The Newsletter That Delivers

ARNADA NEIGHBORHOOD

ARNADA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Est. 1976

December 2026



The Elwell Family Laid the Groundwork of Arnada

This month, I sat down with one of my Arnada neighbors, Paul Elwell. For years, I've just smiled and waved as I walked on by. Pausing for a moment to chat helped me get to know a neighbor whose Vancouver roots run very deep.

Paul Elwell's family history in Vancouver dates back to even before Washington was officially a state. His great-uncle, John Elwell, moved to Vancouver from Indiana in 1887 and eventually became known as the "dean of Vancouver real estate." In 1906, John and his brothers, including Paul's great-grandfather, mapped out our very own neighborhood streets. What was once known as "the heights" was then officially renamed Arnada. John's wife, Ida Elwell, supplied the "D and A" of Arnada.

Paul was born in 1939 and raised in Arnada. His father built the house he currently resides in. Constructed out of famous Hidden bricks, he takes great pride to say it survived two earthquakes with barely a crack. You may notice that some of our street corners still have the metal rim his family attached to prevent the concrete from being chipped or crushed by heavy wagon wheels.

Paul attended elementary school at the Academy. He remembers the nuns as being very strict and quite rigorous in their teaching. Boys and girls were kept separate at recess with a rope in the middle guarded by a couple of stern nuns.

Paul's father was a Justice of the Peace for Clark County for 30 years. Paul remembers people around town greeting his father as "Judge" more than using his actual real name. His father, also named Paul, was kept plenty

Arnada Neighborhood Association Resources

Website: arnadaneighborhood.org/
Facebook: facebook.com/groups/arnadaneighborhoodvancouverwa/

City Contacts

Neighborhood Liaison: Brent Waddle
Phone: office (360) 487-8436, cell (360) 624-5686
brent.waddle@cityofvancouver.us

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

Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO): Lee Gelsinger
Phone: cell (360) 831-2661
lee.gelsinger@cityofvancouver.us

Neighborhood Fire Station: Uptown Station #1
2607 Main Street
(360) 487-7212

Code Compliance: (360) 487-7810
Traffic Compliance Hotline: (360) 487-7402

Arnada Neighborhood Association *Elected Board Members*

Chairperson: Jill Bachmann
chair@arnadaneighborhood.org

Vice Chair: Ali Boris aboris08@gmail.com

Secretary: Tim Gruscinski tgruscinski@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kathie Loveall
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Anita Reyes, anitaface@gmail.com
Ken Visser, visserk9@gmail.com
Russ Pascoe, *becruss@hotmail.com*

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Arnada Tree Steward
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Send newsletter content to arnadaneighborhood@gmail.com

busy. It was WWII, Vancouver had exploded with shipyards, and the town lined with bars to entertain the workers. It may have been hard in those years to "keep the peace".

In the 1940s, Vancouver was colder, they had more snow, and the water would freeze. Paul learned to skate as a child. He enjoyed it so much that in later years he worked at the Portland Lloyd Center ice rink. Myself, from Minnesota, was shocked to learn I have a neighbor who could actually drive a Zamboni! Paul must be somewhat of a dare devil because he participated in the ice skating barrel jumping contests held at the Lloyd Center.

Paul's life in the military took him overseas as far away as Turkey. He returned right back here to Arnada years later to take care of his then ailing father, the retired "Judge". We both relished in all that Arnada has to offer. I am happy to have met someone whose very own family laid the groundwork for this neighborhood we love.

Jill Bachmann, ANA

Minutes November 12, 2026

Attendees: Jill Bachmann, Todd Bachmann, Ali Boris, Amy Carlson, Tim Gruscinski, Kathie Loveall, Michelle McHugh, Russ Pascoe, Shelan Stritzke, Ken Visser, and Karen Wilson. Guest: Tyler Chavers, Homeless Assistance & Resource Team

Approved the October meeting minutes.

Pearson Airfield Planning Committee

Pearson Airfield is looking for one representative from the Arnada neighborhood and one from the Hough neighborhood to serve on its planning committee. It is about three meetings, and no pilot experience is needed. If interested, email PearsonField@cityofvancouver.us. More information is on the Arnada Neighborhood Association website (see Resources).

Treasurer's Report & Banking

The treasurer's report was presented and approved. Three additional sponsors joined this month, contributing $245.

Members unanimously approved updating the authorized signers on the Association's iQ Credit Union account: Jill Bachmann added, Ken Visser removed.

Presentation: Homeless Assistance & Resource Team (HART)

Tyler Chavers of the Homeless Assistance & Resource Team (HART) spoke with the group about homelessness in our community.

