



The Village at Fisher's Landing

Neighborhood Association Newsletter

President's Message

Atul Mathur



Hello Neighbors,

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in our annual meeting. This year brought new energy to our leadership team, and I'd like to extend my gratitude to Greg for his dedicated service as President over the past two years, and to Laura, who will continue her excellent work as Treasurer. I'm also excited to welcome Phil Brooke as the new Vice President. As for myself, transitioning from Secretary to President is an honor, and I am committed to our shared vision for the neighborhood.

Reflecting on VFLNA's journey, we've consistently aimed for impactful changes. Last year's focus on repairing boundary walls and sprucing up sidewalks was just a tangible instance. Looking ahead, we're channeling our efforts into enhancing green spaces, improving street safety and walkability, and nurturing our community ties with initiatives like the Little Free Libraries and our signature Cleanup Day. It's about creating a vibrant, connected community where everyone's input makes a difference.

For a closer look at our recent achievements and a preview of what's to come, I encourage you to delve into this newsletter. Your thoughts and proposals are invaluable to us; please share them using the [Contact us](#) page. They will be a key part of the discussion at the next VFLNA board meeting in early March.

Warm regards,

Atul Mathur

President, VFLNA

PS. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped support our activities over the year! And to the board members who are out there for all of us, attending city meetings and advocating on our behalf, making sure our voices are heard. Thanks!

Explore this edition of newsletter, packed with community highlights: from the Little Free Library initiative and Cleanup Day to volunteer opportunities for our Yard Sale.

Get updates on the 34th Street project, the Vancouver Innovation Center, and meet your Neighborhood Police Officer.

Engage in how to enhance walkability and to discover why benches are more than just seating, engage in park development discussions, and discover grant opportunities.

Join us in shaping a vibrant, connected community!

***Includes A Special
Sustainability
Supplement***

Sign up to have the newsletter sent directly to your inbox. Simply click:

<https://www.vflna.com/newsletter.html>

Inside This Edition: Key Highlights

President's Message: A warm welcome and the latest updates.

[What is a Neighborhood Association?](#): Unveiling the heart and purpose behind our collective efforts.

[The Little Free Library Initiative](#): Fostering a love for reading within our community, one book at a time.

[Neighborhood Cleanup Day](#): Join us in making our neighborhood sparkle and shine.

[Yard Sale: Seeking Volunteer Coordinators!](#): Be the driving force behind our cherished biennial event.

[34th Street Project Update](#): Stay informed on the latest developments in enhancing our streets.

[Vancouver Innovation Center](#): Discover the cutting-edge project transforming the former Hewlett Packard site.

[Enhancing Our Community's Walkability](#): Let's make our streets safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

[Why Benches Matter](#): The role of benches in creating a welcoming and restful community space.

[Your Neighborhood Police Officer](#): Meet the dedicated officer ensuring safety in our area.

[Park Development in Our Neighborhood](#): Share your vision for greener, more vibrant communal spaces.

[A Guide to Vancouver's Grant Opportunities](#): Unlocking resources to bring your community projects to life.

[Neighborhood Vision and Action Plan \(2024-2025\)](#): Our roadmap for a thriving, connected community.

Sustainability Supplement

RecycleRight App: Navigate recycling dos and don'ts effortlessly with this handy tool.

What Goes in the Recycle Bin: Master the art of recycling with these essential tips.

Indoor Hydroponic Gardens: Explore the joys of gardening indoors, regardless of space.

Curious? **Scan the QR code** to access the full PDF version of our newsletter online and dive deeper into each topic, or visit

<https://www.vflna.com/newsletter.html>.

In Case You Missed It: Dive into Our Newsletter Archives!

Explore Past Editions for Valuable Insights:

- **Home Repair Projects:** Tips and tricks for DIY fixes and enhancements.
- **Heat Pump Upgrades:** How to make your home more energy-efficient.
- **Street Tree Care:** Preserving and maintaining our leafy canopy.
- **Tree Replacement:** Guidelines for replenishing our green streets.
- **Recycling Best Practices:** Master the art of recycling in our community.
- **Home Remodeling:** Transforming spaces in the Village at Fisher's Landing.
- **Getting most out of the VFLNA Website:** Navigating our online resources for maximum benefit.

Stay Informed: Revisit our past newsletters to catch up on all things neighborhood-related.



What is a Neighborhood Association

What is VFLNA?

The Village at Fisher's Landing Neighborhood Association (VFLNA) is a voluntary organization of residents who work together to improve and maintain the quality of life in its' neighborhood. Being a recognized entity by the City of Vancouver gives us a voice and advocate regarding issues within the city that impact our neighborhood. Membership is open to all property owners, and renters in the neighborhood. Click <https://www.vflna.com/about.html> to learn about all the ways the Board has supported the neighborhood.



