

First Place Neighborhood Association
PO Box 872261, Vancouver, WA 98687

September 2024
Volume 34, Issue 3

3Q24 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

All fellow FPNA members!

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer and enjoyed the events we've had over the last few months. A big shout out to all those that helped make the summer picnic a success. We saw lots of new faces and enjoyed getting to know our new neighbors.



August 22, 2024, we held our Q3 FPNA General Board Meeting. Almost 50 people attended at my home to listen and ask questions about all types of activities and events that will be held in the future. Many great events to come. Dig into this newsletter for further information.

One thing I would like to highlight is the FPNA By-Laws and CC&Rs. While many of you are familiar with these documents, many of you may not. By-Laws are how the city of Vancouver requires us as a Neighborhood Association to operate. The CC&Rs are attached to the land and are not enforceable by the city. If you would like copies of these documents, please let me know and I will forward you a copy.

Enjoy the remainder of our summer days and be safe with our back to schoolers on the road.

I so enjoy this neighborhood! Thank you to all the neighbors who make this FPNA community a hit!

Sincerely, Dale Cisco, FPNA President

First Place

Neighborhood Association



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 20th at 11:30AM**
Men's Luncheon:
at La Provence restaurant
- Please RSVP to
Darren Belanger
- **September 20th at 11:30AM**
Women's Luncheon:
at Beaches restaurant
- Please RSVP to Joan Lamy
- **FPNA Board Election Nominations:**
Due no-later than 9/30
- contact Joe Ghaffari
- **First Place Association General Meeting:**
October/TBD at 7PM
- contact Dale Cisco
- **18th Street Redesign and Widening:**
Meetings are on-going
- contact Grace Teigen
- **Walk and Knock:**
December 7th
- contact Patti Hines
- **FPNA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:**
January 2025
- contact Kandi Cisco

Neighborhood Safety

Homelessness in First Place Neighborhood Park

We know that homelessness, drug addiction, and related criminal activity are a growing problem locally and nationwide. Since declaring an emergency, the City of Vancouver has expanded its efforts to address this crisis and its impacts on both the housed and unhoused in a number of ways throughout the city. I encourage you to read any of the city's monthly Homeless Emergency Situation Reports on the growing scope of the problem.

The issue has made an appearance in our very own First Place Neighborhood Park. Pictured here are individuals setting up camp along the back fence near the children's play area and under the gazebo near the children's play area in July.



We all need to stay diligent and report instances to the Vancouver P.D. or the H.A.R.T.

homelessness Assistance Team. We want our neighborhood to continue to reflect that special place that we call home and it may be at risk if we all don't keep aware and report. Overnight camping in *any* Vancouver city park is illegal and can be reported to the Vancouver Police by calling 311.



Additionally, the city operates a website that details all their efforts to address the problem. This includes the scope of the problem, available resources, and the ability to report a concern. The website can be found at: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/city-managers-office/homeless/>

Or via the MyVancouver mobile app at: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/myvancouver-app/>

- Rick Burke, FPNA Safety Chair

Election of FPNA officers for 2025 calendar year

The election of officers for the FPNA Board of Directors for 2025 will be held in October. FPNA community members who are interested in serving as a board officer are encouraged to submit their name for nomination.

Please Note: The current Board Members have expressed interest in continuing their service in their current positions.



Please contact Joe Ghaffari no-later than September 30. (Please see the neighborhood directory for Joe's contact information.)

An Afternoon in the Park Our FPNA Summer Family Picnic

WOW! Our **2024 Summer Family Picnic** was a blast and well attended by nearly 300 FPNA neighbors and family members. And everybody brought an appetite! The FPNA chicken wing experts served over 600 flats and drums in a close contest that went to a tiebreaking vote. 12 dozen grilled hot dogs were served along with 4 pounds of potato salad and 200 servings of salad. Dessert was a special surprise of Sno Cones... another great memory in our minds we can take away from a summer living in First Place.

A great big thank you to all of you who came to the 2024 summer picnic and helped to make it a fantastic enjoyable event. Your presence was a major key to fun and enjoyment that everyone had. **“Nailed it this year,”** **“Hit it out of the park,”** **OH WOW,** were just a few of the great responses we received from the post picnic surveys and verbal comments from picnic participants.



The large 1600 square foot canopies were another huge hit, with many picnic participants requesting them again next year. This year, the Columbia Play Project brought fun and smiles to kids of all ages with the games and toys available. Some of the FP grandkids at the picnic wanted to come back the next day to continue the fun.

