

# NEIGHBORLY NOTES

Newsletter of the Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association

## January 23 Meeting Notes

The January neighborhood meeting featured a presentation by Derek Chin, Executive Director of the SW Washington Chapter of the Red Cross. In addition to this presentation, several neighborhood updates and developments were discussed, along with the annual board elections. 20 neighbors were in attendance.

### **Red Cross Presentation:**

**'Down the street, across the country, and around the world'**

- The Red Cross provides a variety of services, including blood donations, disaster relief, and support for military families.
- Volunteers make up over 90% of the Red Cross workforce and play a vital role in responding to emergencies.
- The organization responds to about 175 home fires every day, offering shelter and assistance to affected families.
- The Red Cross provides free smoke alarms and fire safety education to help prevent home fires.
- They also train people in life-saving skills such as CPR and first aid, which can be learned in as little as 30 minutes.
- Internationally, the Red Cross helps reunite families separated by disasters and conflicts.

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### **February Meeting**

February 27 @ 7:00 PM  
Immanuel Lutheran Church

### **March Meeting**

March 27 @ 7:00 PM  
Immanuel Lutheran Church

# January Meeting Notes continued

- The majority of donations go directly to community programs and services. You can verify this at [CharityNavigator.org](https://CharityNavigator.org)
- Community members were encouraged to volunteer or donate to support the Red Cross's mission.

## **Voting on Board Officers:**

- The current slate of officers was re-elected without opposition.
- The positions include Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.
  - Miki Landis - Chair
  - Helen Ost - Vice Chair
  - Dick Orr - Treasurer
  - Adrienne Strehlow - Secretary

## **Neighborhood Project Updates:**

### **Lieser School Redevelopment:**

- The land has been divided into sections for different developments, including residential and public service buildings.
- Road construction is expected to begin in late summer or early fall, with a new road extending from Potomac Street. The street will not connect to Northgate
- A new pedestrian signal will be installed at Potomac Street to improve safety and accessibility for residents.
- The playground currently located in the area will be relocated to accommodate the development.
- Apartment and Townhouse Projects:
  - The apartment and townhouse projects are currently on hold due to funding uncertainties, including potential changes in tax credits and government funding.

### **Tower Mall Redevelopment:**

- Infrastructure work, including streets, sewers, and underground wiring, is planned to start in spring 2025.
- Developers for three building sites have been selected and are in the early design stages, with more details expected by late spring or early summer.
- The city will provide further updates in the upcoming months through community meetings and newsletters.

## **Thank You Officer Vigil!**

We'd like to extend our thanks to Officer Vigil for her dedication and service to our neighborhood as our Neighborhood Police Officer. Her kindness, support, and commitment to our community have been truly appreciated, and we are grateful for the time she spent with us—whether at meetings or summer BBQs. While we are sad to see her go, we are excited for her new role as the Resilience Officer, where she will be providing peer support and addressing mental health needs within the department.

We are pleased to welcome Officer Cole Larson as our new Neighborhood Police Officer. Officer Larson previously served in District 4 and is eager to join our community. We look forward to getting to know him and continuing the great partnership we've had with our local law enforcement.

Officer Vigil hopes to join us for a future meeting to say a more formal goodbye. In the meantime, we wish her all the best in her new role!

# Heights Redevelopment Plan Updates

Frank L'Amie

## **HEIGHTS REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Last year the City of Vancouver and the Heights Community Investment Committee selected three developers to develop three development sites on E. Mill Plain Blvd and Devine Road. Collectively the projects will bring almost 500 rent restricted housing units for families earning between \$30,000 per year to \$100,000 per year, as well as a market hall with a brewery and local eateries and shops. Construction is projected to start in 2027 and be completed in 2029.

Additionally, the City continues to advance the design of the streets and plaza. Construction of the street improvements is planned to begin in 2026 and completed in 2027.

More information is available on the City web site, including more about the developers and the projects. Further updates will be shared once the building designs are completed.

- <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/first-developers-selected-for-vancouvers-heights-district-plan/>
- <https://www.beheardvancouver.org/heights-district-plan>

For more information please reach out to the project manager, Amy Stewart, Real Estate Project Manager, City of Vancouver at amy.stewart@cityofvancouver.us

## **LIESER SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Land divisions on the Lieser School property have been completed. Future development on the site will include an affordable housing apartment building and a town home development by the Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA), and a new Fire Station. Also included will be offices and a school room for EOCF and redevelopment of the playground and park area. EOCF has not updated their plans at this time. The VHA has paused their project until the political climate, and funding potential, is better known. Park redevelopment will likely progress when the housing element moves forward.

The Vancouver Fire Department (VFD) has acquired their property for the new station and is working on design concept. Currently the station is anticipated to have 4 bays with one permanent engine and staffing initially. Design should be completed in 2026 with construction in 2027 depending on available funding. Equipment will enter directly on Lieser and return on Potomac Circle via double door design. Signaling on Lieser has not been finalized at this time.

Potomac will be extended onto the site via Potomac Circle. Engineering and civil drawings have been submitted to the City and initial review is expected soon. The timeline calls for construction late summer to early fall this year. Potomac Circle will be an extension into the property from Potomac, and will include a turnaround. There will be no parking on the street. Access to future development on the site will be off Potomac Circle. It will not connect to Northgate, however, all current pedestrian ingress points to the site will be maintained. A raised crosswalk with a pedestrian controlled crossing light will be installed at Lieser.

# Events and Upcoming Speakers

Event Title	Date	Location
VHNA Meeting: Speaker - Jay Housgard from C-Tran	Thursday, February 27th @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church
VHNA Meeting: Speaker - from the Vancouver Police Department Situational Awareness and Crime Prevention	Thursday, March 27th @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church
VHNA Meeting: Speaker - To be announced	Thursday, April 24th @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church
VHNA Meeting: Speaker - Stacy Noble from Vancouver Urban Forestry	Thursday, May 22nd @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church
VHNA Meeting: Speaker - Related NW will share information on the Tower Mall Redevelopment Project	Thursday, June 19 @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church

Thursday, February 27 @ 7:00 PM

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Watch online w/ Zoom @ [tinyurl.com/vhnameeting](https://tinyurl.com/vhnameeting)  
Passcode: 654772  
Or use the Zoom App w/ meeting ID 222 187 1792

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