



CITY OF VANCOUVER

Newsletter

A QUARTERLY NEWS UPDATE FOR THE COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 2026 | VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 3



Promise delivered: Vancouver's downtown shines with major improvements

The project to reconstruct Main Street, spanning the heart of downtown Vancouver from 5th to 15th, is complete—one of the City's largest infrastructure projects, finished ahead of the original spring 2027 completion schedule.

The Main Street Promise project redesigned the street, sidewalks, lighting, and outdoor spaces to improve safety, create community, and drive economic prosperity for local businesses, now and into the future.

How Main Street's transformation came together

The reconstruction of Main Street has been 33 years in the making. Originally planned as a two-part project in 1993 to improve Main Street, the City completed the north section in 1996. High costs delayed the lower section until 2021, when the American Rescue Act and a mix of local sources secured the funding needed for the project.

Community input in 2023 shaped the designs finalized in 2024, and construction began in January 2025 with a phased construction schedule to minimize business impacts.

The new, safer Main Street is open

Elements installed along Main Street make the corridor safer, more accessible, and connected for generations to come.

Some of the underground infrastructure had not been touched for almost 100 years. We reconstructed water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities. We repaved Main Street and parts of side streets, and installed traffic signals, event power access, and an e-bike charging station.

To increase safety and mobility, the design includes curbside streets, speed bumps, extended and ADA-compliant sidewalks, tactile sidewalk treatments, audible crossings,

enhanced intersections and crosswalks, 104 bike parking spaces, and 123 vehicle parking spaces. We improved visibility by shifting to parallel parking.

To welcome visitors, we added decorative lighting, spaces for public art, seating and furnishings, and removable bollards for pedestrian-only events.

Supporting businesses through construction

Businesses are at the heart of Main Street, making it a welcoming place to shop, dine, and work. To help them thrive during construction, we offered tailored support and resources. Over the course of construction, 26 businesses opened or expanded on or near Main Street.

During construction, we provided direct business support and kept communication open through monthly informational meetings, a Block Captain Program, one-on-one advising from the Small Business Administration and Small Business Development Center, signage to support visibility, paused work during the holiday season, and held milestone celebrations that brought the community together.

City-funded partnerships with local business associations provided additional support. Vancouver's Downtown Association provided business mentorship and grant programs, held events, and featured businesses on social media. The Greater Vancouver Chamber hosted the Spend It Local and Downtown Merchant Highlight programs, and Visit Vancouver created marketing videos promoting businesses and destinations.

Main Street is ready for pedestrian-only festivals, bustling events, and outings with friends and family. Come explore the corridor, support local, and make Main Street your own.

Discoveries beneath our streets

We uncovered streetcar tracks and fire cisterns under Main Street. We worked with Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc.; MacKay Sposito; and Nutter Construction to follow regulations and document findings.

Streetcar tracks

Main Street had a horse-drawn railway (1889–1895) and an electric streetcar (1908–1926). The streetcar carried passengers and freight through downtown. The tracks were paved over in 1926.

Fire cisterns

Before hydrants, firefighters used underground cisterns. In the late 1800s, we constructed large brick and cement tanks to store water underground. We abandoned cisterns in the 20th century as we expanded our utility system and connected fire hydrants.

History in the making

The Main Street Promise time capsule was buried on Feb. 20 at Main Street and West 13th Street in downtown Vancouver. Items donated tell the rich stories and culture of Vancouver. The collection includes symbols of local businesses and organizations, Vancouver's new flag, letters to future Vancouver residents, and personal items donated by the community. The time capsule will be opened in 100 years.

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
415 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660-1995

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Supporting 250 businesses in the Fourth Plain International District with small business grants



Recommended budget addresses economic challenges and balances City finances

On Oct. 1, City Manager Lon Pluckhahn published the Recommended Budget for the 2027–28 biennium. Economic uncertainty and inflation put significant pressure on the City’s finances as the cost of providing core services continues to outpace revenue growth year after year.

