



Homelessness: City, partners work to improve livability for all

As the weather warms, the impacts of unsheltered homelessness become more visible.

The City's Homeless Assistance and Resources Team (HART) serves as the key point of contact for responding to community questions and concerns related to homelessness. In addition to providing outreach, assessments and referrals to unhoused neighbors five days a week, you'll see HART completing regular encampment clean ups in areas



The Homeless Assistance and Resource Team (HART) conducts an encampment cleanup

where sanitation issues pose public health risks.

Individuals who commit livability offenses may be cited by Vancouver Police into Community Court. This program provides an alternative to jail time and a criminal record in exchange for completing community service and enrolling in treatment, mental health or other needed services. Community Court participants can now choose to work alongside members of the City's HART team cleaning existing or abandoned camps to complete service hours. Look for them out in high visibility "Community Court" vests this summer. To build on this program's success, the City has identified a new court location and will expand court hours from a half to a full day a week later this year.

This spring, HART welcomed back Tyler Chavers, the City's former HART Police Officer who retired earlier this year, in a new coordinator role to track and assign all calls and requests related



Community garden at The Outpost, Vancouver's first Safe Stay community.

to homelessness reported by our community. To report a concern to HART visit cityofvancouver.us/hart.

New partnerships

Community partnerships are vital to the success of our Safe Stay/Safe Park Communities. The volunteer-run Southwest Washington Victory Food Project recently helped establish a new community garden for residents of The Outpost (Safe Stay 1) in east Vancouver.

"Our goal with this program is education, therapy and empowerment through gardening and cooking, teaching essential life skills and promoting a reconnection with our place in nature,"

said Karissa Halstrom, SWWA Victory Food Project volunteer.

This summer, Victory will help build a second garden at 415 West (Safe Stay 3) downtown with funding awarded by the City's Community and Neighborhood Grant. These and others' efforts are adding to the success of these communities, building skills and planting seeds of hope for residents on their path to home.

Learn how you can help

Scan the QR code to learn how to support a Safe Stay Community or Safe Park this summer.



Bridging the gap



While Safe Stays and Safe Park are working—graduating 108 people into stable housing last year and doubling capacity with the opening of two new Safe Stays in late 2023—why then are we still seeing people on the streets? The simple answer is there are not enough beds to support the more than 500 Vancouverites who remain unhoused. Without shelter, people have no place to go and, for the many who are experiencing addiction, the consequences can be deadly.

To bridge this gap, we continue to lay the groundwork for a future bridge shelter. A bridge shelter would provide up to 150 beds and 24/7 on-site support, including services for those needing mental health support and/or addiction treatment.

"When a person is struggling with addiction, there are small windows of opportunity and clarity," said Lon Klugman, homeless outreach specialist who brings six years of lived experience to his role

at the City. "These are moments of willingness to get help that can be seized upon when a person is in shelter and not alone on the streets."

Follow our progress and learn more about our response to homelessness by visiting cityofvancouver.us/homelessness or scanning the QR code.




The City of Vancouver newsletter is published quarterly for residents and those who receive services from the City.

Questions, comments and suggestions can be sent to Laura Shepard at laura.shepard@cityofvancouver.us.

The information is current as of the publication date. Visit cityofvancouver.us to verify meeting dates and status of events.

Scan the QR code for translations in Español, Русский, Tiếng Việt and 中国人.



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City of Vancouver Washington

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Vancouver, WA 98660-1995

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City Council allocates funding for new Council for the Homeless Service Center

As part of the City’s work to support programs that help community members with low incomes, the City administers funding in the form of federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) from Housing and Urban Development.

In April, City Council approved \$300,000 in CDBG funds to help Council for the Homeless acquire a new building at 7723 N.E. Fourth Plain Blvd. The Firstenburg Foundation and Clark County also contributed funding.

This building will help Council for the Homeless meet the growing need for their services by consolidating staff and services under one roof. The new building is expected to open by the end of the year and is anticipated to provide 2,500 community members with services to access and maintain stable housing.



Future site of the Homeless Service Center at 7723 N.E. Fourth Plain Blvd.

