



The Village News



April 2026

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS STAY NEIGHBORS

IN THIS ISSUE

Below is a list of April 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.

CCHM Speaker Series: April 2nd at 7 p.m. @ Ft. Vancouver Visitor Center. Join us for an inspiring evening with local literary historian Betty Bell as she partners with the Clark County Historical Museum to share the remarkable story of Vancouver poet Mary Barnard. Reserve a spot at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vancover-poet-the-life-and-works-of-mary-barnard-tickets-1985072458159?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

Four Old Broads April 3-19th @ Magenta Theater. Retired burlesque queen Beatrice Shelton desperately needs a vacation. Unfortunately, things have not been very pleasant at Magnolia Place Assisted Living since Nurse Pat Jones began working there. Part mystery, part hilarity, join them for a night of fun. For more info, go to: <https://www.magentatheater.com/2026-season/4-old-broads>

Lilac Days: April 18th-May 10th @ Hulda Klager Garden-Woodland. Visit their lilac gardens and their exhibits for their 50th anniversary. For info, go to: <https://lilacgardens.com>



Help support VCC with two fun game nights. Find out more on [page 2](#).



VCC has their first employee. Find out more about her on [page 4](#).



Our walking group is out exploring new places. Find out how you can join their next adventure on [page 4](#).

Celebrating our VCC Drivers!

The transportation team gathered together on February 7th for a driver appreciation luncheon. There were 12 of our group attending for some good food and fellowship.

Our drivers completed 728 rides in 2025, another impressive increase from 2024. We drove a total of 19,268 miles last year! What an amazing number, since very few of those miles were outside Clark County!!! That's equivalent to over 6 cross-country trips. Outstanding job by everyone!



We continue to grow our driver force, with new volunteers coming forward with a willingness to help provide this valuable service to our members. We all agreed that we get much satisfaction and are thankful we can provide help to people who need it. We have missed some rides due to busy schedules and winter vacations but still fulfilled over 93% of ride requests. We will continue to provide some companionship and friendship to all our members, while serving their need for the occasional lift.

Mark your Calendar

Firehouse Axe is sponsoring **Villages Clark County** for the month April. They are donating a portion of the proceeds from food and drinks to Villages. So come with an appetite. Also, the \$5 entrance fee is ours! The events are April 13 (Bunco) and April 27 (Bingo). Prizes on Bunco night in addition to a 50/50 drawing. Bingo night will have both prizes and raffles.

Prepaid registration of \$5 mandatory.

FYI These events will fill up fast. We highly recommend registering early (first week of April) and arriving early.

To register.

Call: Phone Number:(360)953-8478 after 1 p.m. on weekdays or after 9:30 a.m. on weekends. You can sign up and pay via the phone. If you have trouble, contact Michelle Adelman at 707-536-8901 and she will sign you up and you can reimburse her at the event.

Address: 3701 Main St.

Vancouver, WA

Times of both events: 6:30-9:00 PM

Villagers please wear name tags!

Friends and family welcome

No experience necessary



Join us for Breakfast on Tuesdays on the west side and Breakfast on Thursdays on the east side of Vancouver.

See Details on page 3.

April 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".**

Tell your Story-Every Wednesday from 10-12 (**except April 22nd**) at 7213 NE 58th St. Vancouver, WA. This is an opportunity to write your life story with the help of Dominic Sitowski.

Tuesdays at Ten-4/7, 4/14, 4/21, and 4/28 Coffee and breakfast at The KitchenTable in Salmon Creek. 1319 NE 134th St. Vancouver.

Thursdays at 9:30-4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23 and 4/30 Coffee and breakfast at Sunny's Diner 1801 SE 164th Ave (same parking lot as Big Al's)

April 9th @ 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

April 10th@ 1:00 V-101. See details below (Public)

April 13th@ 6:30-Bunco at Firehouse Axes. See details on page 2

April 15th @ 10 a.m.-Book Club. See details below.

April 19th @ 1:30 p.m. VCC Walkers. See details on page 4.

April 22nd @ 1 p.m.-All Volunteer Roundtable. Hybrid.

April 27th@6:30-Bingo at Firehouse Axes. See details on page 2

VCC Book Club

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

What we are reading: My Name is Emilia del Valle' by Isabelle Allende



V-101

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

When: April 10th at 1-2 p.m.

Where: Cascade Park Library Community Room

600 NE 136th Ave, Vancouver - Community Room

VCC Happy Hour

When: Thursday, April 23rd

Time: 3-5 p.m.

Where:

Dovetail Cellars

404 E Evergreen Blvd, Vancouver.



Save the Date:

May 5th

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Lunch provided





Welcome to our newest, and only, actual employee. Christina Keys is now serving as our Community Development Coordinator. She is supremely qualified.

Christina went from career woman to Family Caregiver when her mother had a life changing stroke in 2013. She cared for her for 10 years. Turning a mess into a message, she is now a National Speaker and Advocate. She founded and led an award-winning nonprofit supporting Family Caregivers, served as Director of Community Growth for a national caregiving organization (building a team of nearly 150 caregiving champions across the U.S.), and has also helped WA Cares as the state spokesperson.

