

First Place Neighborhood Association
PO Box 872261, Vancouver, WA 98687

February 2024
Volume 34, Issue 1

1Q24 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello to my fellow FPNA neighbors! We had our 1st quarter general meeting with over 30 participants joining. What an excellent turnout! Thank you to all that attended. I encourage each and every one of you to take part in these meetings. There is a lot of information discussed and, Yes, you do have a say!



Here are some great highlights:

Our police liaison, Jeremy Free talked about the updates on crime. Fortunately, there's nothing pressing, but still informative—broken mailboxes, some graffiti... no other more serious issues.

Our 2024 budget passed with no objections. (You all should have received a copy of the budget in your email prior to this meeting.)

We have allocated money for the addition of up to 15 trees along 9th Street. We are responsible for the care of the north side

of 9th where it abuts First Place and through Friends of Trees we're getting a great bargain at \$35 per tree. This includes planting. I will be talking to some of you that live on 10th street about supporting this.

The summer Picnic In The Park is going to be bigger than ever. Bring your kids, grandkids. It will be a big event.

Don't forget to pay your \$30.00 dues for 2024. We are off to a good start, but need to reach a goal of 150 + households.

Look out for the ladies happy hour, men's luncheons, and Neighborhood Socials. Go and sign up for hosting the Neighborhood Socials.

Our safety committee, Rick and Sut, are moving forward with many initiatives related to safety.

18 street update is moving forward. Grace has many good updates that will be mentioned soon. Be sure to stay informed as this is a very important for our First Place Community!

Again, don't forget to support our FPNA Volunteer Association with your \$30.00 annual dues. Become a volunteer and support all the benefits we receive.

Sincerely, Dale Cisco, FPNA President

First Place

Neighborhood
Association



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 16th at 11:30AM Men's Luncheon:**
at Gustav's restaurant.
- contact Wayne Sparks
- **Now! The First Place Neighborhood Garden** has a growing plot available for the upcoming season.
- contact Matt Driggers if interested.
- **Now! Annual \$30 Dues.**
(see last page)
- **Now! Monthly Neighborhood Socials.** If you're interested in hosting, please volunteer.
- contact Sharon Bevan
- **Soon! Tree Trimming in First Place Park.** (see page 6 for more info)
- **June, Neighborhood Garage Sale** —Pat Tarnow
- **July 27th, 2024 at Noon. First Place Neighborhood Picnic in the Park:**
- **August 6th, 2024: National Night Out. First Place Park**

FIRST PLACE ARTISTS IN FOCUS

(Each quarter we will highlight one of the many talented First Place artists, sculptors, craftspeople, actors, master gardeners, musicians, designers, writers, and creative minds. — Ed)

I spent the morning visiting with oil-on-canvas artist Gene Wigglesworth in the gallery of his Frank Lloyd Wright inspired 151st Ave home.



Gene and I have visited previously on several occasions. I've toured his studio and more than once strolled through his and Grace Teigen's art-themed G2 Garden next door. But walking in today I had a preconceived goal of discussing something more gritty. I wanted to be regaled with stories of an artist's struggle to achieve something unachievable. Maybe even discover evidence of the frustrations that *surely* all accomplished artists must share... a smashed easel, a crumpled canvas, a failed van Gogh-like attempt at facial symmetry... alas, I digress.

Gene was an undergrad at Eastern Michigan University in the 1960's when his degree studies in geography and geology required him to pick an elective. On a whim he selected an art class (thinking what I'm sure every non-art major thinks when penciling in ART100 on their class request form). Nevertheless, that simple, maybe even flippant course selection changed Gene's direction for his entire life. Marrying geography,

geology, and art turned into a lifetime of adventure seeing the world, discovering antiquities, and of course, painting.

Have no doubt, Gene is an accomplished artist with his interpretations of the classics and his "van Wigg" originals. And through it all, his casual confidence about his craft is hard for some people to understand, namely me, especially when he waives-off the difficulty with a simple, "Ah, Just have fun." Maybe nobody told Gene how hard this is.

