

Observing

THIS SATURDAY, COME TO A PLACE OF FUN, SENSATION AND WONDER. AND IT'S NOT IN PORTLAND.



Farmers Market In Full Swing

This is the peak of the season at the open-air Vancouver Farmers Market. Every Saturday over 50 vendors fill the two-block area in historic downtown Vancouver near Fifth and Main streets. The market is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from May through October.

Special features include garden-fresh produce, colorful nursery stock, flavorful food and quality hand-crafted items. This is the market's fourth successful year.

The lively market also highlights local entertainment and seasonal celebrations. It is en-

joyed by visitors of all ages. Plenty of free parking is nearby at Broadway and Seventh streets. There is still some space available for vendors. Call the market master at (206) 695-7259 or the vendor chairman at (206) 8932-5324 for information.

County Program Receives National Recognition

Five county programs have received Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). According to NACo Executive Director Larry Naake, the awards recognize Clark County's "...hard work to promote responsible and effective county government."

The following programs were singled out:

- Operation Home Stretch - A Clark County Community Services Department project that helps homeless families get back on their feet, find housing and employment.
- Wildland Urban Interface Fire Protection - A Clark County Fire Marshal's Office program whose goal is to keep rural residential areas of the county fire safe.
- Emergency Medical Dispatch Quality Improvement Program - A Clark Regional Communications Agency project to improve emergency medical dispatch services.
- Correctional Industries Plant Nursery Program - A Clark County Corrections Department

program - also known as Mabry Nursery - where inmates grow and care for plants used in public landscaping projects.

• Debt Service Program and Senior/Disabled Tax Work-Off Program - Both projects are in the Clark County Treasurer's

Office. The first tracks bond issues and results in a cost savings to the county. The second is a program in which low-income seniors and disabled residents can work within county offices or at home to earn money to pay off their property taxes.

Yard Debris Recycling Adds Up

Area residents who do not recycle yard debris are "throwing their money away," said Tami Kihns, solid waste analyst for the city of Vancouver.

One can of yard debris hauled away as regular household garbage costs \$10.65 per month. By comparison, three cans set out for bi-weekly yard debris pickup costs only \$5.50 per month.

"One of our yard debris stickers can transform a garbage can into a recycling can and money saver," said Kihns, who reminds residents to sign up for the area's expanded pilot Yard

Debris Recycling Program. Participants can set out three 30-gallon cans of debris every other week for a flat rate of \$5.50 per month.

"The most economical method of all," points out Andrea Friedrichsen, Clark County waste reduction specialist, "is to compost yard debris at home." For advice from a Master Composter, call (206) 254-8436. Information on yard debris collection or non-regular, on-call yard debris pickup is available by calling Zero Garbage Yard Debris Recycling at (206) 892-2502.

City Liberalizes Home Down Payment Aid

The scope of the City of Vancouver's Down Payment Assistance Loan Program, which gives financial help to certain first-time home buyers, has increased in several areas.

Maximum assistance available to individual home buyers has jumped to \$3,000 (up from \$2,250). Income limits, for a family of four for example, have increased to \$33,850 (up from \$31,900). The allowable home purchase price has grown to \$107,825 (up from \$90,000).

The assistance program is for city residents only and targeted at low- and moderate-income home buyers. The down payment

assistance comes in the form of a no-interest loan. The loan does not have to be repaid until the property is either re-sold or transferred.

The Down Payment Assistance Loan Program, first unveiled by the city in June, is funded with a \$150,000 grant from the federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs. It helps to ease the financial burden for certain home buyers by paying up to half their down payment. "The City of Vancouver wants to encourage pride in our neighborhoods by increasing home ownership," says Karen McGrath of the city's Department

of Community Preservation and Development. "This program helps do that."

The program is currently coordinated through First Interstate, Northwest National, Continental Savings, Seafirst and U.S. Bank and Eykis Financial Services. The amount of the loan will be determined by the lender, after a review of other available funding sources and buyer finances, and approved by the city. Assistance will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. For more details, home buyers may contact a participating lender or the city's Department of Community Preservation and Development at 696-8005.

Clark County Budget Process Gets "Excellent" Marks

The National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) has singled out the county's 1994 budget process with an "Excellent Award."

