



A QUARTERLY NEWS UPDATE FOR THE COMMUNITY JULY 2025 | VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 2

Celebrate creativity at the Vancouver Arts & Music Festival

Dive into a world of electrifying creativity
July 31–August 3, at Esther Short Park!

This award-winning, free festival offers something for everyone. It features outdoor stages, local art vendors, a juried art exhibition, family activities and more. Esther

Short Park transforms into a playground of creativity, with surprises at every turn.

The festival kicks off Thursday night with performances presented by Clark College Foundation, featuring Inuit-soul group Pamyua and Latin jazz legend Tito Puente Jr. and His Orchestra.

Friday through Sunday, the main stage lights up with GRAMMY® Award-winning artists Renée Fleming, Mark and Maggie O'Connor, and Sharon Isbin performing with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra USA with maestros Gerard Schwarz and Salvador Brotons.



Visit vancouverartsandmusicfestival.com or scan the QR code to learn more about the Vancouver Arts & Music Festival.

Vancouver's newest playgrounds promise fun and safety for all

Two exciting new playgrounds are opening in Vancouver this August and everyone is invited to come play.

At Fruit Valley Park, kids will soar in an inclusive and fully fenced, bird-themed playground thanks to a \$1.2 million donation from the Kuni Foundation. Oakbrook Community Park will be home to a new wetlands-themed playground, native planting area and the City's first outdoor pickleball courts.

Get ready to explore, play and celebrate! Watch for the playground openings on the City's website in August.



70 years of parks, play and community in Vancouver

Vancouver is celebrating 70 years of community connection through parks, programs and community spaces.

It started in 1853, with the establishment of Esther Short Park, Washington's first public park. Just over a century later, the Vancouver Parks and Recreation department was founded in 1955.

Since then, the department has helped generations of residents make memories through sports leagues, outdoor events, swimming, community gardens, trails, senior clubs and programs for people with disabilities.

In 2021, the department expanded to include cultural services, adding stewardship of historic sites, public art and cultural spaces to its mission of building a stronger, more connected Vancouver.

Here's to 70 years of play, connection and creativity—and to the many more picnics, pick-up games, concerts, crafts and community moments still to come.



Scan the QR code or visit cityofvancouver.us/parks to learn more.

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 and Tiếng Việt

CITY OF Vancouver
WASHINGTON

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Keeping Vancouver safe this summer

As summer is in full swing, the Vancouver Police Department remains busy with additional patrols and presence at public events and in areas of the city that have a seasonal spike in visitors. From concerts in the park to bustling community festivals, more officers are being deployed to keep high-traffic areas safe for everyone. While our officers are out engaging with the community, ensuring quick response to 9-1-1 calls remains our top priority.

On average, Vancouver Police respond to just over 314 incidents per day, with each incident typically requiring two officers. So far in 2025, over 12 incidents per day require six or more officers to respond due to the complexity and safety concerns involved in the incident. Police resources are particularly strained during peak hours of community demand for police services, with just over 50% of incidents occurring

between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and 25% occurring between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Additionally, this summer, VPD has several high-visibility enforcement efforts scheduled that focus on driving while intoxicated and speeding, two factors that are the primary cause of fatal collisions.

We appreciate your ongoing support as we work to make Vancouver the safest urban city in Washington.

If you haven't visited us on social media yet, you can keep up with what your Vancouver Police Department is doing and see us in action:

 **VancouverPDUSA**

 **vancouverpoliceusa**

 **VancouverPoliceUSA**



Flag design competition draws 138 creative submissions

The City's flag design competition closed on June 14—Flag Day—with an impressive 138 entries submitted by people eager to help shape the new flag.

Throughout the summer, a volunteer selection committee will carefully review the submissions with support from the North American

Vexillological Association, a nonprofit of flag experts generously contributing their time and expertise pro bono.

Later this summer, the community will be invited to rate the finalists and share what they love about each design. Public input will help guide the committee's final decision, so stay tuned and be ready to weigh in.

Vancouver Fire reminds residents to be river smart this summer


Warm air doesn't mean warm water. The Columbia River is still dangerously cold, even as summer starts to swelter.

Cold water shock can happen when someone suddenly enters water below 70 degrees. It can drown even the best swimmer in a matter of seconds. Always wear a life jacket and ease in slowly. Never dive or jump from docks, boats, bridges or cliffs.


Vancouver Fire is ready if the worst happens with nearly 50 water rescuers, including 28 swift water specialists trained for fast-moving conditions. Discovery Fire Boat 1 is equipped with advanced sonar and our new AquaEye portable sonar device can detect people underwater up to 164 feet away.