Great prizes were raffled off to some lucky First Place neighbors. We had fantastic music by Dan Dingman, a visit by Vancouver's finest Fire & Rescues Ladder Truck, and a surprise visit by

Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle added to the fun of the afternoon.



What was very enjoyable for the FPNA picnic committee to see at this year's picnic were several new First Place neighbors, first time First Place picnic participants, and lots of returnees from previous years.



A huge thank you to **ALL** the FP neighbors who helped in the morning and stayed after the picnic to take down,



to those who donated tables, chairs and other items for the picnic, and those who volunteered at the sign in table, helped in serving food, stocking food, and preparing/cooking the food.



Also, a big thank you to the 2024 FPNA Picnic Committee members: Doug/Lorene Stalheim, Joan Lamy, Kennan Kuffel, Laura Dubois, Dan Gibson, Penny McElvain, Steve George, Patti Hines, and Poni/Chelsey Tupuola who worked hard, spent valuable time, and donated in making this picnic such a huge success. And a **SPECIAL** thank you to the First Place Wing Cookers who slaved over a hot BBQ in preparing and serving up



those delicious wings Poni/Chelsey Tupuola family, James/Penny McElvain, Ron/Patti Hines, and Doug/Lorene/Parker Stalheim.

So, what comes next for the FPNA “**AN AFTERNOON IN THE PARK – 2025 Summer Family Picnic**”? We will be working to bring back the big canopies for shade and adding tables and chairs for



150 people to complement the picnic tables and other neighborhood seating. In addition, we would like to bring back the Columbia Play Project for the kids and work with them on some First Place specific coordinated activities. For additional fun, perhaps having a magician with a 15-20 minute magic show plus table-to-table entertainment. Of course, some fun games with prizes are always in the works.



From the post-picnic survey, we will work on having a menu of burgers and hot dogs and hopefully the return of the Sno Cones!



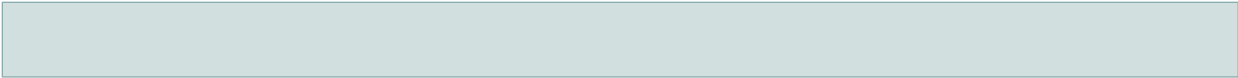
We will see what we can come up with over the upcoming months so look for updates as the planning progresses. But for now, please reserve your calendars in advance for **Saturday July 19, 2025** to attend the **FPNA 2025 Summer Family Picnic!** We look forward to seeing all of you who have attended in the past and hopefully several new First Place picnic attendees.

Again, **THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH** for attending and we will see you on July 19, 2025.

If you would like to participate in working with us on the 2025 Picnic Committee, we are always open to having some additional volunteers to help us out! Just contact one of the committee members and let us know.



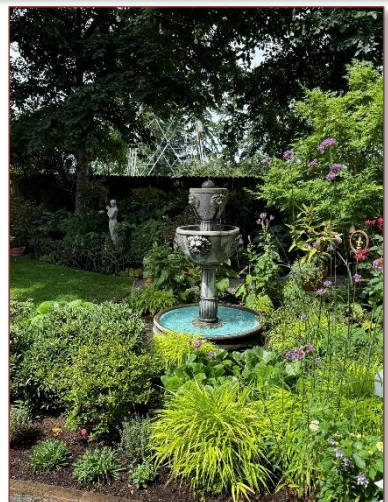
- Doug Stalheim – FPNA 2025 Summer Picnic Lead



Our Beautiful Neighborhood

Each year, the FPNA Newsletter highlights the beautiful gardens in our neighborhood. I know from years of attempts the incredible amount of effort that goes into each yard. We have some very, very talented landscape designers and gardeners and my hat goes off to each and every one of you! You should be proud and I consider it an honor that garden-challenged people, like me, get to enjoy what you have created. Thank you!

When I asked for pictures for this newsletter article, I received a tremendous response... almost 240 submissions. I cannot include them all, but I hope the following pictures do justice. - Ed





The FPNA Newsletter is published quarterly after the general association meeting.

Are you interested in writing an article for the FPNA newsletter?

- Want to remind your neighbors about an upcoming date or event?
- Do you have FYI-type information about the neighborhood or the FPNA Association?
- Don't be shy. Send it in an e-mail to First.Place.Newsletter@gmail.com

(Note: To protect our neighbors, personal contact information is intentionally omitted from the FPNA Newsletter. Please remember, the FPNA Newsletter is public information through the City of Vancouver.)

