



# The Village News



March 2026

## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS STAY NEIGHBORS

IN THIS ISSUE

Below is a list of March 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.

**Blacksmithing Workshop:** March 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. @ Pomeroy Farms. Join our resident blacksmith in our historic blacksmith shop and discover the art of forging! Learn the basics, essential techniques, and gain hands-on experience. For tickets, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blacksmithing-workshop-tickets-1981818729168?aff=oddtcreator>

**Kitchen Alchemy** March 7<sup>th</sup> 12 p.m. @ Kindred Discover the magic of transforming everyday kitchen scrap and garden bounty into sustainable staples. Make flours from unexpected vegetables, craft unique herbs & spices, and preserving through drying, canning and freezing. For more info, go to: <https://kindredvancouver.com/pages/workshops-events#calendar-e5db1e16-017d-4c24-b7db-c382723c36ac>

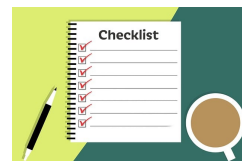
**Move it On Over: Story and Songs of Hank Williams:** March 26<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m. @ Providence Academy Chapel. Hilarious and heartbreaking, Underwood and his guitar vividly bring to life one of America's most influential musical voices. It covers his formative years and the mystery of his death. For tickets, go to: <https://www.thehistorictrust.org/calendar/tickets-on-sale-feb-17-move-it-on-over-stories-and-songs-of-hank-williams-a-musical-history-performance-by-joel-underwood/>



Needing more info on property tax exemptions? Find out more on [page 2](#).



Everyone has a story to tell about their life. Find out about our new VCC life story project that is starting this month on [page 4](#).



Find some helpful gardening tips on [page 5](#) to help you get ready for spring planting.

## 2026 Property Tax Exemption

The Clark County Assessor’s office property tax exemption specialists will be available to answer questions and help enroll property owners in the county’s property tax relief program at upcoming public events.

To schedule an appointment for the event, call 564.397.2391 or email [taxreduction@clark.wa.gov](mailto:taxreduction@clark.wa.gov). Walk-ins also are welcome. Homeowners interested in attending should bring photo ID, federal tax return, W-2 and/or 1099, and any deduction documentation.

### **February 27, 2026 / 9 am to 3:30 pm**

City of Camas City Hall, 616 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Camas, WA.

### **March 6, 2026 / 9 am to 2 pm**

City of Washougal Community Center, 1681 C St., Washougal, WA.

### **March 13, 2026 and March 20, 2026 / 9am to 3:30 pm**

Battle Ground City Hall, 109 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Ste. 154, Battle Ground, WA.

### **April 10, 2026 / 9am to 3:30 pm**

Station 11 Firehouse, 9606 NE 130th Ave., Vancouver, WA.

### **April 24, 2026 / 9am to 3:30 pm**

Station 10 Firehouse, 1501 SE 164th Ave., Vancouver, WA.

### **May 8, 2026 / 9am to 3:30 pm**

Fire Station 21, 1911 NE 65th Ave., Ridgefield, WA.



Village Walkers at the Steigerwald Lake Nat’l Wildlife Refuge on February 15. Thanks to Mark & Barbara, Phil, Kathy, Anjala, Cecilia, Judy and Rena for a beautiful afternoon, lots of birds and nature, good chat

### **VILLAGE WALKERS!**

Next walk: Sunday, March 22 - 1:30 pm, Salmon Creek Greenway Trail

Join us for an easy 2-3mile stroll along the Salmon Creek Greenway Trail in Vancouver. Meet us at 1:30 pm on Sunday, March 22nd by the restrooms in the parking lot for the Salmon Creek Sports Association Complex, also known as the Vancouver Girls Softball Association at 800 NE 117th Street, Vancouver WA 98685. The restrooms are adjacent to the trail - we will meet you there!