"Clark County Budget Blueprint 94" was judged with entries from throughout the nation in the "Special Projects" category for counties with population less than 500,000. Judging was based on such things as innovativeness, how well resources were used, the seriousness of the issue involved and the overall impact of

the project, according to awards chair Debra J. Henzey. She added that the competition was highly competitive.

The panel of judges included representatives from professional agencies and government information specialists.

Key to budget process was public involvement and information. In order to involve as many citizens as possible, the county developed publications, newspaper advertisements, public workshops and produced a video with

Clark Vancouver Cable Television.

Washington State Lottery

Wednesday, August 3, 1994
01-03-21-24-27-35

Saturday, August 6, 1994
2-8-13-17-20-47



Regional NAACP President Under Fire Branch presidents from Oregon and Washington, including ShaRee Rhone of Portland (from right) and Henry Luvert of Eugene, at a News Conference denouncing a letter released to the media by Greg Evans, president of the Washington and Oregon State Conference of Branches of the NAACP. They claim Evans did a disservice by airing complaints in public and suggesting in the letter that branches withhold funds from the national office because of allegations of crisis in leadership, finances and integrity.

What's The Big Deal About Science and Technology III

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Well, thanks again for the kind words, dear readers. Don't worry about the time you call (or day you write or hour you fax -- or from what continent). I need to know that I'm reaching you and your youngsters. From what you are telling me, most who are teaching these areas do not understand exactly how the science and technology fit into the industrial and workforce infrastructure. "You have been there."

As soon as her copy of the Portland Observer arrived in San Francisco, an African American engineer of long acquaintance called to say that Part 2 of this series should be very helpful in instructing the brethren on exploiting the job to its fullest

benefit; this fact obtaining whether one is a so-called 'professional' or not. "I like it, McKinley, because you get people to understand that professionalism is 90 percent attitude and commitment."

This high-ranking sister in the engineering field is one of two young women scientists I met in 1978 at the West Coast Annual Conference, Association of Black Engineers and Scientists. I represented Portland State University, and I came back so thoroughly impressed with the competence of these ladies, I spent several weeks describing the conference events and, particularly their activities. Not only exhibits designed and set up on several floors of the Holiday Inn to demonstrate "how

science and technology fit into the industrial workforce infrastructures," but they designed and implemented a Communications Superhighway that was simply fabulous.

Black students were flown or bussed in from five western states with parents, chaperons and science teachers (from high school to college seniors). Half a floor in the building was dedicated to computers, teletypes and other equipment which surrounded interviewing desks manned by specialists in college placements and scholarships - and for graduating college seniors, there were personnel people from the "Fortune 500," with open lines to firms like IBM, Monsanto, etc. and major government and state officers. A tem-

porary travel agency had been set up and a student could have his resume checked, employment application processed and airline ticket printed in 24 hours in many cases. As I said, "simply fabulous."

Now, you take that scene, and you reflect on my on-the-job technological and training orientation I described last week. You would have thought there would have been a major breakthrough back here in respect to education and a realistic concept of communications. Not just the Communications Superhighway, but the 'Science Center and Motivational Paradigm' I designed and outlined to two school superintendents, now gone. Based on my book Black Inventors of America and its impact

around the country, many of us supposed there would be no foot-dragging with the school officials (after all they were "committed," right? salaries and all.)

In any case, I am in communication again with the two lady engineers and physicists and conference calling with some very interested fellow members of the Associated Oregon Industries. They will be up here soon. They, as well as the scientists, were very upbeat about my response from parents who have called to say that my series has directed them to assess their jobs in the same mode -- as a 'real-time' curriculum or learning tool that can be brought home and then re-

flected into the child's school. Several dozen of us will be meeting at the facility of a Beaverton firm shortly after school starts.

Several parent/workers have voiced wonderment that school people could not comprehend that given that many of the black inventors were high school dropouts (even grammar school), why couldn't they - being the gifted teachers that they are - see what a useful tool my relevant contributions to the Base Line Essays would have been (omitted!). It is so unfortunate that so many of our unmotivated and uninspired youth have dropped out - or perished in the street. More next week and "Thomas Edison, and black geniuses in Europe."