

# Northcrest News



April 2024

**Let's Meet! Come early to socialize!**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

Northcrest Community Church  
5602 East Mill Plain  
(use the back entrance)

**Guest Speaker: Troy Price, Deputy Chief with Vancouver Police Department**

About Deputy Chief Price..... Born in Chicago, Illinois he received a private education from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. After graduating from high school, Troy attended his father's alma mater, Tougaloo College, in Jackson, MS up to his graduation in 1988. While there, he joined the U.S. Navy intending to fly airplanes as a career. Due to a medical issue, that career was cut short. After the Navy, he spent time clerking for a law firm, and as an insurance claims adjuster before becoming a police officer in Chicago in 1994. He left Chicago in 1997 after accepting a position with the Vancouver Police Department. Today, he holds the rank of Deputy Chief of Police.



Neighborhood Clean Up Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> from 8 – 2pm  
Neighborhood Picnic – TBA  
Neighborhood Garage Sale - TBA

## Heights District project could start construction in 2026; Vancouver close to asking for proposals

The city will issue a request for proposals next month for the first three parcels pegged for development. They are on the northern side of the district near East Mill Plain Boulevard and North Devine Road.

A seven-member committee that includes two city planning commissioners and the owner of nearby Garside Florist will evaluate the proposals.

City officials plan to have development agreements in place by the end of the year, said Amy Zoltie, real estate project manager for the city. "We do recognize that this is an aggressive schedule but (that's) necessary to start redevelopment occurring and dirt moving," Zoltie said.

The three developments include mixed-income and affordable housing, with space on the ground floor for businesses, for a total of 340 units. Groundbreaking on the three parcels could occur as early as 2026, Zoltie said. Construction of the intersection of MacArthur & Mill Plain will begin early this Spring with road construction in the Heights beginning in 2025.

The **BEST WAY** to stay informed about neighborhood issues and events is to –sign up for email blasts by emailing **[northcrestneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:northcrestneighborhood@gmail.com)**

## Sam Brown Park

Plantings of native trees throughout Sam Brown Park was planned for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The City and Americorps Volunteers were forced to put off these plantings until February 17, 2024.

As you may recall, we had snow on the ground and a 25 degree day on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The upside was that numerous families with sleds in tow made use of Sam Brown Park for 4 days braving the cold. (The last big snow-fall was President's Day, February 2021 which provided 5 full days of sledding.)



Americorps Volunteers, City crews, Friends of Trees and Northcrest neighbors braved a cold windy Saturday morning (February 17<sup>th</sup>) to plant 4 White Oaks, 4 Douglas Firs, 3 Lavelle Hawthornes, 2 Pacific Dogwoods, 2 Incense Cedars, 2 Cascaras and 1 Big Leaf Maple – 18 trees in all. They also planted wild strawberries and a variety of flowering native plants.

Sam Brown Park is a hidden gem in the City with a hill big enough to sled on, yet relatively safe as sledding goes. It is approximately 2.5 acres on the Northwest loop of Montana Lane. One side is boarded by Devine Road.

## But wait – there's more at Sam Brown Park

Finally – Mutt Mitts coming to Sam Brown!  
We do not have an install date yet, but soon, very soon!



## STOP SIGNS throughout NORTHCREST



A friendly reminder .....

we've seen quite a few neighbors blowing through them –

**PLEASE OBSERVE!**



## Have you ever wondered about RADON?

Radon at elevated levels in your home significantly increases your family's risk for developing lung cancer. The State of Washington offers a Do-It-Yourself for Free Radon Test while supplies last.



<https://doh.wa.gov/form/radon-test-kit-access-form>

## Playground at Columbia Lancaster Park

Check out the new playground equipment at Columbia Lancaster Park. The original playground was installed in 1994, and was replaced this winter and just completed – in time for Spring.



The park was named after Columbia Lancaster (1803-1893). His mother changed the boy's name from Thomas, after explorer Meriwether Lewis visited their home in New Milford, Connecticut and told the family about the "Great River of the West." He arrived in Oregon City in 1847, at the age of 44, after having served as a Michigan Territory lawyer and legislator. Went on to serve as Supreme Judge of the Provisional Government of Oregon for two years (which included Clark County). He then went to California for the gold rush and returned in about 1850, and purchased 1,100 acres along the Lewis River and built an elaborate home. He and his family lived there for 33 years. Lancaster's son, Waite operated the first telegraph in Clark County. Lancaster and his wife's poor health led to the selling of the home and moving to Vancouver. He died in 1893 and was buried in the Old City Cemetery on Mill Plain Boulevard.

