

# The **Messenger**

**Boomers and Beyond – Clark County, WA**



*The 2017 fireworks display at historic Fort Vancouver. This year's display is to be even bigger and brighter! Photo credit: Bob Holcomb*

## **Ten Tips for Making the Most of Vancouver's Fireworks Spectacular**

Fourth of July fireworks on the Fort Vancouver National Site have been a Vancouver tradition for over 50 years. This year Vancouver's Fireworks Spectacular presented by Columbia Credit Union will have the region's largest and most memorable fireworks display. Fireworks will launch up to 500 feet high, cover a radius of 500 feet wide, and feature unique special effects!

Come down to historic Fort Vancouver and celebrate Independence Day with the community. There are a few changes this year, so read these ten tips to make the most of your fourth!

1. **Know when to go.** Fireworks will launch at 10:05pm. Gates will open at 8am, but suggested arrival time is after 6pm.
2. **Fireworks are free!** Cash donations will be accepted from those who want to support next year's Fireworks Spectacular, with a portion of proceeds going to support the Lower Columbia Veterans Coalition, a collective made up of the Community Military Appreciation Coalition (CMAC), Vancouver Barracks Military Association (VBMA), Combat Veterans International Chapter 9 (CVI), Buffalo Soldiers – Moses Williams Pacific Northwest Chapter (Buffalo Soldiers), and Special Forces Association (SFA).
3. **Explore the attractions at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.** There will be no live music this year, but there will be plenty of free and low-cost heritage activities to enjoy. Tour The Historic Trust's Marshall House (free, 12pm-3pm) and Providence Academy (free, 2pm-6pm), watch living history demonstrations at the National Park Service's reconstructed Fort (\$7 adults, children under 16 free, 12pm-8pm), learn about the history of flight at Pearson Air Museum and pop-up shop (free, 12pm-8pm), or check out the gift shop, bookstore, historic art, rotating exhibits, and theater at the NPS Visitor Center (free, 12pm-5pm).
4. **Bring your favorite Fourth of July snacks.** There are no food vendors at the event this year and many downtown Vancouver businesses are closed for the holiday, so bring your favorite Fourth of July snacks. Get your grill on before you come to the Fort, no BBQ or open flames are allowed on site. Free water will be available.
5. **Bring blankets, chairs, and a flashlight.** Be prepared to enjoy the great outdoors—bring blankets and chairs to stay warm and comfortable during the fireworks. Site will be lit, but bring a flashlight to help find your way.
6. **Be sun safe! Protect yourself from sunburn.** If you come before sundown, bring sunscreen and a hat. Small canopies and tents are allowed, but please do not drive stakes into the ground. All canopies and tents must be taken down by sundown to not block others' view of the fireworks.
7. **Don't stress about traffic or parking—take the free C-TRAN shuttle.** Starting at 6pm, C-Tran will run two free shuttles to the event, one from Fisher's Landing Transit Center and one from the 99th Street Transit Center, with return service after the firework show.

8. **Need to drive? Find the best parking spot.** Downtown Vancouver parking is free for the holiday. \$10 public parking is available at Providence Academy and the grass lot on 5th St between S Street and U Street.
9. **Have an ADA permit?** ADA parking is free along 5<sup>th</sup> Street for those with a valid permit. A reserved ADA viewing area will be available nearby.
10. **The fireworks will not be visible from Clark College, the Columbia River, or from Portland,** so make sure you celebrate with the community at historic Fort Vancouver!