Taking advantage of this being his first budget as City Manager, Pluckhahn and his team reviewed the City’s financial structure, analyzing legacy budgeting practices and the assumptions that shaped them to find ways to reallocate existing funds more efficiently. This recommended budget closes the \$30 million deficit and balances the budget.

Public input is an important part of developing the City’s budget. Over the summer, you shared your

thoughts through our biennial budget survey and online prioritization input tool. The City Manager also met with the community in a series of meetings to discuss the budget. The input received helped ensure community priorities were reflected in budget decisions.

The recommended budget includes approximately \$2.3 billion in total expenditures across all funds for this biennium, including \$846.1 million for the general, street, and fire funds and \$706.4 million in capital expenditures. The budget ensures the City can maintain core services while making additional targeted investments in the areas that advance the City Council’s priorities of community safety, climate, and equity.

Next steps

The City Council reviews the recommended budget in a series of public workshops and a public hearing before adopting it. The public can provide testimony during public comment time.

- Oct. 12** Operating Budget Workshop
- Oct. 26** Capital Budget Workshop
- Nov. 2** 1st Reading of the Biennial Budget
- Nov. 16** Public Hearing and Adoption of the Biennial Budget

Priorities in action

This is a short list of representative projects and initiatives that demonstrate how the City is putting Council and community priorities into action over the biennium.

Community safety

- \$3.3 million to public defense
- Fire station construction and remodel for stations 3, 6, and 8
- Transportation projects improving street, intersection, and pedestrian safety
- Homeless response | Bridge Shelter operations
- Emergency management
- Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

Climate

- Rooftop solar installation at Firstenburg Community Center
- Electric vehicle charging pilot for public spaces
- Green building plan review
- Arts Hub renovation design (solar ready)

Equity

- ADA transition plan for City facilities and parks
- Comprehensive Plan equity goals
- Disparity study for procurement
- Affordable housing
- Arts Hub Phase I construction fully funded



Delivering 9.85 billion gallons of water



Building and preserving affordable housing



Keeping 2,246 acres of park land and 82 parks open



The proposed budget outlines in more detail how the deficit was closed, proposed department budgets, performance measures, and more. Visit cityofvancouver.us/budget or scan the QR code to see the proposed budget.



Behind every daily routine: City services are at work

Every day in our community, public dollars are at work, keeping emergency responders ready, parks open, water safe, streets maintained, and much more.

Let’s look at how residents encounter City services on an average day.

6:30 a.m.

Grab a morning shower, make coffee or tea, and brush your teeth before heading out for the day.

- Delivering 9.85 billion gallons of water through 1,100 miles of water pipes
- Treating 7.46 billion gallons of wastewater through 791 miles of sewage line

7:30 a.m.

Hop on the Vine or into your car from the east side of town to downtown, pass by future site of The Heights District, and pull over so police can pass.

- Maintaining 1,900 miles of streets (~62 miles resurfaced or preserved each year)
- Building the core infrastructure to support housing and retail development including construction of the Mill Plain Blvd and MacArthur Blvd intersection improvements in June 2026 for the Heights District
- Police respond to more than 100,000 calls per year

Noon

Head over to Marshall Community Center for a quick workout and lunch in the park.

- Welcoming more than 316,000 visits to community centers each year
- Keeping 2,246 acres of park land, 20 miles of trail, and 82 parks open

5 p.m.

Stroll along Main Street to meet up with friends after work.

- Investing \$26 million into downtown through improved safety, fostering community, and supporting economic development along lower Main Street

7 p.m.

Pick up takeout dinner at a Fourth Plain restaurant, take out the recycling, and then hop on your bike for an after-dinner ride on SE First Street. You pull over as a fire truck passes.

- Supporting 250 businesses with \$175,000 in 4th Plain Forward small business grants
- Diverting over 23,000 tons of recycled or composted materials from landfills
- Improving travel on Southeast First Street with widened pavement, new sidewalks, and bike facilities
- Responding to 38,500 calls a year with 245 full-time firefighters

9 p.m.

Wave to neighbor as you take the dog out for a last walk.

