

NEIGHBORLY NOTES

Newsletter of the Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association

Notes From The Chair

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Hello Neighbor!

Well, this is one one of the hardest things I have ever done, but I will be resigning as Chair of the VHNA April 30th as I will be moving to Sacramento to open a new piano store. I was asked by Jeff, our newsletter editor to find a pic of all of us at Immanuel Lutheran and the only group pic I could find was this one at the picnic! At any rate I went through 6000 pics and of course you see your life in retrospect. I believe that my time living in the Heights has been so very rewarding as I have met many of you but more importantly worked alongside many of you to help beautify this neighborhood.

We have planted trees (over three hundred), implemented traffic safety changes, provided Chipper Days & the Annual Trash Bash, Christmas & Summer Picnics & provided assistance to our neighbors.

I answered the call to volunteer to be on our leadership team about twenty-three years ago because I wanted to make a difference and so that call needs to go out again as you search for a new chair and vice chair. I was thirty some years old with a young family & I simple wanted my children to grow up in a safe and beautiful community! That being said the Height's has a lot to look forward to, and to be actively engaged in.

With the Height's Development, and the Lieser School Re-Development more or less bookending this association we have some amazing opportunities for you to be actively engaged. My final advice is, work hard within your community, work to build neighborly communication, work to help the disadvantaged and continue the vision to build Garrison Triangle into a beautiful oasis! Doing these things will earn you a seat at the table.

In closing, as a surprised recipient of the Sparkles Award given to me by Mayor Anne McErney-Ogle at a recent neighborhood wide meeting, This award means a lot to me for the culmination of work and vision that I have had but more importantly this award goes to all of us. Remember we are the Best Neighborhood in Vancouver! (as they have never had a contest since we were awarded that distinction some twenty years ago!) I wish you all my best. With Warm Regard & Godspeed, Park Llafet - VHNA Chair



JOIN THE VHNA AT OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AS WE WISH PARK LLAFET BON VOYAGE AND SAY
THANK YOU FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
NEIGHBORHOOD

THANK YOU CELEBRATION AND SEND OFF

04.27.23

STARTS AT 7 P.M.
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

DESSERTS AND COFFEE PROVIDED

What Is A Recognized Neighborhood Association?

A neighborhood is a section of a city with a common identity. Neighborhood associations offer a place to meet friends, exchange information, create projects and priorities, propose solutions, and have fun.

A neighborhood association is formed based on the needs and desires of its residents. The association will give residents a forum to discuss common concerns and to brainstorm possible solutions. Some potential outcomes may be: improved street lighting, bike paths, sidewalks, traffic calming devices, parks and open spaces, zoning and land-use planning, park amenities, beautification projects and neighborhood clean-ups. Many neighborhood associations have summer picnics, holiday parties and other special events in order to have fun as well as to keep the lines of communication open with their neighbors.

Recognized neighborhood associations give citizens a voice and an advocate. Neighborhood associations greatly improve the two-way communication between the city and its residents. Your neighborhood will have a clear, organized way to speak to city government so that your voice will be heard by elected officials and city departments. You will be put in touch with people who live near you and share the fondness and frustrations of your area.



Organizing also opens the door to increased communications with city government. Neighborhood association leaders receive weekly mailings of what City Council is working on and what other city neighborhood associations' priorities and plans are. This increased communication can be a resource for upcoming meetings or other community opportunities.

The city takes pride in partnering with its neighborhoods. Through a collaborative effort, our city becomes more economically efficient and citizens have an increased interest and trust in government.

2023 VANCOUVER HEIGHTS SPARKLES AWARD

The Vancouver Sparkles Award is a program in the City of Vancouver that recognizes neighbors who go the extra mile to make their neighborhood special.

At the Heights Neighborhood Breakfast on March 23, our very own Chair, Park Llafet, was honored by Mayor Anne with the Vancouver Sparkles Award. He has provided leadership in our neighborhood association and wider community for 20+ years.

Thank you, Park, for your many years of service to our neighborhood.



Announcements

Report potholes and non-working streetlights

To report potholes and non-working streetlights inside Vancouver city limits, please email: opsdispatch@cityofvancouver.us. Or use the City of Vancouver app on your smartphone or other mobile device.



Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance

The Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance has \$300,000 for neighborhood traffic calming and is funded by city tax-payer dollars. Each neighborhood association is a member with someone representing each association. VHNA does not have a representative right now. Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm on Zoom.

To obtain more information on the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance, contact Mr. Dan West, acting chair and volunteer: dan@westofnorthwest.org

Want to receive a digital copy of this newsletter?

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



Provide your input!

Take a short survey about our neighborhood association and newsletter by scanning the QR code, or visit tinyurl.com/vhnainput

New leadership is needed for the following positions. Elections to be held at November Meeting.

Chair

Act as the primary executive officer and preside over all deliberations and activities of the Association. The Chair, Vice Chair, or their designated alternatives shall be the official spokesperson(s) of the Association.

Vice Chair

Shall assist the Chairperson in all duties and perform the functions of the Chair during their absence, and perform other duties as required.

Treasurer

Maintain the financial records of the Association.

VHNA needs an Interim Chair who can preside over activities of the association until elections in November.

Could this be you? Your help is needed. Come to our next meeting to find out how and learn more.

Events



Please join us for our next VHNA meeting!
April 27 @ 7:00 PM

Agenda to include:

- Farewell to Park
- Vote on moving meetings to every other month

Immanuel Lutheran Church
In-person only, no Zoom this month

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

Chair:
Volunteer Opportunity
Attend a meeting to learn more

Vice Chair:
Volunteer Opportunity
Attend a meeting to learn more

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VHNA publishes this newsletter to provide information and resources to residents and businesses located within the boundaries of VHNA. Neighborly Notes and other neighborhood information is available at
cityofvancouver.us/nhoods.asp