

Upcoming Events

Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 25
Franklin Elementary
7-8:30 p.m.

Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, April. 25
Franklin Elementary
7-8:30 p.m.

Clean Up Day

Saturday, June 1
58h and
Lincoln/Franklin Park
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Summer Gathering

July 2024
TBA

Follow NW Neighborhood on Facebook for any changes or updates



this issue

Main Street Information **P.3**

Do Good **P.5**

ADU's **P.11**

Main street improvement coming next year

Following improvements to the downtown core of main street, upper main street will also be getting some significant improvements beginning in 2025. The City of Vancouver is kicking off the Upper Main Street Safety and Mobility Project—a new Complete Streets project along Main Street between Fourth Plain Boulevard and the northern city limits. The project will explore ways to improve safety and mobility for people who walk, bike, roll, take transit, use a mobility device, and drive.

The City is coordinating with planned pavement work (expected completion 2025) and the C-TRAN Highway 99 Bus Rapid Transit Project (expected completion 2027). C-TRAN is in the planning stages for the third segment of The Vine bus rapid transit system on Highway 99. Bus rapid transit features larger buses, transit signal priority, seamless fare payments, and level boarding platforms. Upper main street, from Fourth Plain to the city's Northern boundary near the Main Street-Hwy 99/I-5 interchange will see fresh paving work and adjustments to allow better multi-modal travel and to also allow for rapid transit buses to use the corridor and connect the Vine to Hazel Dell and Salmon Creek.

Before paving and construction begins the upper Main Safety and Mobility project team will evaluate how Main Street can better meet the needs of people using transit, walking, biking, using a mobility device, and driving. Currently the city's team for the upper Main Safety and Mobility project is working with CTran to analyze traffic conditions on the corridor to get an idea of what future conditions in the Main Street corridor could look like.

To receive email updates on the project, sign up here:

<https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1982137/1731532/>

Visit the project website to learn more, take the survey, sign up for email updates, and contact the project team:

www.beheardvancouver.org/uppermain

The community survey is open January 15 – February 16, 2024.



Jim Mains
NWNA President

A lot has happened over the last few months in Vancouver. The city council and staff have been moving swiftly and deliberately on a variety of issues that have had significant impacts on our community, specifically around public safety and homelessness. Because of that, I thought it would be a good time for me to give a few highlights from this past fall and winter.

Emergency Declaration regarding Homelessness:

The city manager declared a state of emergency regarding unsheltered homelessness in the city of Vancouver in early November. By doing this, it shows the city not only sees the concerns, but understands that swift and bold intervention is necessary to keep more people from dying on our streets. Declaring the emergency provides some additional tools and relaxes some of the standard

The city is Doing Good

processes/procedures, that are in place for good reason in normal circumstances, to address unsheltered homelessness within the city limits.

Safe Stay Community 3:

The city opened Safe Stay Community 3, named 415 West by the service provider) in downtown Vancouver. I'm employed by the Lynch Estate, which owns the property that is being used for this site.

The city has shared that the results so far have been positive. I can also attest to the positive feedback that we have received from the community since the site opened. These safe communities can house up to 40 individuals experiencing homelessness at any given time, though they average around 26 residents at a time.

These sites give them a warm, safe, supportive place to access services to help them address their barriers to stability and transition into permanent housing.

The locations are clean, provide showers/restrooms, are staffed 24/7, and camping is prohibited within 1000 feet of all sites. 415 West is the only site with on-site laundry; the other sites utilize laundry cards for nearby laundromats.

Safe Stay Community 4:

This site is located closest to our neighborhood — next to Kiggins Bowl in the upper parking lot near Main Street. The site opened in mid-December with much fanfare from community leaders, neighbors and even the governor attending the community open house.

We will have more information on Safe Stay Community 4, as well as the organization managing the site, Do Good, in this newsletter.

Public Safety Training Academy

Earlier this month the new regional law enforcement academy opened here in SW Washington. It is now easier to become a police officer in Southwest Washington. The governor was back in Clark County for this opening as well! The new facility is at the former Image Elementary School on the east side of Vancouver. They'll be able to train two classes of 30 students per year, which is great news for Clark County!

As you can see, a lot of good things are happening, and it's always encouraging to see our officials taking bold and innovative action that is already creating meaningful positive impact in our city.

Meet your team!

