

NEIGHBORLY NOTES

Newsletter of the Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association

Notes from the Chair

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There is so much going on in our neighborhood, the surrounding neighborhoods, and in our city and county! One of the benefits of attending our monthly Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association meeting is getting updates on many projects and programs that directly affect us. We do our best to book our speakers out a few months to give you notice of what our topic will be, but we also will frequently have guests we aren't able to confirm before our newsletter goes to print who bring interesting and important information to us at the meetings. If you want to get information straight from the source, and if you want to be able to ask questions of the City project managers and program directors, you want to be at our monthly meetings! We do our very best to give you a quick overview of presentations in the newsletter, but nothing beats being there to ask your questions and hear the full explanations. We are also happy to hear your suggestions for topics you'd like us to cover - feel free to contact Helen Ost if you have a speaker suggestion as she's spearheading our bookings. We appreciate those neighbors who faithfully attend our meetings and events, but we'd love to see even more of you! I love that we have an active neighborhood association, I think it's one of the things that makes this such a good place to live. Help us make sure we stay a fantastic neighborhood by being active in our meetings and activities. Hope to see you around the neighborhood - or at a meeting soon, and mark your calendar for our Annual Picnic on Saturday, July 27th.

Miki Landis

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May Meeting

May 23 @ 7:00 PM
Immanuel Lutheran Church

June Meeting

June 27 @ 7:00 PM
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Interstate Bridge Replacement Program

At the April 25th VHNA meeting, Bryan Stebbins and Matt Deml from the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program discussed key points regarding the project to replace the I5 bridge.

They began by explaining the significance of NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, which mandates federal agencies to disclose the environmental impacts of proposed actions before making decisions. The speakers emphasized the importance of environmental considerations in the decision-making process.

The purpose and need for the project were outlined, focusing on several key objectives:

- improving safety
- addressing impaired freight movement,
- providing congestion relief and
- enhancing earthquake resistance.

Regarding the design of the bridge, three plans were shared that included three southbound and three northbound lanes, potentially with one or two auxiliary lanes for offramps and onramps. The presentation also highlighted the deliberation between a double-deck or side-by-side configuration for the bridge.

In terms of financing, the base estimate for the project ranges from \$5 billion to \$7.5 billion. Funding sources were outlined as follows:

- \$2.5 billion from Federal Grant Funding
- \$1.2 billion from Toll Funding
- \$1.1 billion contributed by the Oregon State Government
- \$1.1 billion contributed by the Washington State Government

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Neighborhood Crime Report

During the April 25th VHNA meeting, Neighborhood Police Officer Nicole Vigil provided an overview of recent crime statistics and initiatives in the area. She began by highlighting a positive trend, stating that overall crime had decreased by 20% compared to the previous year.

Officer Vigil pointed out that McLaughlin Middle School is where the most assaults are being reported. She then gave a breakdown of offenses for each month in early 2024:

January: 24 offenses, with the highest number being assaults, totaling 5 incidents.

February: 30 total offenses, with assaults remaining the highest at 7 incidents.

March: 26 total offenses, with 6 incidents of assault (again the highest.)

Officer Vigil also addressed a trend involving the theft of Kia vehicles by a group known as the Kia Boys. To combat this issue, the precinct is offering free wheel locks for Kia owners.

Officer Vigil then shared data for District 3. Van Plaza had the highest number of incidents in the first quarter of the year, with 79 reported offenses. Winco followed with 62, WalMart with 31, Peace Health Hospital, and McLaughlin Middle School with 12 incidents.

Finally, Officer Vigil described ongoing efforts to establish a Regional Academy. The first graduating class is scheduled for May 21st, consisting of 6 graduates. She also encouraged residents to utilize the "My City of Vancouver" app, which allows users to easily report incidents by taking pictures and providing details through the app interface.

Events

Event Title	Date	Location
VHNA Meeting: Speaker: Colleen Smith Library Engagement Manager	Thursday, May 23 @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church
VHNA Meeting: Amy Stewart Neighborhood Redevelopment Updates	Thursday, June 27th @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church
Annual Neighborhood BBQ and Picnic (no meeting this month)	12 - 3pm Saturday, July 27th	Lieser Crest Park
Trash Bash	August 24th	GracePoint Church 7300 MacArthur Blvd
VHNA Meeting: Speaker to be announced	Thursday, August 22 @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church

Please join us for our next VHNA meeting!
Thursday, May 23 @ 7:00 PM

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Watch online w/ Zoom @ tinyurl.com/vhnameeting
Passcode: 654772
Or use the Zoom App w/ meeting ID 222 187 1792

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Keep up to date with neighborhood projects

beheardvancouver.org/heights-district-plan

Heights District Redevelopment

Amy Zoltie
Real Estate Project Manager
email: amy.zoltie@cityofvancouver.us

Patrick Quinton
Economic Development Director
patrick.quinton@cityofvancouver.us

Report potholes, graffiti, sign damage, and non-working streetlights



To report any of these issues inside Vancouver city limits, please email:
opsdispatch@cityofvancouver.us
Or use the City of Vancouver app on your smartphone or other mobile device.

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tinyurl.com/vhnanews



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 Neighborly Notes 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. Printed by the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods

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