Scan the QR code to watch Fire Boat 1 in action.


HOW TO BE WATER SAFE




Never swim alone or in an unmarked areas.




Watch children and inexperienced swimmers closely.




Skip the alcohol and marijuana.



Enter slowly, no jumping.





Wear a life jacket.



Learn to swim: bit.ly/ClarkCountySwim.

Vancouver Fire Boat 1





From smoother slide to splashdown: Firstenburg Pool gets an upgrade

Firstenburg Pool will be closed Aug. 6–28 to replace the well-loved slide. We know it's a summer favorite, but this investment means smoother rides and safer slides in the future. In the meantime, swimmers are welcome to splash over to Marshall Pool during the closure.

Visit cityofvancouver.us/community-centers or scan the QR code to learn more.





Milestones in design, demolition and funding move the Bridge Shelter forward

Too many of our neighbors are without shelter every day. Helping the unsheltered homeless move toward lasting stability is one of the City’s highest priorities. That’s why we’re working to create something more than just a roof over someone’s head—a Bridge Shelter designed to connect people with the support they need to transition from homelessness to a permanent home.

“This shelter is the single highest impact project where we can directly stem the future loss of life among our homeless population, and we need to treat it as such,” said City Manager Lon Pluckhahn.

Located at 5313 N.E. 94th Ave., the shelter will provide up to 120 beds and a host of supportive services, including:

- Case management and long-term housing assistance
- Medication-assisted treatment options
- A kitchen to provide daily meals
- Temporary storage for personal belongings

The remaining buildings on the site will be demolished in July. The City is also expediting permitting to accelerate the construction timeline. Meanwhile, the City and Clark County councils are expected to approve an agreement that will bring an additional \$4.85 million in county funding to support the building. Currently in the design phase, the Bridge Shelter is expected to open in 2026.



Scan the QR code or visit cityofvancouver.us/homeless to learn more about the City’s work on this issue.

Generous grant supports kitchen for Bridge Shelter

PeaceHealth awarded the City a \$800,000 Community Health Improvement Plan Grant to support the capital costs of building a commercial kitchen for the Bridge Shelter. Once built, the commercial-grade, on-site kitchen will enable the City and its service provider to provide fresh, nutritious meals for shelter residents.

“Thanks to this grant, we will be able to build a commercial-grade production kitchen that delivers more than just meals—it brings opportunity and consistency,” said City Manager Lon Pluckhahn. “Once built, it will help us serve high-quality food efficiently, meet dietary needs, and open doors to job training and connection. We are grateful to PeaceHealth for their partnership and support of one of the most important issues facing the community.”

This grant will help the City build the Bridge Shelter while helping PeaceHealth achieve its community health goals.

“At PeaceHealth we seek out opportunities to support programs addressing the Social Drivers of Health (SDOH), specifically addressing the critical need for access to housing, food, community connection, and mental health resources,” said Liz Cattin, Community Health Director, PeaceHealth Columbia Network. “We are proud to support the bridge shelter knowing it will address these critical needs for members of our unhoused community.”



OUR VANCOUVER

OUR FUTURE 2045

How should Vancouver grow and develop?

The City is updating its Comprehensive Plan, which will guide how our community grows from now through 2045. This plan covers important topics like housing, jobs, and protecting the environment. Now is the time to get involved.

You can comment on the plan’s environmental report between **July 8** and **September 8**. Visit beheardvancouver.org/plan2045 and drop in during one of the following interactive public meetings to learn more about the plan and how to comment:

Wednesday, July 30 | 4–7 p.m.
Firstenburg Community Center
700 NE 136th Ave.

Saturday, August 9 | 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
City Hall. 415 W. 6th St.



Scan the QR code or visit beheardvancouver.org to learn more.

Make every drop count: Summer water-saving made simple



As temperatures rise, so does outdoor water use. Reduce your water footprint with these easy conservation practices.

- Avoid evaporation by watering when the sun is low, winds are calm and temperatures are cool.
- Add a rain shutoff switch to your irrigation controller to avoid watering in the rain.
- Plant native or Pacific Northwest-friendly plants, since they don’t need as much water to stay healthy. Adding mulch around plants keeps the soil moist longer.
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses to send water right to plant roots and use less water than regular sprinklers. Check for leaks in hoses and sprinklers to avoid waste.

These small steps can make a big difference in saving water and lowering your bills all summer long. Visit cityofvancouver.us/waterconservation for more water-saving tips.

