

# Observing

## Newspaper Conducts Annual Donation Campaign

The Senior Messenger, the Vancouver area's only senior newspaper, kicked off its annual reader donation campaign this month on its 22nd anniversary.

The paper's goal is \$52,000 says Diane Wagner, editor. Sponsored by the City of Vancouver, the monthly tabloid newspaper for people "50 and better" relies on donations and advertising sales revenue to meet its expenses.

"The Senior Messenger is committed to presenting news and features about recreational and social opportunities for seniors in Southwest Washington; our goal is to help people maintain active, positive life-styles and attitudes. We consider our readers our partners, and we are asking for their help to continue bringing them the news they need and want," Wagner says.

Over 12,000 readers receive

the Senior Messenger in the mail, free of charge, with another 1,000-plus issues distributed locally to retirement and nursing homes, hospitals, medical offices, community and senior centers and other sites. About 10 percent of the readers live in Skamania and Klickitat counties. Anyone 50 or older may request the paper be sent to them without cost. Although donations are requested every year, a donation is

not required to be included on the free mailing list.

Production, paper and printing costs come to about \$12 per reader per year. And the donation campaign includes a plea to readers to donate a little extra this year due to increasing newsprint prices.

The newspaper got its start in 1973 with fund from the Older Americans Act, along with the Senior Trip Program and the Senior Nutrition

and Activities Program (NSAP). After federal financial support dried up in the 1980s, Senior Messenger readers and advertisers responded to the increased need and continued to keep the newspaper viable.

The Senior Messenger provides information on upcoming community events, classes for older adults, legislative and health issues, lifestyle columnists, social and nutrition services, volunteer program opportunities and extensive coverage of the

city's Senior Trip Program.

Local writers are encouraged to submit stories to the Senior Messenger. "Our readers like articles recounting childhood memories, descriptions of other times and places, and stories about local historical events and sites," Wagner says.

For more information about the Senior Messenger, call Wagner at 696-8016. Make checks payable to: The Senior Messenger, P.O. Box 1995, Vancouver WA 98668.

### Dedication Of Forestry Plaza

The stone pillars are in place and finishing touches are being chiseled into the Bolds-Whitfield Urban Forestry Plaza which features a 30-by-60 foot sculpture of basalt and running water. The dedication was on Monday, May 15.

The City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry Commission will formally present the plaza to Mayor Burce E. Hegensen as a living gift to the community.

The first Silva Bolds-Whitfield Urban Forestry Award, honoring people who demonstrate a commitment to enriching the city's urban forestry program, were also presented at the ceremony.

The plaza honors Silva Bolds-Whitfield, a longtime Vancouver resident, who was responsible for planting over 100 trees in the downtown area -- including the 30-year old sweetgum tree which is the centerpiece of the plaza.

Funds for the \$60,000 project were raised through donations made by many local businesses and individuals.



Paradise Cafe, and music by the Ad hoc Brass Ensemble, helped too. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages from Hidden House Restaurant and

### Small Forest Sprouts In Arnold Park

A small forest of cedar, fir and willow saplings sprouted in a matter of hours in Vancouver's Arnold Park last Thursday, April 25.

Some 1,200 of the eight-inch-high nursery trees were planted by members of the city's AmeriCorps program. The trees -- 800 cedar, 300 Douglas fir and

100 willow -- were donated by the Gifford Pinchot National Forest Nursery in Wind River, WA.

"The saplings were planted among existing deciduous and evergreen trees over a 30-acre area," says Phil Oaks of the City of Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Department. "While many

of the trees will stay in place, others will serve as nursery stock to be transplanted elsewhere in the city." The saplings are transplantable for three to five years after initial planting.

Arnold Park is an open green space city park north of SR 500 near the intersection with St. John's Boulevard.

### Citizen Mediators Negotiate Solutions

The Clark County Dispute Resolution Center offers free services involving neighborhood conflicts.

The center, staffed by volunteer and specially trained citizen mediators, can help resolve difficulties such as: barking dogs, loud noise, overgrown neighborhood yards and neighborhood disagreements.

"If people have a problem, we want them to give us a call," said Christopher Sheesley, Program Developer. "Situations will be evaluated and may be assigned to a citizen mediator who will sit down with ev-

eryone involved and work to resolve things. Most problems can even be settled over the telephone."

The budget for this new service comes from surcharges on district court filing fees.

Benefits from the center are expected to be many.