Springtime in the Village - photo by Cindy Finch

The Benefits of VFLNA

- Residents are made aware of planning, transportation or other city issues that may affect the neighborhood.
- Having a voice with city officials.
- Assistance with our neighborhood cleanup (we've called Dump Day.)
- Neighborhood Communications among residents both electronic & paper mailings for our Annual Meeting.

The Benefits of the CC&Rs to the Village

Covenants, conditions and restrictions were formed when the Village was established back in 1993. Through observance of our CC&Rs the beauty of our neighborhood has been maintained helping us keep the property values of our homes high. It is the Village's expectation that all residents understand and follow the CC&Rs. View the CC&Rs at: <https://www.vflna.com/ccrs>

Is VFLNA an HOA?

The Village at Fisher's Landing is one of sixty-nine recognized neighborhood associations within the City of Vancouver. Some may refer to us as an HOA (Home Owner's Association) and that we are **not**.

As a neighborhood association (NA) we are a group of residents or property owners who advocate for, and organize activities within the neighborhood. We are volunteers some of whom are elected to the board of directors who organize our activities along with members at large. Along the way since 1986 we have asked for voluntary contributions to assist with landscape management along the 164th Street and 34th Way plus various activities that are of benefit to our residents.

Though we have CC&Rs to maintain property value, our association relies on civic spirit, unlike many HOAs with mandatory dues, strict rules, and sometimes paid management. Learn the difference between NA and HOA online or at the [City of Vancouver website](#).

- Carl Trinacty, Member at Large VFLNA



Get Involved: Your participation makes our neighborhood thrive.

Whether it's joining a committee, volunteering for events, or simply sharing your ideas, your contribution is invaluable.

Together, let's build a more connected, informed, and vibrant Village at Fishers Landing.



Neighborhood Vision and Action Plan (2024-2025)

Objectives:

1. **Enhanced Communication:** Strengthening dialogue between the Board and our community.
2. **Education:** Clarifying the non-HOA nature and mission of VFLNA to all residents.
3. **Increased Participation:** Encouraging active involvement in events, surveys, and contributions to foster a vibrant community.
4. **Safety and Resources:** Serving as a go-to resource for homeowners' safety concerns, CC&R awareness, and liaising with city officials on community developments like park spaces.
5. **Board Governance:** Defining clear roles and establishing a structured calendar for Board members and committees.

Action Plans:

- **Communication Enhancements:** Leveraging a robust website, mailings, and open Board meetings to keep the community informed and engaged.
- **Social Involvement:** Expanding social activities including Neighborhood Clean-up Day, Dump Day, and Village-wide Yard Sale to strengthen community bonds.

VFLNA:
Making a Difference
Where It Matters

Little Free Library: Bringing Books Closer to Home



Have you seen one? Have you used one? Have you donated books to one? Or have you even heard of this concept? Would the residents of Village of Fishers Landing be interested in sponsoring a Little Free Library in any of our six housing phases?

Our nearest public library is over four miles from Village of Fisher's Landing. Not all residents are able to easily access that library. Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to be a catalyst to build community, inspire readers, and expand book access to all. It provides guidelines and plans for starting a Little Free Library. We encourage you to browse the website (littlefreelibrary.org)

Would you consider being a steward of this project? With 250 homes in our association, there surely would be on-going use of one or more Little Free Libraries in our neighborhood. And this "Library" can also be a place for neighborhood announcements.

We have volunteers ready to construct the library and maintain it. But we need a highly visible location with lots of foot traffic.

Use the "[Contact Form](#)" on the website and/or contact a Board member to share your ideas. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Little Free Library Initiative

Bringing Books to Our Doorstep:

Did you know our nearest public library is over four miles away? Imagine having a Little Free Library right in our neighborhood, making it easier for everyone to grab a book anytime!

What's a Little Free Library?:

It's a small, community-led book exchange that's part of a global initiative to inspire readers and build community. Anyone can take a book or leave a book, and it's all based on trust and sharing.

Why It Matters for Us:

With hundreds of homes in our community, think of the endless possibilities for sharing stories, knowledge, and even neighborhood news through a Little Free Library.

Be a Part of Something Big:

This is more than just books; it's about strengthening our community ties and creating a shared space for everyone to enjoy.

Could You Be The Steward?:

Would you, as a family, be interested in helping out with this project? Whether it's donating books, helping with setup, or even being a steward, there's a role for everyone.

Finding the Perfect Spot:

We need a location that's easy for all our neighbors to access. Any ideas where we might set up our Little Free Library for maximum visibility and use?

Let's Make It Happen!



