

NEIGHBORLY NOTES: SEPTEMBER 2025

Newsletter of the Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association

August Neighborhood Meeting Summary

August Notes: Port of Vancouver and Community Updates

Attendance: 8 residents

Guest Speaker: Julie Rawls, Community Outreach Manager, Port of Vancouver

Our August meeting featured an in-depth and fascinating presentation from **Julie Rawls**, who shared the history, operations, and future plans of the **Port of Vancouver**.

Key Highlights:

- **History & Role:** Founded in 1912 to ensure the waterfront stayed in public hands, the Port is now Washington's third oldest and third largest port, and the furthest inland deep-water port on the Columbia River.
- **What the Port Handles:** Unlike container ports, Vancouver specializes in *break bulk cargo*—large items like wind turbine blades, steel, Subarus, and agricultural exports. The Columbia River is the #1 gateway for wheat in the U.S., and about 13% of the nation's wheat exports pass through the Port.
- **Subaru Partnership:** The Port is the #1 entry point for Subarus in the U.S., handling nearly 100,000 vehicles last year. Most travel east by rail, and the facility even includes charging stations for Subaru's new electric vehicles.
- **Sustainability Efforts:** The Port is investing in electric harbor cranes, a fleet of electric trucks and equipment, and water treatment systems that reduce pollutants before runoff enters the river.
- **Terminal 1 Redevelopment:** Work continues on the 10-acre Terminal 1 site, birthplace of the Port. Plans include a public market (similar to Wenatchee's Pybus Market), a rebuilt dock, and new public spaces. This project will take several years due to environmental restrictions on in-water construction but promises to be a major community asset once completed.

- **Economic Impact:** The Port is home to 50 businesses supporting jobs in brewing, food processing, manufacturing, and logistics. It also manages 42 miles of its own rail track to move goods efficiently.

Julie also shared fun local history—did you know Vancouver was once the Prune Capital of the World? Exports of prunes put our city on the map, complete with prune festivals and even a prune queen!

Community Updates:

- **Tower Mall Redevelopment:** A city survey is open for feedback on the new civic center design.
- **National Night Out:** A big thank-you to all who joined us for ice cream, conversation, and community connection! Special thanks to the following who showed up to support our community: Vancouver Police and Fire Department members, Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle. Also thanks to Ron Rasmussen for organizing this event and Pastor Adrian and Immanuel Lutheran for hosting.
- **Shredding Day:** Mark your calendars—coming in October. A great chance to clear out old files and papers.
- **Holiday Party:** Scheduled for **Thursday, December 4 at 6 PM**. Save the date!

Next Meeting:

Our September guest speaker will be from Related Northwest, one of the developers of the Tower Mall project. Don't miss this chance to learn more about what's ahead for our neighborhood.

The Heights District Civic Plaza

City of Vancouver: Economic Prosperity and Housing

The Heights District is a redevelopment of the area where Tower Mall used to be. It will be a lively, welcoming place with homes for people of all income levels. You'll be able to walk to shops, restaurants, parks, schools and public transit, all within 20 minutes.

A new Civic Plaza will be the main public space for events and gathering in the new Heights community. There will be community events during Fall 2025 to help shape the final design of the plaza.

Use the QR code to learn more and subscribe to our email list for project updates and stay up to date on ways to get involved.

For more information, please contact:

Economic Prosperity and Housing | Sasha Vassev | Sasha.vassev@cityofvancouver.us



Learn more

beheardvancouver.org/heights-district-plan

Take the survey

tinyurl.com/covcivicplaza

Community Shred Day – Saturday, October 25

Hosted by Columbia Presbyterian Church

Our neighbors at Columbia Presbyterian Church are inviting Vancouver Heights residents to take part in a **free Community Shred Day** on **Saturday, October 25** from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**.

A **Shred It!** truck will be stationed in the church's **upper parking lot (along St. Helens Ave)** to securely shred your documents **onsite**—no need to worry about sensitive information being hauled away.

