



## Newsletter December 2025

### December Meeting is the Holiday Party!

### Just When You Thought Elections Were Over.....

We are going to have a small and very local one. You know the old adage “All politics are local?” This one is NOT political it's all about a little service and a lot of local community. Our Association Chairperson, Ken Visser, is stepping down in January after fulfilling the role for more years than we will ever ask anyone to do. Fortunately he's willing to remain on the Board so that will leave his successor with continuity and an invaluable mentorship and advice. Contact any Board member to discuss your interest in this.

And that's not our only need to keep this organization on track. The Vice-Chair position has been vacant. Our current Secretary Brenda will be moving from the neighborhood soon and must resign. We also need board members who are not one of the officers but are voting members of the Board and take on projects and events. You may be nominated by another, or you may nominate yourself.

The ANA board collectively acts as a liaison to the City of Vancouver. As needed, they organize neighborhood comments on City, State or Federal proposals that affect the neighborhood. They organize and direct activities such as park cleanups, history walks, the street mural painting, Christmas party, park concerts, and neighborhood clean-ups. They may participate in wider city-oriented groups such as the Vancouver Neighborhood Alliance or functions organized by the Uptown or Downtown Business Associations.

The ANA Bylaws sketch out the duties of the officers as follows:

The officers manage the meetings, planning sessions and activities of the neighborhood association.

**Chairperson** acts as the primary executive officer and presides over deliberations and activities of the neighborhood association. serves as the official spokesperson for the association.

**Vice-Chair** assists the Chairperson in all of the duties and performs the functions of the Chairperson in his/her absence.

**Secretary** acts in conjunction with the officers, keeps the minutes of all of the association's public and executive meetings and also serves as spokesperson for the association when appointed to do so.

The Bylaws also provide that:

- All Officers must continuously reside within the boundaries of Arnada Neighborhood.
- All Officers are expected to attend scheduled Board Meetings and General Meetings

We plan to hold ANA officer elections at our February 2026 neighborhood association meeting. We need candidates for the ballot as soon as possible so that we can publish it in the newsletter prior to voting. Please consider stepping up to serve, guide and represent your neighborhood. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact any current officer listed under “Elected ANA Board” in this newsletter.

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# Minutes Arnada NA-November 13<sup>th</sup> 2025

Ken Visser, Kathie Loveall, Tim Gruscinski, Rena Benette, Ali Boris, Holly Chamberlain, Brenda Hoge, Sharon Morse, Brett Waddell-City of Vancouver, Stephanie Bowan - Waste Connections, Samantha Smith Clark County Museum Outreach Volunteer, Lee Gelsinger Neighborhood Police Officer

Oct. minutes approved. Treasure report approved.

Treasurer Report We have \$350 in uncashed checks because the neighborhood clean-up gave it all to us to give to the other neighborhoods. We have \$900 more than we had in January.

## City News Lee Gelsinger:

Asked to look into the trash on E and Fourth Plain. Asked code people and lots of complications involved with that situation. Drove by today and the home owner is deceased. Will work with codes to get the trash services back up. It's mandatory. The removal of trash from the sidewalk is easy, but they will have trash service going forward. The address is confusing because it's split down the middle from the north and south. The house is owned by the bank.

Statistics updates: District 1 makes me proud. Crime reduced in the last year by 61%. Most neighborhoods it's in the teens. More crimes have been reported citywide. Only 128 crimes in the last

year which is not that much. Top 5 are destruction of property, shoplifting, an assault and a burglary-non-residential.

## Samantha Smith - Clark County Museum:

It's been in the Carnegie building since 1964. Prior to that the building was the first Vancouver library. We believe every story matters. Care for over 100,000 items in our collection. We are a 501-3c non-profit. There are only 4 paid employees with 30 volunteers. We are looking for new people to volunteer all the time. We have helped save various historical buildings including the Slocum House. They also help with interpretative services. At the museum we have three exhibits, with a new exhibit on Fort Vancouver opening up December 13th. They have a research library with maps that we can use with our neighborhood membership. You don't need to make a reservation to do that with the membership. WSU Vancouver houses the digital collection. There are member only events monthly. They will be closed the last two weeks of December and all of January for the new visitor area. They will re-open in February

First Thursday-Speaker series.