<https://clarkcountytalk.com/2019/11/16/columbia-lancaster-house-reminds-us-to-stay-connected-to-stories-of-the-past/>

## DANGER! FIRES ALONG BURNT BRIDGE BELOW NORTHCREST

We know, we know – this is a very tedious reminder, but IMPORTANT!

As many times as we have complained about the illegal campers along Burnt Bridge – they are still there and Northcrest is vulnerable to an uncontrolled fire, especially homes along the ridge. We have had conversations and met with representatives from BPA (Bonneville Power Association) recently when many of our neighbors reported trees being cut down and used for firewood. We toured the area with the folks at BPA and they too have concerns about the dangers of an out-of-control fire would present.



To report a fire along Burnt Bridge, Call 9-1-1 and specify to the operator whether the access is from

**Andresen or Devine.**

This will enable Fire Fighters to get to the scene quicker.

## Need a Helping Hand in your yard?

Here's a few landscapers we have seen around Northcrest.

This is not a recommendation, or a endorsement, just folks we have spotted working in Northcrest – it's a starting point to find the help you need.

Charapo Landscaping 360-350-7209

Beaver Landscaping 360-907-4840, 360-784-9659

Cruz Lawn Service 360-773-8208

Thorn & Rose 360-843-7302 [vanderpooljake@gmail.com](mailto:vanderpooljake@gmail.com)

Jeremy 360-609-8092

## Disaster Preparedness

### Kits

- Go kit – grab and go – clothes, meds, snacks, cash – one for each family member
- Bugout Kit – 72 hours - complete but portable - may need to go with you to a shelter
- Long term supplies – Start with 72 hour kit, but aim for more, as you can
- Car kit – You might not be at home. Have supplies for at least 24 hours.
- Workplace kit – Don't forget, you might be at work if something happens.
- Commercial vs homemade kits – *Beware of items in pre-made kits*. Homemade kits are much more specific to your personal needs and you know the quality of the items.

### General info about kits and preparedness supplies

Preparing for a disaster is a process, not a race. Starting is the biggest hurdle. After that you're just adding to it and modifying it. Prepping is a very dynamic process. You can always reevaluate and change things. It doesn't have to be done by a certain date.

You don't have to break the bank to be prepared. You probably have many of the things you need in your home already (camping gear, etc.). Garage sales and second-hand stores are our friends! You don't have to go out and buy all new stuff.

**Remember** – Don't put it in your kit unless you've used it, worn it, operated it, tasted it, tried it or eaten it (not necessarily all of those for everything). If it's technology of any kind, **make sure you know how to use it, have used it, and you can power it and recharge it**. If it's food, make sure it's something you can eat, have eaten, and would want to eat. If it's something you wear, make sure it fits and does what it's supposed to do.

*Disasters have far too many bad surprises. Don't make your equipment one of them!*

**Keep in mind that you're preparing to sustain yourselves in an emergency. NOT to maintain your lifestyle.**

1. Rotate perishables on a schedule – including medications
2. Stash some cash - small denominations – ATMs won't be available
3. RV's, Cars – always keep at least half full of fuel. Consider storing extra fuel.
4. Generators – fuel, capacity for desired use, maintenance. Require regular fuel rotation.
5. Refrigeration – cooler, ice (blocks kept in freezer for quick cooler use)
6. Cooking fuels – propane, butane, charcoal. Keep extra.
7. Food-saver™ bags – Keep out moisture, minimize space. Can be used for lots of things.

### Water

- How much? General rule: 1 gallon/person/day (at least). I would suggest that you consider doubling that amount if possible.
- Purification – bleach, tablets, boiling. Know the facts about bleach (see handout)
- Filtering – You can only store so much water. Having a good water filter system to make water safe to drink is essential. Check out Sawyer filters.
- Containers and storage – No milk jugs! Consider smaller containers (7 gal. or less) in multiple locations. Easier to handle (water weighs 8.6 pounds per gallon) and don't put all your water in one place. **Water or any kits containing water must be stored where it will not freeze!** It should also be stored in a cool, dry place and out of sunlight.
- Sources – water heater has 40-50 gallons of fresh water