Did you know that this little free library is [near](#) our neighborhood? Check it out!

Little Free Library



Hint: This little free library is near our neighborhood park that is called Village Woods Open Space

Bring Back the Treasure Hunt: Calling All Coordinators for Our Beloved July Yard Sale!

"One person's trash is another person's treasure."

Remember the VFLNA July yard sales of past years? So many shoppers finding great treasure — we residents satisfied with our profits — neighbors meeting each other. Let's repeat that scene this July!

HOWEVER — there is one problem.

We need new coordinators for this event, as our past volunteer has "retired".

We have a plan to follow — and fellow neighbors to assist with flyers, notices, and signage. So the team is ready — we just need a coordinator. And the coordinator gets to select the dates for the event.

Use the VFLNA [Contact form](#) on our website or contact any Board member to volunteer.

- Cindy Finch

Let's make this July one for the books, full of fun finds and community spirit!

Yard Sale: Seeking Volunteer Coordinators!

Volunteer Role: We're in search of enthusiastic Volunteer Coordinators to lead this beloved event. If you love organizing, connecting with neighbors, and fostering community spirit, this role is perfect for you!

Coordinator Benefits:

- **Community Impact:** Play a pivotal role in bringing our community together for a fun and fruitful event.
- **Creative Freedom:** Have the opportunity to infuse the yard sale with your unique ideas and flair.
- **Support Network:** You won't be alone! A team of volunteers will be there to support you every step of the way.

Responsibilities:

- Event planning and coordination
- Managing volunteers and delegating tasks
- Overseeing advertising and community outreach

How to Volunteer:

- **Contact:** Reach out via our website's "[Contact Form](#)" or directly to any Board member.

Join Us for a Day of Community Clean-Up and Fun – calling for volunteers!

VFLNA Neighborhood Cleanup (commonly known as “Dump Day”) is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2024. Our neighborhood has been grouped with Fisher’s Creek Neighborhood Association and Northfield Neighborhood Association by the City Public Works Administrator. This annual event will occur in the parking lot of Fisher’s Landing Elementary School, accessible using SE Hiddenbrook Drive from 34th Street. The event will be from 8:00 am to 1:50 pm. Provided will be a garbage truck for bulky items, a metal recycling box for appropriate items, and a chipper for large tree branches. A Porta-Potty will also be available to volunteers.

If enough volunteers are available, extra collection areas can be set up: “Too Good To Toss”, Bicycles, and a Plant Sale/Swap. Volunteers need to be available for set-up, monitoring, and delivery of reusable items at 2:00 pm.

Volunteers are needed from 7:45 am until 2:00 pm., to volunteer in two-hour shifts. Monetary contributions will gladly be accepted upon entry — each neighborhood association will have its own separate collection box.

A postcard will be mailed to each VFLNA household a few weeks prior to the event. It will provide more specifics for Neighborhood Cleanup.

Please volunteer to help at this important neighborhood event. Recruit a friend, and you can be a team. If you know of a charity that accepts used bicycles, “too good to toss” items, and/or small engine machines, please contact me with specific information.

If you can volunteer a pick-up truck or van to transport these items at 2:00 pm on April 20th, please let me know. The more items we can recycle or reuse, then the fewer items that are sent to the “landfill”.

Please reach out to volunteer for any aspect of this event. - - - -
- Cindy Finch

Neighborhood Cleanup Day

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2024

Time: 8:00 am - 1:50 pm

Location: Fisher’s Landing Elementary School Parking Lot.
Access via SE Hiddenbrook Drive from 34th Street

Highlights:

- **Bulky Item Disposal:** Bring your large, non-hazardous items for disposal.
- **Metal Recycling:** Clear out unwanted metal items for recycling.
- **Branch Chipping:** Dispose of large tree branches with our on-site chipper.
- **Special Collection Areas:** Depending on volunteer availability, look out for “Too Good To Toss,” Bicycle Recycling, and a Plant Sale/Swap.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Join us from 7:45 am - 2:00 pm, with flexible two-hour shifts available.

Contribute: Monetary donations welcome at the entrance; each neighborhood association will have its own collection box

To volunteer or for more information, drop us a line using the VFLNA [Contact form](#) on our website or email me directly at cindyloufinch@yahoo.com.

Winter wonderland



.... and the arctic freeze



A Closer Look at the SE 34th Street Project: Balancing Progress with Community Voices

The SE 34th Street Safety and Mobility Project will extend between SE 164th Ave. and SE 192nd Ave. Emily Benoit, Senior Transportation Planner for the City of Vancouver, last week advised that the City Council endorsed the design concept on October 9, 2023.