New committee to help guide policing in Vancouver

In February, the City formed a new Police Community Advisory Committee to advise City Manager Eric Holmes on issues relating to police services. The committee includes 12 community members and three members of the City Council: Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor Pro Tem Erik Paulsen and Councilor Sarah Fox.



The City’s newly appointed Police Community Advisory Committee convened for its first meeting in April.



Over four meetings this spring, the committee has discussed gaps in police services, staffing needs and data that helps guide department decision-making. Committee members have also identified priorities, outcomes and impacts they would like to see in the future.

During upcoming meetings, the committee will develop funding recommendations, which the City Manager will present to the City Council in June.

Learn more about the group’s work at cityofvancouver.us/policeadvisory.

Watch Vancouver Police monthly updates

Earlier this year, the Vancouver Police Department introduced a new monthly video feature. These short videos are a great way to see what’s going on at VPD, meet our people and get updates on department initiatives, events, awareness months and learn more about the various units within the police department and the types of programs they manage. All monthly updates can be found on the VPD website, so you can catch up on any that you may have missed. You can also find them on all VPD social media channels so be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@vancouverpoliceusa), Twitter (@vancouverpdusa) or Nextdoor.

A graphic for the Vancouver Police Department's monthly video updates. It features a laptop displaying the 'Monthly Video Update' logo, a QR code, and text encouraging users to scan the QR code to view updates.

Scan the QR code to view Vancouver Police monthly update videos.

Latest testing results for PFAS

We are monitoring, researching and planning how to resolve the challenge of PFAS in our water supply. Recent testing for PFAS showed that four of the City’s nine wellfields, Water Stations 4, 8, 14, and 15 had samples that exceeded the State Action Level for PFAS contaminants. Scan the QR code or visit cityofvancouver.us/pfas to learn more about PFAS and view all sampling results.



Hydrate for happy trees

Our trees need plenty of water during the summer to stay healthy. Newly planted trees require 10 to 15 gallons of water every week in dry months. During extended heat, deeply water mature trees once a month. Water your established trees with 10 gallons per one inch of trunk diameter. Use bark mulch around tree bases to hold in moisture.

Help your tree thrive, find more tree care information at cityofvancouver.us/treecare.

An infographic titled 'Tree watering methods:' with three items: 'Watering bag' (10-15 gallons), 'Five-gallon bucket' (drill three holes), and 'Garden hose' (15-20 minutes). It includes icons for each method and a background image of a tree trunk.

Tree watering methods:

- Watering bag:** Fill with 10 to 15 gallons of water.
- Five-gallon bucket:** Drill three holes into the bottom and fill with water. Repeat two to three times, adjusting positions each time.
- Garden hose:** Water slowly for 15 to 20 minutes, changing locations to saturate the ground.

Gearing up for busy season of paving and preserving streets

Warm and dry summer months bring the right conditions to focus on pavement work and street maintenance. Over the summer, we have several projects planned to extend the life of our streets.

Drive and 192nd Avenue. Residential streets within several east Vancouver neighborhoods will receive slurry seal maintenance treatments. In addition to paving and preservation, some of those pesky potholes we couldn’t address in the colder months will be repaired this summer.

You can expect delays and street closures in these work areas. Please follow any posted signage, watch for flaggers and slow down in work zones. Learn more at cityofvancouver.us/pavement.

We’ll pave about 13 lane miles on Fourth Plain Boulevard and Northeast Ninth Street. Almost 74 miles of streets in east Vancouver will see pavement preservation treatments. Microsurfacing is planned for segments along Southeast Mill Plain Boulevard, 164th Avenue, 34th Street, Cascade Park



Go green with Vancouver’s yard waste solutions

Manage excess yard debris and avoid tossing organic material into a landfill. Use our free cleanup coupons and learn sustainable practices.

Spring Cleanup Coupons: Through June 30, Vancouver residents can dispose of leaves, grass, pruning debris and old tires, cityofvancouver.us/springcleanupcoupons

Backyard Composting: Discover at-home composting, clarkcountycomposts.org

Organics 101: Explore optional curbside service with free classes, cityofvancouver.us/recycleu



Seize the Summer

Enjoy arts, culture and the Vancouver community without breaking the bank. We have an exciting lineup of free, family-friendly summer concerts, movies and more.

