

NEIGHBORLY NOTES

Newsletter of the Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association



August 22nd Meeting Notes

At our monthly meeting held on August 22 Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle was present to share the following updates.

Police:

Police chief Jeff Mori announced his retirement. His last day at VPD will be October 11, 2024

Body-worn camera recordings are subject to public records requests. The city is authorized to charge a reasonable cost of \$0.73 per minute for redacting video footage. Over the past year, the city received 300 requests for footage, spending approximately 500 hours reviewing these recordings.

On July 15, 2024 the Council gave the City Manager permission to move forward with the resolution to fund police services: up to 80 officers and 36 support, staffing, equipment and facilities.

Proposed improvements to 112th Ave:

Safety and mobility improvements are planned for 112th Ave. during the summers of 2026 and 2028, including pavement resurfacing. The road will be restriped to ensure consistent vehicle lanes, reduce vehicle speeds, and provide more space for pedestrians, cyclists, and users of small mobility devices.

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September Meeting
September 26 @ 7:00 PM
Immanuel Lutheran Church

October Meeting
October 24 @ 7:00 PM
Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Additional pedestrian crossings will be added, along with further enhancements to sidewalks and small mobility lanes. 112th Ave. is being developed as a complete street corridor. Share your feedback in the survey at beheardvancouver.org/112thAveProject

Homelessness:

There is a location under consideration which would provide up to 150 people experiencing homelessness with a place to stay and supportive service to bridge the space between living outside and the journey to permanent housing. Operations budget could be tied to the B&O 0.1% within city limits on retail – sunset upon closure. The shelter would be managed 24/7 by a nonprofit and include behavioral health and other supportive services. This property could be a good fit for a shelter because of size, proximity to public transit and services, and appropriate utilities.

Visit beheardvancouver.org/bridgesshelter for more information and to see proposed location

We've lost 30 people since the Homeless Memorial in December 2023.

5 in the month of July

15 (50%) were due to overdose.

- Removed 28 tons of solid waste from public property in July
- Year-To-Date total is 231.61 tons
- Responded to 143 My Vancouver app submissions in July,
- Year-To-Date total is 826
- Handed out 48 naloxone kits and provided awareness on overdose response to 14 individuals through our partnership with Washington State Department of Health's Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution Program

Finding a behavioral health organization or a community partner willing to accept residents for detox services has been a significant barrier. Staff has referred multiple residents to detox who had "voiced a strong desire for change." Unfortunately, individuals are not being accepted into detox for reasons like "not enough use of meth" or "being on too high of a dose of methadone."

Fire:

Total of nearly 100 newly hired firefighters over the last two years. 21 new recruits graduated Thursday, August 1.

2024 Cleanup Totals

Our 2024 neighborhood cleanup, or "Trash Bash" was a huge success.

- 11.94 tons of bulky items collected (more than last year)
- 2.48 tons of yard debris collected (not including the chipper)
- In total we raised \$1,043.95. Split in half this means \$521.98 for our neighborhood association

Thank you SO much to everyone who donated their money, time, and materials during this event.

Shouts to Miki Landis for organizing and helping figure out where to direct different items, Don Chambers for being there the whole time, and volunteers from Father Blanchet Neighborhood Association as well.

Our association successfully met the Resource Conservation Challenge criteria for this year by diverting scrap metal, yard debris and reusable items with Habitat for Humanity which earned us a \$100 check.

For another mini-grant, if someone from our neighborhood takes advantage of the RecycleU classes or tour, there is another opportunity to earn a separate \$120. Find the schedule and sign up online at www.cityofvancouver.us/recycleu.

First developers selected for portion of Heights District Plan

28 Aug 2024

On Monday, Aug. 26, City staff and the Heights Community Investment Committee (HCIC) presented their recommendations for development teams to City Council for the first three City-owned development sites in the Heights District, located at Mill Plain Boulevard and Devine Road, identified as Sites B, C and P.

The development teams were selected from a pool of applicants who responded to a [Request for Proposals \(External link\)](#) issued in March. After a thorough review process, the HCIC selected the following lead developers:

- [Edlen & Co for Site B](#)
- [Palindrome for Site C](#)
- [Related NW and Vancouver Housing Authority for Site P](#)

City Council supported the HCIC's selections allowing staff to proceed with negotiating exclusive negotiation agreements (ENAs) with the development teams on each City-owned site.

"Getting the go-ahead from City Council to begin negotiating the ENAs that will govern each of the projects is a vital and necessary step in implementing the Heights District Plan," said Height District Project Manager Amy Zoltie. "Each development team has confirmed that they can proceed expeditiously on this project, and all three teams have said in their proposals that they would be in a position to start construction in 2026, subject to securing financing."