Extract from the project webpage



The SE 34th Street Safety and Mobility Project is an opportunity to help all community members get around safely between SE 164th and SE 192nd Avenues regardless of how they choose to travel.

There are three goals for the project:

1. Improve mobility for all users
2. Prioritize safety
3. Use low-cost solutions that can be implemented quickly

The Project is currently in the civil design phase where striping plans are taken from 30% to 100% design. Implementation of the project is expected this year in the 2024 paving season. Emily also stated that on-going community meetings will **not** affect the outcome.

The complete plans for the SE 34th Street project are available at the City of Vancouver website —

Business/Planning Development and Zoning/
Transportation Planning/ Complete Streets/
[SE 34th St.](https://se34th.vancouver.org/SE_34th/VancouverMovingDifferentlyVancouver.ca)

For those of us feeling a bit out of the loop or concerned about the project feeling a tad top-down, perhaps there's still room to weigh in.

Any Vancouver citizen can submit public comment by email to the Transportation and Mobility Commission, which meets the first Tuesday of each month at 4:30 pm at City Hall.

At the City of Vancouver Website: (Government/[Boards and Commissions](#)), register online to provide (including in-person) testimony. *In your email, **specifically** request that your written comments be shared with all City Council members and project staff.*

The VIC — Vancouver Innovation Center

The VIC is being planned for the 179 acre former Hewlett Packard site, located along SE 34th Street, just west of 192nd Avenue. The site had an existing 700,000 square foot industrial



building, surrounded by grassy fields and trees, currently grazing cattle. Carl Trinacty attended the Zoom online open house on January 31st. He reports these general project and timeline updates.

The meeting was attended by residents of adjacent neighborhoods. The recent master plan submission will continue to be multi-use that will include various residential and light industrial, combining offices for various businesses. There will be a retailing area of small shops and restaurants called a "Town Center".

Further, the Evergreen School District has been allocated a twenty-acre parcel in the northwest corner for development.

Rabina reports they will include green space gateways for walking access off 176th Avenue, 34th Street, and 192nd Avenue, plus walking trails throughout the development. Under the new masterplan, road access on the west side will be a new "round about" at 29th Street and 176th Avenue. The east side road entrance will be at 29th Street and 192nd Avenue. The southern road access will continue to be 34th Street at SE Hiddenbrook Drive.

Rabina estimates that 1,800 residential units will be on site, made up of multifamily townhouses, apartments, and perhaps some single detached homes. Vancouver City Council is expected to review the new plan and approve it soon. The developers are anxious to break ground to advance their investment. VFLNA will be impacted along with our neighbors. However, it is a longterm plan sought by our City to promote a vibrant east side.

What is Vancouver Innovation Center:

In 2021, the city of Vancouver approved an initial Master Plan and development Agreement for the site.

The developers New Blueprint Partners and Rabina have completed renovations to the existing 700,000 sq.ft. flex/industrial buildings, which were built in the 1980s.

These investments include: new energy efficient chillers, new heating, ventilation and cooling control systems, new LED lighting throughout the campus, and renovating the former cafeteria into a modern new 35,000 sq.ft. common area with gathering spaces, greenery, upscale cafe and catering kitchen, and upgraded and expanded fitness center with locker rooms.

In addition, the developers have launched regular programming for tenants and employees that includes live music, fitness classes, and health lectures.

The developers continue to advance the new master plan through the city's approval process.

Let's see how this unfolds!

There is plenty of information to review, as well as artists' renditions of the plans at <http://www.TheVicOutreach.net>

Enhancing Our Community's Walkability: A Collaborative Effort

Neighborhood “walkability”: it is more than just sidewalks and street crossings. It involves equal access for walkers, parents with children on riding toys or strollers, as well as adults with walking devices or wheelchairs.

THANK YOU to those residents who keep their sidewalks and drive access smooth and in good repair.

THANK YOU to those who prune bushes, trees and vines so the walkways are totally accessible.

THANK YOU to those who clear leaves, clippings, sticks and mud from those same areas.

THANK YOU to those whose vehicles in driveways remain clear of the sidewalk area.

A minimum of forty inches of clearance is required for a wheelchair to safely navigate. And forty-eight inches minimum for side-by-side, such as parent and child, or two adults. Because older sidewalks do not meet these minimums, it is all the more important to keep the areas clear.

Sometimes a resting place is needed when one is on a walk, especially on hot summer days. Unfortunately, the Village of Fishers Landing lacks any benches adjacent to sidewalk areas. Whether a place to rest for a moment while carrying a bag of groceries, or to chat with a neighbor, to allow a young parent to adjust a stroller or comfort a child — benches do promote neighborhood walkability. (See the sidebar)

A walkable neighborhood promotes neighborly responsiveness. It also is attractive to those who prefer to remain in their home — to age in place, perhaps in multi-generational households.

