



Fircrest Neighborhood Association

## Fircrest Neighborhood Newsletter

Join us at  
<https://nextdoor.com> for more information.

July 2025

Get current neighborhood news  
and the newsletter delivered to  
your inbox. Send an email to  
[fircrestna@gmail.com](mailto:fircrestna@gmail.com) to be  
added to our contact list!

### **Annual Eastside Community Picnic and National Night Out** **Tuesday, August 5, 2025 5pm to 8pm**

Come on out to LeRoy Haagen  
Memorial Community Park for  
our Annual Eastside Community  
Picnic and National Night Out.

There will be food\*, music, games,  
bounce house\*\*, obstacle course\*\*,  
and lots of booths/vendors!



\* Some food is for purchase.

\*\*Each turn on the bounce house or obstacle course costs 25 cents, OR you can purchase a  
\$5 wristband for unlimited turns!

**Questions? Call/text Margaret at 360-836-6736, email [fircrestna@gmail.com](mailto:fircrestna@gmail.com),  
or go to [www.facebook.com/eastsidepicnic](https://www.facebook.com/eastsidepicnic)**

---

### **Have You Seen our New eNewsletter?**

Have you ever been surprised by something happening in the neighborhood (e.g., road work,  
new apartment complex) and wondered how you could have known about it ahead of time?  
Thanks to the volunteering efforts of Martha B and a grant from the City of Vancouver, we now  
have a new and engaging way to get information to you more often through your email.  
Email us at [fircrestna@gmail.com](mailto:fircrestna@gmail.com) to sign up!

#### **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. Printed by the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods.

## **Summer Meals and More!**



Evergreen Public Schools will again be able to offer children free meals during the summer. Children ages 1 to 18, regardless of whether they attend school in the district, are eligible to receive one breakfast and one lunch per day when meal sites are open. The closest site for us is Legacy High School in our Fircrest Neighborhood: July 14 - August 1 (Monday - Friday: Breakfast from 8:45 to 9:15; Lunch from noon to 12:30). Follow the link for more information. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TSeeRMSKEjP55D9ul7JXljdjym24cOoca6Dew1cGV9k/edit?tab=t.0>

Also, Share is currently offering free lunches at  
Cascade Park Community Library in Fircrest

**Now through August 8**

Mondays - Fridays from noon to 1 pm

Follow this link for more information:

<https://sharevancouver.org/summer-meals-program/>



Need help in other ways? Follow this link:

<https://sites.google.com/evergreenps.org/resource-centers/community-resources>

**\*\* Above are A LOT of long links! Email us at [fircrestna@gmail.com](mailto:fircrestna@gmail.com) if you'd like us to email you an electronic version of this newsletter, so the links are easily clickable!**



## **When Will 112th Avenue be Repaved?**

The City has had to defer work on 112th Avenue until 2026. This is due to a number of issues – including competing pavement work on the Fourth Plain Boulevard corridor and the need for more time to evaluate the 112th Avenue corridor for the addition of multimodal facilities like bike lanes and pedestrian crossings. (Note: The City is doing some pavement work at 112th Ave and Burton Road this summer.)

## **Recycling Tips**

The Fircrest Neighborhood Association recently hosted a Recycle 101 class during our monthly meeting. Here are some tips we learned that you might not already know:

- Peel stickers off of produce before putting produce scraps into your organic waste container.
- Plastic items for recycling must be larger than your fist (otherwise they get mis-sorted).
- Do not put shredded paper into your blue recycling container. Shredded paper can be taken to the Transfer Station (11034 NE 117th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98662).
- No hangers, please! And no plastic bags.
- Metal (like cans) can be put in your blue recycling container, but scrap metal (e.g., fans) **cannot**. Scrap metal must be taken to the Transfer Station (11034 NE 117th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98662), or save scrap metal to bring to our Neighborhood Clean Up each year.

