



# The Village News

## January 2025

## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS STAY NEIGHBORS

IN THIS ISSUE

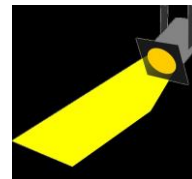
### Clark County January Events

Below is a list of some January 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 event.

**VSO Present Why Be Good**-1/16 Kiggins Theatre. The concert begins at 7 pm with the evening's hilarious film accompanied by live music as it would have been in the silent film theaters of the 1920s. With sharp comedic twists and turns and a bold feminist finale, Why Be Good? will keep the audience on the edge of their seats from start to finish. For more info, go to: [VSO presents WHY BE GOOD?](#)

**Grant House Ghost Tour** 1/19 from 2-4 p.m. Come join us ghouls & gals for a frighteningly good time as local historian Jeff Davies spooks the wine right out of our glasses! History of the Grant House and the five resident ghosts will be discussed as we tour this historic old officer's house & the spirits who reside within it. For info, go to: [Willful Wine Co - Event - Grant House Ghost Tour](#)

**Taking Control of Your Paper Clutter**-1/24 1-2:15 p.m Vancouver Community Library. In this class, presented by Kathy Boyd of Declutterfly PDX, you will learn the art of paper organization to the next level with the ...Command Center! Learn how to create a seamless paper organization system as soon as you walk in the door. For info., go to: [Taking Control of Your Paper Clutter Pt. 2 - THE COMMAND CENTER | Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries](#)



We have a new series where you can learn about our Villagers. Find out who our first one is on [page 3](#).



Know a good place to gather for a social hour? We are looking for help to start a new VCC group. Find out more on [page 3](#).



Winter is upon us, but nature is still busy. Read what our gardener Janet is doing to prepare on [page 4](#).

## January VCC Events

Check the website calendar before all events/meetings for any changes or updated information.

(<https://villagesclarkcounty.org/blank-page/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 Ten-1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28 Coffee and breakfast at The KitchenTable in Salmon Creek. 1319 NE 134<sup>th</sup> St. Vancouver.

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> @ 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](mailto:jhouck@villagesclarkcounty.org)

Jan 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30-11:30 a.m. V-101 (Public). See details below.

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> and Jan 27<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m. InStitches handstitching 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.

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m.-Book Club. See details below.

Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 1-3 p.m. All Volunteer Roundtable First Presbyterian Church Rm 121. Angelica Aguayo, VCC Volunteer, discussion topic - Adapt Living Space for Seniors.

### VCC Book Club

Wednesday, January 15th at 10:00 A.M. in the First Presbyterian Church Library.

We are reading "Transatlantic" by Collum McCann: A novel that weaves together the stories of three iconic crossings and the remarkable women who connect them. Suggested by Nuala



### V-101

Come learn about how Villages Clark County can help you "age in place."

**When:** Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** Battle Ground Community Library-Meyer Community Room  
1207 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Wy  
Battle Ground, WA. 98604

### Humor Corner:

Dating when you're older is like trying to find a cart with good wheels at Walmart.



## Villager Spotlight

Every month we will introduce you to a VCC volunteer or member. This month we are happy to share information about our newest volunteer - Russ Huntley.

Russ joined as a new volunteer on November 28th. He will be the web master for our VCC website.

Russ grew up in Aloha Oregon. He spent his career in the IT field. He worked as the Integration Architect at Bonneville Power for 20 years. He retired in 2022.

His hobbies are woodworking and playing the keyboard. He enjoys doing NY Times crossword puzzles, traveling and riding e-bikes with his wife.

Russ has 2 daughters, 2 sons and 2 grandsons.



VCC Wishes a Happy January Birthday to:

**Scott Swenson (1/1)**

**Barb Faith (1/2)**

**Melissa Hernandez (1/4)**

**Nuala Davies (1/19)**

**Rena Benette (1/21)**

**Greer Davidson (1/26)**

Other notable celebrities with January Birthdays are:

**J Edgar Hoover (1/1)**

**Don Shula (1/4)**

**Alexander Hamilton (1/11)**



### BREAKFAST OR BREWS ANYONE?

“Tuesdays at Ten” has been a great SUCCESS. Let’s START some MORE small group breakfast/coffees OR brews of a different sort!

