

NEIGHBORLY NOTES

Newsletter of the Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association

From Tree Canopies to City Planning: What You Missed in May

May Neighborhood Association Meeting Summary

Upcoming Neighborhood Events:

- **Summer Potluck:**
 - July 26 | Lieser Crest Park
 - A fun neighborhood gathering! 12 PM - 3 PM. Bring a dish to share. Hot dogs and burgers provided!
- **Annual Trash Bash:**
 - September 6 | 8 AM-Noon | Grace Point Christian Church
 - A great opportunity for neighborhood cleanup
- **Emergency Preparedness Fair:**
 - (In the works!) Stay tuned for a possible collaboration to help neighbors prepare for emergencies.

Featured Speaker: Jessica George, Urban Forestry Program

Jessica George from the City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry team delivered an informative and inspiring presentation on the importance of our city's tree canopy. She covered:

- Benefits of Urban Trees: Improved air and water quality, stormwater control, increased property values, and even better mental health.

Continued on the following page...

This Issue:

May Meeting Notes
PAGE 1

Meeting notes continued
PAGE 2

Emergency Preparedness
Fair
PAGE 3

Events and Upcoming
Speakers
PAGE 4

June Meeting
June 19 @ 7:00 PM
Immanuel Lutheran Church

No July Meeting
Come to the potluck!

May Meeting Notes continued

- Vancouver's Tree Canopy Goals: Our current coverage is 21%—the goal is to reach 30% by 2045.
- **Programs Available:**
 - **Street Tree Permits** – required for planting, major pruning, or removal.
 - **Friends of Trees** – affordable tree planting opportunities in January.
 - **TreeFund** – rebates of up to \$100 for planting an approved tree.
 - **Witness Tree Program** – plant a tree in honor of a loved one.
 - **Neighborhood Tree Stewards** – volunteer and training opportunities for tree-loving residents.

Jessica also spoke about emerging threats like the emerald ash borer and the importance of tree stewardship in growing neighborhoods like ours. Residents were encouraged to reach out for site-specific advice or to explore tree-related workshops happening this summer.

Special Guest: Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle

We were honored to welcome Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, who shared updates on several city initiatives, including:

- **City Council Districting Proposal:** A potential shift to four council districts with two at-large members and an at-large mayor. Residents may vote on this change in November.
- **Public Works Relocation & Redevelopment:** The Fourth Plain site will transform into affordable, mixed-use housing once public works relocates.
- **Environmental Initiatives:** Updates on PFAS water treatment, ongoing efforts to maintain housing affordability, and economic revitalization along Fourth Plain.
- **Urban Growth & Annexation:** Planning is underway for expansion and ensuring new developments meet city standards.
- **Downtown Development:** Construction on Main Street is phased to support local businesses.

Emergency Preparedness Fair

Do you know the signs of heat stroke and how to help someone who is experiencing it?

Do you know what to do to protect yourself from the effects of wildfire smoke or what to do if you're in the path of a wildfire and have to evacuate?

What would you do if we had an earthquake and gale force winds, followed by rain and flooding?

If you've been in the Pacific Northwest for a few years, you know that we're now experiencing weather events that usually occurred infrequently or in other parts of the country. Recent budget cuts to various federal agencies will significantly reduce their ability to provide timely assistance during crises and disasters. It's even more important now than in earlier years that we know what to do and what resources are available.

Immanuel's Outreach Team, in collaboration with BSLC, VHNA, CRESA, Public Health, Outsiders Inn, and other agencies, is hosting an Emergency Preparedness Fair at Immanuel in late August.

We're hoping for a good turn-out from the neighborhood as well as from among our congregation.

Sign up sheets will be available in July for people who would like to volunteer to help with set-up, various event activities, and, of course, clean-up.

If this sounds interesting or you would like to help with planning, see Shiela at Immanuel, or email: shielao.574@gmail.com

Neighborhood Improvement: 2 ideas

Report crime promptly.

Neighbors sometimes don't report criminal activity because they don't want to bother the police. They assume police are too short-staffed to respond, or they believe that there isn't much an officer can (or will) do about a given problem anyway.

Whether the issue is graffiti, petty vandalism or something much more serious, police cannot act without first hearing about the problem from you. Calling won't guarantee that police can fix the problem, but failing to call can guarantee that they won't. Also, don't assume someone else has called. Make the call yourself.

Report nuisances and other non-criminal problems promptly.

Examples: Junked cars on front lawns, abandoned autos in the streets, old mattresses left to rot in a backyard, garbage dumped illegally in a vacant lot. When you find yourself thinking, "someone ought to do something," do something. Call code enforcement, non-emergency numbers, landlords, residents, local business owners, or any other person or agency that may have influence on the issue.

Events and Upcoming Speakers

Event Title	Date	Location
VHNA Meeting: Speaker - Alsaya Corbray from Related NW will share information on the Tower Mall Redevelopment Project	Thursday, June 19 @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church
Neighborhood Potluck	Saturday, July 26 12 - 3pm No meeting this month, join us for the potluck.	Lieser Crest Park
Emergency Preparedness Fair	To be announced	Immanuel Lutheran Church
VHNA Meeting: Speaker - Julie Rawls from Port of Vancouver	Thursday, August 28 @ 7:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church
Annual Trash Bash	Saturday, September 6 from 8:00 AM to noon	Grace Point Christian Church

Thursday, June 19 @ 7:00 PM

Share feedback, ask questions, and participate virtually using the link below

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Watch online w/ Zoom @ tinyurl.com/vhnameeting

Passcode: 654772

Or use the Zoom App w/ meeting ID 222 187 1792

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