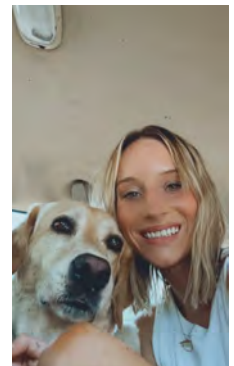
Ben McCarty

Vice President



Grace Sherman

Secretary



Margaret Moses

Treasurer



-Jim

Upper Main Street Safety & Mobility Project



Project Description

The Upper Main Street Safety and Mobility Project is exploring ways to improve safety and mobility for all people using Main Street from Fourth Plain Boulevard to the northern city limits (just south of NE 63rd Street / Minnehaha Street).

The City is also coordinating with other projects along the corridor, including planned pavement work in 2025 and the C-TRAN Highway 99 Bus Rapid Transit Project.

Sign up for email updates and learn more at:
beheardvancouver.org/uppermain



To request accessible formats or other languages, contact:
VancouverMoves@CityofVancouver.us | 360-487-8000 | TTY: 360-487-8602



Upper Main Street Safety & Mobility Project

Project Goals



Improve pedestrian safety by adding/upgrading crossings and filling sidewalk gaps that improve connections to transit.

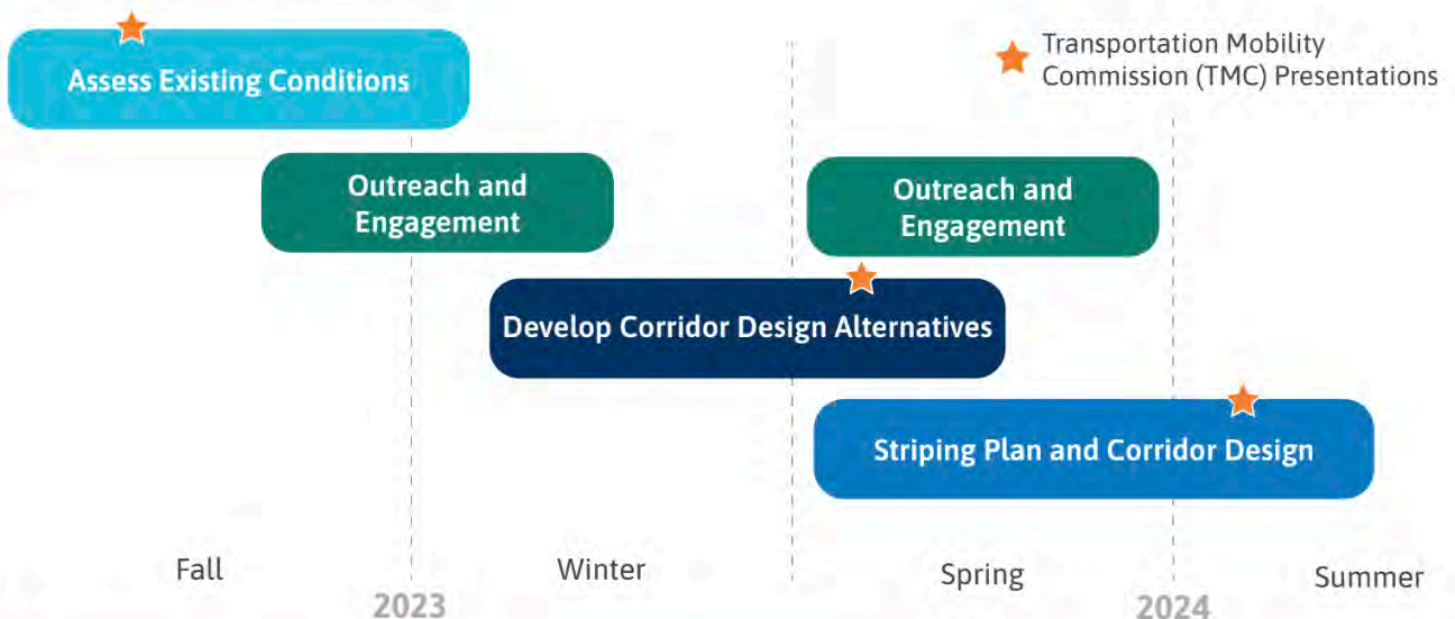


Improve bike and small mobility connectivity by addressing network gaps and connecting to regional trails.



Explore transit speed and reliability treatments and improve transit stop access in anticipation for C-TRAN's Hwy 99 Bus Rapid Transit Project.

Project Timeline



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On any given night, hundreds of Veterans find themselves houseless on the streets of Oregon and SW Washington. Do Good Multnomah is determined to change that.

Do Good partners with the community to provide permanent supportive housing and low-barrier emergency shelter to houseless Veterans in the Portland metro region. We emphasize relationship-building, one-on-one engagement, supportive services, and direct community participation, changing the way we serve houseless Veterans. In 2023, Do Good was able to move 295 participants into permanent housing.