How services are organized: In Washington, counties are responsible for homelessness and mental health services, and cities can help if they choose. Services are spread across the entire county, and state funding has not been enough. HART focuses strictly on housing.

The need: The county has not had enough shelter for over a decade. The fastest-growing group is age 55 and older, many of them priced out of affordable housing.

New bridge shelter: A 120-bed bridge shelter opens November 25 at 5313 NE 94th Ave, near the mall. It is expected to reduce the number of people living unsheltered and the Fire and Police hours spent on homelessness response. Unlike the earlier Navigation Center on Grand Ave, it is a 24/7 shelter with services on site and an integrated referral process.

Who to call and when: Call 911 for an unsafe situation that needs an immediate response, and 311 for a concern that does not need an immediate response and can wait, potentially a day or two. For a person in need of help who is not in an unsafe situation, call the on-duty HART officer at (360) 487-8626 (leave a message if no one answers) or email HARTteam@cityofvancouver.us. HART's capacity is limited and it tends to prioritize encampments, so it cannot reach everyone every day. The homelessness services resource guide (see Resources) lists additional organizations and phone numbers. When asked what residents can do to help, Tyler's answer was simple: "If you don't call, we don't know about it."

Perspective: Tyler reminded the group that, at the end of the day, each person experiencing homelessness is a human being who needs help.

Tyler noted that homelessness has no single cause, but in his experience the common thread is what he calls "radical social disconnect," the loss of the family, friends, and community that normally cushion a setback. In his view, it can happen to anyone.

He compared homelessness to a river rather than a reservoir that will dry up: "it's a river, and we're the banks." It will always be with us, so the goal is a system resilient enough that when someone becomes housing unstable or homeless, it is rare, brief, and one time. He closed by saying there is a path back for people in our community.

Christmas Party Potluck – planning completed.

Resources

- **Homelessness services resource guide:**
  - https://arnadaneighborhood.org/homelessness-services-resource-guide/
- **City of Vancouver homelessness page:**
  - https://cityofvancouver.us/homelessness
- **Arnada Neighborhood Association (Pearson Airfield information):**
  - https://arnadaneighborhood.org



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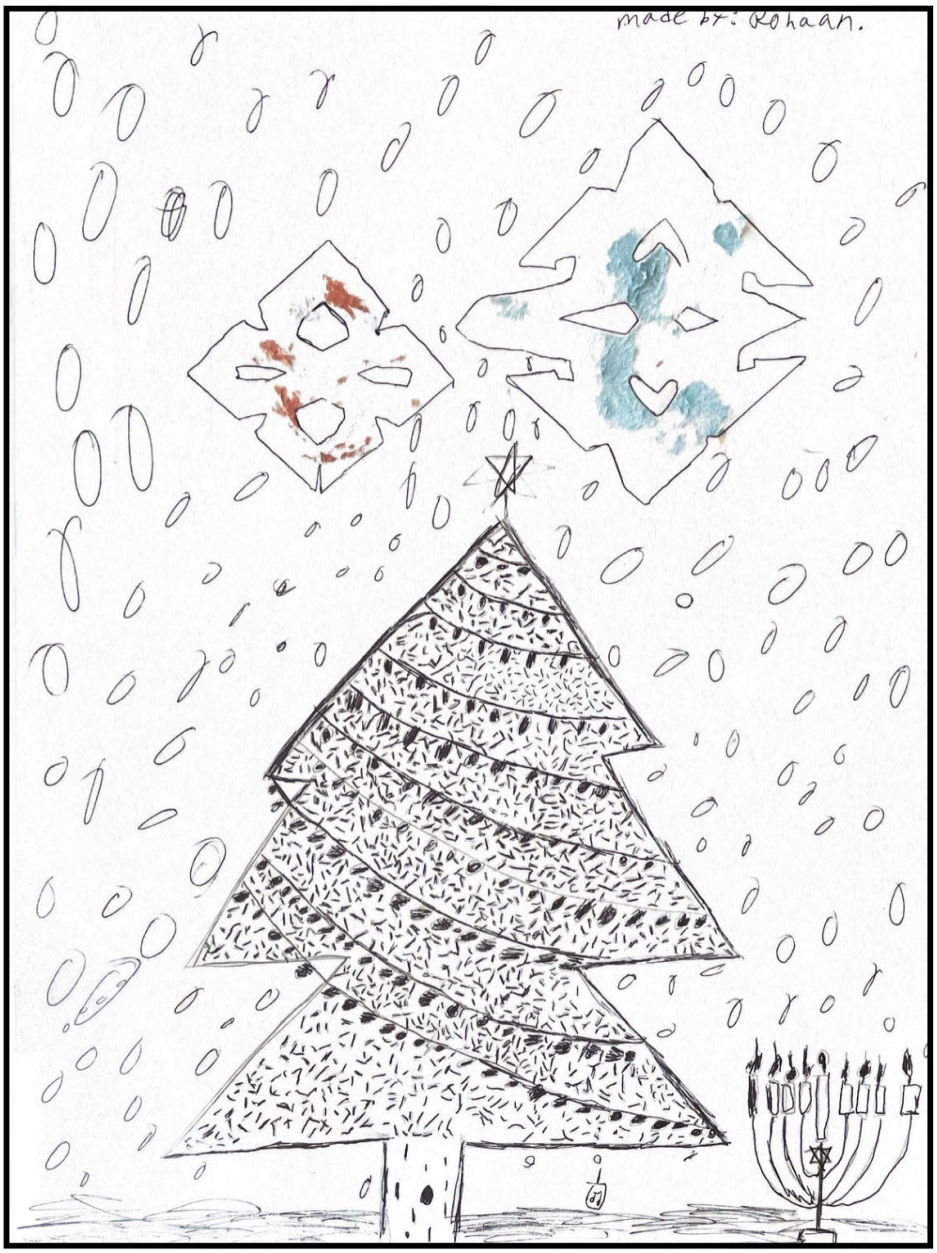
KIDS' CORNER



