

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

April 2025
Volume 35, Issue 2

2Q25 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to all who attended our General Meeting via zoom on April 3, 2025. Some highlights we discussed are as follows:



1) Dues are tracking well. For those of you who have not paid their dues we would encourage you to do so. Included in this newsletter you will find a dues form (*page 11*). Please take the time to fill it out. Your support is important to our community.

2) As a non-profit, FPNA is required to allocate funds that support the functions of the FPNA community and help us retain the non-profit status. We are looking for ideas where money can be allocated to benefit our community. One idea that has been brought

to us is to have a Holiday party for all to attend. I have asked for a budget review to determine what our funding support will be from the FPNA. At our next General meeting, we encourage you to attend so we can look at potential options. Please let me know if you have ideas for funding allocations.

3) CC&R committee is still forming. I will have an update on who will work with us on this committee and what we will be doing by next General Meeting.

4) The annual Appreciation Dinner for the many, many volunteers who keep our neighborhood ticking was attended by close to 60 people. We encourage you to join and be part of this community. You are all members of this community and it is a blessing to have your volunteer support.

5) Curb painting has really taken off. Over 50 homes have had their curb painted. You will see a related story in this newsletter (*page 2*) and I am hoping you see value in getting this done for safety reasons.

Again, please be part of the neighborhood association process. Your vote counts, your dues represent what we can do for this community, and your involvement is paramount to our neighborhood success.

Sincerely,

Dale Cisco, FPNA President

First Place

Neighborhood Association



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **2025 FPNA Annual Dues:**
Now! \$30 a year:
(yeah, just \$2.50 a month)
- See Page 11
- **Address Curb Painting:**
Ongoing Throughout
First Place - See Page 2
- **Men's Luncheon:**
April 18th at 11:30AM
at Kabob City Grill
- Please RSVP to
Wayne Sparks by 4/16
- **Ladies' Luncheon**
April 28th at 12:00 Noon
at The Old Spaghetti Factory
- Please RSVP to
Sue Taylor by 4/24
- **Men's Luncheon**
May 16th at 12:00 Noon
at Cascadia Academy
- Please RSVP to
Wayne Sparks by 5/13
- **FPNA Garage Sale**
July 11th-July 12th
- contact Lana Svitlana
- **FPNA Neighborhood Picnic in the Park:**
July 19th
- contact Doug Stalheim
- **18th Street Redesign and Widening:**
Meetings are on-going
- contact Grace Teigen

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Address Curb Painting

In our effort to improve public safety in our neighborhoods, the Safety Committee has been working behind the scenes to find a contractor to conduct curb address painting in front of the homes of every resident who would like this done. We have encountered some roadblocks from the city when we tried to hire a contractor to do the work on behalf of the FPNA, so we could not pursue this approach.

That being said, it is allowed for each individual homeowner to paint their address numbers directly in front of their own property so long as it meets the city code. The city requires black address numbers against a white background, in approximately three-inch high numbers. You can either do it yourself or we have a local neighbor handy man, Jacob Piel, who is available and willing to paint the address numbers on the curb should you wish to hire him. You would need to reach out to him in order to make the arrangements.

The cost is \$30 per address.

- Jacob's phone: (253) 335-8440
- Jakepiel500@gmail.com

Jacob's payment methods accepted:

- Cash \$30
- Venmo @JAKEPIEL7036

- *FPNA Safety Committee*



NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

An Annual First Place Event

The First Place Garage Sale will be held on July 11th AND July 12th (Friday and Saturday) this year. Each household manages their own garage sale and if you don't have enough items to have your own garage sale, consider having a joint sale with your neighbors. The traffic should be excellent, as our neighboring community, Countryside Woods, will also be holding their sale.

*** Please Note: The event will happen rain or shine and FPNA will handle all publicity and signage.

Sign up to be part of the sale now! Contact this year's chairperson - Lana Svitlana, or Grace Teigen.
(see your neighborhood directory for contact information)

18TH STREET WIDENING PROJECT – COALITION UPDATE

If you ever wonder what's happening on the 18th Street widening project, the most up to date information can be found at www.ne18thstreet.info.