How can you help VFL to become a more walkable community? Please add your idea to the [“Contact Form”](#) on the website, and these ideas will be explored in the Spring newsletter.

Why Benches Matter:

- **Rest and Accessibility:** Benches provide essential rest points for those who are elderly, managing disabilities, or simply needing a moment to catch their breath. This inclusivity ensures that everyone, regardless of physical ability, can enjoy our neighborhood's beauty.
- **Social Interaction:** Positioned strategically, benches become social hubs where neighbors can pause, engage in conversation, and strengthen community bonds. They transform mere pathways into communal spaces, encouraging a sense of belonging.
- **Aesthetic Appeal:** Beyond functionality, benches can enhance the visual appeal of our surroundings, especially when designed to complement the local landscape and architecture.
- **Safety:** Well-placed benches offer spots for individuals to rest if they're feeling unwell or need assistance, contributing to the overall safety and well-being of our community members.

We believe that the introduction of even a few benches can significantly impact the walkability and communal feel of our neighborhood. If you share this vision, or have suggestions on optimal locations for new benches, we encourage you to reach out. Together, we can create a more connected and accessible community, one bench at a time.

Exploring Park Development in Our Neighborhood: A Call for Community Input

Does Our Area Need a Developed Park? This question has been discussed by neighbors of our area for many years. There is no accessible “green space” within the VFL. The 1.66 acres along the creek is not accessible to the public.

Two other park areas are adjacent to VFL, yet outside our neighborhood association boundaries. The Village Woods open space on SE 34th Street & SE 176th Ave ([map](#)) has 2.3 acres of mature fir trees, shrubs, and ground cover/grass mowed several times a year, with a lightly graveled path — one bench, and a garbage can. There is open access from the north and east. VFL sits to the west, sharing a fenced boundary line. Hambleton Park, commonly known as the “dog park”, has 4.4 acres of grass, bordered by fence on three sides, trees and scrub brush on the fourth. It is termed “undeveloped” and sits at the corner of SE 39th St. and SE 171st Ave.[\(map\)](#), with a sign and a garbage can. This is one-half block south of the VFL southern boundary.

Should either of these parks be further developed?

Our VFLNA President met Steve Wille, at “Coffee with the Mayor” in late January. Steve is a member of the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. Steve has been very active in his own neighborhood association, Countryside Park, as well as restoring other areas for naturalized recreation in Vancouver. Steve is willing to assist in discovering how the VFLNA feels about these two areas, and if they should be further developed in any way.

Take the time to visit these parks, and decide how you would use them, as they are now or if they were further developed. Many homebuyers want a nearby park to access on foot or by bicycle, for themselves and their family — so well-developed parks are a big asset when selling a home.

Stay tuned for more information as development is explored.

Park Development in Our Neighborhood: Your Input Needed

Objective: Enhance local green spaces through community-driven park development initiatives. Explore the potential transformation of these parks to meet our neighborhood's recreational and social needs.

Current Status:

- Village Woods Open Space:**
2.3 acres of natural terrain with minimal amenities, offering potential for further development to enhance accessibility and usability.
- Hambleton Park ("Dog Park"):**
4.4 acres characterized by open grassland, currently underutilized, and termed "undeveloped," presenting an opportunity for community-focused improvements.

Next Steps:

- Site Visits:** We encourage residents to visit these areas, envisioning potential improvements and uses.
- Feedback Submission:** [Share](#) your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions for park development.

Your perspective is crucial in shaping the future of these spaces. Consider the current use, potential enhancements, and how these developments can serve the broader community needs.

City Spotlight: Corporal Jeremy Free



Corporal Jeremy Free is the District 4 Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) for the City of Vancouver. Corporal Free has worked for the Vancouver Police Department for twenty years. He has held positions as a Neighborhood Response Team detective, Major Crimes detective, and Digital Evidence Cybercrime Unit detective. He also worked as a Task Force officer with the FBI investigating crimes against children/. He's been a medic with the Tactical EMS unit supporting SWAT for approximately twelve years. He has been in his current assignment as the District 4 NPO for two years.

An NPO is the liaison between the citizens of his district and the Police Department. Jeremy is available to meet with neighbors to discuss crime issues, livability, issues, attend community meetings, and to answer questions about crime. Each NPO is the main contact person for us neighbors to contact when there are crime issues or other concerns of that nature requiring problem solving strategies.

Your Neighborhood Police Officer:

Name: Corporal Jeremy Free

Experience: 20 years with the Vancouver Police Department, including roles in Major Crimes, Cybercrime, and as a Tactical EMS medic.

