



DECEMBER 2021

The Catalyst

a periodic publication from
Vision Action Network

INSPIRING
COLLABORATION
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY



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NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY



Glenn Montgomery
Executive Director

In the midst of the holiday season, I struggle once again to recalibrate expectations, needs, intentions, and desires. As the omicron variant spreads like a catastrophic wildfire across an arid, overgrown landscape, I am determined to avoid becoming an unwitting victim or an accomplice to its natural purpose. Yet I'm frustrated and angry about what this requires! I was just beginning to regain some semblance of normalcy in my vaccinated and boosted status by going to the cinema (my first visit in 22 months!) and enjoying the occasional indoor meetup with friends at a coffee shop or restaurant. I'm now re-thinking my holiday plans, concerned about the elevated risk of close contact with loved ones who, like me, have relaxed their pre-vax standards of protection against the virus. I worry about the elders, the immuno-compromised, and those with underlying conditions like my 75-year old asthmatic brother. I worry about making the wrong choices.

It's easy for me to become overwhelmed with each wave of the virus and the array of emotions it stirs inside me. It seems almost perverse to say I'm sick of it, but that's just what comes to mind, even as I know my troubles are minor inconveniences compared to the stress and burden being imposed upon our healthcare workers, teachers, and frontline retail and service industry staff. It's no wonder millions have said, "Enough!" and retreated to safer ground. For who's benefit are they being asked to sacrifice their own physical and mental health? Along with other existential threats, such as climate change, the pandemic is forcing me to rethink what I value, to question the systems that no longer serve and protect our communities, and to recalibrate my measures of success. I am also reminded that the best wines are produced from the grapes of stressed soil.

As a convener, VAN creates space for people to rethink, redesign, and recalibrate together. Over the last 18 months, we have hesitated to host large events in a virtual environment out of concern that the benefits would be outweighed by the general malaise people experience from impersonal, online interaction. But there's no telling how long we'll be at war with Covid, so we start where we are and work with what we've got. We've begun to explore **a forum on mental health** to take place before winter's end. We're reaching out to service providers, educators, and residents to share their stories, exchange information, and cultivate hope in a collective vision that sees us through to the other side. If you'd like to be part of the planning or implementation, or if you wish to support our efforts as a sponsor of this event, please let me know.

The pandemic has caused a great deal of pain, suffering, and loss, but if it has been a source of any good in my life, it is its insistence that I remain alert, adaptive, and grateful. The same is true for VAN. Uncertain of what lies ahead, we move forward.

Together, may we be safe and well as we navigate the new year.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Montgomery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

VAN INITIATIVES AND CONVENINGS

ADDRESSING THE CHILD CARE CHALLENGE

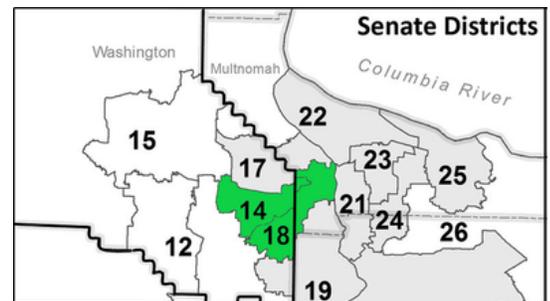
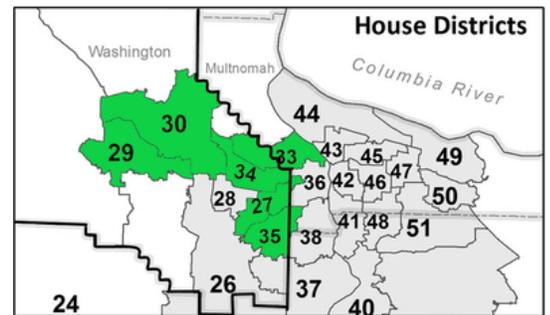
Thrives invited back its friends from Hillsboro School District to share some of the creative ways in which they are partnering with private and community-based organizations to provide child care and out of school activities during a time when resources are worn thin. Superintendent Mike Scott, Assistant Superintendent Travis Reiman and Program Manager Alma Hernandez presented to the group their



After School Programming that they've estimated can benefit at least 1,000 kids from among the 19,000 the district currently serves. HSD's goal is to provide programs for all of these kids including full financial aid for more than a third of them. As expected, the biggest challenge is finding the staff to satisfy the need. The HSD team addressed questions regarding the sustainability of the program, cultural-responsiveness, and equitable access, and representatives from Beaverton, Forest Grove, and Tigard-Tualatin School Districts joined to listen and glean inspiration that they may take back to their own communities.