Gene regularly sells his paintings and uses the proceeds to help support his favorite charities. Gene also offers his works for sale at the annual First Place Neighborhood Garage Sale that occurs in June. If you're interested in touring Gene's studio feel free to reach out to Gene. Also, the G2 Garden next door is updated regularly and offers a fresh and whimsical experience.

Thank you Gene (and Grace) for opening your gallery to me today. - Ed



As always, your input and contributions are welcome, at: First.Place.Newsletter@gmail.com

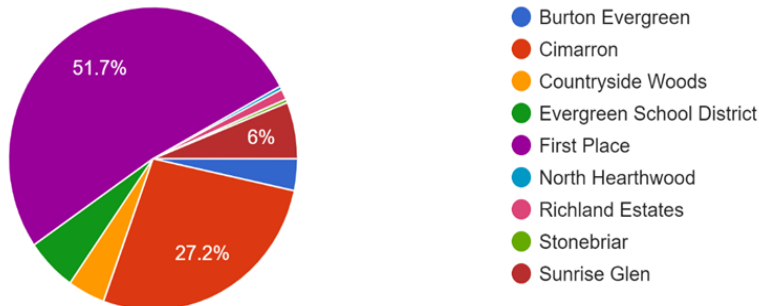
18TH STREET REDESIGN COALITION

18th Street First Quarter 2024 Update

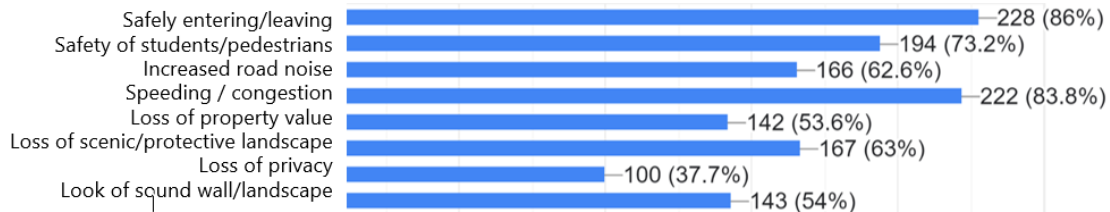
The City of Vancouver is starting the process of widening N.E. 18TH Street between 138th and 162nd Avenues. Concerned about what this may mean to our communities, a volunteer group of your neighbors has come together to form the N.E. 18th Street Coalition. Our goal is to work with our neighbors and the City to achieve a safe and scenic corridor. The following on-going survey is where neighbors can share their feedback.

Here are the current results as of January 2024:

Q1. I live, work, or have a student in the following neighborhoods (265 respondents)

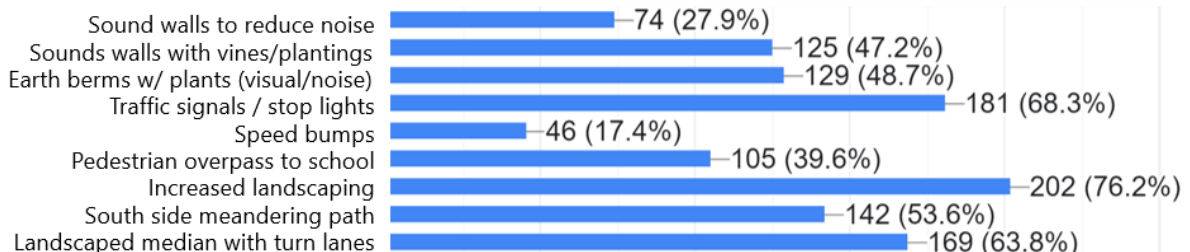


Q2. What are your concerns? Check all that apply (265 respondents)



- Wide enough lanes for large vehicles / trailers to maneuver
- Construction congestion
- Criminal activity
- Pathways in BPA
- Safe bike routes
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Overall aesthetics of new project
- People cutting through neighborhoods to avoid 18th St.

