

Observing Vancouver

Committee To Examine Transportation Issues

The Vancouver City Council and the Clark County Board of Commissioners have agreed to form a citizen steering committee to examine regional and local transportation issues and report back findings to the community.

The decision, which came Monday at a joint city-county workshop, begins the second step of a community-based process developed to address future transportation challenges.

A focus group comprised of wide cross-section of viewpoints met twice in May to identify transportation issues and suggest a com-

munity-based approach for evaluating them. The larger citizen steering group, which will be called the Transportation Futures Citizen Steering Committee, will pick up where the focus group left off, thoroughly examining the transportation issues already identified and reporting back its findings to elected officials by early 1996.

"We've accomplished a tremendous amount during the past few weeks," said Vancouver City Mayor Bruce Hagensen. "An array of issues has been identified. Now it's time for citizens to roll up their sleeves and really examine all the ideas on the

table."

Among the issues the focus group identified for further study are telecommuting, staggered work hours, a third freeway corridor across the Columbia River, improved bus service, levels of transit service to urban and rural areas, high occupancy vehicle lanes and better walkways and bicycle paths. The Transportation Futures Citizen Steering Committee will evaluate these issues and develop long-range transportation goals.

Several focus group participants emphasized the need to keep all options open, including light rail. Consequently, the City Council and Coun-

ty Commissioners decided Monday to continue participating in the regional South/North light rail study to keep all transportation options open until the steering committee develops its findings.

The city and county will develop a mission and scope of work for the Transportation Futures Citizen Steering Committee within the next few weeks. Residents interested in serving on the steering committee can request an application by calling Monica Welle, Clark County Public Works, at 699-2375, ext. 4883 or Sara King, City of Vancouver, at 696-8005.

County Stop Hunger Warehouse Must Relocate

The Clark County Department of Community Services is looking for warehouse space to house the Stop Hunger Warehouse. The current warehouse, which has been located in a 6,700-square foot building at the Port of Vancouver, must vacate in late July of this year because the Port needs the space.

The Stop Hunger Warehouse is a distribution center for the 11 non-profit food banks in Clark County that provide emergency food assistance to people in need. Last year, more than 700,000 pounds of food

was funneled to food banks through the county-operated warehouse.

"The Port of Vancouver has been a good partner in leasing this space to the county at a nominal cost for the past 10 years," said Mike Piper, Community Services Department Director. "We're very thankful for their assistance. They've more than done their part in helping the community in a significant way."

Piper said the county is actively looking for donated or low-cost warehouse space anywhere in the county at a minimum of 4,000-square feet.

The space preferably would also have cold storage for perishables. Piper said the goal is to keep the cost of the space down so that the county can continue to use funds for direct services to citizens. He noted that the Port leased the warehouse for \$1 a year to the county.

A larger warehouse space, Piper said, would be desirable to allow the county to continue to use the building for other uses such as storage of Walk-n-Knock food each year as well as toys, bicycles and other gifts for needy children donated as part of the

Clark County Employee Children's Sharing Project.

Both interim and long-term space are needed, Piper said. He added that during the coming months the county will be looking at the overall food distribution program and how the public can best be served. "We need to develop the best strategy to stabilize the warehouse function over time," Piper said.

Anyone with suitable warehouse space available is asked to contact Hatch at 699-2130.

Clark The County Frog To Jump At Calaveras

There will be an entry from Clark County in this summer's world renowned frog jumping contest in Angels Camp, California.

Clark County Executive Fair Director Tom Musser announced that the fair has en-

tered a frog named Clark to jump on its behalf in the 1995 Calaveras County Fair & Jumping Frog Jubilee. "With a little luck, Clark could hop off with a new world record with a top prize of \$5,000. The event's theme this year is "Hoofin' and Hoppin' at

Frogtown."

Clark, who will be pulled from a large pond on Saturday, May 20, will jump as part of the Western Fairs Association Frog Jump. For an entry fee of \$3, the Calaveras County Fair will provide a frog and jump it for partic-

ipating counties who cannot attend themselves.

The Calaveras County Fair also promises to make sure that Clark is "fed, bathed and ready for his big jump." If Clark turns out to be a big winner, the Calaveras folks also promise to let us know.

Take Over Day



Student Cicero Curry shares the classroom teaching duties with his substitute teacher at Whitaker Middle School.



Janyelle Miller at the head of the class.