We are in the process of making some website revisions and, if you are on the FPNA Communicate list, whenever we add information you will receive a notice that lets you know that it's time to check the website. Watch for a notice in your email soon.



Over the last several months, the Coalition has been meeting with all the prospective engineers who hope to be chosen to design the road. That the city is granting us this kind of access is extraordinary and speaks to their desire to work with us to build the best road possible. We are laying out our “wish list” (developed from the survey many of you completed several months ago). We are meeting with these candidates in the hope that the chosen one will be able to support our vision. The reception we've received is encouraging, but we are always mindful that it will all come down to budgets, including the manpower available to support our hopes. We are optimistic that though we may not get everything we ask

for, the city will try to give us as much as possible.

The design process will begin in early spring and will take two years. It may seem that nothing is happening, but your coalition will be meeting with the design team throughout that time. The goal is to not only attempt to influence the outcome, but to educate ourselves and you as to what options there may be and what we can expect. There will be a Public Input process and we hope to provide you with information that will be helpful. If you have questions, we will be active and available during that time.

The Hedgerow

In order to create a robust privacy, noise, and environmental-damage screen for folks who live on 16th Street, we worked with the Stonebriar neighborhood to the east of First Place and jointly applied for and received a \$5000 grant from Watershed Alliance to cover much of the cost. Five First Place and eight Stonebriar homes took advantage of the opportunity, leaving us enough funds to plant an additional 300 feet of shrubbery behind First Place Park at the west end adjacent to the picnic/play area. We received an additional grant to install an irrigation system in this section and the city agreed to provide any needed water at no cost. Utilizing funds provided by the grants and leaning heavily on generous volunteer labor, we were able to successfully plant 672 native bushes and shrubs. A special thanks to Dan Gibson who spent many hours on a bobcat to assist in the spreading of dozens of truckloads of bark chips, and additional hours with Ken Kreitz planning and laying out an irrigation system. We also owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Russ Scofield, Chair of the Burton Evergreen Neighborhood Association who personally predrilled 672 holes with a post hole digger and then led dozens of scouts to assist in the final planting. Mike Leland and Amber Schroeder, Stonebriar neighbors, helped gather and inform participating neighbors and Carol Warrens of First Place and Valerie Wright of Stonebriar helped to distribute plants to participants.

Working on this project, I am constantly aware that we are so fortunate to live in this vibrant, active, supportive neighborhood. The volunteer hours that so many neighbors spend is extraordinary. For me, being even a small part of it is very rewarding and as we begin another year, I want to thank the FPNA Board and so many neighbors for the work they do on our neighborhood's behalf.

- Grace Teigen, NE 18th Street Coalition Liaison

Note: This article first appeared in the 1Q25 FPNA Newsletter and is being reprinted - Ed

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL

We are looking for neighbors to host a Neighborhood Social. It's fun and easy to do. No need to do anything fancy. Everyone brings an appetizer and beverage of his or her choice. You need only provide glasses and napkins. If you need extra wine glasses, give me a call.

Simply email an invitation to Patti Hines, our Communications Director, and she will forward your invitation to those who have signed up for the Neighborhood Social.

Please call if you have any questions, and let me know which month you would like to host.

