



# The Village News

February 2026

## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS STAY NEIGHBORS

## IN THIS ISSUE

Below is a list of February 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 events.

**Camas First Friday- All you Need is Love and Chocolate:** Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 5-8 p.m. @ downtown Camas. Chocolate treats, art shows, candy themed activities, after hours shopping, prizes and more will be part of the first Friday event. For more info, go to: <https://downtowncamas.com/event/all-you-need-is-love-and-chocolate/>

**Tea for Two To Go:** Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> @ Pomeroy Farms. Bring the romance home with a Tea-To-Go package. It includes a luncheon for two with assorted sweets, savory bites, scones, and tea. For more info, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/valentines-tea-to-go-tickets-1978306373618?aff=oddtcreator>

**Comedy Kaleidoscope** Feb 21st @ 7:30 p.m. @ Magenta Theater. Join notable improv group Score! as they bring together a diverse assortment of comedians featuring everything from short form and musical improv to standup. For more info, go to: [https://magenta.ludus.com/show\\_page.php?show\\_id=200514667](https://magenta.ludus.com/show_page.php?show_id=200514667)



Come celebrate our VCC anniversary with a tea party! Find out more on [page 2](#).



Envisioning My Future this month is focusing on home safety. Find out what they will be talking about on [page 4](#).



This time of year is about trying something new. Find some new ideas from FVRL on [page 6](#).

## VCC Tea Party

Villages Clark County still has room for members and volunteers to attend our 7th Anniversary Potluck Tea Party February 10, 2026 11 AM-1 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Vancouver in the Fireside Room. Please RSVP by calling the VCC office at 360-553-1520 by February 5, 2026. In your message, please state your:

- Name
- Phone Number
- If you are requesting transportation to and from
- What food item you are bringing (see list below)

Each attendee will choose from one of the following food categories and bring six portions on a disposable plate or in a disposable bag:

- Muffins
- Sandwiches
- Sweet Pastries
- Cookies
- Savory Pastries
- Sweet Bread



VCC's Inaugural Walking Club event last month. Bundled up but fun! Join us this month Sunday Feb.15 at 1:30pm  
Location: Steigerwald Wildlife Refuge I. Washougal  
Easy walk  
Afterwards, if interested, a meet up at a Beer at a Time in Camas

## February VCC Events

Check the website calendar before all events/meetings for any changes or updated information. (<https://villagesclarkcounty.org/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-2/3, 2/17 and 2/24 Coffee and breakfast at The KitchenTable in Salmon Creek. 1319 NE 134<sup>th</sup> St. Vancouver.

Thursdays at 9:30-2/5, 2/12, 2/19 and 2/26 Coffee and breakfast at Sunny’s Diner 1801 SE 164<sup>th</sup> Ave (same parking lot as Big Al’s)

Feb 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.-Envisioning My Future. See details on page 4. RSVP by February 1st.

Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – VCC Anniversary Tea. See details on page 2.

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> @ 1-3 p.m. VCC Council. Join us in person at First Presbyterian Church, Room 121, or on Zoom. Villagers are encouraged to attend. Contact Janet Houck via email at [jhouck@villagesclarkcounty.org](mailto:jhouck@villagesclarkcounty.org)

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> @ 3 p.m.-VCC Happy Hour. See details below.

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m.-Book Club. See details below.

Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 11:30 V-101. See details below (Public)

Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 1 p.m.-All Volunteer Roundtable. Hybrid.

### VCC Book Club

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. in the First Presbyterian Church Library.

#### We are reading:

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver



### V-101

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

**When:** Saturday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30-12:30 a.m.

**Where:** Camas Library

625 NE 4th Ave, Camas WA,  
Nan Henriksen room

### VCC Happy Hour

**When:** Wednesday, Feb 18th

**Time:** 3-5 p.m.

#### Where:

Firehouse Axes  
3701 Main St  
Vancouver, WA. 98663



**VCC Wishes a Happy February Birthday to:**

**Jan Hammerstrom (2/9)**

**Marge McGlynn (2/11)**

**Allen Jones (2/16)**

**Other notable celebrities with February Birthdays are:**

**Carole King (2/9)**

**Burt Reynolds (2/11)**

**Sonny Bono (2/16)**



**Envisioning My Future:  
Safety in the Home and Preparing for Emergencies**

**Last Day to Register: February 1, <https://evite.me/4U5cAQpfpG>**

**Friday, February 6**

**PCC Opportunity Center**

**4299 NE Killingsworth St, Portland**

**FREE! All villagers welcome – members, volunteers and supporters.**

**Lunch is included. Please include your Village and any dietary limitations when you register.**

**\*\* Note new time: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm, due to a full schedule and parking availability**

**\*\* Plan to carpool. Parking is at a premium. Please carpool and allow a few minutes extra to park. We will provide your Village with a list of your registrants on February 2; so they can coordinate with you.**

**\*\* Consider inviting one of your Village drivers to meet participants in a convenient location and drive several villagers to the event drop off point. Another driver could return to the event and provide pick-up service after a day of socializing, information and Envisioning Your Future.**

Join us for this two-part event as we focus on preventing slips, trips and falls and emergency preparedness.

In the morning, we will hear from Elaine Nelson of Village Without Walls about the Aging in Place Toolkit developed for their Village members by occupational therapy students at Pacific University. Lupine DeSnyder from Refit Portland will talk about home improvements that enhance safety and Kabir Bhatia will update us on the Hello Everyday Program in our Villages.