While there is no charge for this service, the event is held in partnership with the church's **Deacons' Fall Food Drive**, benefiting **Clark County Food Bank** and local schools: **McLoughlin, Marshall, and The Heights**.

If you're able, please consider bringing **non-perishable food items** or **cash donations** (no checks or cards, please) to support our neighbors in need.

Questions?

Contact: **Terry Hurley**

Columbia Presbyterian Church

📍 8715 St. Helens Ave, Vancouver, WA 98664

📞 (360) 694-7549 ext. 203

Emergency Preparedness: 90 Minutes For Peace of Mind

Thursday, October 23 • 7:00 PM • Immanuel Lutheran Church

Emergencies and disasters can happen at any time—sometimes with warning, sometimes without. Whether it's winter weather, an earthquake, or wildfire, being prepared can reduce fear, minimize loss, and help you respond with confidence.



In collaboration with VHNA, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, and Immanuel Lutheran Church, we're hosting a focused 90-minute Emergency Preparedness session.

◆ 60-minute presentation by Jodi Blackwood of CRESA (Columbia Regional Emergency Services Agency)

◆ 30-minute Q&A to follow

Topics will include:

- What to include in your emergency plan
- The top five priorities of an emergency kit
- The three types of emergency kits every household should have
- How to build a kit on a budget
- Storing supplies and medical prescriptions
- Must-have documents
- Why connecting with neighbors matters
- How to stay informed during an emergency

Attendees will receive give-away items to jump-start or supplement their own emergency kits.

This is a practical, accessible way to get prepared. Don't miss it—bring a neighbor and build your resilience together!

Upcoming Speakers

September VHNA Meeting: Alsaya Corbray with Related Northwest

Join us to learn more about Related Northwest's project for the Tower Mall Redevelopment. Alsaya Corbray will be present to share information.

Where? Immanuel Lutheran Church

When? Thursday, September 25 at 7:00 PM

How? In person or watch online w/ Zoom @ tiny [url.com/vhnameeting](https://tinyurl.com/vhnameeting)

Passcode: 654772 Or use the Zoom App w/ meeting ID 222 187 1792

October VHNA Meeting: Emergency Preparedness with CRESA

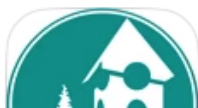
Where? Immanuel Lutheran Church

When? Thursday, October 23 at 7:00 PM

November/December VHNA Meeting: Holiday Party

Where? Immanuel Lutheran Church

When? Thursday, December 4 at 6:00 PM





Current Information about The Heights District Redevelopment

Ask questions and learn more
<https://www.beheardvancouver.org/heights-district-plan>

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 MyVancouver app on your smartphone or other mobile device.

Looking at the paper version of this newsletter?

You can also view it online
<https://secure.smores.com/n/01nw7>

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1. Visit the link above
2. Scroll down
3. Click 'Subscribe'

Have Questions or Ideas? Reach Out!

Neighborhood Contacts

Elected VHNA Board

Chair: Miki Landis - mikilandis@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Helen Ost - 503-367-5672 - Helen.madsen.ost@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dick Orr - 360-609-1605 - gpadick@gmail.com

Secretary: Volunteer Opportunity. Come and get involved!

City Contacts

Office of Neighborhoods: Kaitlyn Olszewski - 360-624-1774 - neighborhoods@cityofvancouver.us

Neighborhood Police Officer: Officer Cole Larson - Cole.Larson@cityofvancouver.us

City Liaison: Dave Perlick - 360-487-8314 - David.Perlick@cityofvancouver.us

Code Compliance: 360-487-7810

Clark County Animal Control: 360-397-2488

Traffic Compliance Hotline: 360-487-7402

Parking Hotline: 487-8653

Other

City Projects Liaison: Frank L'Amie - 360-256-1953 - flamie@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Hogg - jthogg@outlook.com



Vancouver Heights

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