- Sharon Bevan, Neighborhood Social Chair



NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

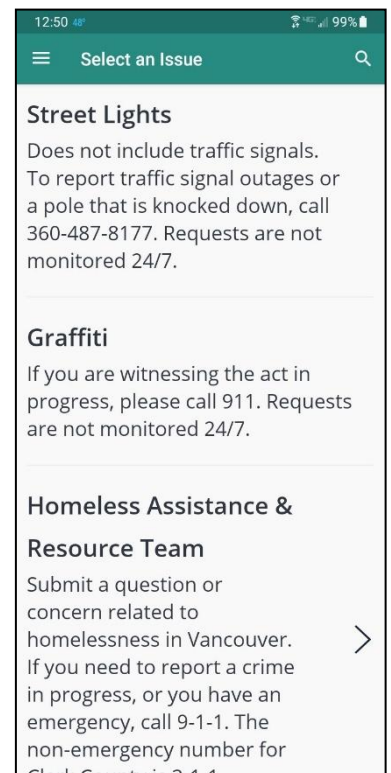
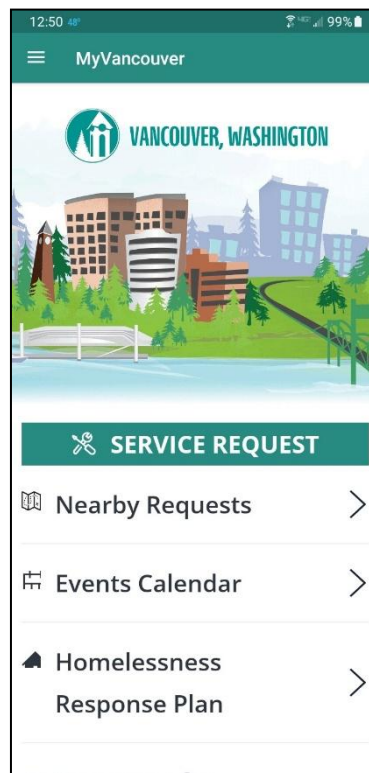
Broken Street Lights? Graffiti? Pot Holes? We Have an App for That

MyVancouver Website and App:

The City of Vancouver provides a location to report graffiti, street light problems, potholes, sign damage, and a variety of other issues. Several FPNA neighbors use this service and the city's response and remediation is quite fast. You can also check on reports already submitted. It's easy to use on your computer, mobile device, or tablet.



MyVancouver | City of Vancouver, Washington, USA



DID YOU NOTICE?

First Place has planted *hundreds* of new bushes and trees in the green belt between 18th Street and our neighborhood. This is all part of an effort to create a green barrier between our neighborhood and the upcoming 18th Street expansion. And even though the expansion is estimated to be 4-5 years away, planting early is smart.



Now that Spring is upon us, watering these newly planted trees and shrubs is essential to their success. I will be coordinating the watering efforts and anyone interested should contact me to choose some times for the weekly watering schedule.

- Dan Gibson, FPNA Neighborhood Landscape Advisory Team

FPNA NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC IN THE PARK

Saturday, July 19th – Noon till 3PM

**FPNA Invites ALL First Place Neighbors to, “A Magical Afternoon in the Park.”
Our 2025 Summer Family Picnic.**

Your 2025 FPNA Summer Picnic committee has been working hard to create a unique fun-filled afternoon of magic for your summertime enjoyment!

Come join your First Place neighbors on Saturday July 19th at the First Place Park!

The neighborhood association will provide:

- A picnic lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, treats, and SNO CONES!
- Tables (no need to haul your own)
- Two giant 20'x40' canopies (so you don't have to schlep around your own EZ-up). That's almost 20 gazillion square feet of under-canopy space!
- Entertainment:
 - Roving Magician – The Masters of Marvels – Tim Alexander (gives me goosebumps!)
www.parlorofwonders.com.
 - For the kids or young at heart:
 - Scavenger Hunt
 - Eggs Spoon Race
 - Hula Hoop Contest
 - Corn Hole
 - Yard Games
- A \$1-per-ticket raffle drawings for:
 - Spa Package
 - Gardening
 - Movie Night
 - Kids Activities
 - The Wine Connoisseur
 - A Mystical Magic package



You might be asking, “What do I need to bring?” Just bring yourself and something to sit on. Oh, and bring your neighbor. Easy, right?

Brought to you by the FPNA Summer Picnic Committee: Doug Stalheim, Lorene Stalheim, Joan Lamy, Kennan Kuffel, Marian McKone, Linda Goetz, Steve George, Dan Gibson, and Dana McKenzie!

MONTHLY MEN'S LUNCHEON

Two Upcoming Events: April 18th and May 16th

The April Men's Lunch will be held on Good Friday, April 18th at 11:30 am at the Kabob City Grill, located at 316 SE 123rd Avenue, Suite D 1-2. The website for the Kabob City Grill is: www.kabobcitygrill.com. We dined at this recently-opened restaurant, specializing in Mediterranean Cuisine, in January of this year, and we are returning by popular demand.



