

CITY OF VANCOUVER Newsletter

A QUARTERLY NEWS UPDATE FOR THE COMMUNITY

JULY 2023 | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1

Introducing your new city newsletter

These days information moves fast. While there are a lot of advantages to sharing information online, there are some things that deserve more than a tweet. This is why we've created a new newsletter to send information about City programs, services and initiatives directly to your home.

We hope this publication will become a valued way for you to stay informed about what is going on in your hometown.

The newsletter will be mailed to you once a quarter if you live in Vancouver or live outside city limits and receive some of your municipal services from the City. You can watch for the next issue later this fall.

Our first issue is mainly focused on summer in Vancouver. Inside you'll find stories about all the exciting events and places to have fun and stay cool in the Couve this summer. Also, as part of our continued work to keep you informed about PFAS,

we have a story about this important topic in this issue.

The newsletter is also available in Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, and Chinese. You can scan the QR code at the bottom of this page to read them. Please let us know if you would like the newsletter translated into a different language. We hope you enjoy the newsletter. If you have any questions, you can send them to Laura.Shepard@cityofvancouver.us.

PFAS and water quality: why it matters

Protecting public health and providing a safe water supply is a top priority for the City of Vancouver. To that end, we are monitoring, researching and planning how to resolve the challenge of PFAS in our water supply.

What are PFAS?

You've probably heard of "forever chemicals." Often, this term refers to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that have been used since the 1940s in many water-resistant, stain-repellent and non-stick products such as outdoor clothing, carpeting, upholstery, non-stick cookware, food packaging and other common household products.

Like many communities, Vancouver has been monitoring and testing for these human-made chemicals in our water supply, and here's what we've found.

Spring testing

Earlier this year, we shared the results of PFAS testing with the community. We've recently conducted another round of testing and detected PFAS above the State Action Levels (SAL) for optimal health.

The City's extensive water system has 40 wells located at nine wellfields across the community. The latest testing completed in

late May showed that one sample result exceeded the SAL for PFAS contaminants. Those results occurred at one of the City's nine wellfields, Water Station 14 (see table below).

Testing results from late May show only one water station above State Action Levels*

Water Station	PFOS Result	PFOS SAL 15 ppt**
Station 14	18 ppt**	Above

*View all testing results using the QR code at right

**ppt= parts per trillion (1 ppt is equivalent to a single drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools)

This does not mean that you will get sick or have health problems when you drink or use the water. Risks accumulate over long-term exposure, and water isn't the only potential source for exposure.

If you are concerned about long-term exposure, part of a sensitive population, pregnant, nursing or have an infant who consumes formula mixed with tap water, you can learn how to reduce PFAS exposure at the Clark County Public Health website.

What we're doing about PFAS

As we work on a PFAS Management Plan, we are taking action by:

- Evaluating treatment options:** Water quality engineers are testing four different treatments to determine which is the most effective at removing PFAS from our water supply. Results will determine the full-scale treatment system design.
- Identifying the source:** Engineers and hydrogeologists are using groundwater modeling and sampling to determine potential sources of PFAS and the extent of PFAS in local groundwater.
- Reducing costs:** The City is pursuing grants and loans to reduce ratepayer impacts. We've already received \$12.8 million in funding through the State Revolving Fund program to help finance the first treatment system installation.

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera or visit cityofvancouver.us/pfas to learn more about PFAS and view all sampling results.



PFAS do not break down easily and can remain in the environment, including groundwater, for a long time. That's why they're a top concern for water providers across the nation.

Products commonly containing PFAS include:



The City of Vancouver newsletter is published quarterly for residents and those who receive services from the City.

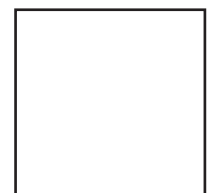
Questions, comments and suggestions should be directed to Laura Shepard at Laura.Shepard@cityofvancouver.us.

The information is current as of the publication date. Visit cityofvancouver.us to verify meeting dates and status of events.

Scan the QR code for translations in Español, Русский, Tiếng Việt and 中国人.



City of Vancouver Washington
415 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660-1995





Celebrate summer without breaking the bank at Vancouver's Summer in the City events.

Dance the night away at Vancouver's two concert series every Thursday and Sunday. The diverse lineups offer the perfect opportunity to hear some of the Pacific Northwest's most talented artists perform live.