Role: Serving as the liaison between District 4 residents and the Vancouver Police Department, addressing community concerns related to crime and safety.

Contact:

- **Email:**
Jeremy.free@cityofvancouver.us
(Preferred for quick response)
- **Office Phone:** 360-487-7372
(Limited availability)

Services:

- Discussing crime and livability issues
- Attending community meetings
- Offering crime prevention tips and strategies

Note: Corporal Free is often in the field actively engaging with the community, so email is the best way to ensure a timely response.

Empowering Our Community: A Guide to Vancouver's Grant Opportunities

This initiative is designed to invigorate our local community by funding projects that enhance connectivity, foster engagement, and celebrate our collective spirit.

Grant Tiers to Fit Every Vision:

- **Micro Grants:** Perfect for small yet impactful projects, these grants offer up to \$500 to turn your innovative ideas into reality.
- **Tier 2 Grants:** For ambitions that aim to significantly elevate our community experience, up to \$10,000 is available to bring larger projects to life.

Why This Matters: These grants aren't just about financial support; they're a testament to Vancouver's commitment to nurturing strong, cohesive communities. They encourage each one of us to imagine, create, and participate in activities that deepen our connections and support our neighbors.

How to Get Involved: The application period is open now and runs through September, or until funds are exhausted. This is a call to action for all community members to collaborate, dream big, and propose events or projects that can strengthen our neighborhood ties.

This is more than just a grant program; it's a chance to contribute to the fabric of our community, to make a lasting impact, and to witness the power of collective effort.

Let's seize this opportunity to enrich our neighborhood and create spaces and events that reflect our shared values and aspirations.

Unlock Community Potential with Grants!

WHAT: Community and Neighborhood Grants available now! Micro: up to \$500, Tier 2: up to \$10,000

WHY: Encourage strong communities within Vancouver

HOW: Work together to create neighborhood events that strengthen community ties and support of one another - complete the [Contact Form](#) on this website and/or Contact a Board Member to become involved

Timeline:

- **Now Open:** Applications accepted through September or *until* funds run out.

Get Involved:

Have an idea that can enhance our neighborhood? Let's collaborate! Fill out the Contact Form on our site or reach out to any Board Member.

Learn More:

- **Web:** Dive into details at [City of Vancouver Community Grants](#).
- **Email:** Send your queries to neighborhoods@cityofvancouver.us.
- **Call:** For a direct chat, dial 360-624-1774.



Good Neighbors

Reminder Tips for Good Relations

To be a good neighbor, consider the effects your actions may have on your neighbors. Here are three tips to keep good relations:

Keep your neighbors informed. Contact your neighbor before undertaking something that might affect them. These things might include adding floodlights or shared fencing. If you are having work done that might impact your neighbor let them know ahead of time.

Be aware of differences. Difference in age, ethnic backgrounds, years in the neighborhood, etc. can lead to conflicting expectations and misunderstandings unless you talk with each other.

Noise Disturbances. Consider how your neighbors might be impacted by things like continuous or repetitive barking or howling of pets; or amplified music or loud parties; each especially late at night. There is a noise law within our city. Becoming familiar with the code is both helpful and respectful of your neighbor.

Call For Content!

The neighborhood newsletter is always looking for interesting and informative articles for publication. If you have any information that you think that your neighbors might find helpful and time or money saving, please submit it to <https://www.vflna.com/contact-us.html>

VFLNA Mailing Address

19215 SE 34th St. #106
Box 241
Camas, WA 98607



Board Officers

Atul Mathur, President
Phil Brooke, Vice President
Laura Mason, Treasurer
Cindy Finch, Secretary

Members at Large

Bill Hruby
Bob Dehler
Carl Trinacty
Howard Adler
Jolene George
Katherine O'Neil
Kathyellen Blovits
Ronny Plushnick
Ryan Smith
Toby Graff

Committees

Mission Statement Committee: Distinguishing VFLNA from HOAs and articulating our unique mission.

Social Activities: Leading community-centric events to promote neighborliness and engagement.

Neighborhood Beautification: Focusing on sustainability, recycling, and the aesthetic enhancement of our communal spaces.

Communications: Ensuring timely and relevant information reaches every resident through newsletters, postcards, and digital platforms.

Betterment/Safety/Schools: Addressing traffic safety, educational initiatives, and overall community well-being.