History on Tap

Neighborhood and Cemetery Tours

First Friday art walks

Haunting Tours in the Fall

Local Markets and author talks

We also get to use our membership for reciprocal museum visits. For example,

## City Contacts

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Office of Neighborhoods Kaitlyn Olszewski  
360-624-1774  
[Kaitlyn.olszewski@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Kaitlyn.olszewski@cityofvancouver.us)

Neighborhood Fire Station  
Uptown Station #1 2607 Main St.  
360 487-7212

Code Compliance 360 487-7810

Clark County Animal Control  
Weekdays 8:30-4:30 360 397-2488

Traffic Compliance Hotline 360 487-7402

Parking Hot-line 360 487-8653

NPO Lee Gelsinger Cell (360) 831-2661  
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## Elected ANA Board:

Chairman Ken Visser

[visserk9@gmail.com](mailto:visserk9@gmail.com)

Secretary Brenda Hoge  
[bheducationconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:bheducationconsulting@gmail.com)

Treasurer Kathie Loveall  
[treasurer@arnadaneighborhood.org](mailto:treasurer@arnadaneighborhood.org)

Members at Large

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Sandi Christensen  
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Russ Pascoe - [becruss@hotmail.com](mailto:becruss@hotmail.com)

we can use our membership in November to go to the Oregon Coast Aquarium and bring 3 people. We have 4 membership cards. Let Kathie Loveall know and she will give you the card to sign-out and check it off when you return it. [samantha@cchmuseum.org](mailto:samantha@cchmuseum.org)

### **Arnada News:**

Stephanie and Sharon - Stephanie works for Waste Connections-recycling division. Rena was impressed with all of the ways they process things. Most of it is separated and shipped. When things like plastic bags get mixed in with the recycling, they have to stop the machines and hand clean it 3-5 times a day. So please take care when filling the recycling bin and make sure that the right things are placed in it. Sharon recommends going on a tour of it-it was life-changing and a lot of fun. Tape off ends of batteries because they catch on fire and place in baggie on top of your bin.

**Tim Gruscinski:** He is creating the ANA website. Next steps are moving it over to our Arnada domain and deciding who will update it. If you are interested, please let us know.

**ANA Christmas Party:** We can have the same Santa as last year or we can go with Santa Jeff for slightly more. We decided to try Santa Jeff. Ali will help Sandi with the children activities.

**Arnada Board Members:** Ken is resigning from the Chair position on January 31<sup>st</sup>.



**Please set out your Green Bags by 9 am on Saturday, December 13th**

The Clark Neighbors Food Project collects non-perishable food and toiletries and donates to local food pantries or school resource centers. Items collected in Arnada are donated to FISH of Vancouver Westside Food Pantry. Cash and check donations are also accepted and are given directly to FISH. If you would like more information or to sign up, visit [ClarkFoodProject.org](http://ClarkFoodProject.org) or contact Sandi Christensen at [sandichristensen16@gmail.com](mailto:sandichristensen16@gmail.com).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

# December Events Calendar

Date/Time	Event	Details
Daily: 5 - 10 p.m.	<b>Christmas on Franklin Street</b> 4616 NW Franklin Street	A magical winter experience with a stunning display of 200,000 twinkling lights on 10 beautifully decorated properties located at 46th and Franklin. There are live events, Santa visits, and even snowfall. FREE. Schedule: <a href="http://www.holidaysonfranklin.com">www.holidaysonfranklin.com</a>
Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13: 7 p.m.	<b>It's a Wonderful Life : A Live Radio Play</b> Coffee Church 10311 NE Hwy 99	This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. The ensemble cast of characters brings to life the story of idealistic George Bailey as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve. Tickets: \$15
Dec. 6: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	<b>Ogden Holiday Bazaar</b> Ogden Elementary School 3200 NE 86th ave	Enjoy photos with Santa, purchase raffle tickets, and get in the holiday spirit at this first annual Ogden Holiday Bazaar. FREE.
Dec. 6: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	<b>Candy Cane Christmas Bazaar</b> The Gathering Place 2500 NE 78th Street	Shop booths full of handcrafted items for your holiday gift-giving! Delicious coffee and treats available. Visit the candy cane craft booth and be creative as you make a take-home candy cane treasure. FREE.
Dec. 6: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Dec. 7: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	<b>Christmas in the Couv</b> Jebale Coffee 2007 East 12th Street	Sip, shop, and get cozy! Join us at Jebale Coffee for Christmas in the Couv — local vendors, handmade gifts, and all the festive vibes! FREE.
Dec. 7: 3 - 5 p.m.	<b>Vancouver Master Chorale Celebration of Light</b> First Presbyterian Church 4100 Main St.	The Vancouver Master Chorale will present "A Celebration of Light," with songs ranging from ancient carols to contemporary pop for the holiday season. Tickets: \$30 for adults, \$10 for students, free for children 12 and younger.
Thurs., Dec. 11: 6 - 8 p.m.	<b>Arnada Holiday Party</b> Trap Door Patio 2315 Main Street	Join your neighbors and celebrate the holiday season. Arnada Neighborhood Assoc. Will provide smoked turkey, bring a side or dessert to share. All ages, activities for children. Santa from 6:30-7:30pm
Dec. 14: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	<b>Pet Portraits with Santa</b> ReTails Thrift Store 5000 E 4th Plain Blvd	Saint Nick is coming back to kick off the holiday season! And he'll be making a special stop at ReTails to pose for a photo with you and your pet. Spend a little quality time with the big guy and get a photo worthy of your next holiday card.
Dec. 19: 6 p.m. Dec. 20: 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 21: 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.	<b>Columbia Dance's Fort Vancouver-Inspired Nutcracker</b> Skyview Concert Hall 1300 NW 139th Street	Experience all the magic of a traditional Nutcracker with a uniquely Northwest twist! Columbia Dance's production blends Tchaikovsky's timeless score and sparkling tutus with local Fort Vancouver history, featuring beavers, dancing wapato plants, and Oregon Trail children. Since 2019, we've collaborated with historical experts, local tribes, and Fort Vancouver staff to create this whimsical, family-friendly performance. Tickets: Adult \$27, Senior/Youth \$22.