Click the [notes from the November gathering](#) for more details.

Looking ahead, Thrives will shift to a quarterly gathering beginning in January. [Register to join](#) a (virtual) conversation with State legislators on Wednesday, January 19 at 8:30am. The focus will be on the 2022 short session and where funding and policy proposals may align with Thrives' priorities. Those who have confirmed include:



- Rep. Maxine Dexter - House District 33
- Rep. Dacia Grayber - House District 35
- Rep. Ken Helm - House District 34
- Sen. Akasha Lawrence Spence - Senate District 18
- Sen. Kate Lieber - Senate District 14
- Rep. Susan McLain - House District 29
- Rep. Sheri Schouten - House District 27
- Rep. Janeen Sollman - House District 30

[Register now!](#)

Add your contact information to the Thrives mailing list to stay informed!

[Join the list!](#)

VAN INITIATIVES AND CONVENINGS

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

VAN is leading a consulting team composed of members of the Racial Equity Collaborative and ECONorthwest to help guide the City of Beaverton's strategies as they plan to invest \$100 million over the next 10 years in downtown area improvements. The consulting team is leveraging its relationships to enlist the support of community "ambassadors" who are conducting outreach to downtown area business owners from the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. Two gatherings were hosted earlier this month with Latine business owners, and additional conversations are taking place throughout January with Black, Chinese, Korean, Muslim, Native American, Thai, and Vietnamese affinity groups to hear what they would like to see happen with respect to improvements to the city's downtown region.



On Wednesday, January 26 from 6-8pm, all business owners will be welcome to attend a virtual gathering to learn more about the city's redevelopment goals and provide additional input. Keep a lookout for more details in the new year!

Also this month, about 140 residents attended two virtual gatherings hosted by the City and facilitated by the REC partners. For many, it was their first time participating in such an event with the City. Together in small groups, they shared their ideas about how to create a downtown where everyone feels like they belong, and to discuss ways to avoid pushing residents out of the area, as often happens with urban redevelopment projects.

The City's primary goals are to make improvements that:

1. retain existing business owners, renters, and homeowners who work and live in the downtown area (avoiding the typical impacts of gentrification); and
2. create a more welcoming, inclusive downtown that attracts even more diverse businesses and residents

Learn more and follow the project updates at:

[REC | Vision Action Network](#)

or

[Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy](#)

FINDING COMMUNITY PODCAST



November Episode - Indigenous People's Month

Our November episode featured a lively and inspiring conversation with [Steph Littlebird Fogel](#), an artist, a member of [Grand Ronde Confederated Tribes](#), and a descendant of the Kalapuyan and Chinook people; and David Harrelson, Grand Ronde tribal member and Cultural Resources Manager of [The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde](#).

December Episode - Advancing Equity with Dori King

In December, Glenn interviewed Beaverton, Oregon resident Dori King, an educator and school administrator, now Coordinator for [Folks of Color in Schools \(FOCIS\)](#), an alliance of people of color and white allies that seeks to promote equity and social justice in schools. Dori talks about her passion for education and for supporting teachers of color, as well as her love for the Beaverton community, and her work with community engagement for the [Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy](#).

Find and subscribe on your favorite podcast app, or at [spreaker.com/show/finding-community](https://www.spreaker.com/show/finding-community).

Need a convener or value-added facilitator?

Our mission is to bring people together across sectors to address complex issues for the benefit of the Washington County community.



Contact Glenn Montgomery, Executive Director
glenn@visionactionnetwork.org or 503-846-5792

Follow VAN



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EVENTS & CONVENINGS

State of Washington County Business Discussion with Washington County State Legislators



**WASHINGTON
COUNTY
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE**

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce Partnership (WCCCP) invites businesses to join them for a discussion with the Oregon State Legislators of Washington County prior to the 2022 Legislative Session. Join in for a discussion about the current state of business in Washington County. Thursday, January 6, 2022 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM PST. Register to attend: web.washingtoncountychamberor.com/events/State-of-Washington-County-Business-Discussion-with-Washington-County-State-Legislators-8714/register.