- Building and preserving 330 affordable apartments, supporting 32 new Habitat for Humanity homes, and helping 162 households stay housed with rental assistance through affordable housing funds
- Maintaining more than 18,000 streetlights
- Managing 628 miles of sidewalks

Investing in police services: a mix of local and state support

Vancouver is growing, and the demand for police services grows with us. To provide these services, the City developed a multi-source strategy that combines the voter-approved Proposition 5 property tax, state public safety grants, and a council-approved local sales tax. Together, these three tools provide a sustainable way to grow the Vancouver Police Department’s staffing to meet community needs.

Proposition 5

Passed in 2025, the voter-approved levy provides \$6.1 million annually to add 13 police officers and the equipment and staff needed to support these officers.

State Public Safety Grants

Washington’s HB 2015 created a \$100 million state grant to help cities hire and train police officers. The grant is



Vancouver Police officers at community event

competitive, temporary, and requires local matching funds. It helps jumpstart hiring but does not replace long-term funding. VPD applied for a \$7.8 million grant in July and, if approved, will provide one-time funding for public safety investments, including hiring and initial costs for 16 police officers, related equipment, and a Real-Time Information Center.

Public Safety Sales Tax

In August, the City Council voted to adopt a 0.1% increase in the local sales and use tax. This dedicated stream can be used only for criminal justice purposes, including police officers and related expenses, public defense, hiring crisis response specialists, and expanding officer wellness and de-escalation programs. The sales tax will provide the ongoing funding needed to retain the officers once the state public safety grant ends. The tax is expected to raise \$6 million annually.

The community told us public safety is their top priority and that they wanted funding sources that didn’t rely solely on property tax. By combining local funding and state resources, we are building a police department to meet the needs of our growing community.



Visit cityofvancouver.us/public-safety or scan the QR code to learn more.



Vancouver Police officers



Vancouver Police officer and K-9



Inspire Vancouver invests in students

Inspire Vancouver field trip fund opens doors to arts and science for local students

Students in Vancouver and Evergreen Public Schools are exploring beyond the classroom this fall, thanks to the new Inspire Vancouver Field Trip Fund. Supported by a 0.1% local sales tax, this investment uses public dollars to expand access to arts, culture, heritage, and science experiences for our community’s youth

The Field Trip Fund has already provided \$700,000 to local school districts this year. These funds cover transportation and admission costs for trips to museums, science centers, and other cultural destinations.

By removing barriers like cost and logistics, Inspire Vancouver ensures that every student, regardless of background, can participate in meaningful learning experiences beyond the classroom.



Visit inspirevancouver.org or scan the QR code to learn more.

Addressing affordable housing in Vancouver



Like other communities, Vancouver faces barriers in ensuring there’s ample affordable housing. Rising construction costs, high interest rates, and limited funding have slowed production for some time.

In response, Vancouver is putting its Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) to work and updating local ordinances to remove barriers to developing affordable housing.

We’ve updated the AHF to provide more flexibility and provide predevelopment funding to help projects clear early hurdles before construction can begin. This allows us to increase support for developments whose budgets were squeezed by rising costs, keeping much-needed new homes on track to open.

The recently adopted Comprehensive Plan includes updating zoning codes

to support higher-density housing, and removes most minimum parking requirements, making it easier to develop a wider range of housing options.

The Rental Registration Program, launched in January 2026, is part of the City’s strategy to preserve affordable housing. The program requires annual registration of all residential rental units and is developing inspection checklists and procedures to give inspectors consistent, fair standards for identifying habitability issues before they become costly problems for tenants or property owners.

Together, these initiatives ensure Vancouver’s housing stock is affordable and continues to grow to support both current and future residents.



\$2 million from the AHF helped make senior living at Laurel Manor possible

Affordable Housing Fund turns 10

Now in its tenth year, the voter-approved Affordable Housing Fund is the cornerstone of the City’s work to support affordable housing in Vancouver. Over the past decade, the fund:



Built/preserved 2,040 affordable homes



Kept 2,267 families off the street



Provided warm and dry shelter to 1,254 individuals who otherwise would have been outside

INSIDE CITY HALL

City Council

Mayor and Council Office: 360-487-8629

Anne McEnerny-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 for the latest events, meetings, updates, and services.

