



CITY OF VANCOUVER

# Newsletter

A QUARTERLY NEWS UPDATE FOR THE COMMUNITY

MARCH 2026 | VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 1



## Upgrades at two neighborhood parks starting this spring

Two neighborhood parks are getting fresh updates this spring, and new features will be ready for everyone to enjoy this summer. At Jaggy Road Park in the Van Mall neighborhood, a colorful butterfly-themed playground will replace equipment that has been in place since 1996. At The Downs Park, Bagley Downs neighbors will soon have access to a new picnic shelter, a half-court basketball area, an irrigated lawn, and improved security lighting.

These improvements are part of the City's ongoing work to keep neighborhood parks welcoming, safe and fun for all ages.



The Downs Park basketball court rendering



Visit [beheardvancouver.org](https://beheardvancouver.org) to learn more and share your ideas for future park improvements.



Jaggy Road Park Playground rendering

## Laying the groundwork

### Preparations underway for summer paving season

This summer, we will resurface or preserve parts of major corridors, including West Fourth Plain Boulevard, Northeast Saint Johns Road, Mill Plain Boulevard, Southeast First Street, Northeast 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Southeast 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Southeast 192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Residential streets in over ten neighborhoods will see pavement work.

Pavement maintenance protects and extends the life of our streets. Preservation treatments can add seven to 11 years of use, and resurfacing can extend a street's lifespan by 15 to 20 years.



Workers paving a street

### Paving season schedule

- **Proactive pruning:** Trim street trees and vegetation through June.
- **ADA curb ramps:** Add or upgrade curb ramps, starting in March.
- **Pavement preparations:** Seal cracks and repair pavement, from April through July.
- **Pavement work:** Resurfacing and preservation treatments followed by striping and adding pavement markings from May through September, as weather allows.

Schedule is subject to change.



To learn more, scan here or visit [cityofvancouver.us/pavement](https://cityofvancouver.us/pavement).

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](mailto:laura.shepard@cityofvancouver.us).

The information is current as of the publication date. Visit [cityofvancouver.us](https://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  
415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660-1995

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# State of the City

## Progress, community and art took center stage

The City hosted a full house at the Arts Hub for the State of the City address on March 9. The program included performances by the Vietnamese Community of Clark County, Poet Laureate of Clark County Susan Dingle, Vancouver Ballet Folklorico, and a video produced by Evergreen Public Schools Video Services.

The address opened with reflections on community concerns about recent ICE activity in Vancouver before highlighting progress made in 2025 on key priorities, core services and work grounded in community values. A major theme was the role arts, culture and heritage play in strengthening Vancouver. The event also launched Inspire Vancouver, a new grant program supporting eligible nonprofit arts, culture, heritage and science organizations.



To watch the State of the City address, visit [cityofvancouver.us/stateofthecity](https://cityofvancouver.us/stateofthecity) or scan here.



Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver



Vietnamese Community of Clark County



Vancouver Ballet Folklorico



Susan Dingle, Poet Laureate of Clark County

## Morning in Vancouver

Maybe a street corner mural says it best, "Unity is Strength," as I drive south on Washington Boulevard on the way to where the highways meet and divide, one south toward the river, the other north toward the sea.

Equity was never just a word, but a way of affirming who we are. In the rain, we stood together on the corner of Esther Short Park at noon in a vigil every Wednesday, until daffodils appeared like an affirmation that no matter how rainy the winter, our spring will come.

For Vancouver people still offer hospitality, shelter and provision to all, even when it's complicated, to foster the harmony of belonging on an unceded land once a fortress, now a port, and yet the old saying still rings true "e pluribus unum," out of many one.

We listen and see what that feels like in Vancouver, how it echoes in every neighborhood, in every park and playground where all our children find belonging, and yes, we all belong.

Susan Dingle, Clark County Poet Laureate (2024-2027)

# Vancouver Arts Hub moves into its next phase

Work is underway at the Vancouver Arts Hub to preserve the historic building and prepare it for a vibrant future. Current improvements include structural repairs, a chiller replacement, and a new roof that will protect the space for years to come.

This spring, the City is launching the next phase of the project. Community members will be invited to help refine the building design, plan construction phases, and shape a long-term operating strategy that supports local artists and creative organizations.

Throughout construction and planning, the local nonprofit theARTScentered will continue offering programs and events, keeping the building active and connected to the community.



Learn more and share your ideas at [beheardvancouver.org/vancouver-arts-hub](https://beheardvancouver.org/vancouver-arts-hub).