## Food

- Types – canned goods (2 years or longer – rotate to eat or donate to food bank) vs long term (freeze dried) – cans and pouches with 20-25 years of shelf life. **Don't pack food that you haven't eaten or tried before. Food should be of a type that you know doesn't upset your digestive system.**
- MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) – Best purchased online but might be available at surplus stores. Most MREs are fairly high calorie as they were designed for soldiers in combat. MRE's can be a good choice for the short term, and there are many varieties, but definitely sample these before including them in your plan. Shelf life: 5-7 years, depending on conditions of storage. They're expensive though, about \$10 each.
- Rotating food – Rotate out whatever kinds of food you store based on shelf life.
- Cooking food – eat perishable and frozen food first before using stored resources
- Beware of plastic bins – some have odors that can affect taste of food
- Dry goods (rice, beans, etc.) can be stored in food-grade 5 gallon buckets with Gamma Seal Lids (air-tight) and oxygen absorber packets (Winco in the bulk section)
- Essentials: can opener, cooking source and fuel, pot(s), utensils, dishes, cups, matches
- Keep extra propane and other fuel containers for cooking. Know the capabilities and limitations of your portable stove or heating device.

## Sanitation

**\*\*\* THIS WILL BE A MAJOR PRIORITY ALMOST IMMEDIATELY! \*\*\***

- Water for consumption (stored treated or bottled vs water for sanitation (clean but not purified; i.e. rain barrel, etc. Plan for your sources.
- Portable toilets – two bucket rule (one for solids and one for liquids....mixing them means much more odor) – Luggable Loo™ seats – bag of sawdust or cat litter as a dessicant (moisture absorber) to put on solid waste, and plastic bags for disposal. Use whatever system you want, but you absolutely **must** have some type of plan in place.
- Showers/shelters – **DO NOT** underestimate their importance! You need to have some way to bathe, at least to some degree. Solar bag showers, portable heated showers, or whatever, but something. Bathing has *significant* physical and psychological benefits.
- Handwashing station – Empty detergent container w/spigot, bar soap in stocking
- Make sure you have toiletries, TP, soap, detergent, feminine products, etc.
- Some means to wash clothes. You can make a washing machine out of two 5 gallon buckets and a toilet plunger (preferably new). Check it out on YouTube. Might not seem like high priority, but when the stink starts it will be. Even if you only have clean underwear and socks, it's a pretty big deal.
  
- Most of us aren't pigs. We're used to being clean most of the time. So the ability to maintain personal hygiene during such chaos represents a small source of normalcy in the midst of a totally abnormal situation. So aside from the obvious hygienic reasons, that's why it's important.

## Shelter

- Car – probably the fastest source of shelter/light/heat.
- Tents or EZ-up type canopies – you might need shelter from weather quickly
- Plastic tarps – If it's the wet time of year, you probably can't have too many
- RV's – consider prioritizing for children/elderly
- Shelter in place – consider aftershocks if earthquake

## Technology

- Calls on cell phones may not work but texting might
- Battery and/or crank operated radio with weather frequency – for getting local info
- Chargers – the coolest devices on the planet are just paper weights if you can't charge them! You can charge almost anything in your car. Have the right cords/adapters.
- Solar products (Goal Zero, etc. – know their limitations...i.e. sunny weather)
- Battery backups for electronic devices – can be recharged in car
- Phones – have a corded, non-electronic phone packed somewhere
- Batteries – disposable vs rechargeable. You'll need them... lots of them!
- Flashlights – Have multiple ones that are dependable (No cheapie plastic things!). You probably can't have too many of them. LED lights make better use of batteries. Consider having a headlamp also. Consider other types of light sources (lanterns, etc.). Consider storing some with batteries with them but not installed in them (to avoid leakage).

## Cars and generators

- Stored gasoline for car or generators must be rotated regularly! Rotate into your car's gas tank and refill the can on a regular schedule. Consider use of a fuel stabilizer. Ethanol free gas if possible.
- Always try to keep your car at least half full of gas
- Generators are optional, but can be nice to have. Choose a generator by thinking carefully what you want to power with it and for how long, as well as fuel consumption (fuel storage issues). Have a regular schedule for the generator to be started and run. Take care of it and it will take care of you. Be careful about storing the generator with fuel in it unless it has a stabilizer. Old, untreated gas is a problem.
- Car Kit – 24 hour rule (can you live out of your car kit for at least 24 hours?)

