



# COUNTRYSIDE WOODS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023 - Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association

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👋 Hi Neighbor! Join our  
“Countryside Woods  
Neighborhood Association”  
group on Nextdoor.



We've started a new group on Nextdoor (access via mobile app or on Nextdoor's website). Search Nextdoor for “**Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association**” and join today! Keep up with events, hear about local news, and meet your neighbors.

[Click here to go to the group](#)

nextdoor

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✉️ **You're invited to our General Meeting on  
April 20, 2023 at the Firstenberg Community Center.**



Our next **General Meeting** is **April 20, 2023 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm** at the [Firstenberg Community Center](#). Come meet the Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association members and participate in discussions about important issues in our community. More details to be shared on the “Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association” Nextdoor group. We would love to see you there!

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## But what is the CWNA?

**Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association (CWNA) is a Neighborhood Association recognized by the City of Vancouver in 2001, we are not a Homeowner Association.** As a recognized neighborhood, the city supports us with certain services and privileges. Want to learn more? Visit the [Countryside Woods page](#) on City of Vancouver's website or email any questions, comments, or suggestions to [CountrysideWoodsNA@gmail.com](mailto:CountrysideWoodsNA@gmail.com). Thank you!

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## 8th Annual "Leave the Leaves" Project Expands

**Our locally organized "Leave the Leaves" event was combined this year with the city's newly organized [Naturespaces Program](#), which resulted in a plethora of volunteers on November 19, 2022.** The Naturespaces Program is a pilot program bringing together the expertise of city staff in Volunteer Programs, Urban Forestry, Grounds, and Environmental Education to program opportunities for Vancouver residents to participate in restoration and enhancement projects at select sites in the park system throughout the city. Countryside Park was selected as one of three pilot project sites; the others being The Downs Neighborhood Park and Behrens Woods Urban Nature Area.



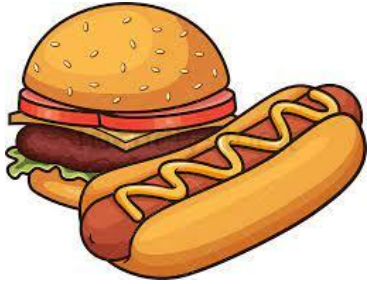
Blessed with over 30 volunteers from throughout the city, together with city staff, we spent Saturday morning removing blackberries, pruning overgrown plants, spreading leaves and bark mulch, building brush piles, and planting native plants. **Local community members spread over 16 yards of mulch, pulled 6 yards of invasive plants, gathered materials for 2 brush piles, and planted over 300 plants over the weekend.** The mulch of leaves and bark we added to Countryside Park will serve as habitat for insects who are important members of the environment and our food web, and continue creating and protecting rich, warm soil in the forest for plants to root in, sharing their gifts of flowers, bark, fruit, nuts, and seeds with our pollinators and bird and animal neighbors.

Healthy trees and forests contribute to our well-being with their beauty, health benefits like easing stress, lowering blood pressure, improving our immune system, and benefiting mental health and focus, and through environmental benefits like cleaning and cooling the air, providing shade, urban habitat, and filtering water. **Thanks again to the volunteers that came out to spend some of your weekend taking care of Vancouver's urban forests!** To learn more about the Naturespaces program and future volunteer activities, click the link above or search "Naturespaces" on the City of Vancouver's website. *-Submitted by Steve Wille*

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## Annual Picnic in the Park



Our annual Neighborhood Picnic took place on September 10, 2022. Approximately 40 members of our community attended and enjoyed hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, cookies, and neighbor-donated side dishes. Thanks to all who attended and hope to see you at the next Annual Picnic on September 9, 2023.

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## 2023 Events Calendar

<b>January 26, 2023</b> 6:00pm - 8:00pm	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>	Smaller meeting for the Board, but open to all (via Zoom). Please contact <a href="mailto:CountrysideWoodsNA@gmail.com">CountrysideWoodsNA@gmail.com</a> to suggest topics and receive an invite.
<b>April 20, 2023</b> 6:00pm - 8:00pm	<b>General Meeting</b>	Attend the General Meeting at the Firstenburg Community Center. Jamie Spinelli and Tyler Chavers will address homelessness in Vancouver and resources.
<b>June 3, 2023</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm	<b>Volunteer Day in the Park</b>	The Countryside Park Adopt-A-Park Program will hold a park cleanup day to get the park ready for summer fun.
<b>June 24, 2023</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm	<b>Volunteer Neighborhood Clean Up</b>	Help clean up the neighborhood! There will be dumpsters in the East Park Community Church parking lot for waste disposal.
<b>July 8, 2023</b> 9:00am - 2:00pm	<b>CWNA Garage Sale</b>	Save the date for our neighborhood garage sale! More details will be provided in a future newsletter.
<b>August 1, 2023</b> 6:00pm - 8:00pm	<b>National Night Out</b>	An annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnership and neighborhood camaraderie.
<b>September 9, 2023</b> 12:00pm - 2:00pm	<b>CWNA Annual Picnic</b>	Join our annual picnic at Countryside Park. This is a great time to meet new neighbors and volunteer as a CWNA member.