Please **RSVP** or direct questions to co-leaders Michelle Adelman, 707-536-8901; or Kathy Davis, 360-787-3197. You may also email [kdavis0116@comcast.net](mailto:kdavis0116@comcast.net).

## MARCH 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-3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 and 3/31 Coffee and breakfast at The KitchenTable in Salmon Creek. 1319 NE 134<sup>th</sup> St. Vancouver.

Thursdays at 9:30-3/5, 3/12, 3/19 and 3/26 Coffee and breakfast at Sunny's Diner 1801 SE 164<sup>th</sup> Ave (same parking lot as Big Al's)

March 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> @ 1-3. Tell your story. See details on page 4.

March 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)

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

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

March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 12:30 V-101. See details below (Public)

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

### VCC Book Club

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

VCC Book Club is seeking readers who enjoy having their horizons broadened. Our members have a wide variety of preferences in their reading choices yet are seeking more viewpoints contributing to our reading lists. We are gathering in March to select the titles for the next few months. We may also be open to a change in our format - so now is your chance to help build a book club to suit your tastes! Come join us for discussion and laughs. We don't always stay on topic, but we always have a good time!

### V-101

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

**When:** Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Three Creeks Library Meeting room.

800-C NE Tenney Road, Vancouver, WA. 98685



### VCC Happy Hour

**When:** Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

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

**Where:**

Tukes Taphouse

113 E Main St

Battle Ground, WA.



Happy Hour at Firehouse Axes

## Life Story Writing Workshop

Everyone has a life story that needs to be told. The question is how to tell it in a concise, coherent, and compelling way. You might say to yourself “I’m not a writer”, or “it would be a massive undertaking!” Well, Villages Clark County can help with a new workshop being led by VCC Villager, Dominic Sitowski.

In a safe, non-judgmental way, by just writing two pages at a time, you can make your history come alive and have fun in the process. Write about episodes that stand out in your life. Your life experiences, people, wins and losses, ups and downs. You might even find healing and serendipitous results in the process.

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month, beginning on March 11<sup>th</sup>

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Where: The recreational room at the Walnut Grove Apartments

7213 NE 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver

Questions: Please contact Dominic Sitowski  
 E-mail [tangostep@yahoo.com](mailto:tangostep@yahoo.com)  
 Phone 503-653-9366



## Volunteers Appreciation

April 2006 is Volunteer Appreciation Month. You are invited to **THANK** your volunteers personally or by calling 360-553-1520 and leaving a message. Your message will be forwarded to the volunteers at our April meeting to honor them. The date/time/location for the meeting will be announced later. Let them know how much you appreciate their efforts. We hope to see you there, or we can give them your message.

Pictures from VCC’s 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Valentine’s Tea



VCC Wishes a Happy March Birthday to the following members:

- Jennifer Johnson 3/3
- Helen Hewitt & Charlie Gleason 3/7
- Linda Wilson 3/9
- Ann Horstman & Kay Hughes 3/12
- Dominic Sitowski 3/23
- Cindy Wilson 3/24
- Myna Mason-Reibson & Frankie Shetterly 3/26
- Ellen Hinds 3/27
- Grover Icenogle 3/29

Other notable celebrities with March birthdays are:

- Alexander Graham Bell (3/3)
- Willard Scott (3/7)
- Bobby Fischer (3/9)
- James Taylor (3/12)
- Joan Crawford (3/23)
- Peyton Manning (3/24)
- Diana Ross (3/26)
- Mariah Carey (3/27)
- Sam Walton (3/29)





## *Clippings from the Garden March 2026*



The very first thing I do every morning, after the coffee is started, is check the bird feeders. At this point I am feeding chipped sunflower seeds in a 'squirrel proof' feeder. It usually empties in two days. Then the 'squirrel proof' black oil whole sunflower seeds get refilled. This normally happens every day. Then, just for fun, I throw out about three cups of whole, raw peanuts. Squirrels and jays love those. This happens every day as many times a day as I choose. The critters would choose about every two hours. I disagree. But I also digress.