Seize the summer and save with City special events. Visit cityofvancouver.us/events to plan your perfect summer in the Couve.



Dive into a world of electrifying creativity at the **Vancouver Arts & Music Festival, Aug. 2 – 4**. Free and open to all ages, this spectacular event is set to transform Esther Short Park and downtown Vancouver into a stage for artistic brilliance.



Columbia Tech Center Sunday Sounds Concerts
presented by Riverview Bank
Sundays, 6 to 8 p.m.
July 7 to Aug. 18
Columbia Tech Center Park



Vancouver Waterfront Concerts
presented by Pepsico Ridgefield and Clark Public Utilities
Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
July 11 to Aug. 15
Vancouver Waterfront Park



Friday Night Movies
presented by HAPO Community Credit Union
Activities at 7 p.m., Movie at dusk
Fridays, July 12 to Aug. 23
Rotating parks around Vancouver



Vancouver Arts & Music Festival
presented by the City and Vancouver Symphony Orchestra USA
Aug. 2 – 4
Esther Short Park and downtown




A recent Feeding America study found that more than 13,000 children in Clark County experience food insecurity. These kids receive free meals at school, but what happens over summer break?

Vancouver's Summer Playgrounds Program, in partnership with the McClaskey Family Foundation, provides lunch and day camp activities for kids in the Crestline, Harney, Hough, King and Roosevelt school boundaries.

- Supervised creative play for ages 6 – 11 Monday – Friday
- Lunch provided by Share Vancouver and the USDA
- Funded through generous sponsors and grants

Summer Playgrounds is free for those who qualify. Space is limited, advanced registration is required. Learn more at cityofvancouver.us/camps.



Youth Summer Pass

Have more fun with the Youth Summer Pass. Open to ages 18 and under, this all-access pass lets you enjoy pools, gyms and more at both Firstenburg and Marshall community centers for one low price (\$40 Vancouver resident). Passes go on sale June 17, valid July 1 – Aug. 31. Visit cityofvancouver.us/summerpass.

Stay cool in the Couve

Make a splash

Visit the Columbia River Water Feature at 965 Waterfront Way, which is open from 8 a.m. through dusk until Labor Day. Learn more at cityofvancouver.us/waterfeatures.

Marshall or Firstenburg Community Pools

Dive into fun at Marshall (at 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd.) or Firstenburg (at 700 NE 136th Ave.) community center pools at weekly public swim sessions. Swims are free for center pass holders or \$3 to \$9 for public drop-ins. Firstenburg offers inner tubes, a lazy river, spa, lap pool and an epic water slide. Marshall offers a nine-foot drop slide, a ramp/lift for those with accessibility needs and a 25-yard lap pool. Find schedules at cityofvancouver.us/pools.




Heights Bike Garden Grand Opening, June 8



A safe space for new bikers

Join us 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 8 for the opening of Vancouver's first bike garden at **5411 E. Mill Plain Blvd.** Bike gardens provide a fun, hands-on way for young riders to develop skills and learn about road/traffic safety. This temporary bike garden brings new purpose to the old Tower Mall property located in the heart of the future Heights District redevelopment. Learn more at beheardvancouver.org/heights-district-plan.

INSIDE CITY HALL



City Council


Mayor & Council Office 360-487-8629

Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor
Sarah J. Fox | Bart Hansen | Kim D. Harless
Erik Paulsen, Mayor Pro Tem | Diana H. Perez | Ty Stober

Call the City

Abandoned Vehicles	3-1-1
Building and Permits	360-487-7800
Business License	360-487-8410, opt 3
Community Liaison	360-487-8604
City Manager's Office	360-487-8600
Code Compliance	360-487-7810
Garbage/Recycling	360-487-7160
Homeless Assistance and Resources Team	360-487-8626
Operations Center (streetlights, potholes)	360-487-8177
Parking Services	360-487-8650
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services	360-487-8311
Public Works	360-487-8177
Utility Customer Service	360-487-7999
Vancouver Fire Department	360-487-7212
Vancouver Police Department	360-487-7400

City of Vancouver
Vancouver City Hall
415 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660



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The Salmon Run Bell Tower standing tall in downtown Vancouver's Propstra Square.