Q3. Click those solutions that you prefer and add your own (265 respondents)



Others:

Sidewalks/bike lanes with clear / safe crossings & bike trail through BPA, Separated & protected bike lane by landscaped median, Protect existing trees, More native plantings, and more

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED A SURVEY GO TO NE18THSTREET@INFO.COM TO TAKE IT ONLINE

18TH STREET REDESIGN COALITION (CONTINUED)

THE HEDGEROW PROJECT

As residents along N.E. 18th Street experience ever increasing traffic, those who live closest to the road are being impacted more than others. As the road is widened this will only get worse as the probable loss of the Douglas Fir barrier will mean increased noise and pollution. If, as is also expected, the East Powerline Trail, a regional bike and pedestrian trail that was approved by the city in 2006, is completed under the BPA towers, our neighbors on 16th will experience an increased loss of privacy and a decreased sense of security.



In anticipation of this, we are encouraging residents to take advantage of the agricultural leases that BPA granted to these residents when they purchased their homes on 16th Street. Some residents currently grow vegetables, flowers and other plantings in these leaseholds and that will not

likely change. In addition to these plantings however, we have initiated what we call the Hedgerow Project to enable these residents to grow a dense protective barrier of native plants that might look like this:

Such a group of native plants will provide a visual and sound dampening barrier and increase a sense of privacy and safety in residents homes and back yards. It will also afford a similar sense of separation of the entire neighborhood from the road that will be an asset to all of us. Because we will be starting with plants in one-gallon pots, these bushes will take some time to grow. Each resident is taking responsibility for their watering and other care until they become self-sufficient. Many of the bushes will be flowering and fragrant like Mock Orange and Nootka Roses and most will be green year-round.

The cost of these plantings will largely be covered by a grant we have been awarded by the Watershed Alliance for \$5000. That organization has befriended our neighborhood before when they granted FPNA \$2000 to renovate the Front Circle with new, drought tolerant plants several years ago.

The two neighborhoods to the east, Stonebriar and Countryside Woods have neighbors who have the same problem and the same BPA leases and those neighborhoods are also providing this opportunity to affected, interested residents. They will share in the grant funds. This project is voluntary, just as the trees that now border 9th Avenue were voluntary. In that case, again it was the result of a cooperating organization, Friends of Trees and further subsidized by FPNA. I think we can all agree, even if we are not directly affected, an attractive Front and Back door increases the livability and value of all of our homes.

As we progress through this project, we will be calling for neighborhood volunteers. We welcome your comments and your help.

Grace Teigen
N.E. 18th Street Coalition

The “LEGEND” continues as FPNA Announces The 2024 “Afternoon in the Park” Summer Family Picnic

The FPNA 2024 Summer Picnic Committee, newly expanded with new FP neighbors, has started brainstorming new ideas and developing the plans to continue to grow the “LEGEND” of “An Afternoon in the Park” Summer Family Picnic. If you were at the 2022 and 2023 FPNA family picnic, you know the “LEGEND”, the FPNA Summer Picnic Committee can achieve. If you have not yet attended or are new to First Place, then you need to cancel all plans or not make plans and **RESERVE THE DATE OF SATURDAY JULY 27TH, 2024** on your calendars, iPhones, Samsung/Android/Google phones, and sundials to see what the rest of us are very excited about.

A small teaser of activities and all-around fun things that are coming in 2024 are:

New in 2024, introducing the ***Columbia Play Project***, who will be setting up games and activities that are sure to bring smiles, giggles, laughter and great fun for many of all ages with a focus on the 3-15 years of age crowd. Giant Bubbles and Wands, Connect Four Games, Magnetic Manipulatives, Chalk Art, Coloring Table, Science Touch and Feel Discovery Table, Straw Shooters with target, Strawbee, Rocket Launcher, Pop-Up Ball Launchers, Vertical Wind Tunnel, Large Motor Skill Toys such as sack races and a giant parachute.



Live Music – TBA

Remember the 2023 fun of 8 of the finest FP neighbor’s serving up their best chili in the Chili Cookoff, let’s find out which FP neighbors have the best recipe (both hot and mild 1st, 2nd, 3rd place prizes) with a friendly “**Wings Cookoff**”. **Looking for 8-10 contestants**, let us know who you are!

New games and contests for great raffle prizes!

There will be more announcements as plans start coming together of additional fun and good times that will continue to grow the “LEGEND” of the FPNA “An Afternoon in the Park” Summer Family Picnic!