From rural road to urban artery: SE First Street’s transformation

SE First Street, once a rural two-lane road, will soon better serve the growing east Vancouver community. Annexed into the city in the late 1990s, this east-west route supports two major north-south corridors that see nearly 60,000 vehicles a day.

Phase one improvements, from 162nd to 177th avenues, were completed in 2023. Phase two, from 177th to 192nd avenues, began in May 2024 and is expected to finish this summer.

Travelers will see wider pavement, safer pedestrian and bike access, better lighting and updated stormwater systems. Traffic flow upgrades include a roundabout at 184th Avenue and a traffic signal at 190th Avenue.

Converting this former farm-to-market road into a modern corridor ensures safe and easy travel for all users.

We’re in the early stages of design for improved safety and comfort along 192nd Avenue between SE First Street and NE 18th Street. Share your thoughts at beheardvancouver.org/192nd.



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

Stay in the know, visit cityofvancouver.us for the latest events, meetings, updates and services.

Tell us where you want a bike rack

Thanks to generous state and regional transportation grants, more than 90 brand-new bike racks are ready to be installed across the city. Now, we need your input!

Whether you're a resident, business owner, or property manager, you can help decide where these racks should go. Got a spot in mind within Vancouver city limits? Let us know and help make biking even easier for everyone.

Scan the QR code to suggest a spot.

New Online Permit Center simplifies access and saves time

The City has launched a new, all-in-one Online Permit Center designed to make applying for permits, paying fees and scheduling inspections faster and easier.

With a streamlined interface and improved tools, users can create personalized accounts, save payment information, and move through the process with fewer steps. The new system works seamlessly on phones and tablets. The result? Less time navigating the system—more time getting things done.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Online Permit Center.

THE CITY OF VANCOUVER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

Free Personalized Business Advising

Sign up for your FREE one-hour appointment

Ready to start or grow your business? Email kyle.todd@wsbdc.org to schedule.

Tuesday, July 8 | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vancouver's Downtown Association

Tuesday, Sept. 2 | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vancouver's Downtown Association

Monday, Oct. 6 | 9 a.m. to noon
Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber

Tuesday, Nov. 4 | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vancouver's Downtown Association

Monday, Dec. 1 | 9 a.m. to noon
Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber

Provided in partnership with:

U.S. Small Business Administration

AMERICA'S SBDC WASHINGTON

CITY OF VANCOUVER WASHINGTON

VDA Vancouver's Downtown Association

HISPANIC METROPOLITAN CHAMBER

Calendar of events

July

4

Happy Independence Day

City Hall Closed

7

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

8

Planning Commission Meeting

4:30–7:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

10

Waterfront Concert Series: Wamba

6:30–8:30 p.m.

Vancouver Waterfront

695 Waterfront Way

13

Sunday Sounds Concert Series: Curtis Salgado

6–8 p.m.

Columbia Tech Center

17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

14

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

17

Waterfront Concert Series: Orquestra Pacifico Tropical

6:30–8:30 p.m.

Vancouver Waterfront

695 Waterfront Way

20

Sunday Sounds Concert Series: Johnny Limbo and the Lugnuts

6–8 p.m.

Columbia Tech Center

17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

24

Waterfront Concert Series: Norman Sylvester

6:30–8:30 p.m.

Vancouver Waterfront

695 Waterfront Way

27

Sunday Sounds Concert Series: Dancehall Days

6–8 p.m.

Columbia Tech Center

17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

August

1

Friday Night Movies: “Coco”

6:30 p.m.

Esther Short Park, 605 Esther St.

4

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

8

Friday Night Movies: “Moana 2”

6:30 p.m.

Bagley Community Park

4490 Plomondon St.

11

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

15

Friday Night Movies: “E.T.”

6:30 p.m.

Fort Vancouver Parade Grounds

17

Sunday Sounds Concert Series: Hit Machine

6–8 p.m.

Columbia Tech Center

17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

18

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

22

Friday Night Movies: “Barbie” with on-screen ASL

6:30 p.m.

Columbia Tech Center

17701 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

25

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

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

Celebrating Disability Pride Month

For the first time, we're celebrating Disability Pride Month during July. The Americans with Disabilities Act, passed July 26, 1990, protects the civil rights of people with disabilities, including 20,000+ in Vancouver. Join us for local events, snap a photo at the Disability Pride Flag, and grab a free sticker at City Hall or Vancouver community centers.

July 7

City Council Meeting, Disability Pride Month proclamation

July 27

Sunday Sounds Concert/Disability Pride Celebration

Aug. 22

Friday Night Movies: “Barbie” with on-screen ASL