



# COUNTRYSIDE WOODS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023 - Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association

## Happy Halloween!

Wishing our neighbors a happy and safe **Halloween!** Looking forward to seeing the trick-or-treaters and all of the fabulous costumes and decorations around the neighborhood. Enjoy the evening!



## Monthly Meetup



**Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association's Chair, Kara Harden Egan, started a Monthly Meetup for Countryside Woods neighbors.** The meetup takes place the first Sunday of each month at different locations nearby. Check out the Nextdoor page for more information. The next Monthly Meetup is Sunday, November 5th at 10am at the Starbucks on NE 162nd Ave. and NE 18th St. Hope to see you there!

## 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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## 🌲 Come Get Your Hands Dirty!

Join Steve Wille (CWNA Member at Large) and other volunteers at the Naturespaces Planting at Countryside Park on Saturday, November 4th from 9am-12pm. People of all ages and abilities are welcome! And don't worry, gloves (and snacks) will be provided. Volunteers will be trained to plant native plants in our local park to restore and enhance the ecosystem. Advanced registration is required. [Click here to learn more about the event and sign up.](#)



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## 🍂 9th Annual “Leave the Leaves” event

The City of Vancouver will place leaf bins in front of Countryside Park from November 18-19th. The City places leaf bins in neighborhoods that have an abundance of deciduous trees to keep the leaves from clogging the stormwater system. The bins will likely be placed on Friday and picked up Monday morning. The bins are for leaves only; no plastic bags, garbage or other yard debris are allowed.

That weekend will also be the 9th Annual “Leave the Leaves” project in Countryside Park, where leaves around the park and from the bins are spread throughout the park. The leaves provide benefits for the soil and plants by adding nutrients, retaining soil moisture, loosening compaction and reducing weed growth. The leaves are a natural soil-builder as they decompose, and are making a difference in our park. They also provide winter cover to support pollinators (like butterflies and bees) and other invertebrates. This material is essential to the survival of many moths, snails, spiders, and dozens of arthropods. It also likely reduces our local impact on global climate change too!

In addition to recycling leaves into the park, there are wood chips that can be spread as mulch or added to the park's trails. Other tasks can be accomplished to help winterize the park; debris pick up, cleaning off graffiti, invasive weed pulling (eg. bittersweet nightshade, vinca, English ivy). Someone will be available at the park both Saturday and Sunday from about 10am - 12pm to answer any questions. Come dressed weather appropriate. If you have a wheelbarrow or lawn rake, bring them along. Thanks and hope to see you there!

-Written by Steve Wille

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## 😊 Meet Your Neighbors



**Mike and Lily Wrenn met in 2019 at a neighborhood cleanup Lily heard about from the Countryside Woods newsletter.** Mike worked for Waste Connections at the time and helped Lily unload donations from her car and they've been inseparable ever since. What a wholesome local love story! Mike and Lily have recently been appointed as members of CWNA's board. Lily is originally from Detroit and lived in several places before moving to Vancouver in 2004. Mike is a fourth-generation Clark County resident - his great grandfather's farm is located in Ridgefield. Let's get to know them more below:

### ***What do you love about our neighborhood?***

Countryside Woods is so peaceful and quiet and we feel very safe. It's a nice island in the middle of the city. Still very accessible to stores, services, and all the leisure activities that allow us to walk and bike. For Lily, this is very different from how she grew up in urban Detroit.

### ***What are some local activities that you enjoy?***

We love visiting the Columbia River as often as we can, especially the sandy parts like Cottonwood Beach. Having the ability to drive a few hours to the ocean is also a major plus. We enjoy the Vancouver Farmers Market and the Columbia Tech Center. We also enjoyed the summer events that Vancouver Parks & Recreation put on.

### ***Is there anything you wish Countryside Woods had that it currently doesn't?***

It would be great to create a Neighborhood Watch, to strengthen connectivity and continue to keep the neighborhood safe. We'd also like to see more regular get-togethers as there are lots of new folks who have moved from different places. Anything that helps build community and provide an opportunity to meet your neighbors. Looking forward to being part of the Neighborhood Association and getting more involved!

-Interview by Miranda Sulley

## 👋 Join our “Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association” group on Nextdoor.

Search Nextdoor for “Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association” on the mobile or desktop app and join today!  
[Click here to go to the group](#)







## 18th Street Widening Update



**You may have noticed surveying along 18th Street. The city is moving along with plans for the widening of 18th street.** About a year ago, First Place residents reached out to CWNA for assistance in having our voices heard. The goal being not to look like the previous widening of 18th from 205 to 138th Ave. We held a Zoom meeting with Ryan Lapossa (City Engineer) and Charles Ray (Urban forestry, City of Vancouver). While Ryan was very interested in hearing our concerns, he reminded us that the widening doesn't just affect the south side of 18th. We have worked hard reaching out to other neighborhoods.

I'm pleased to report that we have grown from a handful to several neighbors, representing Hearthwood, Evergreen Schools, Evergreen-Burton Neighborhood Association, Sunrise Glen HOA, Richland Estates, as well as Cimarron HOA & neighborhood association. The 18th Street Coalition's leadership covers a broad spectrum of talents from an engineer, arborist, attorney just to name a few.

We have many concerns from safety, increased road noise, and loss of privacy. We have also expressed our concerns regarding increased traffic speed, safety for walkers as well as bike riders. Ryan has embraced our enthusiasm and welcomes our input. Two members representing our neighborhoods will be invited to have a say in the hiring of the consulting firm. We have been promised a copy of the RFP (request for proposal). I've touched on just the beginning of our coalition, it continues to be a work in progress. We value your input and ideas and would welcome you to join us. For more information visit our website at [WWW.ne18thstreet.info](http://WWW.ne18thstreet.info) or reach out to me as the CWNA representative at [AKS1952@gmail.com](mailto:AKS1952@gmail.com).

-Written by Amber Schroeder



## Ideas for Articles

**Do you have suggestions for topics you'd like to see featured in our quarterly newsletter?**  
**Want to share your story in our "Meet Your Neighbors" segment?** We'd love to hear from you!  
Please reach out to [CountrysideWoodsNA@gmail.com](mailto:CountrysideWoodsNA@gmail.com).





## 2024 Tentative Events Calendar

Mark your calendar for upcoming events, more details will be provided in the next newsletter:

Event	Date
Neighborhood Meeting	April 25, 2024
Countryside Park Cleanup	May 25, 2024
Neighborhood Cleanup	June 22, 2024
Neighborhood Garage Sale	July 12-14, 2024
National Night Out	August 6, 2024
Picnic in the Park	September 7, 2024

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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	Lily Wrenn
Secretary & Newsletter Editor	Miranda Sulley
Treasurer	Tina Henry
Members at Large	Steve Wille, Amber Schroeder, Susan Paynter, Mike Wrenn, Yuqing Leland

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