Bring yourself, bring your spouse/significant other, and for sure bring the kids and grandkids to make this a truly “Family” picnic that will help make it a fantastic and fun time together!

SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY JULY 27TH FROM NOON TO

Doug Stalheim – FPNA 2024 Summer Picnic Committee Lead

FPNA 2024 Summer Picnic Committee – Lorene Stalheim, Joan Lamy, Patti Hines, Kennan Kuffel, Penny McElvain, Laura Dubois, Dan Gibson, Steve George, Pony/Chelsey Tupuola

Feels Like Home:

- ✓ **Promote positive interactions with your neighbors through a variety of gatherings and activities**
- ✓ **Becoming Friends**
- ✓ **Promote a sense of togetherness and inclusion**

Working on trees in Vancouver? Check first. *(a friendly reminder that could save you \$\$\$\$)*

Before starting any work on trees, first find out if you need a permit. Within the City of Vancouver, permits are required prior to removing, planting, or doing major pruning on trees along streets.

Removal of private trees may also require a permit, depending upon the site and other criteria. For example, residential lots been developed after 1996 are required to protect trees within yards. In those and other certain cases, permits are required for tree removal.

Be sure. Check and call before you cut. Visit www.cityofvancouver.us/trees then click on the tree permits tab. Or contact (360) 487-8332 or urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us.

Tree Trimming to Begin in First Place Park

A number of parks throughout the City of Vancouver will be undergoing a tree pruning cycle this winter. This will include First Place Park.

The City has hired a licensed contractor, Arborscape, to properly prune trees within the park. This maintenance is part of the City of Vancouver's pruning cycle for the City's parks and aims to best care for Vancouver's urban forest.

You can learn more about Vancouver's Urban Forestry program at www.cityofvancouver.us/trees

LIFE IN FIRST PLACE

Did you know the First Place neighborhood is located squarely within the Burton Sink subwatershed? I know, I couldn't believe it either. And while this



tidbit may be precisely the cure for what ails you insomniacs, others may think, "Hmmm, that would be a good question for the First Place Neighborhood Picnic Trivia Contest on July 27th."

Let's extend a warm welcome to our newest neighbors:

- ◆ **16th Street:**
 - Patrick & Helen Jones
- ◆ **150th Avenue:**
 - Jagannathan Subadhra & Sankararaman Sandeep
- ◆ **151st Avenue:**
 - Svitlana & Vyacheslav Loyko
- ◆ **152nd Avenue:**
 - Steve Jackson & Sara Vulsan



Calling all interested Ladies!

Do you want to be part of a book club? How about bunco?



Do you want to learn Mahjong?

We have had several ladies inquire about wanting to be part of something in the neighborhood. We have so many new residents in the last few years... let's form some new groups to connect. If you're interested in being a part of the groups above let me know. I will help facilitate some new groups for you ladies to be a part of.

Email me: Kandi Cisco kcisco1016@gmail.com

JOIN NEIGHBORS ON WATCH



NOW SPRING ACADEMY

Our spring Neighbors on Watch Academy is taking place from **April 11 - May 9**

WHAT TO EXPECT

5 weekly training sessions from **6 - 9:15 p.m.** and one CPR class

APPLY TODAY!

All applications **due by March 1** to ensure ample time for background check. Visit the website below to submit your application!

ABOUT NOW

Neighbors on Watch (NOW) volunteers serve as the bridge between the Vancouver Police Department and the community. NOW volunteers participate in highly visible and non-confrontational patrols throughout the city. Volunteers have also assisted with assignments including recovery of stolen vehicles, inter-office mail delivery, training unit role players, responding to callouts to help locate missing people and much MORE! Apply today!

CONTACT US

Phone : 360-487-7467

Email : jordan.macfarlane@cityofvancouver.us

Web : cityofvancouver.us/policevolunteers



The Vancouver Police Department Neighbors on Watch (NOW) is currently recruiting for their upcoming 2024 Spring Academy taking place from April 11 - May 9. Applications are due by March 1. See the flyer for more details or contact Jordan MacFarlane at (360) 487-7467.