Repairing a community icon

For 22 years, Vancouver's most recognized landmark has stood watch in Esther Short Park. Frequently called the "bell tower" this piece of public art is named the Salmon Run Bell Tower and Glockenspiel. This summer, this beloved icon is being repaired and restored.

Tower history

As part of the revitalization of Esther Short Park in the 90s, the tower and square were proposed and made possible by a donation from the George and Carolyn Propstra Fund.

The intention was to create a community space that would connect the park to the river and honor the first peoples in the region. The 69-foot tower and art installation include a clock, a 35-bell glockenspiel, and a rotating sculpture with an audio accompaniment called Spiraling Salmon.

Why now?

Over the years, normal wear from the elements, along with the complexity of the interaction of chlorinated water and building materials, has made maintenance hard for the intricate glockenspiel and art piece. To honor the original gift and preserve it for future generations, funds were allocated in the City's 2023 – 24 budget to make necessary repairs and replace building components that are at the end of their life span.

Summer is the ideal time to do this complex project and the work is expected to start in July. We are working to minimize the impact and the majority of the park will continue to be open for events and play.

Keep watch

To follow this project visit cityofvancouver.us/belltower.

Original rendering of the Salmon Run Bell Tower and Glockenspiel before it was built.

Calendar of events

View more information and other events at cityofvancouver.us/calendar

June

3

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

8

Heights Bike Garden Grand Opening
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Tower Mall, 5411 Mill Plain Blvd.

10

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

15

Juneteenth Freedom Celebration with Odyssey World International
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Esther Short Park, 605 Esther St.

17

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

22

Family Play Day with Columbia Play Project
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Vancouver Waterfront Park
695 Waterfront Way

24

City Council Community Forum
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Firstenburg Community Center
700 NE 136th Ave., Vancouver

25

Twilight Tuesday
7:30 – 9 p.m.; *Registration required*
Water Resources Education Center
4600 S.E. Columbia Way

29

Wintler Park Cleanup & Ivy Pull
9 – 11 a.m.; *Registration required*
Wintler Community Park
6400 S.E. Beach Dr.

July

1

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

7

Sunday Sounds Concert
6 – 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd.

8

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

11

Waterfront Park Concert
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Waterfront Park
695 Waterfront Way

12

Friday Night Movie
Pre-Show 7 p.m.; Movie at 9 p.m.
Bagley Community Park
4607 Plomondon St.

14

Sunday Sounds Concert
6 – 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd.

18

Waterfront Park Concert
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Waterfront Park
695 Waterfront Way

19

Friday Night Movie
Pre-Show 7 p.m.; Movie at 9 p.m.
Nikkei Park, 5009 N.E. 135th Ave.

21

Sunday Sounds Concert
6 – 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd.

25

Waterfront Park Concert
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Waterfront Park
695 Waterfront Way

26

Friday Night Movie
Pre-Show 7 p.m.; Movie at 9 p.m.
Marshall Park, 1015 E. McLoughlin Blvd.

28

Sunday Sounds Concert
6 – 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd.

August

1

Waterfront Park Concert
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Waterfront Park
695 Waterfront Way

2

Friday Night Movie at the Vancouver Arts & Music Festival
Pre-Show 7 p.m.; Movie at 9 p.m.
Esther Short Park, 605 Esther St.

4

Sunday Sounds Concert
6 – 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd.

8

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

Waterfront Park Concert
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Waterfront Park
695 Waterfront Way

9

Friday Night Movie
Pre-Show 7 p.m.; Movie at 9 p.m.
Fruit Valley Neighborhood Park
3200 Fruit Valley Rd.

11

Sunday Sounds Concert
6 – 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

18

Sunday Sounds Concert
6 – 8 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center Park
17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

Find City services and more at cityofvancouver.us

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