## First aid and health

- A compact first aid kit is essential equipment. In addition to the first aid supplies, consider a small supply of pain relievers, antacids, anti-diarrheal medication, sleep aids, or other OTC medications which you might need. If you take prescription medications, you'll need a supply of them also. Keep in mind that medications expire, so consider them a perishable item and rotate those out accordingly.
- Have a supply of dust or particle masks or N-95 masks. Disasters are notorious for having the air filled with dust, dirt and particulate.

## Entertainment and mental health

- It might seem trivial, but it's not. A deck of cards, some small games, or a couple of books to pass the time can be a welcome diversion during down times when your mind and soul need a break. The stress of a disaster situation is overwhelming. You will **have to** decompress. If you have children, age appropriate games, books, toys or puzzles to occupy them are a necessity. Music or MP3 players may also be a lifesaver. Have several sets of soft earplugs on hand. They will help you sleep, or at the very least help you "tune out" when you need to. Consider any other sources of comfort that might be specific to you (religious, meditative, etc.).

## Pets

- Pets are often forgotten when doing preparedness planning. Appropriate amounts of food, water, toys, and supplies should not be overlooked. Dry food can be stored in 5 gallon or other size buckets with airtight, easy open lids such as Gamma Seal Lids (Home Depot, Lowes, Winco). Don't forget your pets when figuring how much water to store. For dogs, leashes and even muzzles may very well be needed, as the stress on animals will be just as overwhelming as it is for people. Because of this, your pet's behavior could be more agitated or aggressive than normal.

## Storage

- So where do I store all this stuff? Well, the answer is different for all of us. The degree of preparation you do depends on lots of things, and available space is not the least among them. Some people are worried about storing their prep supplies in their house or garage, fearing it will collapse and they won't be able to access them. Of course, no one can know exactly what will happen, but wood framed houses may stand up reasonably well to even a pretty large earthquake, while masonry or brick structures may very well not. An outbuilding might be an appropriate place for shelters or other non-perishable items, but any kits containing food, water, or medicine, or other perishables need to be in a place where they will not be subject to extreme temperatures or moisture, preferably in a cool, dark, dry place. Water containers that freeze will often break or leak, resulting in wet and mildewed supplies. **That is not a surprise you want!** Sealing things in Foodsaver™ or similar bags can protect them from moisture. Consider storing water containers in different areas of your house, such as several closets, rather than all in one area.
- There are a variety of very sturdy plastic bins with lids that are readily available. Avoid flimsy containers. Thin plastic totes are fine for most things, but if debris falls on your containers, you don't want them to easily cave in. If storing them on shelving, the sturdier shelving the better. All prep stuff doesn't necessarily need to be in one place, but it also shouldn't be scattered in too many places. Do what works for you.

There are **many** resources on the internet for preparedness and kits. A simple search on Google or Yahoo for "preparedness" or other related search words will reveal a plethora of resources. Consider the source of the information. Well known sources such as the Red Cross, FEMA, etc. are pretty well vetted and can generally be trusted. Private sources should be always be viewed with a little more caution. Remember, just because you saw it on the internet doesn't mean it's true!

There is also plenty of good information on YouTube, keeping in mind that anyone can post a video about pretty much anything, so use your own best judgement about what advice to take there as well.

While having some cash in small denominations is important to keep available, money might be much less important in a post-disaster situation than having items to barter with. Consider that having extra supplies if you have the space could be very beneficial for bartering. Extra toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, and other items that are highly sought after can be very useful to trade with other people for other supplies or services.

In the region we live in, wet or moist conditions are a reality for us for a good percentage of the year (no, really!). It's probably best to assume that those conditions and not the dry summer conditions will be part of the scenario, and your prepping should be done keeping that in mind.

One final note. Whether you're just starting your preparedness efforts or continuing them, remember that you don't have to do everything at once. Don't hesitate to do it over a period of time. There are plans available to guide you in preparing over the course of a year's time, doing a little each month. It can be a lot less intimidating and it can also give you more time to consider what you really need and what you don't. It also spreads whatever cost is involved over a longer period. Could something happen before you're completely ready? Sure, but there's just as good of a chance that it won't so don't sweat it. **Any amount of preparedness is better than none at all.**

**[You don't get a second chance to prepare!](#)**

## Hazel Dell Parade – The Power of Music

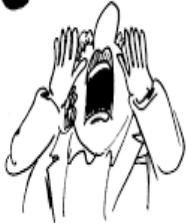
The 58th Hazel Dell Parade of Bands this year is **May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:30 am**



All your questions about the parade answered here: <https://www.hdscba.org/parade>

**If you have not VOLUNTEERED before or even if you have – do it now!**

# Volunteers!



We are always looking for volunteers –

- Annual Picnic
- **Upcoming Neighborhood Clean-up (Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>)**
- Christmas Get-Together
- Board Members
- Pick up signs for Meetings, Clean-up, and other neighborhood events

Let us know if you are interested in helping out in any capacity.