The FPNA Newsletter is published quarterly after the general association meeting.

Are you interested in writing an article for the FPNA newsletter?

- Want to remind your neighbors about an upcoming date or event?
- Do you have FYI-type information about the neighborhood or the FPNA Association?
- Don't be shy. Send it in an e-mail to First.Place.Newsletter@gmail.com

(Note: To protect our neighbors, personal contact information is intentionally omitted from the FPNA Newsletter. Please remember, the FPNA Newsletter is public information through the City of Vancouver.)

Note: The City of Vancouver supports the Neighborhood Associations in their effort to share vital information with residents to create a more informed public. However, the information provided and the opinions and views expressed in the Neighborhood Association newsletter 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. This newsletter has been shared with the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods and therefore, is available to the Internet community.



Find Us On Facebook!

148 First Place neighbors participate on Facebook

First Place Neighborhood Association

*This is a private Facebook page for First Place neighborhood residents only.

Email Addresses and Info:

FPNAcommunicate@gmail.com

Changes to group participation, email, or contact information changes

First.Place.Newsletter@gmail.com <— NEW

For submissions and questions

[NextDoor App](#)

Information shared by neighbor members

[Facebook Website](#)

Information shared by neighbor members



FPNA Executive Board: 2023/2024

Chair – Dale Cisco

Vice Chair – Steve Zapp

Treasurer – Evan Meessen

Secretary – Bonnie Mallory starting 2024 <--- **NEW, thanks for volunteering!**

Neighborhood Committees:

Annual Picnic – Doug Stalheim, Sharon Bevan, Laura Dubois, Patricia Hines, Kennan Kuffel, Joan Lamy, Bonnie McCampbell, Penny McElvain

Annual Spring Cleanup – Tom Harriman

Communications Central – Kandi Cisco

18th Street Widening Project – Gene Wigglesworth, Grace Teigen, Ellen Sward, Bill Savoie, Margie Schnack, Wayne Sparks, Sherry Bala, and other interested neighbors.

Facebook – Penny McElvain

First Place Directory – Kandi Cisco

Garage Sale – Pat Tarnow

Holiday Ladies' Luncheon – **Open**

Ladies' Luncheon – **Open**

Landscape – Steve Zapp

Men's Luncheon – Wayne Sparks

Neighborhood Ambassador Program – Doug Stalheim, Pat Sparks, Sheree Belanger, Julia Karnes, Helena Lee, Joan Lamy, and Kandi Cisco

- **Welcome Basket Production Team** – Penny McElvain, Kay Scott

- **New Neighbor Spotters** – Joan Lamy, Joe Serroels, Bryan Fix (local realtor)

Neighborhood Social – Sharon Bevan

Newsletter – Darren Belanger

Next Door Website – Joan Lamy

9th Street Garden Gang - coordinate/maintain FPNA properties backing to 9th street – Open

Safety Committee – Rick Burke, Sut Oishi <--- **NEW, thanks for volunteering!**

Scholarship - Sharon Bevan, Kandi Cisco, Sharon Graven, Tim Eannarino

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – Kandi Cisco

Walk-n-Knock – Patricia Hines

Women's Happy Hour – Bonnie McCampbell



It's 2024, which mean a new recipient will be chosen for the FPNA Community Involvement scholarship award.

Many of you may not know that each year, a deserving student(s) from Evergreen High School is awarded a scholarship from First Place.

A special thank you to all who have donated to this Fund.

To increase the visibility of our scholarship, our committee will be meeting with the National Honor Society at Evergreen High School to introduce ourselves and familiarize the students with our application and requirements.

There is still plenty of time for you to donate to this deserving endeavor. In this newsletter is the dues form, and at the bottom, a line to donate to the scholarship fund. Help our future leaders achieve their goals.

Sharon Bevan, FPNA Scholarship Lead



FPNA 2023 Scholarship Recipients



What do committee volunteers and board members do?