In December, the Vancouver Safe Stay Village (SSV) opened to provide 20 individual pods, community spaces, bathrooms, showers, and private meeting spaces for our unhoused neighbors in Vancouver to work on their journey to permanent housing. The alternative shelter reached 25% of Veteran participants by Day 6 of being open and is already transitioning participants out of the shelter and into a housing.

Do Good Multnomah believes housing is a human right, and they are passionate about providing relevant, useful, and responsive support to end the injustice of Veteran houselessness.



“We are so excited to be able to now build relationships inside and outside our village. Thank you to the city of Vancouver Mayor Ann McEnerny-Ogle and all of her team that have advocated to make this parking lot into an alternative shelter for our current participants and all those to follow.”

- Dale S., Vancouver Safe Stay Village Program Manager

Neighborhood Updates

Welcome Margret Moses our new NW Neighborhood leadership team.

During our October meeting we voted in Margret Moses as our new treasurer.

Margret and her husband returned to Vancouver in 2014 after leaving in 1990 to start a cattle ranch in Eastern Washington.

She worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service and finished up with the Bureau of Reclamation at the Grand Coulee Dam in 1997.

She loves our neighborhood and enjoys walking and meeting so many friendly people.



Mark your Calendar for our 2024 Clean Up Day

We are set for Saturday, June 1 from 8 a.m. until noon. We will have the garbage trucks stationed at 58th and Lincoln and we will have the yard debris and chippers at Franklin Park.

We are in need of volunteers to support us during the event.

Please contact Jim Mains at jim@jimmains.com if you would like to volunteer.



The City of Vancouver's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program allows community members to champion projects for their neighborhood. These projects help reduce vehicle speeds and improve neighborhood safety and livability. Through a competitive process, project locations are ranked, selected and awarded funding and implementation each program year. Program applications will be accepted from early January through the end of February 2024 using an online submission form. We'll discuss some of the possibilities for traffic calming projects in the Northwest Neighborhood at our January meeting.

Link to the application:

<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/government/department/public-works/neighborhood-traffic-calming-program/>

We need you!

Newsletter Delivery

We are always in need of help deliver the neighborhood newsletter. If you would like to join the delivery team, please contact Jim Mains at jim@jim mains.com.

Delivering the newsletter usually takes a few hours. It's a great way to get outdoors and meet your neighbors.

A special thanks to Jim and Brenda Walker for coordinating our deliveries and making sure you get your newsletter.

Newsletter Writers

If you love to write we would love to hear from you. We are always in need of stories for our newsletters. If you have a great story you would like to share, a poem you are proud of or even an opinion that can help the neighborhood, please share. Contact Jim Mains at Jim@JimMains.com.

Garage Sale

We are looking for a coordinator for our neighborhood garage sale. If you are motivated and would like to take the reins, please contact Jim at jim@jim mains.com.

Kickball Team

We would love more players for our 2024 Kickball season. Check out the recap story in this newsletter. Email VP Ben McCarty for more details on how to join. Ben.p.mccarty@gmail.com .

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Sign up for our E-Newsletter



Stay connected to the latest news and updates from the NW Neighborhood Association.
Send your email address to Ben.P.Mccarty@gmail.com.

The City of Vancouver supports the Neighborhood Associations in their effort to share vital information with residents in order to create a more informed public. However, the information provided and the opinions and views expressed in Neighborhood Association newsletters or other documents do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Vancouver, nor does the City determine whether the information published is accurate or appropriate.
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Commission on aging to focus on emergency preparedness

The Clark County Commission on Aging is focusing this year on emergency preparedness, particularly for people 50 and older. Emergency preparedness is crucial to maintaining quality of life and particularly important for older adults, who are among those most impacted by major health events or hazards. Given this, the commission is dedicating eight monthly meetings to increase awareness about what emergency preparedness is, and what it can look like on a personal, neighborhood, community, and regional level.

Meetings are at 4:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the sixth-floor Training Room of the Public Service Center at 1300 Franklin St.

The commission has invited experts from CRESA, Clark County's regional emergency services agency, to speak on the specific topics below. Members then will discuss the topic and answer questions from the audience.

Here is a schedule of the 2024 topics:

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
January 17	Introduction to "Prepare in a Year" plan	June 19	Storing water/supplies
March 20	How to create your emergency kit	July 17	Know your neighborhood
April 17	Share our emergency kits	August 21	Know your community
May 15	Create a plan	October 16	Alerts and warnings

Commission on Aging meetings are currently held in a hybrid format with both in-person and virtual participation options. Attend in the sixth-floor Training Room of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., or join by phone or computer through information provided at: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/commission-aging-meetings>.