Catch all the comedy, action and drama of the silver screen at parks across the city at Friday Night Movies. Arrive at 7 p.m. for fun activities before the movie starts. The big screen comes

SCAN TO FIND COMMUNITY EVENTS

to life at dusk, so pack a blanket, some popcorn (and don't forget the bug repellent) to watch blockbusters under the stars.

All concerts and movies are free and family friendly. Use the money you save to buy food, gifts and other treats to support local vendors and businesses.



CITY OF VANCOUVER'S SUMMER IN THE CITY

Enjoy free, family friendly concerts and movies this summer at Vancouver parks.

WATERFRONT PARK CONCERTS

Thursdays 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Waterfront Park
695 Waterfront Way

PRESENTED BY WATERFRONT TAPHOUSE WITH SUPPORT FROM PEPSI, CLARK PUBLIC UTILITIES AND THE PORT OF VANCOUVER

SUNDAY SOUNDS CONCERTS

Sundays 6 - 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

PRESENTED BY RIVERVIEW BANK WITH SUPPORT FROM PEPSI, CLARK PUBLIC UTILITIES AND COLUMBIA TECH CENTER

See full lineup and more at cityofvancouver.us/concerts

FREE FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES IN THE PARKS

PRESENTED BY HAPO COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

Movies begin at dusk.
Pre-show entertainment starts at 7 p.m.
Movies shown with closed captioning.

See full lineup and more at cityofvancouver.us/movies



Grab a blanket, pack up your lawn chair and celebrate summer with the community.

No smoking, alcohol or BBQs allowed in parks.



Five ways to stay cool in the Couve

1



Community Pools

Dive into fun at community center pools with daily public swim sessions at Marshall at 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. or Firstenberg at 700 NE 136th Ave. Swims are free for center pass holders or \$3 to \$9 for public drop-ins. Firstenberg offers a zero-depth aquatic play area, a lazy river and an epic water slide. Marshall has a nine-foot drop slide and 25-yard lap pool. Both have ADA compliant pool lifts. Find schedules at cityofvancouver.us/pools.

Water Features

Make a splash at the Columbia River Water Feature at 695 Waterfront Way and Esther Short Water Feature at West 8th and Columbia Streets. Both are open 8 a.m. to dusk through September. Learn more at cityofvancouver.us/waterfeatures.

2



3



Parks and Trails

Explore Vancouver's more than 1,700 acres of parkland for a shaded, breezy hang under the trees. Walk the 32-acre forested trail at Beaver Marsh located at 3915 NE 98th Ave. or picnic in the shaded tree groves at pop-up arboretums taking place at four parks throughout Vancouver this summer. Find a park or trail to explore at cityofvancouver.us/parksites.

4



Water Resources Education Center

Explore the Water Center at 4600 S.E. Columbia Way to connect to the Columbia River and find a world of info to inspire you to become a better water steward. From Reading in the Wild for young kiddos to Twilight Tuesday sunset exploration in nature—learn more about this center's free offerings at cityofvancouver.us/watercenter.

5



Movies in the Parks

Pack your picnic blankets and venture out at sunset for free movie nights at parks around the city every Friday through August 18. Pre-show entertainment kicks off at 7 p.m., movies begin at dusk. View the schedule at cityofvancouver.us/movies.

Summer is here. As Vancouver transitions to warmer weather, make sure you are protected from the heat. Know the signs of overheating, stay hydrated, take breaks from the heat, wear loose and light clothes, and don't forget the sunscreen. Also keep an eye on young children, elderly adults and your pets when the temperatures soar.



SCAN TO FIND HOT WEATHER RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Summer: the season for paving and preserving streets

The City maintains about 1,900 lane miles of paved streets. Every summer, Public Works maintains this vital community asset while weather conditions are ideal for these projects.

The Pavement Management Program is gearing up to pave and preserve streets across 20 neighborhoods over the season using a combination of

resurfacing and preservation treatments to improve pavement conditions throughout our community.

This year we will resurface and rehabilitate more than eight miles of streets, including segments along East Fourth Plain Blvd., Fort Vancouver Way, East McLoughlin Blvd., East 18th/20th Street, SE Evergreen Highway

and SE Blairmont Drive. New street safety and mobility elements will be implemented along Fourth Plain Blvd. and Fort Vancouver Way and will include traffic lane repurposing to facilitate multi-mobility use. Preservation treatments, like microsurfacing and slurry sealing, will focus on streets west of I-205. Almost 16 miles of streets will see some type of preservation used to protect and extend the life of these streets this year.