Vancouver Arts Hub



Community planting event

# Shaping the next phase of Vancouver's climate work

Vancouver is kicking off the first update to its Climate Action Framework this summer. Adopted in 2022, the framework is our roadmap for cutting climate pollution, reaching carbon neutrality by 2040, and strengthening our community's resilience to extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and other climate impacts.

This update is an opportunity to share progress, refine strategies in response to new challenges, and incorporate emerging tools and technologies that can help us reach our climate goals. It is also a chance to hear from residents about their priorities, concerns, and ideas for building a more sustainable future.

Beginning in May, the City will share ways for the community to get involved. Watch for opportunities to help shape Vancouver's climate future.



Scan here or visit [cityofvancouver.us/climate](https://cityofvancouver.us/climate) to learn more.

# Are you ready, Vancouver?

Preparedness doesn't happen overnight. It's built step by step, together. That's why we've launched Be Ready Vancouver, a new way to help you stay informed, supported, and connected before emergencies happen.

Through our partnership with CRESA (Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency), we are sharing practical tips, timely reminders, and trusted resources that make preparedness simple and doable for everyday life.

By taking small actions now, we can build a safer, stronger, more resilient Vancouver together.



Scan here or visit [cityofvancouver.us/beready](https://cityofvancouver.us/beready) to learn more.

## Preparedness tip

Walk through your home and notice supplies you already have that could support you during an emergency.



# City Council affirms commitment to community safety and human dignity

In January, the Vancouver City Council issued a public declaration addressing growing concerns about community harm, public safety, and the protection of human dignity. In this statement, the Council formally denounced the conduct of federal immigration enforcement agencies and affiliated law enforcement bodies operating under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Immigration and

Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

The declaration outlines the City's position and underscores its commitment to protecting residents from practices it views as harmful or discriminatory. It also affirms the City's intention to address these concerns using the full scope of its legal authority,

reinforcing Vancouver's commitment to ensuring that all community members are treated with fairness, respect, and humanity.

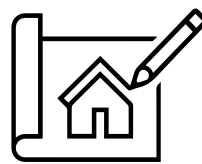


Visit [cityofvancouver.us/immigration](https://cityofvancouver.us/immigration) to find the full text of the Council's declaration and related resources.



Vancouver's 415 West Safe Stay Community

## Homelessness emergency response update

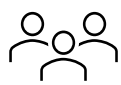


The path out of homelessness is not always a straight line. People may make progress, then face setbacks. If someone is forced to move without help, it can make it even harder for them to become stable.

In 2025, the City's emergency response focused on reducing displacement while keeping people connected to support.

In 2025, the City also closed two camps due to ongoing health and safety concerns. Half of the camp residents at the West Mill Plain sound wall transitioned to a Safe Stay Community, and more than half of the camp residents at the Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway transitioned to a Safe Stay community.

Progress is also visible at the Bridge Shelter site: the foundation has been poured, and we look forward to celebrating its grand opening this fall.



A City count identified **456 people living unsheltered, a 6% decrease from 2024.**



**466 people** were served through Safe Stay and Safe Park communities, with **35% exiting to stable or supportive housing**, nearly double the national average.



Cleanup efforts removed **352 tons of debris, 15% less than last year.**



**More than 300 individuals were cited into Community Court**, pairing accountability with access to services.



A **\$1.9 million grant** nearly doubled the Homelessness Assistance and Resources Team (HART), expanding outreach and service connections.



Read more about the 2025 outcomes at [cityofvancouver.us/homelessness](https://cityofvancouver.us/homelessness).



Behind every policy, program and partnership are real people working to rebuild their lives. Taira's story: [bit.ly/TairaStory](https://bit.ly/TairaStory)



## Your voice helped shape Vancouver's 2045 Comprehensive Plan

### Plan moves into final steps

Thank you for helping shape Vancouver's comprehensive plan and zoning code. These tools will guide how our community grows in the years ahead, including where homes, businesses, parks, and other amenities can be built. Your input is helping define what comes next for Vancouver.

To stay involved, scan the QR code or visit [beheardvancouver.org/plan2045](https://beheardvancouver.org/plan2045) and sign up for email updates on upcoming meetings and the final steps before approval.



## Expanding Police staffing with Proposition 5 funding

With voter approval of Proposition 5 last November, the Vancouver Police Department is moving forward with filling the 13 additional police officer positions funded by the measure. Hiring for these positions will begin in April, when the new funding becomes available in the VPD budget.