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## Executive Board Meeting Summary - November 10, 2022

**Attending:** Kara Harden Egan, Judy George, Susanne Heyman, Steve Wille, Yuqing Leland, Susan Paynter, Laurie Christensen, Amber Schroeder, Miranda Sulley, Neighborhood Police Officer Jeremy Free, and Neighborhood Liaison Charles Fell.

### Treasurer's Report:

\$4,045.70	Previous Balance
<u>- \$115.56</u>	Picnic Supplies
\$3,930.14	Ending Balance

### Discussion Topics:

- Amber Schroeder has agreed to serve an additional year as secretary.
- The city completed a two-day study of the traffic on Bluegrass Dr. The average speed was 27 MPH with about 800 cars traveling on Bluegrass each day. It was determined by the city that it doesn't meet the criteria for traffic calming. This can be revisited in another year.
- Concerns about overnight parking (some with extended stays) on the deadend of 10<sup>th</sup> Way were discussed. A concerned neighbor contacted the city, and they installed no parking signs which will allow vehicles to be ticketed and towed.
- The Vancouver Neighborhood Alliance meeting was attended by Kara Harden Egan. Meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month.
- Neighborhood Police Officer Jeremy Free shared statistics about crime in the 4<sup>th</sup> district. Officer Free reminds homeowners to keep doors and windows locked, and that cars left out should be locked and garage openers removed. He also recommended keeping outside lights on and watching out for each other.
- Neighborhood Liaison Charles Fell reported that speed tables are completed on NE 155th Ave. & Countryside Dr. from SE 1st St. to NE 18th St. Response to the speed tables has been mostly favorable. Charles agreed to check on updates regarding Hidden Springs, including the possibility of sidewalks and lighting in that area.
- Upcoming event dates were agreed upon (see 2023 Events Calendar above).
- 2022-2023 CWNA goals include a pollinator garden, street mural, and regular electronic newsletters. The January newsletter will still be printed and distributed.
- Miranda Sulley agreed to take on the Editor position for the 2023 CWNA Newsletters.
- Kara created the CWNA email account and Nextdoor group.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm. If you would like a complete copy of the minutes, please email [CountrysideWoodsNA@gmail.com](mailto:CountrysideWoodsNA@gmail.com).

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## 18th Street Widening Project



**The First Place Neighborhood Association has created a Project Committee for the 18th Street Widening Project.** They are seeking community input regarding next steps for the project, as well as volunteers who can help reach out to affected residents along the corridor. The Committee will hold informational meetings in person and via Zoom in the early spring, open to every interested neighbor. If you would like to learn more, please reach out to [teigenrgrace68@gmail.com](mailto:teigenrgrace68@gmail.com).

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## Neighborhood Word Search

Find the following words in the word search below. Words can go in any direction!

	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	B	S	V	E	D	C
<b>Countryside</b>	W	E	U	N	E	V	A	E	I	T	Z	V	V	O	I
<b>Woods</b>	M	A	B	V	X	H	T	I	R	W	O	K	S	O	R
<b>Vancouver</b>	R	X	S	N	Z	N	D	E	H	L	Y	R	G	H	C
<b>Washington</b>	Y	E	X	H	C	P	E	U	S	N	S	A	G	R	L
<b>Street</b>	L	Z	V	H	I	T	M	W	E	M	A	P	Y	O	E
<b>Avenue</b>	K	Y	Q	U	A	N	X	F	D	F	G	S	H	B	P
<b>Circle</b>	G	O	L	Y	O	W	G	C	C	R	F	D	U	H	S
<b>Community</b>	B	P	R	K	C	C	G	T	L	S	C	N	Q	G	Y
<b>Love</b>	M	C	S	H	K	X	N	R	O	M	D	B	O	I	Y
<b>Park</b>	T	L	P	H	A	N	B	A	I	N	L	O	P	E	Z
<b>Neighborhood</b>	C	R	Q	P	K	T	E	B	V	L	H	B	O	N	A
	E	D	I	S	Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	Y	F	W	B
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	A	P	T	Q	X	J	Z	Q	K	V	E	V	A	J	F

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## Meet the CWNA Chair

Hello fellow neighbors. I hope you are all having a Happy New Year so far. My name is Kara Harden Egan, and I am the newly elected Chair of the Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association. My husband Chris, Lola (dog), Jeffrey (cat), and I have lived in Countryside Woods for just over three years. We love our home here and this part of town, you may see us out walking in the neighborhood or over at the dog park. I moved to Vancouver in 2016, but Chris has lived in this area his whole life, we both think this is a great city. I work in administration for a federal agency, Chris is a care provider and assists individuals with developmental disabilities. I joined the neighborhood association in hopes of contributing a small part in making this city and our neighborhood even better. I'd love to hear from folks who are interested in informal social opportunities to help build ties with our neighbors, such as a walking group, book club, etc. Please join our Nextdoor group and I hope to see you at the upcoming meeting!



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### **Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association** Questions or Comments? Email us at: [CountrysideWoodsNA@gmail.com](mailto:CountrysideWoodsNA@gmail.com)

Chair	Kara Harden Egan
1st Chair	Judy George
2nd Chair	Susan Heyman
Secretary	Amber Schroeder
Treasurer	Tina Henry
Newsletter Editor	Miranda Sulley
Members at Large	Steve Wille, Yuqing Leland, Susan Paynter, Laurie Christensen

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