VILLAGERS (Members and Volunteers welcomed)

TELL US Are you INTERESTED? If so, **CALL us at 360-553-1520**

THINK about it.

- Would you join/come?
- Are you willing to attend a gathering once a week for one month?
- Do you have a favorite place to gather?

Perks for Beginners

ONLY ONE person is needed to START. Those who begin an activity get to choose the day, time & location. If you are not sure? There are others to help you get started.

### SAVE THE DATE

February 12, 2025  
10:00-2:30

### Envisioning My Future: 'From Here to Eternity'

Join us for an opportunity to learn more about  
**END-OF-LIFE ISSUES AND PLANNING**

at  
**The VIC  
(VANCOUVER INNOVATION CENTER)**

18110 SE 34 th Street  
Vancouver WA 98683  
<https://thevicwa.com/>

Questions abound regarding Death with Dignity, death doulas, palliative care and hospice, final disposition options, and more! Let's get some answers and reduce the pain of final planning when pressured by changes or crisis.

Start making carpool plans now!

A car full of participants discussing relevant issues will be more interesting – and fun -- than solo travel! Shuttle arrangements from the Vancouver Transit Center for those who prefer to travel by bus or light rail.





## CLIPPINGS FROM THE GARDEN

JANUARY 2025

BY JANET HOUCK

Random Thoughts and Observations on a Late December Day



The New Year is upon us, and I wish you and yours the best year yet. With drought, wildfire, and rainstorms ahead, the future is unknown. But if we are prepared for the future the best we can possibly be, then whatever happens, we can weather the storm.

Enough philosophy. Let's garden.

As I wandered in the backyard last week, I wondered what to do besides pick up the branches and twigs dropped by the trees. What should I cut back now and what should I leave until spring happens? How many leaves are the correct amount to leave in the perennial beds and how many should I pick up and remove? When should I disconnect the hoses and bring them in? The answer is blowing in the wind? Maybe.

I did pick up the branches and twigs and this morning there are more. I did remove the leaves that were packed too solid, and I ruffled up the rest so the soil can breathe freely. I did not take in the hoses yet. I will wait until a freeze threatens. The wind doesn't blow much at my house, so that will not help or hurt.

The lawns are free of leaves. There are too many leaves stacked up in the back so most of them must be removed to a composting site. The driveway is looking a tad awful so a cleanup there is in order. I guess power washing is the best, but I'm not sure when to do it - possibly wait for a couple of months on that one. Oh, and there are bits of moss growing in the divisions of the concrete on the driveway. I'll get those out with some sort of tool. The moss growing on rocks in the perennial beds and on random brick and stones looks fabulous. I'll leave all that.

The bird feeders are busy, busy, busy. I have two squirrel-proof feeders: one with sunflower chips and the other with black oil sunflower seeds. The third feeder is a lovely, yellow-topped Nigel thistle seed feeder for the goldfinches and their friends. Thanks, Phyllis. There are also two insect habitat structures that look like they have lots of inhabitants.

The squirrels try to invade the feeders, but they give up and just eat what has dropped on the ground. They are not as obvious this time of year. Up in the large oak tree there is one dray, a squirrel nest. Thanks for that word, Beth. Earlier in the fall I watched the squirrels grab a mouthful of leaves and run up the tree. Such fun to watch them.



Poinsettias are seasonal and a great gift. Just where to put them so they are happiest is sometimes a problem. I have discovered that a bright but not direct light place that stays relatively cool works best. I have them in a room that gets some morning sun, has a tall ceiling, and has big windows. They are doing really well here. I just need to remember to water them.

The days are getting longer now, but the really cold weather is ahead of us. Be vigilant. Garden on!