These added roles will allow the department to assign one additional officer to each patrol shift, bringing the total to 12 officers. The remaining position will add a Detective to the Children's Justice Center, which received more than 1,600 CPS referrals in 2025.

Prop 5 funding represents an important first step toward increasing staffing levels so the department can better meet the needs and expectations of the Vancouver community.



**"Thank you again voters, members of the Police Community Advisory Committee and the Vancouver City Council for your support of the Vancouver Police Department."**

Vancouver Police Chief Troy Price

## Turn your passion into public service

Apply to serve on a City board or commission.

Build leadership skills, learn how local government works and help shape Vancouver's future. All backgrounds welcome.

**Apply by April 15:**  
[cityofvancouver.us/boards](https://cityofvancouver.us/boards)



Oakbrook Park

## INSIDE CITY HALL



### City Council

Mayor and Council Office: 360-487-8629

Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor  
Sarah J. Fox, Mayor Pro Tem | Bart Hansen | Kim D. Harless  
Erik Paulsen | Diana H. Perez | Ty Stober

### Call the City

Abandoned Vehicles	3-1-1
Building and Permits	360-487-7833
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](https://cityofvancouver.us) for the latest events, meetings, updates and services.



Volunteers sweeping

## Clean smarter this spring

As you dive into spring cleaning, a few small choices can make a big difference for our waterways. Everything that washes into storm drains flows directly into local streams, rivers, and wetlands — so keeping pollution out starts right at home.

### Simple ways to protect stormwater while you tidy up

- Pick up after your pet.
- Sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them down.
- Use fewer lawn, garden and moss-control chemicals.

### Getting ready for a bigger cleanup?

Watch your mailbox in April for cleanup coupons to help with yard debris and tire disposal. It's an easy way to start the season fresh while keeping our community and environment healthy.



Scan here or visit [cityofvancouver.us/cleanwatertips](https://cityofvancouver.us/cleanwatertips) to learn more.

## Pruning for a healthier urban forest



As we move from winter into spring, our trees are waking up and preparing for a new season of growth. This transition is an ideal time to give them the care they need to stay healthy.

Thoughtful pruning helps trees grow stronger, reduces the risk of falling branches, and prevents long-term structural problems.

### Good pruning practices

- Remove dead, diseased or damaged limbs.
- Trim branches that rub or cross.
- Learn the right season to prune each species.
- Consult a certified arborist when you're unsure.

### Leave the top alone

Topping removes large portions of a tree's crown, weakening its structure and reducing its ability to produce energy. It also makes trees more vulnerable to decay and storm damage, creates long-term safety hazards, and often leads to higher maintenance costs. Proper pruning keeps trees healthier, safer and more resilient for years to come.

### Want help caring for your trees?

Residents can find guidance, resources and information about hiring certified arborists on the City's Urban Forestry webpage. Taking a few simple steps now helps keep our community's canopy strong for the future.



Tree trimming



Scan here or visit [cityofvancouver.us/treecare](https://cityofvancouver.us/treecare) to learn more.

## Calendar of events

### March

**23** **City Council Community Forum**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

### April

**3** **First Friday Art Walk**  
5 to 8 p.m.  
Arts Hub, 1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd.

**6** **City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

**9** **Family Pickleball Night**  
6 to 7:30 p.m.  
Firstenberg Community Center  
700 NE 136<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**27** **City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

**28** **Vancouver Planning Commission Draft Comprehensive Plan Hearing**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

### May

**1** **First Friday Art Walk**  
5 to 8 p.m.  
Arts Hub Building  
1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd.

**4** **City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

**9** **Spruce the Couve**  
9 to 11:30 a.m.  
Esther Short Park, 605 Esther St.

**11** **City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

**18** **City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

**25** **Memorial Day**  
All City facilities closed

### June

**1** **City Council Meeting Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

**8** **City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

**15** **City Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

**20** **Pollinator Festival**  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Marshall Community Park  
1069 E. McLoughlin Blvd.

**22** **City Council Community Forum**  
6:30 p.m.  
Location to be announced



See full calendar



View more information and other events at [cityofvancouver.us/calendar](https://cityofvancouver.us/calendar).

## Quarterly PFAS testing

Protecting public health and providing a safe water supply is our top priority for our city. We will continue to monitor in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health's monitoring requirements for PFAS. We remain committed to addressing PFAS in the water supply with long-term removal measures.

View PFAS testing results and read about actions being taken to protect water quality at [cityofvancouver.us/PFAS](https://cityofvancouver.us/PFAS).



Collecting water sample for testing

