A celebration of heritage and culture took place the weekend of the Tet festival held by Clark County’s Vietnamese community at the Vancouver’s Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary School. The event included food, music, and traditional Vietnamese dance and music performances.

The Vietnamese community celebrates Tet, the Lunar New Year, with festivities that include dragon and lion dances, traditional clothing, and family gatherings. Tet is one of the most important holidays in Vietnamese culture, symbolizing the hope for a new beginning and the renewal of life.

Several local organizations and individuals have been working to preserve and promote Vietnamese culture and heritage. The Vietnamese Community of Clark County, led by President Ha Quang Tieu, has been instrumental in organizing cultural events and promoting awareness of Vietnamese culture in the community.

The event was also an opportunity for the Vietnamese community to come together and celebrate their heritage. Attendees enjoyed traditional foods, music, and dance performances, creating a festive and lively atmosphere.

The celebration of Tet is a time of unity and connection, reminding us of the importance of preserving cultural diversity and heritage. As the Vietnamese community continues to thrive in Clark County, the celebration of Tet serves as a reminder of the strength and resilience of the community as they embrace their cultural roots.

The Vietnamese community leaders suggest a higher number, accurate numbers are important because population numbers help determine funding for some programs. One person counted “can mean $1,000” in revenue for a year for 10 years,” Andrews said. While the Tet festival was an opportunity to build some new relationships, it also was a chance to renew some old friendships.

Former mayor Royce Pollard got to chat again with an old comrade, Tony Duong. The former South Vietnamese army officer was attached to Pollard’s unit for two years as a scout during the Vietnam War.

“I came here in 1981 after seven years in a POW camp,” Duong said. He didn’t know Pollard lived here until about 15 years ago, Duong said: “I saw him in Memorial Day.” Duong caught the eye of Pollard, who said he realized: “I think I know that guy.”

Duong told the mayor: “I’m your ‘Kid Carson’ scout.”

“Talk about emotional,” Pollard said: “He saved my ass a couple of times.”

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