



The Village News

Dec. 2024

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS STAY NEIGHBORS

IN THIS ISSUE

Clark County December Events

Below is a list of some December fun in Clark County for you to explore with your Village friends. Please let us know if you would like us to help arrange a group outing for the in-person.

Christmas Ship Parade-multiple dates and locations starting on 12/5. Come view the Christmas ship parade to start the holiday season. For more information and a map, go to: [Christmas Ship Parade - Vancouver Waterfront - Combined Fleet](#)

Hometown Holidays 12/6 from 5-8p.m. Downtown Camas. This event will include photos with Santa, crafts & activities, entertainment, free hot cocoa, holiday shopping, art shows, and more! The tree will be lit for the evening festivities, and snow will fall! For info, go to: [Hometown Holidays 2024 - Downtown Camas | Shops, Restaurants, Events in Camas, WA](#)

Vancouver Master Chorale Christmas Concert-12/7 and 12/8 at the First Presbyterian Church. The concert included the Magnificat, a Jazz Ensemble, the Hallelujah Chorus, and sing-a-long Christmas carols. For more information and tickets, go to [Christmas Concert - Vancouver Master Chorale](#)

Winter Native Art Market 12/21 11-3pm. Clark County History Museum. This event will feature a selection of 16 local Indigenous artists and vendors, including a internationally recognized flutist. - more info, go to: [Winter Native Art Market - Clark County Historical Museum](#)



Tuesday Dec. 3rd is Giving Tuesday. See how your donation can help VCC on [page 2](#).



Service requests for rides are changing in January. Find out how on [page 4](#).



Tree trunks can crack in the frost. Find out what to do on [page 6](#).

DECEMBER 3RD IS GIVING TUESDAY – INTERNATIONAL DAY OF GIVING – GIVE LOCALLY**Your Gift this Holiday Season Supports Clark County Seniors Aging at Home**

“As I entered my 80s and my mobility and energy have decreased, I find myself more often the recipient of services and their provider.”

After she was widowed, Ellen moved back to Portland to be closer to family. She was the very first member of our first Portland-Vancouver area Village and proudly remains a very active member. *“The more actively I participate, the more I get out of my membership,”* she says.

“The genius of the Village is we can contribute according to our abilities and receive from it according to our needs. These days I like to think of myself as the Village Cheerleader.” Cheer on, Ellen!

Our senior population is growing. In just 5 years, 20% of the population will be over 65. And 80% of us want to age in place. Your donation to **Villages Clark County** will help elders like Ellen realize their wish to remain in their chosen homes and communities.

It’s easy to donate online at: [Villages Clark County Website](#). We also accept checks. Make your check out to “Villages NW fbo Villages Clark County” and mail it to Villages Clark County, 10013 NE Hazel Dell Ave - #129, Vancouver, WA 98665

If you need to take a required minimum distribution from your IRA before the end of the year, you can reduce the taxable portion of your distribution by having your financial advisor send your contribution directly to **Villages NW fbo Villages Clark County**, PO Box 33642, Portland OR 97292. For information on how to make this type of gift, contact info@villagesnw.org or call 503-515-1948.



December VCC Events

Check the website calendar before all events/meetings for any changes or updated information. (https://villagesclarkcounty.org/blank-page_trashed/events/). Also check your email for evites and more information. All in-person events are subject to current COVID guidelines and may become virtual or rescheduled if needed. VCC events are for Members and Volunteers (Villagers) unless noted as "Public".

Tuesdays at 10- 12/3, 12/10, 12/17. Coffee and breakfast at The Kitchen Table in Salmon Creek. 1319 NE 134th St. Vancouver.

Dec. 9th@ 10 a.m. In Stitches hand stitching group. Call the office 360-553-1520 for location of members' homes. Come and stitch, knit, crochet, mend, chat, drink coffee and tea, and gather.

Dec 12th @ 1-3 p.m. Governing Council. Join us in person at First Presbyterian Church, Library Room or on Zoom. Villagers are encouraged to attend. Contact Janet Houck via email at jhouck@villagesclarkcounty.org

Dec. 18th @ 10 a.m.-Book Club. See details below.

Date/time TBD - Volunteer "Beer and Cheer" Pizza Party @ TBD. Watch your email for details.

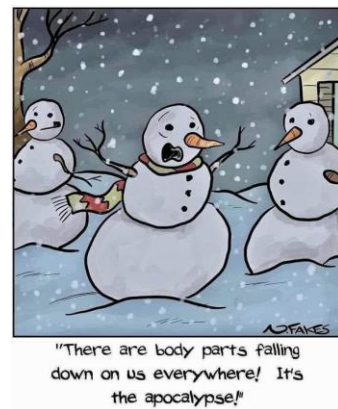
VCC Book Club

Wednesday, December 18th at 10:00 A.M. in the First Presbyterian Church Library.

We are reading "A Woman of No Importance" by Sonia Purnell
Discussion Leader: Nuala Davies



Humor Corner



Your Service Request Team wants you to know:

The following Guidelines were offered in November's newsletter, now we want to make them effective. Beginning **JANUARY 1, 2025**, the following changes will be implemented.

SR requests **MUST** be received no less than 5 business days prior to service date requested. You are encouraged to request a service as early as you know of it. One or two (or more) months ahead is perfectly acceptable.

Any Service Requests:

- Calls for FRIDAY's must be received No Later than MONDAY of the same week.
- Calls for MONDAY's, must be made NO LATER than the prior Tuesday before.
- Calls for TUESDAY's, must be made NO LATER than the prior Wednesday before.
- Calls for WEDNESDAY's, must be made NO LATER than the prior Thursday before.
- Calls for THURSDAY's, must be made NO LATER than the prior Friday.