Preparation for pavement work begins with proactive tree pruning and crack sealing repairs along streets. In addition, curb ramps at approximately



Street paving in the Rose Village neighborhood last year.



An upgraded ADA accessible curb ramp downtown.

127 locations are being upgraded to current standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to improve accessibility and mobility for all. Learn more at beheardvancouver.org/fourth-plain-fort-vancouver-mobility.

Learn more at cityofvancouver.us/pavement.



Tips to save water and your wallet this summer

Water is a precious resource, and saving water is good for the planet and your wallet. This summer you can help save water in your outdoor space or garden with a few easy tips.

Plant with native or Pacific Northwest-friendly plants and trees that require less watering and are suited to our local weather patterns.



Water your garden and plants early when they can soak up the water. Also, make sure you're not overwatering. Consider using a drip-irrigation system or hoses to deliver water directly to the roots. This method works best for trees and shrubs, flower beds, vegetable gardens and container plants.

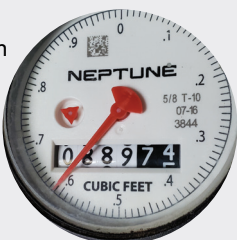
Listen to your lawn.

If your grass springs back after being stepped on, then it doesn't need watering. Established grass only needs about one inch of water each week.



Survey your sprinkler system and check for broken or missing heads. Check connection points and fix leaks. Just one broken sprinkler head can waste up to 1,000 gallons of water per week.

Compare your seasonal water use to know how much extra water you use in the summer. If the usage history on your water bill is higher this watering season than last year, there could be a leak or other issue.



Wash right this summer

When rain or other water travels across yards, roofs and paved areas, it can pick up pet waste, dirt, oil, chemicals, fertilizers or anything in its path. As the water flows to our local lakes, creeks and rivers, this can pollute our local waterways. Learn how to wash right this summer to help protect Vancouver's water.

Pressure wash the right way

When pressure washing your home or driveway, sweep up debris to prevent dirt and contaminants from going to the street. Try to redirect water and debris to a grassy or vegetated area. Consider using a broom to clear sidewalks and driveways instead of water. If you are working with a contractor to



pressure wash your deck or home, talk to them about proper waste disposal.

Keeping your ride shining

Everyone loves a clean car. If you wash your vehicle at home, drive it up on the lawn to prevent soap and debris from being washed into the

street. Use soap sparingly and try a hose nozzle with trigger to save water. You can use your bucket of soapy water to water the grass. Really, it won't hurt the grass.

Find more clean water tips at cityofvancouver.us/cleanwatertips.



Playground at Fisher Basin Park

Find the perfect park shelter for your summer event

Park picnic shelters offer fun, affordable places for summer celebrations. The City has three picnic shelters that can be reserved this summer at Fisher Basin Park, LeRoy Haagen Memorial Park and Marine Park.

Reservations can be made for events between May 1 and September 30 for \$75 a day. Reserve online at cityofvancouver.us/picnicshelters. Looking for a location on short notice? Shelters at David Douglas Park and Leverich Park are free to use on a first-come,

first-served basis.

Propane and charcoal barbecues are allowed at City parks; propane grills are preferred. Barbecues are not allowed at City-sponsored events like free concerts and movies in the parks.

Planning an event at a park? Some activities might require a Park Use Permit, including weddings, amplified music, charity events, gatherings too large for a shelter, and inflatable bounce houses.



Picnic shelter at Marine Park



Picnic shelter at LeRoy Haagen Memorial Park

Reserve shelters online at cityofvancouver.us/picnicshelters. For information contact 360-487-8304 or parkspemits@cityofvancouver.us.