Jobseekers | ¿En Busca de Trabajo? (in-person | en persona)

Cornelius Public Library is offering free, in-person help with job searching, filling out applications, resumé and cover letter writing, interview practice, and more. Mondays, 3:00PM – 4:00PM at Cornelius Public Library. Register to reserve a time at wcls.bibliocommons.com/events/61983bc37c8af2480093c2c9.

Civics for Adults: The Constitution–Fulfilling Democracy’s Promise?

Join Tigard Public Library for a presentation about the US Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the history and possible future of changes to the Constitution. This presentation on political awareness and involvement is presented by Donna L Cohen, MLIS, MEd. January 07, 2022 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. Register at tigard.libcal.com/event/8488652.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EVENTS & CONVENINGS

Adelante Mujeres Workshops

Parenting Classes

Connect with other parents and build strong cultural ties. Tuesdays from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Classes begin on January 12, 2021. Virtual classes in Spanish. Prior registration is required. Please email Alexandra Nahill at anahill@adelantemujeres.org or call at 503-707-5940.



The Incredible Years

A workshop that focuses on strengthening social-emotional development, self-regulation, and problem-solving skills. This workshop lasts twelve weeks. At the end of the 12 weeks, you will receive a \$30 gift card. Wednesdays from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Begins on January 13. Virtual classes in Spanish. Call 503-707-5940



Library-Sponsored Child Care Trainings

FREE! This training series is held over Zoom in the language specified. Offered at no charge to participants thanks to Beaverton City Library, Cedar Mill and Bethany Community Libraries, Cornelius Public Library, Community Action Child Care Resource & Referral, and Washington County Cooperative Library Services. Register for 2022 trainings at www.beavertonlibrary.org/307/Child-Care-Trainings.

Women & Activism in the 21st Century: A Panel Discussion with Local Activists [in person]

Inspired by the "Rebel Girl" Elizabeth Gurley Flynn from "The Cold Millions" and her dedication to her cause, the library will host a moderated panel discussion with local women activists who will share their motivations, trials, and triumphs as advocates for change. Part of the One Book, One Beaverton program. Thursday, January 27, 2022, 6:30PM - 7:30PM at Beaverton City Library. Registration required: wcccls.bibliocommons.com/events/61b10ec9f9e8093600e861cf.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EVENTS & CONVENINGS

Housing & Belonging: An Oregon Humanities Conversation Project [in person]

This facilitated discussion will explore common assumptions and perspectives about the experience of houselessness/homelessness and seek to answer the question: How do we decide who "belongs" in our community? Part of the One Book, One Beaverton program. Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 6:00PM – 7:30PM, Beaverton City Library. Register to attend at wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/61b10d0e951ec54100b3b668.



Oregon Humanities

Free Online Events from Oregon Humanities

Oregon Humanities offers opportunities to connect through conversation, storytelling, and participatory programs to inspire understanding and collaborative change. Upcoming discussions include "Relationships for Resilience," "The Meaning of Climate Change," "So

Much Together: We Can Create a Paradise," and "Can We Get Along? Examining Our Personal Experiences of Connection and Community." Check out their upcoming free virtual programs, and register to attend at oregonhumanities.org/events/.

Basic Mediation Training via Zoom

Learn the process of mediation while gaining skills in communication and peaceful conflict resolution. This virtual 32-hour class will enable you to explore constructive approaches to conflict disputes in the community, at home and the workplace. There is no cost to attend the class but you must be able to attend ALL five sessions.

Friday February 4, 12 pm – 5 pm Saturday February 5, 8 am – 5 pm
Friday February 11, 12 pm – 5 pm Saturday February 12, 8 am – 5 pm
Friday February 25, 12 pm – 5 pm

Register here: www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/?navid=3644



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ROUNDOABOUT THE COUNTY



Winter Shelters

Winter Shelters are open in Washington County and run through March to provide life-saving emergency shelter. Over the winter of 2021 and 2022, Washington County will fund 5 winter shelter sites (including **Cloverleaf**) throughout the County for youth, individuals, and families. All referrals are coordinated through **Community Connect**.

Learn more at www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/community-connect.cfm.