All three selected development teams have extensive experience with similar large-scale affordable housing and mixed-use projects like the Heights District. They have also demonstrated a commitment to equitable development through past projects and align with the goals outlined in the Heights District plan.

The HCIC was established in 2023 to guide the development of the Heights District as recommended in the Heights Equitable Development Plan. The committee consists of Vancouver residents with experience in affordable housing development and financing and representatives from Central Vancouver businesses and organizations.

City staff will begin negotiating the ENAs with each selected team and return to Council in September to seek authorization for the City Manager to execute the ENAs. Deal terms are anticipated to be negotiated by the end of the year with the presentation of the development agreements planned to go before City Council for its approval in Q1 2025.

View the [preliminary project renderings for Sites B, C and P](#)

Learn [more about the Heights District Plan](#).

AUGUST VHNA MEETING WITH CLARK COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Tour the 78th Street Heritage Farm

Join the WSU Extension Clark County Master Gardener Program for a guided tour of the 78th Street Heritage Farm in Vancouver Washington.

Stroll the property with a knowledgeable docent and learn about various points of interest, including historical buildings, heritage orchards, community gardens, a human sundial, a pioneer cemetery, and more.

Register for an upcoming trip, visit the address below:
<https://extension.wsu.edu/clark/community-education/workshops-events/>

Tours are offered free of charge

HERITAGE FARM ANSWER CLINIC

Need answers to your gardening questions? Whether it's an insect pest infestation or an unknown pathogen destroying your beloved plants, certified Master Gardeners are available to answer your questions or provide advice.

Gardeners may bring plant or insect samples to the clinic.

How to get in touch with us:

Email us your question at mganswerclinic@clark.wa.gov.
Call (564) 397-5711.

Visit us at:

Heritage Farm/WSU Extension Plant Clinic Office
1919 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, Washington.

Hours for walk-in clients: We are back in-person but you may wish to call and confirm that we are staffed - 564-377-5711.

Tuesday and Wednesday • 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Thursday and Friday • 11:30 A.M. to 3 P.M.



**Wsu ClarkCounty
MasterGardeners**
about a week ago



Apple season is just around the corner! How do you know when an apple is ready to be picked? Typically apples are ready when their color is fully developed, and their skin is smooth to the touch (not rough or bumpy). But the easiest way to tell is if they separate easily from the tree when lifted! Apples that require tugging or pulling to remove from a tree are not ready to be picked.

Events

Event Title	Date	Location
VHNA Meeting: Speaker - Jeanne Bennet and Mary Sisson Children's Museum	Thursday, September 26th @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church
VHNA Meeting: Speaker - Bryan Stebbins Updates on the Interstate Bridge Replace Program	Thursday, October 24th @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church

Please join us for our next VHNA meeting!

Thursday, September 26 @ 7:00 PM

Share feedback, ask questions, and participate virtually using the link below

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Watch online w/ Zoom @ tinyurl.com/vhnameeting

Passcode: 654772

Or use the Zoom App w/ meeting ID 222 187 1792

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Keep up to date with neighborhood projects

beheardvancouver.org/heights-district-plan

Heights District Redevelopment

Amy Zoltie
Real Estate Project Manager
email: amy.zoltie@cityofvancouver.us

Patrick Quinton
Economic Development Director
patrick.quinton@cityofvancouver.us

Report potholes, graffiti, sign damage, and non-working streetlights



To report any of these issues inside Vancouver city limits, please email:
opsdispatch@cityofvancouver.us
Or use the City of Vancouver app on your smartphone or other mobile device.

Want to receive a digital copy of this newsletter?

Scan the QR code to
join the list, or visit
tinyurl.com/vhnanews



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 Neighborly Notes 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. Printed by the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods

Elected VHNA Board:

Chair:
Miki Landis
mikilandis@gmail.com

Vice Chair:
Helen Ost
503.367.5672
helen.madsen.ost@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Dick Orr
360.609.1605
gpadick@gmail.com

Secretary:
Jen Goodale
360.241.6169
goodale.jen@gmail.com

City Contacts

Office of Neighborhoods:
Kaitlyn Olszewski
360.624.1774
Kaitlyn.olszewski@cityofvancouver.us

Neighborhood Police Officer:
Officer Nicole Vigil
Nicole.Vigil@cityofvancouver.us

City Liaison:
Dave Perlick
360.487.8314
David.Perlick@cityofvancouver.us

Code Compliance: 360.487.7810
Clark County Animal Control: 360.397.2488
Traffic Compliance Hotline: 360.487.7402
Parking Hotline: 360.487.8653

Other

City Projects Liaison:
Frank L'Amie
360.256.1953
fklamie@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor:
Jeff Hogg
jthogg@outlook.com