INSIDE CITY HALL



City Council

Mayor & Council Office 360-487-8629

Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor
 Ty Stober, Mayor Pro Tem | Sarah J. Fox
 Bart Hansen | Kim Harless | Erik Paulsen | Diana Perez

Call the City

Abandoned Vehicles	3-1-1
Building and Permits	360-487-7800
Business License	360-487-8410, opt 3
City Liaison	360-487-8604
City Manager's Office	360-487-8600
Code Compliance	360-487-7810
Garbage/Recycling	360-487-7160
Operations Center (streetlights, potholes)	360-487-8177
Parking Services	360-487-8650
Parks and Recreation	360-487-8311
Pay a Utility Bill	360-487-7999
Public Works	360-487-8177
Utility Customer Service	360-487-7999
Vancouver Fire Department	360-487-7212
Vancouver Police Department	360-487-7400

City of Vancouver
 Vancouver City Hall
 415 W. 6th Street
 Vancouver, WA 98660



Spot the salmon and win

Salmon have inhabited the Columbia River for thousands of years—serving as a vital food source to Native Americans and an essential part of our community's ecosystem today. Search for the secret salmon hiding somewhere in this newsletter. Tell us where it's hiding, and you'll be entered to win a Summer Fun Pack containing a one-month family pass to the Firstenburg or Marshall Community Center.



SCAN TO ENTER



Scan the QR code to enter to win and tell us what you thought of the newsletter.



Explore the Vancouver Arts & Music Festival

The first Vancouver Arts & Music Festival will be held at Esther Short Park and in downtown Vancouver August 4-6. Free and open to all ages, the festival invites the community and visitors to experience three days of world-class music, art, dance, food and fun!

Three outdoor stages will host 25+ live music and dance performances, from jazz to alt rock, and African beats to Ukrainian pop. Find a masterpiece strolling through the Artists Alley and have fun with family friendly activities like an

interactive mural, art demonstrations, an instrument petting zoo, caricature artists, games and more.

Special guests performing with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra on the Esther Short Park Mainstage include GRAMMY winning trio *Time for Three*, internationally celebrated violinist Anne Akiko Meyers and Vancouver's favorite pianist, Orli Shaham.

View full lineup and learn more at vancouverartsandmusicfestival.com.

Calendar of Events

View more information and other events at cityofvancouver.us/calendar

July

- 23 Sunday Sounds Concert Series: Kalimba the Spirit of Earth, Wind & Fire**
6 – 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.
- 25 Vancouver Planning Commission hearing**
Evergreen & Grand Commercial Corridors Strategy Implementation
6:30 p.m.
- 26 Reading in the Wild – Story Time with Nature**
10 – 11 a.m.
Water Resources Education Center
4600 SE Columbia Way
- Recycling 201: Beyond the Curb**
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Class
- 27 Waterfront Park Concert Series: The Juleps**
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
695 Waterfront Way
- 28 Friday Night Movies in the Parks: Wakanda Forever (PG-13)**
Pre-Show 7 p.m.; Movie at 9 p.m.
LeRoy Haagen Park, NE 9th St.

- 29 Recycling 201: Beyond the Curb**
2 – 3 p.m.
Organics 101
3 – 3:30 p.m.
Fire Station 2, 2106 Norris Rd.
- 30 Sunday Sounds Concert Series: Roll On**
6 – 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

August

- 3 Waterfront Park Concert Series: Norman Sylvester**
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
695 Waterfront Way
- 4 Vancouver Arts & Music Festival**
Noon – 9 p.m.
Esther Short Park
- Friday Night Movies in the Parks: Ask Father & Sherlock Jr.**
Pre-Show 7 p.m.; Movie at 9 p.m.
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Parade Grounds, 612 E Reserve St.
- 5 Vancouver Arts & Music Festival**
10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Esther Short Park

- 6 Vancouver Arts & Music Festival**
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Esther Short Park
- Sunday Sounds Concert Series: Dancehall Days**
6 – 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.
- 7 City Council meeting**
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.
- 10 Waterfront Park Concert Series: Sabroso**
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
695 Waterfront Way
- 11 Friday Night Movies in the Parks: Strange World (PG)**
Pre-Show 7 p.m.; Movie at 9 p.m.
Marshall Park
1069 E McLoughlin Blvd.
- 12 Prevent Food Waste: Use Food Well**
2 – 3 p.m.
Organics 101
3 – 3:30 p.m.
Vancouver Community Library
901 C St.
- 13 Sunday Sounds Concert Series: Stayin' Alive**
6 – 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

- 14 City Council meeting**
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.
- 18 Friday Night Movies in the Parks: Super Mario Bros (PG)**
Pre-Show 7 p.m.; Movie at 9 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.
- 21 City Council meeting**
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.
- 28 City Council meeting**
Public hearing on Evergreen & Grand Commercial Corridors Strategy Implementation
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

September

- 11 City Council meeting**
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.
- 18 City Council meeting**
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.
- 25 City Council Community Forum**
6:30 p.m.