Commission meetings are carried on CTV Channel 23/323 and online at www.cvtv.org. To see replay times, go to www.cvtv.org.

The Commission on Aging, supported by the of the Clark County Council, is a nine-member volunteer group that implements the Aging Readiness Plan and provides leadership addressing needs of aging community members.



Fireballs Kickball Summer 2024



Fireballs kickball starts in May and the season is coming up fast!

Interested in being on the team this year and having fun with a great group of neighbors?
Contact team captain Ben McCarty at benpmccarty@gmail.com.

The Fireballs are always looking to help promote local businesses through sponsors? Interested in having your business be a sponsor? Contact Ben McCarty.

Look for more information on summer kickball in a future newsletter and on the neighborhood's Facebook page as the season gets closer!

NW Neighborhood Quarterly Meeting

Franklin Elementary

Thursday, January 25 from 7-8:15 p.m.

Homeless Emergency Update

Meet the Do Good Organization

City of Vancouver Update

Reminder if school is canceled our meeting will be canceled.



In recent months our neighborhood president has been approached regarding ADU's in the NW Neighborhood. Many neighbors have noticed a few popping up on various properties and in new projects throughout the city. The City of Vancouver has very good information regarding ADU's and the newsletter is a perfect spot to share some of this important information with you:

What is an ADU?

An Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) is one or more rooms with a private bath and kitchen facilities comprising an independent, self-contained dwelling unit within or attached to a single-family dwelling or in a detached building on the same lot as the primary dwelling unit. An ADU is distinguishable from a duplex in that, unlike a duplex, it is clearly subordinate to the primary dwelling unit, both in use and appearance. An ADU is legal only with an established building permit.

Where can I build an ADU?

ADUs are allowed as limited uses in all residential zones (R-2, R-4, R-6, R-9, R-18, R-22, R-30 and R-35) if in compliance with all of the development standards contained in [VMC 20.810.030](#). ADU's are not allowed within non-residential districts or on properties not containing a detached single family dwelling or on properties containing activities requiring a home occupation permit per [VMC 20.860](#). ADUs are permitted on lots smaller than 4,500 square feet provided they are legally established parcels.

How many ADUs can I build on a single lot?

Only one ADU may be created in conjunction with each single-family residence.

Are owners required to live on the property?

No, the property owner is not required to live on the property where an ADU is located.

Is a covenant required?

A covenant is no longer required due to recent changes in state law.

What are the size limitations for an ADU?

Within an existing basement, an ADU can use the entire basement square footage even if it exceeds 800 square feet. Detached and attached ADUs shall not exceed 800 square feet or up to 50% of the size of the main house, not including the garage (whichever is less). ADUs can be less than 300 square feet in size so long as they comply with state building code minimum dwelling standards. The maximum height of an ADU is limited to 25 feet or less.

Does an ADU need to be visually subordinate to the main dwelling?

An ADU addition to an existing house or the construction of a new ADU shall comprise no more than 50% of the total visible façade area of the primary structure and other outbuildings as seen from the front of the lot. If a corner lot, the front faces the lot line with the narrowest frontage. ADUs that are separate or extend from the principal dwelling shall be architecturally compatible with the principal dwelling. Architecturally compatible means that the ADU should match the appearance of the principal dwelling, i.e. similar materials, roof pitch, height.

What are the required setback and lot coverage requirements for an ADU?

An ADU addition to an existing house or the construction of a new ADU shall not exceed the allowable lot coverage or encroach into required setbacks as prescribed in the underlying zone for the primary structure.

Can I convert my existing accessory structure into an ADU?

An existing garage structure or other outbuilding may be converted to an ADU provided that the structure complies with the setback standards for the primary structure as prescribed in the underlying zone, applicable building codes and all other standards in VMC 20.810. The conversion of a garage cannot eliminate existing required legal parking for the main dwelling unless it is provided at an approved location elsewhere on the property (see above). [VMC 20.945.040](#)

Which energy forms are required?

[Energy Forms](#) are required for new dwellings, when adding new dwelling area, and when converting unheated space to heated space. When building a new home and an ADU at the same time, separate energy compliance forms are required for each dwelling.

How do I know if I have adequate electrical service?

Contact Clark Public Utilities at [360-992-8558](tel:360-992-8558) to request verification of transformer capacity.

Will existing overhead electrical lines need to be moved?

If you are enlarging your home (an addition) or building a new detached ADU, contact Clark Public Utilities at 360-992-8558 to request required clearances of overhead lines.

Should I hire a professional to design my ADU?

It is not required, however due to the complexity of these projects, we recommend that you hire a professional to assist in the design process.