Writer: Cindy Finch

Editor/Graphics Designer: Atul Mathur

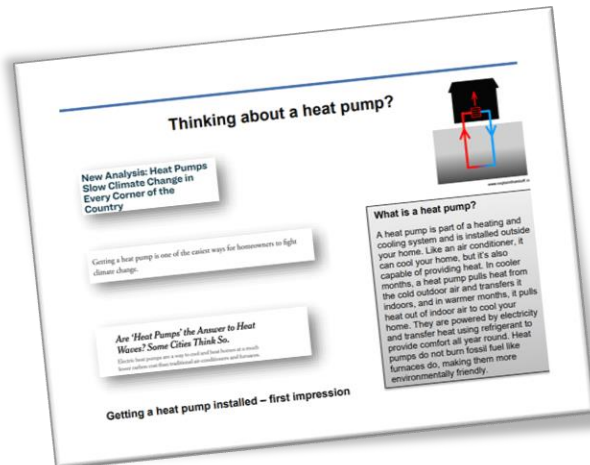
Reviewers: Carl Trinacty, Jolene George

Sources: Information for articles is taken from a variety of sources, specifically City of Vancouver Neighborhoods email each Friday. Zoom meetings open to Neighborhood Association representatives. CC&Rs. City of Vancouver Code information.

Special Sustainability Supplement

Heat pumps, recycling and indoor gardens.

Welcome to our sustainability supplement, where we spotlight how adopting green technologies like heat pumps and indoor gardens can lead to significant financial savings.



Heat pumps offer an efficient alternative to traditional heating and cooling, potentially lowering your energy bills and reducing your environmental impact. If you don't have an air conditioner, then you may want to consider a heat pump when you replace your furnace.

See the Spring 2022 and Spring 2023 newsletter for more information

Meanwhile, indoor gardens allow you to grow fresh produce right in your home, cutting down on grocery costs and enhancing your living space.

Last year, Cindy Finch attended the Recycle U classes at the public library on June 10th, and was offered about ten articles, that have been approved and are available to use for our newsletter (all provided by Elizabeth Erikson from the City of Vancouver. Thanks!) We are republishing one of the articles.



Join us in exploring these sustainable practices that not only save money but also contribute to a healthier, more sustainable community.

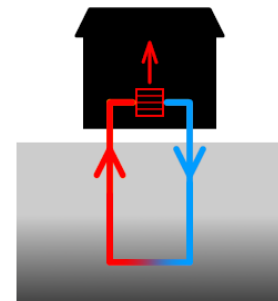
This is a reprint of an article from Spring 2022 VFLNA newsletter.

New Analysis: Heat Pumps Slow Climate Change in Every Corner of the Country

Getting a heat pump is one of the easiest ways for homeowners to fight climate change.

Are 'Heat Pumps' the Answer to Heat Waves? Some Cities Think So.

Electric heat pumps are a way to cool and heat homes at a much lower carbon cost than traditional air-conditioners and furnaces.



www.explainthatstuff.com

What is a heat pump?

A heat pump is part of a heating and cooling system and is installed outside your home. Like an air conditioner, it can cool your home, but it's also capable of providing heat. In cooler months, a heat pump pulls heat from the cold outdoor air and transfers it indoors, and in warmer months, it pulls heat out of indoor air to cool your home. They are powered by electricity and transfer heat using refrigerant to provide comfort all year round. Heat pumps do not burn fossil fuel like furnaces do, making them more environmentally friendly.

Getting a heat pump installed – first impression

- Atul Mathur, VFLNA

Frustrated by our sky-high natural gas bill, and by the concern for our greenhouse gas emissions, we decided to make some changes to our house's heating situation. Starting small, this winter we first sealed off leaking windows and doors. After considering lots of options and getting multiple estimates, we finally got a single-stage heat pump installed.

Overall, the system looks the same in the garage and outside; however now heat pump heats the house, and the new furnace usually just runs the fan. The furnace takes over the heating only when it is freezing outside. The system seems to run less frequently and is quieter. With a new smart WiFi connected thermostat, we programmed the temperature setting to keep the house cool at night and more comfortable at daytime.

As a sidenote, I should add that we also bought a few inexpensive space heaters to warm up our bedroom and home offices in the morning. These heaters are easily programmable with an App and now turn on and off on schedule automatically and make our living spaces more comfortable.

Bottom line: Though our electricity bill has gone up, our gas bill has plummeted. For the last few months, looking at our bills, we seem to be saving a bit of money (and burning much less of fossil fuels) every month. Though this upgrade to heat pump cost us some money upfront, these changes are doing some good and saving us some money too.

Special Sustainability Supplement

RecycleRight App.



Get the RecycleRight App. The City of Vancouver, Clark County and Waste Connections of Washington have teamed up to provide residential customers with an on-the-go resource for recycling, reusing and disposing the right way.

Download the free RecycleRight app for your smart phone or tablet, or use the Recycling A-Directory at <http://www.cityofvancouver.us/RecycleRight>. It's free and easy to use.

