

November 3, 2023

Dear Community Member,

Construction of the City's fourth Safe Stay Community, located at **4611 Main Street**, will begin on Nov. 13. The community is expected to open in December and will provide shelter for up to 40 residents who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Over the next few weeks, crews from SDB Contracting Services will prepare the site by:

- Connecting to the water system
- Building 20 Pallet shelters, two offices and three community gathering spaces
- Installing fencing and privacy screening 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 nearby and on property owned by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

When construction begins, HART and the Vancouver Police Department will enforce the City's ban on camping within 1,000 feet of this Safe Stay Community. Once the community opens, nonprofit operator Do Good Multnomah will provide onsite management and services 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

The City looks forward to inviting the community to an open house later this fall. The City will share announcements on social media, at [cityofvancouver.us](https://cityofvancouver.us) and on [beheardvancouver.org/ssc4](https://beheardvancouver.org/ssc4).



## Site Background

The property at 4611 Main Street is owned by WSDOT. Following a robust community engagement and comment period, the City Council authorized staff to sign a lease agreement with WSDOT in June 2023.

## About Safe Stay Communities

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.

This will be Vancouver's fourth 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. The third, in downtown Vancouver, will open later this month. Since opening, Safe Stay Communities have provided services to more than 186 community members. The communities have helped more than 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 **4611 Main 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 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: Do Good Multnomah

Do Good Multnomah will provide 24/7 oversight and management of the Safe Stay Community at **4611 Main Street**. Since 2015, Do Good Multnomah has provided supportive housing services for veterans and others experiencing homelessness throughout the region.



If you would like to volunteer, donate clothing, report a concern or help provide food or meals for Safe Stay residents, please contact site manager Dale Smith at [dalesmith@dogoodmultnomah.org](mailto:dalesmith@dogoodmultnomah.org) or 503-442-8914.

# 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