Television (CVTV) will broadcast exclusive live coverage of local general election results in Clark County starting at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Watch results, interviews, analysis and commentary live on **Comcast channel 23/323HD**, on [cvtv.org](http://cvtv.org) and CVTV's Facebook page ([@ClarkVancouverTV](https://www.facebook.com/ClarkVancouverTV)).

*CVTV is the local government, non-commercial cable access channel operated and funded by the City of Vancouver and Clark County, Washington.*

**Three ways to watch**

- TV**  
Comcast 23  
Comcast 323HD
- Online**  
[cvtv.org](http://cvtv.org)
- Facebook**  
[@ClarkVancouverTV](https://www.facebook.com/ClarkVancouverTV)

