

## INTRODUCTION TO THE 3RD EDITION OF THE PANGECRAS 2024

Dear neighbours,

As I write this introduction, it will still be a while before the PANGECRAS lands in your mailbox. The editorial team is hard at work writing wonderful stories and gathering interesting information. What I'm trying to say is that a lot of time and love go into creating such a beautiful neighborhood magazine.

This Saturday, I was lured outside by the cheerful music of two brass bands. I couldn't contain my curiosity. Once outside, I found myself skipping along. Oh, how I love a good parade! Behind the first brass band came a procession of "veegpieten" in colorful costumes—on stilts, riding unicycles, or simply on their own two feet—followed by a column of cycling companions on blue tandem bikes. And then, yes indeed, the good "Sint" himself on his white horse. Sinterklaas—his arrival marks the beginning of a season filled with festive winter activities. In our wonderful neighborhood, there is always so much to see and experience during this time.

For many years now, we've had the nostalgic Christmas market, which will once again be held this year on the Hooglandse Kerkgracht. Opinions about this vary, just as they did when the Christmas market was still held on the Nieuwe Rijn. It's worth noting that the municipality is now making an effort to involve nearby residents, for instance, by conducting an annual evaluation. This year's process didn't go entirely smoothly, as discussions took place only after the event calendar for the year had already been finalized. However, better arrangements have been made for next year. Despite this, the discussions with the municipality and the organizers went well, and there's definitely goodwill! And for those interested, let's meet on Friday, December 20th, for a glass of mulled wine or another drink at the Christmas market!

On that note, I'd like to encourage readers to sign up for the neighborhood association's newsletter. You can do so via email ([bestuur@pancraswest.nl](mailto:bestuur@pancraswest.nl)), even if you don't wish to become a member (although membership is only €15 per year). Through the newsletter, we can keep you informed about developments in the neighborhood and opportunities to have your say. Recently, for example, we received a request from the police to warn residents about scammers posing as police officers. Naturally, we can also use the newsletter to update you on fun activities for and by the residents of Pancras-West. Unfortunately, with only about 150 email addresses in our current database out of a population of 1,196, our reach is still quite limited. Further in this magazine, you'll find details on how to sign up.

Finally, I wish you all a wonderful festive season filled with love and joy.

Noor Engbers