Picnic Committee - organizes our Annual Picnic in First Place Park

Holiday Luncheon Committee - arranges a holiday celebration for the women in the neighborhood

Scholarship Committee - gathers funds and chooses worthy recipient(s) from Evergreen High School

First Place Neighborhood Ambassadors - The Ambassadors welcome new neighbors, deliver welcome baskets, and periodically host Newcomer Gatherings

FPNA Chairperson - The Chairperson sets the meeting date and time for the board meetings and the quarterly general meetings. The Chairperson also helps develop the agenda with input from the elected board members and committee chairs. Other duties of the Chairperson include conducting the business meetings, coordinating with committee chairs or other neighborhood groups implementing projects, and resolving issues that may arise

FPNA Vice Chairperson - The Vice Chairperson acts as a support person, covering meetings when the Chairperson is unavailable and coordinates with the Treasurer to audit our funds yearly. Also the Vice Chairperson manages special projects as requested by the Chair

Safety Chairperson - The Safety Chairperson checks and notifies the City when street lights are out and has managed the curb address painting. Further the Safety Chair has been on the lookout for hazard issues in First Place, such as low tree limbs obscuring stop and street signs

FPNA Communication Coordinator - The FPNA Communicate Coordinator maintains the master list of residents and sends out announcements of neighborhood activities

Ladies' Luncheon Coordinator - Coordinator sets the time and location for their meetings

Men's Luncheon Coordinator - Coordinator sets the time and location for their meetings

FPNA Newsletter Editor – Reviews newsletter submissions, builds and edits the quarterly newsletter and sends it to the FPNA Chairperson for review and approval.

This is just a sampling of the FPNA positions that benefit our neighborhood. If you are interested in volunteering to help First Place remain a strong Neighborhood Association, please contact any board member.

First Place Neighborhood Association-Resident Information

Print, complete and return only when your information has changed.

Return to: P.O. Box 872261, Vancouver, WA. 98687

Or: By Email to

[Send Email to FPNA Communicate](#)

(FPNAcommunicate@gmail.com)

Please type in the highlighted boxes below.

First Name. 1.		Last Name. 1.	
First Name. 2.		Last Name. 2.	
Property Address.			
Phone. Cell	Cell	Home	Work
Email 1.		Email 2.	

Please check those you would like.

I would like my information to be included in future directories.	Yes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Invite me to:

Neighborhood Social.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ladies' Luncheon.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Men's Luncheon.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ladies' Happy Hour.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Neighborhood Social: Held monthly in the home of a resident volunteer in First Place. Attendees are asked to bring a bottle of wine or other beverage and an appetizer to share. Open to all First Place neighbors.

Ladies' Luncheon: Arranged at a local restaurant by a volunteer and open to all First Place women.

Men's Luncheon: Arranged at a local restaurant by a volunteer and open to all First Place men.

Ladies' Happy Hour: Held the second Monday of the month from 4-7pm in the home of a volunteer neighbor. Bring your favorite beverage and appetizer to share. Open to all First Place women.

FPNA Annual Dues Notice

\$30 per household

First Place Neighborhood Association (FPNA) voluntary dues are \$30 and renewed annually in January. Donations support neighborhood maintenance & social functions.

Check: Make payable to First Place Neighborhood Association (FPNA)

Mail to FPNA Treasurer, P.O. Box 872261, Vancouver, WA 98687

****FPNA no longer accepts Paypal until further notice****

Please include your household information and any designation for additional donations, as listed in the form below, with your donation.

Name(s) _____

FP Address _____

In addition to the annual dues, if you wish to include an additional voluntary contribution please enter an amount here:

FPNA Scholarship Fund \$ _____ Any other FPNA activity \$ _____

18th Street Coalition (Widening Project) Support \$ _____

Thank you for your continued support!

-Your FPNA Board and FP Neighbors

Your donation may be tax-deductible. FPNA's EIN is: 76-0733017

NOTE: FPNA no-longer accepts PayPal

Due to new IRS regulations, PayPal and other services must report combined transactions over \$600 to the IRS. This creates a tax obligation for the First Place Association and therefore we have decided to not allow these types of payments. Nevertheless, there is an effort underway to open a *non-profit* PayPal account and to eventually allow electronic payments again. But for now, please pay your annual dues and contributions by check (or cash).