And then in May, the Men's Luncheon will return to the Cascadia Technical School dining room on May 16th, 2025 at 12:00 noon.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Wednesday, April 15th to Wayne Sparks. (see your neighborhood directory.) Wayne needs a final count of attendees for the restaurant by then.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

City of Vancouver's Property Maintenance Ordinance

Why did the City of Vancouver pass the Property Maintenance Ordinance?

To improve the public health, safety and welfare of Vancouver residents and improve the livability of our neighborhoods.

VMC 17.14.270 (a) addresses weeds, grass and vegetation overgrowth.

Premises shall be maintained free from uncontrolled or uncultivated noxious weeds, brush, berry vines, poison oak/ivy and grasses or plant growth in excess of 12 inches from ground level, including the area between the sidewalk and the curb.

**For information regarding noxious weeds, see the following website: www.nwcb.wa.gov



Yard Debris is defined as a "recyclable material"



Yard Debris is considered solid waste. Accumulation and/or unlawful disposal of yard debris is a violation of the Vancouver Municipal Code and may result in a Notice of Civil Violation and Order which carries penalties of \$250 per day per violation.

VMC 17.14.270 (e) addresses composting.

Visit www.cityofvancouver.us/vmc to view the full code section regarding composting.

What Happens When a Complaint is Received?

Typically, a City inspector will visit the property to verify the complaint. If violations are confirmed, typically the City will then send a letter to the property owner or resident describing the complaint and requesting corrective action be taken.

Recipients of a code violation letter will:

- have an opportunity to discuss the situation with City staff, and
- will be given a specific and reasonable amount of time to correct the violation.

If no corrective action is taken, the City may issue a **Notice of Civil Violation and Order** to the property owner and/or resident. This may result in monetary fines and may be appealed to a City-appointed Hearings Examiner.

If the violation is not corrected within the time allowed, the City may charge the violator with a misdemeanor in District Court, and seek penalties and remedies upon conviction.

How to File a Complaint

Fill out an online complaint form: www.cityofvancouver.us/codeenforcement

Call the Code Compliance Hotline: (360) 487-7810

FPNA COMMUNICATION



Find Us On Facebook!

166 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

For submissions and questions

NextDoor App

Information shared by neighbor members

Facebook Website

Information shared by neighbor members



From the Editor: 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.



FPNA Executive Board: 2025

Chair – Dale Cisco

Vice Chair – Steve Zapp

Treasurer – Evan Meessen

Secretary – Bonnie Mallory

Neighborhood Committees:

Annual Picnic – Doug Stalheim, Lorene Stalheim, Kennan Kuffel, Joan Lamy, Marian McKone, Linda Goetz, Steve George, Dan Gibson, Dana McKenzie

Annual Spring Cleanup – Tom Harriman

Communications Coordinator – Patti Hines

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 – Lana Svitlana ← NEW

Holiday Ladies' Luncheon – Open

Ladies' Luncheon – Candace Africa

Landscape Advisory (including 18th St entrance circle) – Steve Zapp, Dan Gibson

Men's Luncheon – Wayne Sparks

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

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

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

Neighborhood Socials – 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

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

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – Kandi Cisco

Walk & Knock – Patti Hines

Women's Happy Hour – Open (contact Patti Hines if you'd like to host)



What do committee volunteers and board members do?

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 Chair- person 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 streetlights are out and has managed the curb address painting. Additionally, 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 Communications Coordinator maintains the master list of residents and sends out announcements of neighborhood activities

First Place Neighborhood Ambassadors - The Ambassadors welcome new neighbors and deliver welcome baskets

Picnic Committee - organizes our Annual Neighborhood Picnic in First Place Park

Scholarship Committee - gathers funds and chooses worthy recipient(s) from local schools

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 then sends the newsletter to the FPNA Chairperson for review and approval. Works with the City of Vancouver and the Office of Neighborhoods to promote the quality livability of the First Place Neighborhood

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](mailto:FPNAcommunicate@gmail.com)

(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).