Note: The City of Vancouver supports the Neighborhood Associations in their effort to share vital information with residents to create a more informed public. However, the information provided and the opinions and views 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. This newsletter has been shared with the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods and therefore, is available to the Internet community.



**Find Us On
Facebook!**

**158 First Place
neighbors
participate on
Facebook**

First Place Neighborhood
Association

*This is a private Facebook page for First Place neighborhood residents only.

Email Addresses and Info:

FPNAcommunicate@gmail.com

Changes to group participation, email, or contact information changes

First.Place.Newsletter@gmail.com

For submissions and questions

[NextDoor App](#)

Information shared by neighbor members

[Facebook Website](#)

Information shared by neighbor members



FPNA Executive Board: 2024

Chair – Dale Cisco

Vice Chair – Steve Zapp

Treasurer – Evan Meessen

Secretary – Bonnie Mallory

Neighborhood Committees:

Annual Picnic – Doug Stalheim, Lorene Stalheim, Laura Dubois, Patti Hines, Kennan Kuffel, Joan Lamy, Penny McElvain, Dan Gibson, Steve George, Poni/Chelsey Tupuola

Annual Spring Cleanup – Tom Harriman

Communications Central – Patti Hines ← **NEW!**

18th Street Widening Project – Gene Wigglesworth, Grace Teigen, Ellen Sward, Bill Savoie, Margie Schnack, Wayne Sparks, Sherry Bala, and other interested neighbors.

Facebook – Penny McElvain

First Place Directory – Kandi Cisco

Garage Sale – Pat Tarnow

Holiday Ladies' Luncheon – **Open**

Ladies' Luncheon – Candace Africa

Landscape (including 18th St entrance circle) – Steve Zapp

Men's Luncheon – Wayne Sparks

Neighborhood Ambassador Program – Doug Stalheim, Pat Sparks, Sheree Belanger, Julia Karnes, Helena Lee, Joan Lamy, and Kandi Cisco

- **Welcome Basket Production Team** – Penny McElvain, Kay Scott

- **New Neighbor Spotters** – Joan Lamy, Joe Serroels, Bryan Fix (local realtor)

Neighborhood Social – Sharon Bevan

Newsletter – Darren Belanger

Next Door Website – Joan Lamy

9th Street Garden Gang - coordinate/maintain FPNA properties backing to 9th street – **Open**

Safety Committee – Rick Burke, Sut Oishi

Scholarship Committee - Sharon Bevan, Kandi Cisco, Sharon Graven, Tim Eannarino

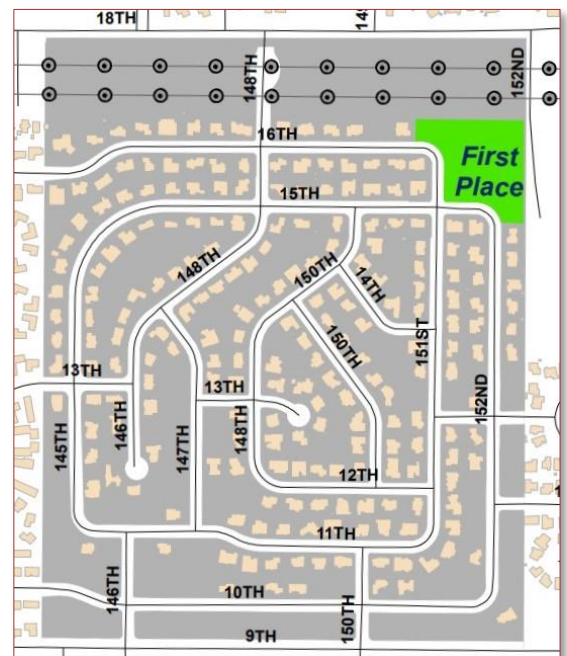
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – Kandi Cisco

Walk and Knock – Patti Hines

Women's Happy Hour – Bonnie McCampbell

Let's extend a warm welcome to our newest neighbors:

- **10th Street:**
 - Hana Gi, Chris Hong, Kwan Young
- **13th Circle:**
 - Andrew & Tia Over
- **15th Street:**
 - Adrian & Iuliana Droncioiu
- **16th Street:**
 - Ronald & Danielle Basta
 - Janis Street





What do committee volunteers and board members do?