The afternoon will feature Jonathan Tasini, City of Portland Office of Emergency Preparedness, and Jodi Blackwood, Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA), giving tips on how to prepare for emergencies – both when you need to shelter at home and what to do when you need to evacuate.

## *Clippings from the Garden*

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.”

The National Gardening Club



Spinach is a mainstay in the garden. It is the first crop we plant in spring, and months later, it is one of the last hardy crops to be harvested. The day the spinach seeds go into the ground symbolizes the beginning of the gardening season. Just a few weeks later, begin to thin the rows for salads, and soon after that, harvest larger leaves for your first spinach phyllo pie. If we get plenty of rainfall, harvest greens for freezing. We plant them in a small, raised bed just outside the back door.

As I look over my garden, I am considering removing a few deciduous shrubs and replacing with evergreens. The garden is a tad bleak right now and more green would be lovely. I am considering camellia, small blue spruce, and even possibly a boxwood to add structure. Right now, *Mahonia aquafolium* dominate and they are beautiful. There are three large Mahonia that will soon put out lovely yellow bloom, then add blue berries, and in fall some red foliage. They are a great native plant in our gardens. I have never put one in a pot, but it is a consideration. They are growing next to the large Oregon White Oak.

Now is a good time to check out your houseplants - a general cleaning of leaves with light dusting is a good idea. Do you need to repot anything? I know my poor African violet needs it. She was a gift from a neighbor in Lincoln City and I cherish it. It probably needs a new pot also. The peace lily really needs a new pot and probably some dividing. The monstera now has a cute plant pole to climb up. This plant pole is one you can add to. I found it at the Dennis Seven Dees down on Mill Plain. This nursery used to be Shorty's. It is an awesome nursery and I'm glad we have it. (This is not a paid advertisement!) The Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter cactuses are doing their thing. The light is not great, but it is all I can do right now. They are blooming a little bit. My ZZZ plant looked like it was dying so I cut off some branches that were yellowing, and I now have 8 new stalks coming up! Never give up, I guess. Two of the best houseplants I have are the old standby philodendrons. They are in poor light with minimal attention. I think every home should have at least one. They clean the air.



Outside we are cleaning up stuff that falls from the trees, still removing leaves that fell last fall, and beginning to mulch with compost. It will probably take us a month to finish, but we plug along, day by day.

Garden on!

## Check It Out

Title: Try Something New in 2026 *from FVRL*

I had a boss, years ago, who hated change. When staff would present a new idea, his inevitable response was: "Let's not reinvent the wheel." When it comes to New Years' Resolutions, I think too many of us try to reinvent the wheel. Large changes are difficult to implement and maintain.

I remember my mom's approach with new foods or recipes. "Just try it," she'd say, "try one bite." This seems like a sensible approach to a New Year. Try something new. Expanding your horizon doesn't mean overhauling your entire life. Just try one bite. Here are some suggestions for 2026 to encourage you to take that first little bite.

- Read outside your usual type. Try a book you wouldn't ordinarily pick up. Say, geography? Try "How to Lie with Maps" by Mark Monmonier.
- Read in a different way. Ebooks and audiobooks are reading, too. If you haven't tried these formats, check out the Libby app on the library's website, or ask for help at your library.
- Eat something different. How about a new food, like tofu, or a food from a new area? I'm trying "Zaytinya: Delicious Mediterranean Dishes from Greece, Turkey and Lebanon" by José Andrés.
- Play a new game. The library has pickleball sets or board games to place on hold for checkout.
- Watch a documentary. How about "Robin Williams: Come Inside My Mind" or another celebrity bio?
- Change a room. Or just imagine the possibilities. Browse through "Own Your Space" by Alexandra Gater.
- Let it go. You don't have to keep stuff forever, just because Grandma left it to you, or it's still perfectly usable. See "Less: A Visual Guide to Minimalism" by Rachel Aust.
- Get creative. Draw a picture, paint a scene, write a story, pen a poem. Read "The Artist's Way" by Julia Cameron, or pick up instructions about something that intrigues you.
- Explore a language. Access Mango Languages through the library, as well as books, CDs and DVDs to try a new language - even sign language.
- Make something. Bake a fancy cake, create a Lego vehicle, build a bookcase. Pick up "DIY: Repair, Renovate, and Decorate with Over 450 Step-by-Step Projects" by Julian Cassell. It doesn't have to be perfect. Zip-tie your perfectionist streak and throw it in the back of the closet.
- Get out of the house. Walk Fort Vancouver, visit the new waterfront area. Walk at Lacamas Regional Park or hike at Lucia Falls. For easy nature walks, even using a walker or pushing a stroller, see "Strolling and Wheeling Around Vancouver, WA" by Jessica Becker.
- Attend something in your community. How does the Port of Vancouver function? There's a great tour. Or sign up for the Clark County Sheriff's Office Citizens' Academy.

There are 12 items on my list. Imagine if you took one bite each month this year. Just one bite...

## Humor Corner

**Sad news — the inventor of auto-correct collapsed in the street yesterday. He was taken by ambience to the nearest horse piddle.**



**My wife caught me sucking in my stomach while standing on the scale. That's not gonna help!" She said laughing. Actually, it does it's the only way I can see the number**

**Best barstools ever!!!**