**[northcrestneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:northcrestneighborhood@gmail.com)**

**THANK YOU      THANK YOU      THANK YOU**

This newsletter is being hand-delivered to your door-step courtesy of a neighborhood volunteers who is generously giving their time so that you will be informed of what's happening in our neighborhood.

**Thank You!**



## Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> – Neighborhood Clean-Up! 8am to 2 pm

The location again this year will be at the **Vancouver Heights United Methodist Church, 5701 MacArthur Blvd.** We will be joining Southcliff, Dubois, Evergreen Shores and Evergreen Highlands Neighborhoods.

**Waste Connections will collect bulky items, yard debris and scrap metal.**



We are looking for **volunteers** to help at the cleanup site but also to help neighbors who will need assistance (physically or in need of a pick-up.) either the day of, or day prior.

If you can volunteer, or have any questions contact us at [northcrestneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:northcrestneighborhood@gmail.com).

**Suggested hours for VOLUNTEERS are**

**7:45-10:00**

**10:00-12:00**

**12:00-2:00**

### Volunteers are needed for these tasks:

1. Meeting the neighbors at Devine as they pull up. Find out what they need to dump.
2. Direct cars to the site to dump - garbage, yard waste, or metal.  
(We sell the metal and the money goes into our neighborhood fund).
3. Help people unload. Help is particularly needed at the yard waste site.



### **ACCEPTED** at the cleanup:

- Bulky items: broken/worn out items too large to fit in your home garbage
- Scrap Metal (separate container; metal BBQ's, bicycles, lawn furniture, mowers, car parts/small engines; fluids drained, NON FREON metal appliances.
- Yard Debris (separate container) Branches, grass, leaves, vines, bramble, yard/garden trimmings. CHIPPER AVAILABLE 8 am- 12 pm

### **PREPARE YOUR LOAD TIP:**

- Categorize your load –Separate material for easy unloading into donation/garage sale area for items still usable, bulky items truck, yard debris truck, metals recycling box
- Cover your load
- Come prepared to unload what you bring to the cleanup (leather gloves/tools to unload)

### **Items are NOT ACCEPTED:**

- NO Household trash or contractor waste
- NO large or heavy quantities of CONCRETE, CEMENT, ROCKS, SOD, DIRT
- NO home project/remodel debris (i.e. sheet rock, paint, fencing etc.)
- NO Roofing shingles
- NO Hazardous chemicals (paints, stains, automotive fluids)
- NO T.V.'s, computers/electronics
- NO extremely large items (boats, hot tubs etc. Take these to the transfer station)

### Accepted for CHIPPER

- Branches
- Twigs
- Tree Pruning up to 4" in diameter
- Tree limbs up to 4: in diameter
- No limit on lengths

### NOT Accepted for Chipper

- Leaves or grass clippings
- Pine needles, rocks, dirt, large stumps



The Site will close at 2 pm – meaning ALL items must be disposed of by this time.

If you show up at 2pm with a load – you're out of luck!

DONATIONS TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED



Vancouver Heights United Methodist Church, 5701 MacArthur Blvd.

[Northcrest Neighborhood Association](#)

Chair - **Glenn Miller**  
Vice Chair - **Joanita Munoz**  
Secretary - **Sue Pupo**  
Treasurer - **Nicoletta Natta-Graf**  
[northcrestneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:northcrestneighborhood@gmail.com)

Office of Neighborhoods - **Koko Olszewski** [neighborhoods@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:neighborhoods@cityofvancouver.us)  
Neighborhood Police Officer – **Jeremy Vanroyce** 360-487-7448 [jeremy.vanroyce@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:jeremy.vanroyce@cityofvancouver.us)  
City Liaison – **Nathan Leek**, Deputy Fire Chief 360- 487-7204 [nathan.leek@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:nathan.leek@cityofvancouver.us)

**Code Compliance 360-487-7810**  
If you have an EMERGENCY, call 9-1-1, non-emergency call 3-1-1

If you need help and are not sure where to start call 211 or go to [www.211.org](http://www.211.org)

**City of Vancouver Disclaimer:** 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.  
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