Sheesley points out solutions can be quick and economical.

In fact, services are free. Conflicts are brought to a close in a collaborate way and enable citizens to take more responsibilities for problems on their block. Cases, such as

broken windows and minor threats, can be settled without going to court.

"This is a voluntary, confidential, no-risk alternative to solving a conflict," Sheesley said. "You meet face-to-face with trained and certified citizen mediators that help neighbors negotiate their own agreements."

With mediation, everyone can win and creative solutions can go beyond compromise.

The center, however, does not provide counseling or therapy and it does not offer legal advice or advocate for any side."

### Security Alarm Registration Required

Residents and business owners with security alarm systems are now required to register their alarms with the Clark County Sheriff's Office or the Vancouver Police Department. By registering, the Sheriff's Office and the Vancouver Police Department hope to reduce the number of false alarms from residential and business security systems.

Registration is free in the unincorporated county. To pick up a form, just stop by one of the Sheriff's Office three precincts: West Precinct, 9102 N. E. Highway 99 (737-6079); Central Precinct, 11608 N. E. 149th Street

(737-6195); and East Precinct, 11818 S. E. Millplain Boulevard (253-2047). To receive a permit application in the mail, please call the Consolidated Alarm Center -- a cooperative effort of Clark County and the City of Vancouver -- at 696-8172.

Also under the ordinance, all alarms must have automatic shut-off devices that will shut the system off within 15 minutes of activation. Fines would result from multiple false alarms. A first and second false alarm results in only warning letters.

"We estimate there are about 10,000 alarm systems countywide,"

said Inspector Dave McKay of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. "And about 90 percent of the calls deputies respond to on alarms are false alarms, which puts officers at unnecessary risk and reduces our ability to respond to actual emergencies."

McKay said that by requiring permits the Sheriff's Office hopes to promote responsibility.

"This is a significant public safety issue," McKay added. He urged residents to call the Consolidated Alarm Center or their neighborhood Sheriff's Office Precinct if they had additional questions.

### Position Open On Urban Forestry Commission

The City of Vancouver is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the Urban Forestry Commission.

The seven-member commission is established to enhance the city by managing and conserving trees in Vancouver's city-owned parks, public areas and public rights-of-way. It

also helps property owners and public agencies in Vancouver improve and maintain trees consistent with adopted city policies.

Commission members are appointed by the mayor subject to confirmation by city council. Members serve four-year terms. The commis-

sion regularly meets the second Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. in Vancouver City Hall. Applications are available through Marie Day, Vancouver City Hall, P.O. Box 1995, Vancouver, WA 98668-1995 or by calling 696-8211. Applications must be submitted by June 16.

### High School Students Unite

Walkers along the newest section of the city's Discovery Trail will be able to sit and take a breather thanks to the combined efforts of the Vancouver U.S.A. Volkspporter and students from the Fort Vancouver High School metal shop.

In 1993, the Volkspporters donated the wood and steel to construct two outdoor benches. Welding, finish woodwork and assembly were handled by members of the school's 1993 metal shop class. On May 1, the completed benches were installed along the Discovery Trail by members of the City of Vancouver's AmeriCorps program.

The benches are strategically placed half way up two hills on the newest two-mile section of trail. The first bench is near the city's Arnold Park greenspace, near the intersection of SR 500 and St. John's Boulevard.

The second bench is west of Nicholson road. The benches are spaced approximately one mile apart.

"From the start, we planned to put these benches on the trail," explains Phil Oaks of the City of Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department. "We just had to wait for this section of the trail to be constructed before we could do so."

The Discovery Trail stretches intermittently for five miles starting near Vancouver Lake and parallels the Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway. When completed, it will span seven miles east to David Douglas Park. Value of the new benches is estimated at \$500 each.

## Low Prices

Prices effective May 17 through May 23, 1995 at your nearby Safeway store.



Sweet Ripe  
Cantaloupe

• Whole Melons

29¢  
Lb

Boneless Beef  
London Broil Steaks 179¢  
Lb

• Top Round  
• SAVE UP TO \$1.30 Lb.

Bel-Air  
Orange Juice

• 12-Ounce  
• SAVE UP TO 70¢

49¢  
Each

Look For Your  
Safeway Weekly Shopping Guide  
In Your Mail Box...And Save  
More Shopping At Safeway!

Enjoy Extra Savings With The  
EXTRA In-Store  
Safeway Savings Guide  
Available at your Safeway store.