Remember we cannot GUARANTEE that a volunteer will be available to meet your request. So far, we have been able to meet your requests 96% of the time. All Members need to have a backup plan for every transportation request. The SR Team will call you 2 business days (or 48 hours) in advance to let you know when NO VOLUNTEER has confirmed your request. This will allow you time to make an alternative plan.

WORDS TO THE WISE:

- Our VCC Drivers book themselves early! So, they may NOT be available if you call last minute. Remember, THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM!
- When you call in with your request -TOMORROW is the earliest that a volunteer will know about it. Volunteers NEED 3-4 Business days ADVANCE notice. That is why services must be requested AT LEAST 5 Business days ahead. We do not require them to check their email every day, remember they ARE VOLUNTEERS.
- Saturday, Sunday and Federal Holidays are NOT considered Business Days for purposes of requesting service. Plan ahead when holidays are upcoming, additional days are needed and volunteers are taking holiday time too.

TIP: Our computer system will STORE your request until 21 days prior to the date of service. THEN it will be sent daily until there is a volunteer (a volunteer that has confirmed themselves for the request). SO YOU CAN REQUEST A RIDE MONTHS IN ADVANCE. Our computer system will 'release' them when the date is close.

Vi Sutherland



We recently lost a dear, prior member that some of us will recall. Vi, and her husband Art, were VCC members for a time and very enjoyable to visit. They were as much a blessing to us as we were to them. Her son, Jerry, tells us "...thanks for the personal assistance you provided my mother and father in their final years. It meant a great deal to them, and to me and my brothers." A memorial service is planned for next Spring. Her obituary is at: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/elvira-sutherland-obituary?id=56746902>.

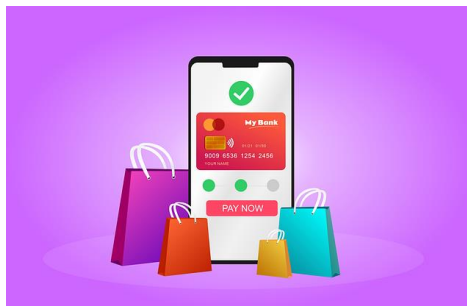
Online Scams from Aura

This month we are focusing on online scams. Online scams are rampant. But senior citizens are especially vulnerable to online shopping scams. The FBI received over 13,000 complaints of fraudulent products and non-delivery in 2021 — making it the second most reported fraud among the elderly [*].

Online shopping scams come in many different forms. You could buy fraudulent pharmaceutical drugs or health and beauty products. Or, you could use your credit card details on a phishing site that is set up by hackers.

Warning signs of online shopping scams:

- Poor design or spelling errors on the website.
- The website you're shopping from is unsecure. This means it uses HTTP and *not* HTTPS.



VCC Wishes a Happy December Birthday to:

Janet Houck (12/1)

Elsie Chan (12/6)

Elva Eliason (12/12)

Patty Powers (12/19)

Kathy Adams (12/21)

Other notable celebrities with December Birthdays are:

Bette Midler (12/1)

Andrew Cuomo (12/6)

Frank Sinatra (12/12)

Cicely Tyson (12/19)

Jane Fonda (12/21)





CLIPPINGS FROM THE GARDEN

DECEMBER 2024

BY JANET HOUCK



The holidays approach with the blooming of endless tables full of the ubiquitous *poinsettia*. They are beautiful and bring a bright spot when the days are a tad short and frequently cloud filled. I tried unsuccessfully to keep a poinsettia going from three years ago. It takes paying attention to watering, knowing when to put it in a cupboard to get a rebloom, and dedication. I ran out of all three and dumped the poor thing about six weeks ago. I don't think I'll try again.

To maintain your garden during the winter in the great PNW is a challenge. Unless we have sufficient rain (!) those evergreen shrubs like rhododendrons need some water. We need to pay attention. If you live in a windy area, plants that are delicate need some protection. I know folks who save up old blankets, ratty old tarps, or even old shower curtains to wrap around their wind-swept plants. Burlap also works well. It must look glorious.

A layer of organic **mulch** is good for the entire garden, but it is especially valuable for those expensive and gorgeous evergreen shrubs.

Frost Cracks may develop in late winter to early spring often on the southwest side of a tree at the site of a previous wound or branch stub. They occur when the daytime sun heats the bark and underlying wood causing tissue expansion. Then with a sudden, sharp temperature drop, the outer bark layer contracts more rapidly than the inner layers.



The splitting itself can sound like a rifle shot. The area involved shows as an elongated, vertical crack, or sometimes bulge, in the trunk. The area may callus over only to re-open the next winter. The area can also allow entry of insects and disease organisms.

Susceptible species include: maple, sycamore, apple, crabapple, ash, beech, horse chestnut, and tulip tree.

To remedy or treat be sure that mowing or weed whacking does not bite into the trunk. Do not use plant paint or tar on the wound. Wait until the early spring to fertilize. If the wound is clean, then leave it alone. It will callus and heal itself. If the wound is jagged at the edges, then trim off the jagged part with a sterile knife. It will then heal itself probably. If the wound is quite deep and jagged, then the best thing to do is call a professional arborist.

Our trees are so precious. Taking the time to use your best tool - your eyes - will help you sleep better knowing that you are watching and taking the best care of your garden.

I wish all the best holiday ever. And remember to be kind.

Cheers,
Janet