Use this helpful tool to get the garbage, recycling and optional organics schedule for your residence. Enter your address and hit search. You can also:

- View, download and print your garbage, recycling and organics collection **calendar**
- Sign up for regular **reminders** by email, phone or push notification
- Upload your schedule to your iCal, Google or Microsoft Outlook calendar
- Search the Recycling A-Z Directory for **locations** to donate, recycle or dispose of items
- Sign up for **Service Alerts** to be notified when service is affected by inclement weather

Available at the Apple App Store, for iPhones or iPads, or Google Play for Android devices. Look for RecycleRight and the familiar Blue Recycling Cart icon.

Download the RecycleRight app from:

[Apple App Store \(works with iPhones and iPads\)](#)

or

[Google Play \(works with android devices\).](#)

What goes in the Recycle Bin

Recycling doesn't have to be confusing, here are some helpful tips on what is/isn't recyclable in your blue cart.



✓ YES, Please Recycle in the bin:

- ✓ **Plastics:** Clean and dry bottles and containers. Screw caps on tight.
- ✓ **Cans:** Empty tin, aluminum, steel, and aerosol cans (no lids).
- ✓ **Paper Products:** Dry paper, newspapers, and magazines.
- ✓ **Cardboard:** Flattened cardboard, paperboard, and clean pizza delivery boxes.
- ✓ **Cartons:** Empty and rinsed milk cartons, juice boxes, and food cartons.
- ✓ **Glass:** Rinsed bottles (place in the separate green "glass" bin).

✗ NO, These Can't Be Recycled:

- ✗ **No Bags:** Avoid all bags, plastic wrap, and film.
- ✗ **No Foam:** Foam packaging and containers are not recyclable. *(Editor's note: please consider Recycle Plus etc.)*
- ✗ **No Flexible Packaging:** Flexible packaging materials are not accepted.
- ✗ **No "Take Out" Packaging:** Items with moisture-proof coatings, like some takeout boxes and paper drink cups, cannot be recycled.

Quick Tips:

- Ensure all recyclables are clean and dry to prevent contamination.
- When in doubt, leave it out. Contamination can lead to entire loads being rejected.

Let's all do our part to keep our recycling efforts effective and our community green!

Indoor Green gardens

Discover the World of Indoor Green Gardens

Have you thought of growing green vegetables “indoors” during our long Pacific Northwest winters? Potted plants on windowsills, vertical gardens on walls, terrariums, hydroponic or aquaponic systems, or dedicated rooms with grow lights — all are in use in Vancouver, WA.

Hydroponic growing systems are very popular and have been used by commercial gardeners for many years, especially for greens and tomatoes. Vertical production in a room allows more plants in a smaller area.



Last month, the front page of the Home & Garden Section in [The Columbian](#) (01-13-24) provided guidelines for growing a variety of vegetables indoors.

The public library, and Extension Services also offer information in their books and publications. And of course, the Internet has many Blogs and YouTubers.

Give it a try!.

Why Hydroponics:

- **Space-Saving:** Perfect for our neighborhood, hydroponics require minimal space, allowing you to grow herbs, vegetables, and flowers indoors.
- **Water Efficiency:** These systems use significantly less water than traditional gardening, recycling moisture in a closed loop.
- **Year-Round Harvest:** Enjoy fresh produce regardless of the season, right from your living room, kitchen, or balcony.

Getting Started:

- **Choose Your System:** From simple DIY setups to sophisticated kits, there's a hydroponic solution for every level of interest and expertise.
- **Select Your Plants:** Leafy greens, herbs, and small fruiting plants thrive in hydroponic environments. Start with something simple like basil or lettuce.

Join the Movement: Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a curious novice, indoor hydroponic gardening opens up a world of possibilities for sustainable, efficient, and enjoyable gardening within your home. Share your experiences and tips on our community platform, and let's grow together!

Learn More & Share: Visit our website for resources on starting your own hydroponic garden and connect with fellow gardening enthusiasts in our community to exchange tips, success stories, and inspiration.

Special Sustainability Supplement

Indoor hydroponic gardens



During the chill of winter, Basil and Pepper thrived in compact, [cost-effective hydroponic setups](#) right on his kitchen windowsill, defying the icy temperatures outside.

No Soil, No Mess: This system eliminates the dirt and pests that come with soil-based planting.



Can you spot the grow lights? Hint: these are LED lights!

Community Inspiration

Atul Mathur utilizes a vertical hydroponic growing system in his home in the Village of Fisher's Landing. He grows a large variety of greens, and highly recommends his set-up. He is available to share his experiences.

Below is a [Gardyn](#) system in his foyer with a wide variety of greens, lettuces and herbs, as well as plants of tomatoes, peppers and jalapenos that are blooming.