Then I check the peace lily which sits in the dining room window. This plant is a drama queen, and she needs lots of attention, lots of water, and needs repotting.

And then I drink coffee.

And here is the March garden task list for our area:

Plan a vegetable garden. Plan to plant what you and your family actually like to eat. This can be in the ground or in raised beds and pots.

Using a soil thermometer test the soil. (I use a kitchen thermometer.) When the temperature is consistently at or above 40 degrees Fahrenheit, then it is time to plant cool crops: onions, kale, lettuce, and spinach. Carrots, beets, broccoli, leeks, parsley, chives, rhubarb, peas, and radishes can also be planted now. Parsley overwinters just fine for me. The chives are a perennial and are coming back up now.

Spread a thin layer of compost over the garden and landscape areas and incorporate it into the top several inches of soil where possible.

Prune gooseberries and currants. Prune hydrangeas by cutting off old blooms. Do not hard prune now.

Fertilize rhododendrons, camellias, and azaleas with a special acid-type fertilizer. Do not prune these plants now. The flower buds are set. Prune after the bloom fades.

Divide hostas, day lilies, and mums.

Plant insectary plants such as alyssum, phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow, and dill to attract beneficial insects to the garden.

Most of all, enjoy yourself, celebrate the oncoming spring, and drink that coffee or tea.  
And Garden On!

## Humor Corner



One minute you're young and carefree and the next minute you're sharing tips with your girlfriends about magnesium and colonoscopies and reminiscing about your favorite movies from the 1900's. -Soccer Mom Blog

When I say "I'll see" to plans, 10/10 times I'm not planning on leaving my house. I might even ask, "What time?" to make it sound convincing though.

## Envisioning My Future

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 'Envisioning My Future' brought representatives from 10 Villages together to learn about safety in the home and emergency preparedness. Our event at the Portland Community College Opportunity Center gave us a morning of learning about safety in the home and how to prevent slips, trips, and falls. After a lunch prepared by the PCC Food Services program, we were inspired to prepare for 'the big one' – the long anticipated major earthquake that is expected when tectonic plate shift.

Almost 60 Villagers from ten Villages and several exhibitors learned from each other in a program brought to you by planning team members Anne Batey (VATF); Jenny Sherman (VNW); Lyn Trainer (RW and VNW); Nancy Doty (VNW); Nancy Stevens (NSV); and Phyllis Robinson (VCC).



VNW Villager Elaine Nelson presented information about staying safe at home (preventing slips, trips, and falls) from their Village project. In conjunction with doctoral students from Pacific U, they inspired us to go room-by-room for an analysis of safety issues at home.

ReFIT's Lupine de Snyder informed us of services available to assist with safety and accessibility in the home.

Kabir Bhatia and Villager Mark Leavitt (WLLO) spoke on the importance of resisting denial as we grow older, thinking ahead, learning new ways to do things when balance and stamina are diminished; and the relevance of Hello Everyday (including a new prototype geared toward those who may be entering cognitive decline).

VCC Villager Phyllis Robinson presented their project on soup-in-a-jar, also relevant to having emergency supplies on hand.



In an afternoon of emergency preparedness, Jonathan Tasini, Portland NET (Neighborhood Emergency Team) told us, "If you're prepared for the 'big one' (earthquake) you can be prepared for anything" from sheltering at home to the need to evacuate. (Point of clarification: urine is not an approved source of hydration, even in an emergency!)

A comparative regional services presentation was made by Jodi Blackwood of Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA). Additional information and checklists were provided by Oregon Department of Emergency Management and Red Cross; VCC member, Kate Griffith suggested ways Villages might organize assistance; and Oregon Humane Society gave us information on preparing a 'go bag' for pets.

Special thanks go to Anjala Ehelebe -- VNW Board President, photographer; Anne Batey -- coordinated with ReFIT; Bruce Bayley -- help with parking; Debbie Savage -- participant