## Christmas at Kiggins Theatre

See a holiday movie and let the nostalgia pull you into the Christmas spirit. Cozy up, popcorn in hand, as holiday lights twinkle and heartwarming stories unfold larger than life. Slow down, soak up the season, and make merry memories with the people you love. Head down to Kiggins this December for a collection of classic holiday films.



Friday, Dec. 5: The Polar Express (G, 2004)  
Friday, Dec. 12: The Muppet Christmas Carol (G, 1992)  
Friday, Dec. 19: White Christmas (1945)

Saturday, Dec. 6: Star Wars: Holiday Special (1978)  
Friday, Dec. 12: Elf (PG, 2003)  
Friday, Dec. 19: It's a Wonderful Life (1946)

**Clark Neighbors Food Project**  
**GREEN BAG REPORT**  
October 2025

**Spooky season has arrived! Thanks to everyone who helped collect, deliver, and sort food and household items. Our efforts truly make a difference for our Clark County neighbors.**

*Together we create a season of giving...all year long!*

October 11th Pick-Up	<b>23,660</b> lbs of food collected	<b>19,638</b> meals delivered	<b>\$1775</b> donated
2025 Year-to-Date	<b>128,869</b> lbs of food collected	<b>106,961</b> meals delivered	<b>\$9084</b> donated
Since 2017 Inception	<b>859,258</b> lbs of food collected	<b>713,184</b> meals delivered	

HEADS UP: Our next pick-up is Saturday, December 13th

All-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit in Clark County WA  
ClarkFoodProject@gmail.com  
RidgefieldFoodProject@gmail.com  
[www.clarkfoodproject.org](http://www.clarkfoodproject.org)



## Walk& Knock Survives in Arnada – not to be Confused with Green Bags

This year is a transition for Walk & Knock. As a result of fewer volunteers in most of the County, Walk & Knock is changing to Drive & Drop. Most people need to deliver their own food donations to one of the drop sites around town.

HOWEVER, the west side of Vancouver still has volunteers who will pick up donations left out on Saturday, December 6, by 9AM. This is for **Arnada**, Hough, Carter Park and Lincoln neighborhoods.

This is our Clark County food drive to collect non-perishable food donations for the Clark County Food bank. You will be receiving a bag in the mail with instructions about the drive. It will tell you where to deliver your donations. In our neighborhood you may still fill your bag and leave it outside your door. Members of local Scout troops will pick up your bag and deliver it to the collection site. If you have questions call Peter Fels at 360-609-1655

## Donations and Volunteers Needed: Hough Elementary Winter Wonderland Bazaar

Every year the Hough PTSA hosts a Winter Wonderland holiday bazaar for students when students are able to purchase holiday gifts for their families at prices they can afford (\$0.50 - \$3.00) and have their purchases gift wrapped.

This event is very special to our school community; nearly 40% of our students are experiencing houselessness and over 50% of our students below the poverty line. For many students, this is the only opportunity they have to purchase gifts for their family.

There is always an abundance of donations for siblings but donations for grownups are rare. If you can help, please

consider donating a gift that is suitable for an adult. Here are some ideas. Please bring donations to the Hough Elementary school lobby by Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.