Student See Chang takes a desk in the Whitaker Middle School office for "a day on the job." Photos by Mark Washington

The eighth grade students at Whitaker Middle School took over the roles of Administrators and teachers today. This is their second annual "Take-Over Day."

"Take-Over Day" was the idea of a group of eighth grade students last year," said Edna Mae Pittman, a Whitaker Counselor. All staff positions were up for grabs. The students had to apply to participate as staff members. Some of the staff members are utilizing the services of more than one student by letting one work in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Some of the students did the job for a whole

day.

"The purpose of this event was to give the eighth-grade students and experience that they'll remember as part of their eighth-grade year. It also allows the students to have an opportunity to be on the other side of the educational system," said Edna Mae Pittman. Ayesha Coleman took over Pittman's position and she had a special treat because Pittman had to attend the Albina Rotary luncheon.

As Pittman's replacement, Ayesha did interventions, faxed letters, file cards and gave pizza certificates to students who had their anger cards.

Health Club Membership Up Double-digit increase for second year

The number of health club members in the U.S. grew by 10% for the second consecutive year in 1994, according to preliminary results of the 1994 IHRSA/American sports Data study on health club trends. This translates to an increase of 1.8 million members, bringing the total health club population to 20 million Americans.

The announcement was made earlier this month by John McCarthy, executive director of the International Health, Racquet and

Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) in his opening remarks at the association's Fourteenth Annual Convention and Trade Show. More than 5000 club owners and managers attended this event.

In a separate study conducted for IHRSA By American Sports Data (ASA), it was found that 5% of non-club members indicated that they would probably join a health club in the coming year.

"This is a considerable number when extrapolated to the population

universe," commented Harvey Lauer, president of ASD.

The data of this second study also suggests that "the home exercise market is not locked in mortal combat with the health club industry," according to Lauer. In fact, 67% of all health club users both owned and used home exercise equipment in the past year.

IHRSA is a nonprofit trade association comprising 2,500 health, racquet and sportsclubs in 42 countries.

Annual Music Celebration To Kick Off

The second annual Northwest Black Music Month celebration will kick-off with a VIP reception on Wednesday, June 7 at 7 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel.

On June 8, Kevin Harewood of Kashif, Bobby Duckett of Mercury Records and Dwayne Wiggins of Tony, Tonie and Tone will facilitate a music seminar at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. Several local musicians will be on the panel,

including David Leiken of Double Tee Promotions and Angela Jenkins of KBMS Radio.

The schedule for Friday, June 9, includes an autograph signing and KBOO radio live remote from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. with national recording artists. In addition, that evening at the Portland Conference Center will feature local artists at 8 p.m.

Two groups will be selected to open for the national acts on Satur-

day, June 10, with Motown recording artists BLU, VYBE and others to be announced performing in concert at the Roseland Theatre.

The event is hosted by Unforgettable Entertainment and sponsored by KBMS Radio, House of Sound Records, KBOO and Northwest Entertainment Magazine.

Tickets for the artist showcase and concert will be available at Fred Meyer Fastix outlets.

Keep Your Family Safe This Summer

The good weather has arrived and with it comes a lot of outdoor activities - everything from gardening to flying a kite.

There are a number of safety concerns to take into consideration which involve power lines and buried power cables.

Portland General Electric's Mel Eldridge, a specialist in energy, safety and efficiency, offers this general advice: "Remember that common sense is your best protection against accidents when using electricity. When in doubt, don't proceed until you are sure it's safe."

Now that children are outside playing in the yard, they should be aware that climbing in trees can be dangerous, especially where power lines are present.

Avoid these areas.

If flying a kite with the children sounds like a fun activity, just be sure there are no power lines present. It's best to find an open field or beach with no power lines in sight. "As soon as your child is old enough to know right from wrong, this is the time to educate your children about safety," says PGE's Eldridge.

Gardeners need to take into con-

sideration the location of power lines when planning to dig or trim trees or shrubs. If you have a major project underway which involves a lot of digging, call the power company first and ask them to come mark the location of underground cables. Be aware that these can be buried as shallow as 12 inches in the ground.

Avoid all power lines when trimming trees or shrubs and be careful that ladders do not come into contact with power lines. If need be, contact the power company regarding trees that need trimming near power lines, 1-800-332-2DIG.

Laughing is the sensation of feeling good all over, and showing it principally in one spot.
—Josh Billings

Love consists in this that two solitudes protect and touch and greet each other.
—Rainer Maria Rilke

Were it not for bunglers in the manner of doing it, hardly any man would ever find out he was laughed at.
—Lord Halifax

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