Portland YouthBuilders Bridge Construction Training

Portland YouthBuilders recently expanded programming to Washington County, where they will offer a 9-week paid pre-apprenticeship training featuring hands-on learning in small classes and support with placement in high paying jobs in the trades, including union apprenticeships. The next cohort runs January 10-March 11. Eligibility requirements include: High school graduate living in Multnomah or Washington County; Between 18-26 years old; Applicants must qualify as low-income; COVID-19 vaccine required (Subject to religious and disability accommodations as required by law.). Contact Elle to learn more at elle.goldstein@pybpd.org or (503) 286-9350 ext. 214.



Boards and Commissions Vacancies Winter 2021

Washington County Board of Commissioners is seeking committed volunteers to advise them on critical community issues. The application deadline for all positions is January 25, 2022, or open until filled. Learn more at www.co.washington.or.us/BOC/boards-and-commissions-vacancies-winter-2021.cfm.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ROUNDTABOUT THE COUNTY

City of Forest Grove Boards and Commissions Recruitment

Forest Grove is recruiting community members, high school students and representatives from local businesses and nonprofits to fill vacancies on advisory boards and commissions to advise the City Council on important issues affecting the community. Individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences are encouraged to apply by January 14, 2022. Learn more: www.forestgrove-or.gov/bc/page/boards-and-commissions-recruitment.



TriMet Temporary Service Reduction

Starting January 9, 2022, 20 TriMet bus lines will run less frequently on weekdays due to a shortage of bus operators and other workers. See the list of affected bus lines here: trimet.org/alerts/reducedservice.htm

Washington County Center for Addictions Triage and Treatment

Washington County is considering two locations for a new substance use treatment center, one located near Evergreen Parkway and Cornell Road and the other near Elam Young Parkway in Hillsboro. If you live or conduct business in these areas, join in virtually on January 12 or 13 to learn more about the planned center, ask questions and give feedback. Both meetings are open to all.

Learn more at www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/Addiction/CATT/index.cfm.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

COVID-19 CORNER



Omicron

The fast spreading Omicron variant is in Oregon and is now responsible for most COVID cases in the U.S. It is more contagious than Delta, and more resistant to vaccinations, but early evidence suggests that boosters protect against hospitalization and severe disease. If you haven't received your COVID-19 vaccine or booster, please do it now to protect yourself and your loved ones. Every Oregonian ages five and up is eligible for a vaccine.

Boosters

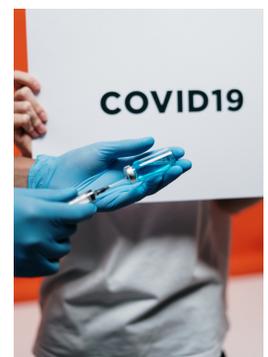
Everyone ages 16 and older who is fully vaccinated is eligible for a Pfizer-BioNTech booster. Everyone ages 18 and older who is fully vaccinated can get a booster. You can get your booster six months after you're fully vaccinated with the two-dose Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna and two months after you're fully vaccinated with the one-dose J&J. The CDC is now recommending the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines over the J & J vaccine.

All of the major health systems and most local pharmacies are providing COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters, as well as clinics throughout Washington County. [See the full list here](#) or call the HelpLine at 1-833-907-3520.

Learn more: www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/CommunicableDiseases/COVID-19/vaccine.cfm

Get answers to your vaccine questions

- Check out OHA's website: covidvaccine.oregon.gov
- Dive deeper into the data with [Oregon Health Authority's data dashboard](#)
- Text ORCOVID to 898211 to get text/SMS updates (English and Spanish)
- Email ORCOVID@211info.org (All languages)



For more information about **vaccines** and continued COVID-19 **testing** in Washington County, please refer to Washington County's Health & Human Services website at www.co.washington.or.us/covid-19.



Vision Action Network

Mission: VAN engages stakeholders across sectors to collaboratively address critical issues in Washington County.

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Community Action

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(Immediate Past-Chair)**
WorkSystems, Inc.

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Annie Herbert (Secretary)
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City of Hillsboro

Alexis Ball
City of Beaverton

Insil Kang
Village Church

Dr. Raymond Moreno
Providence St. Vincent's

Narcedalia (Narce) Rodriguez
Pacific University

Dick Stenson
(retired advocate)

Latricia Tillman
Washington County Admin

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