Christina has had a long history with Villages Clark County not only from the work she did in Vancouver with her previous nonprofit (Loving Them Forward), but also as someone who used our services for another loved one she cared for. She is excited to be part of the Villages Clark County team where she will be helping to expand our reach in the community, helping with fundraising and increasing membership, as well as increasing our number of volunteers.

She is already busy capturing pictures and stories for a major social media push. Please help her to help us, by sharing your own stories on the impact of VCC in your life. You may contact her directly at ckeys@villagesclarkcounty.org, or call the office at 360-553-1520.

VCC Walkers!

DATE: Sunday, April 19 - 1:30 pm, Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail starting at Battle Ground Lake State Park.

Join the Village Walkers for a gentle, paved 2.5 mile walk along the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail starting at Battle Ground Lake State Park.

ENTRANCE FEES: There are several ways to gain entrance to the park. You can pay a \$10 day use fee at the automated pay kiosks located at the park. You can also use an annual Washington State Discover Pass, which you may purchase in advance for \$50 through this link, discoverpass.wa.gov ; or you can purchase a one-day pass for \$11.50 through the same link. Carpooling and sharing entrance fees will keep costs down.

Following the walk, we will gather at Margarita Factory in Battle Ground (11 N. Parkway Ave., Unit 103, Battle Ground 98604) for refreshment and conversation.

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.

VCC Wishes a Happy April Birthday to the following members:

- Ruth Riffle 4/6
- Judy Zeider 4/13
- Richard Hammerstron 4/15
- Eulalia R.Slowikouski-DePangher 4/23
- Chris Benton 4/28

Other notable celebrities with April birthdays are:

- Marilu Henner (4/6)
- Butch Cassidy (4/13)
- Emma Thompson (4/15)
- William Shakespeare (4/23)
- Jay Leno (4/28)



Please Join Us!



Clippings from the Garden

April 2026



Driving around Clark County in late March and April, my soul is joyful as I watch the daffodils put on their show. From a single clump to an entire line down a property we are all made just a little happier and joyful seeing the promise of spring come forth. At this time of year I usually say to myself, "If you enjoy these daffodils so much, then why don't you plant more at your own place?" The answer is I am not fond of planting bulbs. And when October and November come around, I just don't get to it. I'll try to do better this year. There are some daffodils on my own place, but there certainly could be more. And I appreciate those who really do plant them. Thanks to all.



There is an incredible variety of types of daffodils, so keep your eye out for all the different plantings around town. Enjoy.



Oregon State University suggests these April gardening tasks:

Planning:

~Prepare raised beds by adding two inches of good organic material.

~Wait until the soil is warmer, about 60 degrees, before planting summer crops like corn, beans and tomatoes in the ground.

Maintenance and clean up:

~Wait until foliage of bulbs has turned brown before cutting it off. Pull off flower heads after they die down.

~Cut back ornamental grasses to about two to three inches.

~Fertilize lawns. Dethatch lawns. If moss is a problem, then scratch up the area and apply new grass seed.

~Prune and shape spring blooming shrubs only after the bloom has faded.

Planting and Propagation:

~Plant vegetables: Brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, chard, chives, endives, leeks, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, spinach, and turnips.

Strawberries.

Pest management:

~Remove weeds while they are small.

Garden On!

Janet

Come one, come all to a special

Listen, Lunch & Learn

Registration is Open! April 16, 2026 10:00 – 2:30

Providence Willamette Falls Community Center

519 15th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045

“Ten Years On: Achieving Sustainability”

Register Now: <https://evite.me/SbhRVkGsSR>

When you register, include your Village name and any dietary or other special needs in the notes to host.
Lunch will be served.

We are excited to tell you about our efforts to address the questions you have raised about making Villages NW stable and sustainable. We will tell you about the Hub & Spoke Villages in other parts of the country, their funding models, programming, and general operations and how that information relates to Villages NW. Good ideas abound!

Through interviews with our Village Councils, COR, Affinity Groups, work groups, and all the sticky notes you produced at a previous LL&L, we’ve heard your questions and concerns. So, Villagers from many Villages have been working to find solutions to issues you have raised.

You asked, we’ll try to answer.

The multi-Village LL&L and Sustainability planning teams have been working hard to prioritize possible paid positions, streamline decision-making, improve volunteer and member recruitment and retention, reduce redundancy, and enhance Village-wide outreach.

Succession planning is high on the list. Many founders and long-time council members are looking for volunteers, members, and leaders who will share the focus and commitment to keep up the good work. Your good ideas and energy are crucial to continued success.

All Villages are a community treasure that we can’t lose or squander.

Join us for a day of updates and opportunities. We’ve worked diligently and collaboratively to develop proposals that address our collective needs. Brainstorming and creative table work will be important. So be there on April 16th to help polish our efforts to bring you the improvements you asked for! Help us make Villages shine a much-needed spotlight on our positive community presence as we continue to be **“neighbors who help neighbors stay neighbors!”**

Humor Corner