DIYers: drill bits, work gloves, tape measure, speed square, etc.

Gardeners: gloves, hand tools, watering can, etc.

Makers: yarn, knitting/crochet needles, watercolor paint, etc.

Grillers: BBQ glove, spatula, grill brush, cedar planks, etc.

Athletes: pickleball paddle, soccer ball, cones, local team gear, etc.

**Questions? Visit [houghptsa.org/winterwonderland](http://houghptsa.org/winterwonderland) or email [houghptsa@gmail.com](mailto:houghptsa@gmail.com) for more information or to coordinate a donation pickup.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** If you are interested in volunteering for this event to help students shop or to wrap gifts please visit [www.houghptsa.org/volunteer](http://www.houghptsa.org/volunteer).

## Hop on the Bike Bus!

Hello members!

The Hough PTSA is partnering with Local Links and Cycle Vancouver with the support of the Vancouver School District, the City of Vancouver SafeRoute's program, and Bike Clark County to bring a Bike Bus to Hough Elementary!

### What is a Bike Bus?

A bike bus is a group of trained adults and parents who ride along a set route on specific mornings and "pick up" youth to ride, walk, or scoot to school—much like a school bus.

Bike Buses promote youth being fun, safe, social, and healthy. Bicycling and walking to school has also been shown to increase academic performance versus being driven.

### Step 1: Who's interested?

We are in the initial stages of establishing a "bus route" and need to know who is interested before we can finalize the route.

If you and/or your student(s) are interested in riding please complete this quick 4-question survey: <https://forms.gle/2N2J1sAAe5ziTGcK6>

### Step 2: Get Equipment

Once we know the interest level, we will work with our community partners to fulfill needs for helmets, ponchos, fenders, lights, and even bikes or scooters.

For more information check out [BikeBus.org](http://BikeBus.org) or get inspired by [Coach Balto on Instagram!](#)

Take the Bike Bus Survey here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0JoGAiWVHTcFgj\\_TAIryvHIYY6ruVfunUEH82mWNupgYE\\_Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0JoGAiWVHTcFgj_TAIryvHIYY6ruVfunUEH82mWNupgYE_Q/viewform)



# Christmas Ships at the Waterfront

View the annual Christmas Ships Parade from the Vancouver Waterfront this December! Take a stroll along the Waterfront Renaissance Trail or make reservations at a waterfront restaurant or winery patio.

Dates: December 4, 8, 12, and 17

The boats leave the marina at 7:00 p.m. and can be seen best at these viewing spots:

- Beaches and nearby restaurants: 7:40 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Grant Street Pier: 8:10 – 8:30 p.m.



SCHEDULES ARE ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOATING SAFETY, WEATHER OR OTHER REASONS BEYOND CONTROL <http://www.christmasships.org/schedule/columbia-river>

## Party on the Plaza

The Historic Trust is excited to welcome the entire community to Providence Academy for a party to celebrate the completion of the new Sacred Heart Plaza at Ed Lynch Square! Watch a live ice sculpture carving demonstration and enjoy a free hot cocoa outdoors while exploring elements of the plaza and the historic Sacred Heart path.

Friday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 – 8 p.m. 400 E. Evergreen Blvd.

Step inside to visit the stunning Providence Academy Chapel, and learn more from our volunteer docents about this incredible landmark designed by Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart in 1873. While on the first floor, stop in for a free visit with Santa Claus, with a fun free craft project for kids and a “Snowman Soup” takeaway, while supplies last. Free reservations for scheduled Santa visits are encouraged but are not required (reservations: [www.tinyurl.com/6tavddvb](http://www.tinyurl.com/6tavddvb)).

This celebration honors a great community treasure – Providence Academy – as it continues to evolve through adaptive reuse to remain a vibrant hub of downtown activity for generations to come!

## Holiday Fun at the Library!

Get into the spirit this season at the Vancouver Community Library with fun and *free* holiday crafts.

### 3D Print Winter Holiday Ornaments

Learn how to design custom decorations for your winter festivities! Use free online tools to create ornaments, table set pieces, and more. No 3D design experience needed to attend, although certification is required to print your designs later. Vancouver Community Library – Creative Classroom **Sunday, December 7 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

You're invited...

# THE ARNADA HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 11, 6:00 PM

SANTA CLAUS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

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# Thank you sponsors!

Your generous support has enabled the Arnada Neighborhood Association to fund or support projects and programs such as repainting the Arnada mural at 22nd and D St., park clean ups, local school programs, tree plantings, playground equipment and charitable donations.

--The Arnada Neighborhood