Follow this link for more information about recycling in the City of Vancouver:

<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/services/garbage-recycling/recycle-right/>

Follow this link for the current Recycling Done Right newsletter:

<https://wcnorthwest.com/fall-mailer-2024-english>

---

## **Property Tax Exemption Program**

Did you know Clark County has a program that helps senior citizens and people with disabilities remain in their homes despite rising property taxes? (Participants in this program will not need to repay those taxes, and there is no lien placed against your home.) According to *The Columbian*, about 25,000 Clark County residents qualify for the property tax exemptions, but only about 9,000 are currently enrolled in the program!

Follow this link for more information:

<https://assessor-property-tax-exemption-program-clarkcountywa.hub.arcgis.com/>

## **Our Vancouver 2045**



The City is working to create **Our Vancouver 2045**, an updated comprehensive plan that will guide the city's growth and development over the next 20 years. As part of this effort, two different maps, called action alternatives, were created that represent the range of ways that Vancouver can grow and develop to help achieve our community vision, comply with state law, and address housing and other community needs.

The City published a report, called a [\*\*Draft Environmental Impact Statement also known as a Draft EIS\*\*](#), on July 8 for the public to review and comment on. The Draft EIS looks at how the alternatives could affect our community and environment and is used to help consider potential impacts of the City of Vancouver's Comprehensive Plan Update *before* it is finalized and adopted.

**A public comment period is now open until September 8.** There are many ways for you to get information and provide your thoughts. One is an Interactive Public Meeting (drop-in event) at Firstenburg Community Center on July 30th from 4pm to 7pm. You can find the details here: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/events/experience-our-vancouver-2/>

Information about other events and ways to make public comment can be found here: <https://t.e2ma.net/message/iv3uvs/q97x2bb>

Even more details can be found here: <https://www.beheardvancouver.org/plan2045>

## **Current and Proposed Development in the Fircrest Neighborhood**

If you want to keep up with the progress of these projects, including opportunities for public comment, please email us at [fircrestna@gmail.com](mailto:fircrestna@gmail.com) to let us know that you would like to be on our “Fircrest Development Interest Group” email list.

### **136th and 9th Street** – SW Corner of NE 136th Avenue and NE 9th Street

The developer is proposing a mixed-use community (along 136th Ave) with one 3-story building (36 apartments) and one single-story office building.

### **Jens Pointe West Mixed-Use** – SW Corner of NE 136th Avenue and NE 4th Street

The developer is proposing a mixed-use community with 151 apartments and 1,850 feet of possible office and/or retail space. Eight buildings in total: two would include live-work units, as well as multi-family units; one would include office or retail space; four of the buildings would be three-story multi-family; one will be a four-story multi-family building. The proposal includes a 3,850 SF community center for residents, as well as a pool, play area, and dog park.

### **The Finch (Vancouver Housing Authority) 13330 NE 4th Street** – 161 affordable housing apartments

### **In-N-Out Burger (13511 SE 3rd Way)**

### **Crestwood (300 NE 117th Ave)**

2 low-income apartments in current building, 4 studio apartments in back  
(Note: these plans seem to be in flux.)

### **117th Ave Duplexes (404 NE 117th Ave)** – 13 units plus original home

### **Fircrest Site Plan (420 NE 117th Ave)** – 8 single-family attached homes and 20 townhomes

### **Maple Valley (512 NE 117th Ave)** – 32 townhomes

### **OSSM: 514 NE 112th - Expansion of Just Right Heating and Cooling** (by adding a second floor, we think)

### **Fircrest Meadows: between NE 121st and NE 123rd Avenues, north of NE 13th Street**

57 single-family homes

### **Fircrest Landing: NW corner of NE 16th Street and NE121 St (12101 NE 18th Street)**

14 single-family homes

## **Avoiding the Pitfalls of Social Media**

(from the City of Vancouver website)

Social media sites such as Nextdoor and Facebook are great tools for communicating and sharing with your neighbors. Garage sales, yard work and baby-sitting services help connect neighbors. Reporting burglaries, construction and other tips help keep everyone informed.

However, social media does not replace the value of face-to-face communication. Knowing the names of your neighbors, waving as you pass by and talking over the fence as you barbecue on the weekend helps humanize your relationships and makes it easier to address any issues when they arise.

If your neighborhood uses one of the social media platforms and it gets abused, what do you do? The personal attacks and the side comments make it difficult for constructive problem solving and tends to escalate simple issues into complex ones. Neighbors start to take sides, fingers get pointed, and mistrust ensues.