Thank you to Rohan for sharing this month!

Send your drawing, jokes, poem, or other art by the 15th of each month to kids@arnadaneighborhood.org

We'll feature a junior neighborhood artist each month.

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2026/11

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT FROM YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES
PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS AND TELL THEM YOU READ ABOUT THEM IN THE ARNADA NEWSLETTER

Sasquatch Scavenger Hunt

SASQUATCH IS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT AROUND MAIN STREET AGAIN.

SO GET READY AND PICK UP YOUR STAMP CARD AT ANY OF THE 20 PARTICIPATING SHOPS. START THE HUNT* TO EXPERIENCE FIRSTHAND WHY SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY.

COLLECT ALL THE UNIQUE STORE STAMPS BY DECEMBER 18 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THREE GIFT BASKETS.

*PARTICIPATION IS FREE AND DOESN'T REQUIRE ANY PURCHASES.

Kindred Vancouver

VDA Vancouver's Downtown Association

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SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF ARNADA

ADVERTISE WITH US

Reach 1,000s of future customers who live and work in Arnada!







December Events Calendar

Date/Time	Event	Details
All December	**Holiday Movies** Kiggins Theater 1011 Main St.	The December holiday movie lineup is stacked with classics this year mark your calendar for showings of Muppet Christmas Carol, Elf, Polar Express, White Christmas, It's a Wonderful Life, and more!
Dec. 4: 10am-4pm	**Ornament Swap** Kindred 2213 Main St.	Bring your gently loved items, and leave with something that sparks joy—without spending a cent. Bring clean, intact ornaments, take what charms you (no trade required—seriously, just come!). FREE.
Dec. 11: 3-5pm	**Winter Craft: Wreath Making** Vancouver Community Library 901 C St.	Celebrate the winter season by making a beautiful wreath. Greenery, wire, and framework are provided (or bring your own). If you have any, please bring clippers and any additional embellishments to personalize your wreath. FREE.
Through Dec. 18	**Christmas Ships** Vancouver Waterfront	See the Columbia River shimmer with reflections of holiday lights as the Christmas Ships Parade sails past the Vancouver Waterfront. FREE. Schedule: https://bit.ly/4zY7Rm9
Dec. 14: 4-5:30pm	**Teen Creative Crafts: Paint a Present** Vancouver Community Library 901 C St.	Hey teens! Looking for a gift idea for a loved one? Unleash your inner artist and paint a present for a friend or family member this holiday season. Paint and canvases provided. FREE.
Dec. 19: 10am-1pm	**Evergreen Tree Communities Nature Day** Columbia Springs 12208 SE Evergreen Hwy.	A day of hands-on science and nature experiences exploring evergreen trees! All ages, no RSVP required. FREE.
Dec. 19 & 20: Multiple showings	**Fort Vancouver Inspired Nutcracker** Skyview Concert Hall 1300 NW 139th	This one-of-a-kind production weaves local Fort Vancouver history into the plot the classic Tchaikovsky ballet. Tickets: https://columbiadance.org/vancouver-nutcracker/