Picnic Committee - organizes our Annual Picnic in First Place Park

Scholarship Committee - gathers funds and chooses worthy recipient(s) from Evergreen High School

First Place Neighborhood Ambassadors - The Ambassadors welcome new neighbors, deliver welcome baskets, and periodically host Newcomer Gatherings

FPNA Chairperson - The Chairperson sets the meeting date and time for the board meetings and the quarterly general meetings. The Chairperson also helps develop the agenda with input from the elected board members and committee chairs. Other duties of the Chairperson include conducting the business meetings, coordinating with committee chairs or other neighborhood groups implementing projects, and resolving issues that may arise

FPNA Vice Chairperson - The Vice Chairperson acts as a support person, covering meetings when the Chairperson is unavailable and coordinates with the Treasurer to audit our funds yearly. Also the Vice Chairperson manages special projects as requested by the Chair

Safety Chairperson - The Safety Chairperson checks and notifies the City when street lights are out and has managed the curb address painting. Further the Safety Chair has been on the lookout for hazard issues in First Place, such as low tree limbs obscuring stop and street signs

FPNA Communication Coordinator - The FPNA Communication Coordinator maintains the master list of residents and sends out announcements of neighborhood activities

Ladies' Luncheon Coordinator - Coordinator sets the time and location for their meetings

Men's Luncheon Coordinator - Coordinator sets the time and location for their meetings

FPNA Newsletter Editor – Reviews newsletter submissions, builds and edits the quarterly newsletter, and then sends the newsletter to the FPNA Chairperson for review and approval. Works with the City of Vancouver and the Office of Neighborhoods.

This is just a sampling of the FPNA positions that benefit our neighborhood. If you are interested in volunteering to help First Place remain a strong Neighborhood Association, please contact any board member

WE DON'T NEED SOME PEOPLE TO DO EVERYTHING,
WE NEED EVERYBODY TO DO SOMETHING
VOLUNTEER IF YOU CAN

First Place Neighborhood Association-Resident Information

Print, complete and return only when your information has changed.

Return to: P.O. Box 872261, Vancouver, WA. 98687

Or: By Email to

[Send Email to FPNA Communicate](#)

(FPNAcommunicate@gmail.com)

Please type in the highlighted boxes below.

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|---------------|------|
| First Name. 1. | | Last Name. 1. | |
| First Name. 2. | | Last Name. 2. | |
| Property Address. | | | |
| Phone. Cell | Cell | Home | Work |
| Email 1. | | Email 2. | |

Please check those you would like.

| | | | | |
|---|------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| I would like my information to be included in future directories. | Yes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | No. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|

Invite me to:

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Neighborhood Social. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ladies' Luncheon. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Men's Luncheon. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ladies' Happy Hour. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|

Neighborhood Social: Held monthly in the home of a resident volunteer in First Place. Attendees are asked to bring a bottle of wine or other beverage and an appetizer to share. Open to all First Place neighbors.

Ladies' Luncheon: Arranged at a local restaurant by a volunteer and open to all First Place women.

Men's Luncheon: Arranged at a local restaurant by a volunteer and open to all First Place men.

Ladies' Happy Hour: Held the second Monday of the month from 4-7pm in the home of a volunteer neighbor. Bring your favorite beverage and appetizer to share. Open to all First Place women.

FPNA Annual Dues Notice

\$30 per household

First Place Neighborhood Association (FPNA) voluntary dues are \$30 and renewed annually in January. Donations support neighborhood maintenance & social functions.

Check: Make payable to First Place Neighborhood Association (FPNA)

Mail to FPNA Treasurer, P.O. Box 872261, Vancouver, WA 98687

** FPNA no longer accepts Paypal until further notice **

Please include your household information and any designation for additional donations, as listed in the form below, with your donation.

Name(s) _____

FP Address _____

In addition to the annual dues, if you wish to include an additional voluntary contribution please enter an amount here:

FPNA Scholarship Fund \$ _____ Any other FPNA activity \$ _____

18th Street Coalition (Widening Project) Support \$ _____

Thank you for your continued support!

-Your FPNA Board and FP Neighbors

Your donation may be tax-deductible. FPNA's EIN is: 76-0733017

NOTE: FPNA no-longer accepts PayPal

Due to new IRS regulations, PayPal and other services must report combined transactions over \$600 to the IRS. This creates a tax obligation for the First Place Association and therefore we have decided to not allow these types of payments. Nevertheless, there is an effort underway to open a *non-profit* PayPal account and to eventually allow electronic payments again. But for now, please pay your annual dues and contributions by check (or cash).