



September 21, 2023

Dear Community Member,

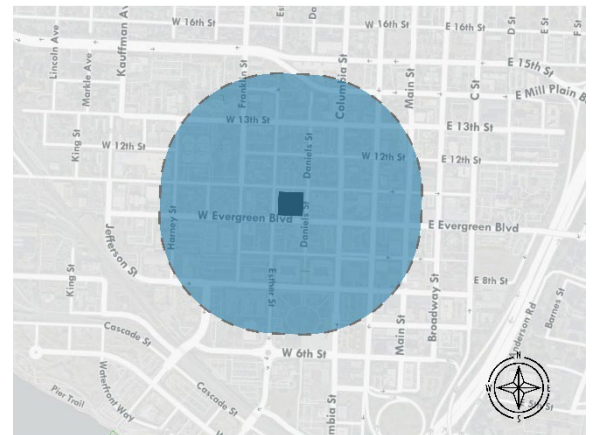
Construction of the City’s third Safe Stay Community, located at **415 W 11th St.**, is now underway. The community is expected to open later this fall and will provide shelter for up to 40 residents who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Over the next few weeks, crews from City Electric Co. of Ridgefield, WA will:

- Grade and pave the property
- Install electrical, water and sanitary sewer systems
- Construct laundry, shower and restroom facilities
- Build 20 Pallet shelters and community gathering spaces
- Install cedar fencing and trees along the property line

Members of the City’s Homeless Assistance and Resources Team (HART) are working with nonprofit partners to identify unsheltered residents who will be invited to move into the community. For this location, priority will be given to people currently living unsheltered downtown.

Now that construction has started, HART and the Vancouver Police Department will also begin enforcement of the City’s ban on camping within 1,000 feet of all Safe Stay Communities. Once the community opens, nonprofit operator Outsiders Inn will provide onsite management and services 24 hours per day, seven days a week.



While an opening date has not been set, the City looks forward to inviting community members to an open house later this fall. The City will share announcements via social media, the City’s website, [cityofvancouver.us](http://cityofvancouver.us), and on [beheardvancouver.org/ssc3](https://beheardvancouver.org/ssc3).

## Site Background

The City Council voted to support construction of the third Safe Stay Community on Nov. 7, 2022. The approval followed a six-week community engagement period during which the City heard from hundreds of community members who shared their hopes, questions and concerns.

## Safe Stay Community Overview

Safe Stay Communities offer residents greater access to services, increased stability, and safe, healthy and humane living conditions to support transitioning out of homelessness. Each Safe Stay Community is fenced and secured, with 20 two-person structures that offer safe shelter for up to 40 residents.

Once open, this will be Vancouver’s third Safe Stay Community. The first, located in east Vancouver, opened in December 2021. The second, located along the Fourth Plain corridor, opened in April 2022. Since opening, the communities have provided services to more than 186 community members, helping 73 people transition into stable housing and 48 people obtain employment.

# A Safe Stay Community in Your Neighborhood: Resources for Neighbors



Vancouver is facing an increase in the number of people living unsheltered in our community. As one strategy to address this challenge, the City is providing Safe Stay Communities throughout Vancouver. This document is designed to help answer your questions and address concerns that may come up with the Safe Stay Community that will be in or near your neighborhood, at **415 W. 11th Street**.

## Vancouver's Approach to Homelessness

- There is broad concern about homelessness in Vancouver. Many of us see some of our most vulnerable residents living unsheltered, enduring extreme weather situations and needing support and stabilization as they seek a path forward in their lives.
- There are a variety of reasons why people might find themselves living unsheltered. Some are experiencing homelessness because of a lack of affordable housing or employment security, while others struggle with mental illness, substance use or a long-term disability.
- While the safety and dignity of people living unsheltered remains a concern, questions also come up about the impact that homelessness is having on livability in our community. The City shares community concerns about safety, trash, hygiene, waste and fire hazards and is working to address these needs.
- The City is partnering with Clark County, local service providers, neighborhoods and community leaders to continue to address homelessness in our community. The City is also pursuing three approaches at the same time:
  1. Establish Safe Stay Communities for the most vulnerable
  2. Expand permanent shelter capacity
  3. Increase the supply of income-based housing
- When selecting a Safe Stay Community location, the City considers:
  - Access to public transit
  - Local need
  - Potential impacts on residential areas with heightened economic vulnerability
  - Dispersing Safe Stay Communities equitably throughout the city
- Public camping is not allowed within 1,000 feet of a Safe Stay Community. To report public camping, please notify HART using the contact information on the following page.
- For more information about how our community is addressing homelessness, visit: [cityofvancouver.us/homelessness](https://cityofvancouver.us/homelessness)

### Onsite Service Provider: Outsiders Inn

Outsiders Inn will provide 24/7 oversight and management of the Safe Stay Community at **415 W 11th St**. The organization is currently the manager of of the City's first Safe Stay Community that opened in December 2021.



If you would like to volunteer, donate clothing, report a concern or help provide food or meals for Safe Stay residents, please contact Outsiders Inn executive director Adam Kravitz at 360-830-6647 or [adam@outsidersinn.org](mailto:adam@outsidersinn.org).

# A Safe Stay Community in Your Neighborhood: Resources for Neighbors



## Resources and Contacts

### Homeless Assistance & Resources Team (HART)

HART staff provide outreach, assessments and referrals to services for individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Vancouver. The team also serves as part of the community's crisis response system, with a focus on homelessness-related street and encampment crises. Team members include staff from the City Manager's Office, Vancouver Police Department, and Public Works Department.

For homelessness questions or to report concerns about public camping, contact HART:

- **Using the MyVancouver App:** Download the free mobile app or use MyVancouver online at: [cityofvancouver.us/myvancouver](http://cityofvancouver.us/myvancouver)
- **By Email:** [HARTteam@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:HARTteam@cityofvancouver.us)
- **Leave HART a Voicemail:** 360-487-8626

### Talkin' Trash – Community Litter Removal

Talkin' Trash is a partnership between Share and the City of Vancouver. It employs people experiencing homelessness to help address litter in the community while providing work experience and training to help in the transition from homelessness. The program's crew includes six community cleaners, on-call cleaners and one supervisor.

The crew works from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday cleaning up litter throughout the city. The crew has a weekly route and adds extra stops, based on requests for service. The crew removes litter from public property, but they do not remove camps or personal belongings.

To report litter or other issues on public property, please contact:

- **The City of Vancouver Public Works Operations Dispatch** line: 360-487-8177
- **Online Request Form:** Service requests can also be placed online at [cityofvancouver.us/servicerequest](http://cityofvancouver.us/servicerequest)

### Code Compliance Report Form

To report a code compliance issue on private property, visit:

[cityofvancouver.us/code](http://cityofvancouver.us/code)

### Your Neighborhood Police Officer

For questions and comments about public safety, please contact your Neighborhood Police Officer, Lee Gelsinger:

- **Email:** [lee.gelsinger@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:lee.gelsinger@cityofvancouver.us)
- **Phone:** 360-487-7359