According to Dr. Curt Bechler of Venture International, there are steps that you can take when social media platforms start to create conflict:

- Use their suggestions and ideas when possible: there actually may be some constructive feedback in the post; take a deep breath and try to avoid immediately reacting.
- Engage twice, then end with an invitation to talk off-line, one-on-one: stop feeding the criticism and negativity; demonstrate your willingness to address privately and problem solve.
- Invite off-line conversation: acknowledge the comments and immediately demonstrate that you want to talk about this privately and will not engage online.
- Focus on the issues and solutions, not the individual(s): “be hard on the problem and soft on the people”. If the post states “Joe drives like a maniac and nearly killed my kid!” Respond: “It sounds like you are concerned about safety and would like Joe to drive the speed limit.” Safety is the issue.

If your association is using a social media platform, displaying guidelines for the use and purpose of the platform will help the moderator know when to intervene and delete inappropriate comments. This can include clear instructions for how the site is to be used and how inappropriate comments will be handled.

**Community Mediation Services** offers training in conflict management strategies and skills as well as facilitation and mediation services. Communication with our neighbors is important and sometimes it can be challenging. Community Mediation Services is here to help support strong communities.

**You can solve it. We can help. Community Mediation Services, 360-334-5862.**

**[www.mediationclarkcounty.org](http://www.mediationclarkcounty.org)**

**Important Contact Information**

**Margaret Milem**

Chair, Fircrest Neighborhood Association

360-836-6736 (call or text)      fircrestna@gmail.com

**Officer Jordan Rasmussen**

Neighborhood Police Officer

[jordan.rasmussen@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:jordan.rasmussen@cityofvancouver.us)

360-772-2115 (call or text, **but in an emergency, call 911**)

**Public Works** (streets, traffic signals, street lights, signs, sidewalks)

[www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/webform/service-requests-public-works](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/webform/service-requests-public-works)

360-487-8177

**Concerned about speeding vehicles or other traffic safety issues?**

Report your observations, so they can be entered into a database that is monitored by the Vancouver Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit:

<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/services/report-concern/#traffic>

You can also call the Traffic Complaint Hotline at 360-487-7402. Remember, the more data they have about our area, the better they can deploy their resources!

**Concerned about people struggling with homelessness?**

Initiate outreach by leaving a voicemail at 360-450-0802 or sending an email to [outreach@councilforthehomeless.org](mailto:outreach@councilforthehomeless.org) or by letting the city's Homeless Response and Assistance Team know by calling 360-487-8626 or by emailing [hartteam@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:hartteam@cityofvancouver.us)

Also, please let Margaret (Chair of the Fircrest Neighborhood Association) know by calling/texting 360-836-6736 or emailing [fircrestna@gmail.com](mailto:fircrestna@gmail.com), and she will pass the information on to our neighborhood police officer.

**Non-emergency law enforcement situations**

311



## **Important Contact Information (continued)**

### **Code Compliance questions or concerns**

Call 360-487-7810

Or go to <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/cdd/page/code-compliance>

### **What are the rules for Recreational Vehicle parking?**

<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Recreational-Vehicle-ROW-P-ermit.pdf> (Scroll down for the rules.)

### **“One Stop Shop” for concerns (parking, traffic, code compliance, public works like pot holes and lights)**

Go to → <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/services/report-concern/> and scroll down.

### **How do I contact City Council members?**

Go here → <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/departments/mayor-city-council/#form> and click on “Requests and Contact Form” to get to “Contact City Council.”

For information about city council meetings, agendas, and minutes. Follow this link:

<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/government/mayor-and-city-council/meetings-agendas-minutes/>

---

## **Just a Reminder**



The Fircrest Neighborhood Association meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm - currently via Zoom. [Exceptions: Our August “meeting” is the Eastside Community Picnic and National Night Out (see page 1), and we have no meeting in December.] Join our email list, or watch for our reminders on Nextdoor and on our Facebook page. Email us at [fircrestna@gmail.com](mailto:fircrestna@gmail.com), or call/text Margaret at 360-836-6736 for details.