Free Leaf Disposal Coupon

Prevent street flooding—*never* blow or place leaves in the street.

Vancouver and Clark County residents only

Valid October 1–December 31, 2026

Present this coupon at a participating drop-off location for up to 5 cubic yards of **leaves only**. No bags, trimmings, yard debris or mixed loads accepted.

Complete the following information:

Name: _____

Street address: _____ ZIP: _____

City of Vancouver residents: Funding for this program is provided through your garbage rates.

Clark County residents: Funding for this program is provided through Clark County Public Works.

Drop-off locations:

Loads must be covered and secured. Call ahead to verify operating hours.

City Bark

2419 N.E. Andresen Rd., Vancouver, WA
360-253-8461

H&H Wood Recyclers

8401 N.E. 117th Ave., Vancouver, WA
360-892-2805

McFarlane's Bark

8806 N.E. 117th Ave., Vancouver, WA
360-892-6125

Triangle Resources

612 S.E. Union Street, Camas, WA
360-834-7253

West Van Materials Recovery Center

6601 N.W. Old Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA | 360-737-1727

CVTV

Clark Vancouver Television

Tune in to CVTV for your local election guide and candidate forums

Before you vote, learn more about the candidates running for office with Clark/Vancouver Television's (CVTV) Video Voters' Guide and video coverage of the League of Women Voters' candidate forums.

Watch CVTV on Comcast 23/323HD, 21/321HD and at cvtv.org.

CVTV is the local government, non-commercial cable access channel operated and funded by the City of Vancouver and Clark County, Washington.

Be Ready Vancouver: Take the next step toward preparedness

Emergencies can happen when we least expect them, but you don't have to prepare alone. Through Be Ready Vancouver, the City offers free workshops for neighborhood associations, local businesses, and community groups.

Our team will guide you through practical steps, like:

- **Signing up for emergency alerts**
- **Creating a household plan**
- **Building your emergency supplies over time**
- **Connecting with neighbors to coordinate preparedness**

You'll learn about local hazards and discover actions you can take right away to keep your household safe.

A winter storm can down trees and cause power outages

Ready to bring Be Ready Vancouver to your group? Visit cityofvancouver.us/BeReady or scan the QR code to get started.

Calendar of events

October

19

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

26

City Council Workshop
Biennial Budget

5 p.m.

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

November

2

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

9

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

16

City Council Meeting
Public Hearing on Biennial Budget

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

November (cont.)

23

City Council Community Forum

6:30 p.m.

Location to be announced

26

Thanksgiving Day

All City offices closed

27

Native American Heritage Day

All City offices closed

Community Tree Lighting

4 to 6:30 p.m.

Esther Short Park, 301 W. 8th St.

December

6

Community Menorah Lighting

3 to 4 p.m.

Vancouver Waterfront Park
695 Waterfront Way

7

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. 6th St.

See full calendar

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

Investing in Vancouver streets

During the summer, we pave streets across the city to protect them and maximize their lifespan. We evaluate pavement conditions, select streets, and identify the most cost-effective methods for each street. Pavement preservation adds about 7 to 11 years to a street's life, while resurfacing adds 15 to 20 years.

This pavement season, we preserved or resurfaced parts of major corridors, including Fourth Plain Boulevard, Thurston Way, St. Johns Road, Northeast 18th Street, Northeast 136th Avenue, Southeast Mill Plain Boulevard, Southeast 164th Avenue, and Southeast 192nd Avenue.

2026 pavement season by the numbers

~300

Trees were pruned to improve tree health and provide clearance for pavement equipment

70

Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant curb ramps installed

17

Neighborhoods had pavement work

72

Lane miles of street preserved

21

Lane miles of street resurfaced

Visit cityofvancouver.us/pavement or scan the QR code to learn more about our investments in Vancouver streets.

Find City services and more at cityofvancouver.us

Follow the City on social media @[VancouverUS](https://twitter.com/VancouverUS)

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