

Observing Vancouver

Native Plants Returned To Site

Clark County crews have begun a habitat restoration project in its storm water facility adjacent to the Teal Pointe subdivision.

The work will add native plants to a three and a half acre site and enhance treatment of storm water runoff entering the facility.

Planting will be done between now and April, from the south shore of Salmon Creek, through 200 to 400 feet of reed canary grass wetland, to Northwest 133rd Circle. Native species from Clark Coun-

ty's Mabry Nursery, plants such as ash, cedar, willow, vine maple, hazel, salal and Oregon grape will be planted by county crews.

Maintenance, weeding and water will continue for two years. After that the plants should be sufficiently established to survive on their own. No mowing or trimming will be done because the goal is to re-established a natural plant community.

The work is paid for by the Clark County Water Quality Division, from developer contributions to the Cap-

ital Improvement Fund.

Assistance from neighbors is also requested. Area residents are asked to be careful not to step on or damage young plants and to remember that restoring nature takes time. Results will not take place over night, but within a few years.

Anyone with questions or concerns regarding the project, can contact Phil Gaddis at the Clark County Water Quality Division at 699-2375, extension 4865.

Vancouver Assumes Watershed Duties

Vancouver city crews are now maintaining the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed within the city limits. The work will include debris removal, stream bank maintenance and managed vegetation.

The work had been performed by Clark County crews since for-

mation of the Burnt Bridge Creek Storm and Surface Water Utility in 1980.

However, annexations and the adoption of a city-wide utility, have made it feasible for Vancouver to assume these responsibilities within its boundaries, city officials said.

Burnt Bridge Creek residents within the city limits can call 696-8244 to report problems such as flooding, bank erosion, debris blocking the channel and other problems. County residents can report problems to the Clark County Operations Center at 699-2446.

Line Dancing For All Ages

The Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department has started a new youth and family line dance class at Bagley Center, 4100 Plomondon. No partners are needed.

Sessions started Saturday and

continue through April 13.

Class times are from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. for kids age 6 to 12; for family the times are 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and open dance is held from 11 a.m. to noon.

The cost for four weeks of lessons is \$25.50 or \$17 for city residents drop in fees are \$6.50 or \$4.25 for city residents.

Classes meet in the Lewis River Room at the Bagley Center.

Media Expert To Speak At Clark College

Do you sometimes question the veracity and ethics of the items you read in the paper or hear on TV? If so, you have an outstanding opportunity to discover how to analyze those articles and to evaluate the difficulties facing journalists in deciding how and what information to present to the public.

Gordon Jackson, in his third term as an Inquiring Mind Speaker for the Washington Humanities Commission and a Professor in the Communications Department of Whitworth College in Spokane, will give a free presentation January 30, 1996, from noon-2:00pm in Foster Auditorium at Clark College in

Vancouver. His topic will be "Media Ethics." he will discuss the challenges editors and reporters face in choosing between competing values.

Mr. Jackson grew up in South Africa where he completed his undergraduate studies then obtained a Ph.D. in Mass Communications from the School of Journalism at Indiana University.

In addition to his professorship, he has worked as a journalist and authored a book entitled "Breaking Story, the South African Press", which dissects the attitudes of the South African press and its effects on apartheid as well as assessing the idea of a national media policy.

In his presentation he will use case studies to outline the way in which newsrooms decide ethical questions about what and what not to cover and how they determine the manner in which news and information should be presented.

His presentation is challenging, his subject is highly provocative and will enhance ones ability to determine for themselves the reliability of information in the media.

The program is free and sponsored by Clark College's Focus on mature Learning and the Washington Humanities Commission. All students and the public are urged to attend.

Home Buying Class Offered

A new class in the basics of home buying will be presented by the Community Housing Resource Center through the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department.

"Home Buying Made Simple" will meet at Marshall Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The class is geared to people who are about two years away from buying a first home.

The class covers the basics of financial and personal advantages, what lenders look for, how to repair a credit history and special loan programs for first-time buyers.

Pre-registration is required. The

class costs \$5 (\$2 for city residents). Call the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department at 696-8218 to register.

The Community Housing Resource Center is a non-profit, public/private partnership specializing in education and assistance on housing related issues.

High Tech Sensors Save Energy And Dollars

An army of sensors and computerized heating and cooling systems are working behind the scenes keeping county buildings comfortable while saving energy and taxpayer dollars.

You don't see these dozens of sensors when you enter county buildings such as the new 9-1-1 Center, the Health District, Courthouse, Jail and Community Development, but they hum away 24 hours a day making sure systems run at their optimum.

Sensors send information to two main computers (a sort of Mission Control) in the county's Maintenance and Facilities headquarters. This information assists the com-

puters in "deciding" such things as whether to turn on giant blowers on top of the Courthouse or whether to shut a system down. Sensors react to such things as room temperature, time of the day or week and the amount of energy being used by a system. Much more sophisticated than the thermostats and systems we have at home, this technology is super sensitive, fiscally conservative and energy conscientious.

"These energy efficient systems save the county about \$100,000 a year in energy costs. It takes \$16,000 yearly to maintain the systems," said Darrel Stump, Facilities and Maintenance Manager for the county.

Another plus with the system in-

volves maintenance. If there's a problem in a building, such as a complaint about a public building being too cool, maintenance staff can use the main computers to call up a graphic of the heating/cooling system for the area. The graphic (some look like a design for a galactic vehicle!) shows temperatures and other technical pieces of information. Sometimes a problem can be pinpointed this way and quickly remedied. If a maintenance employee is working on a problem away from the computers and on-site in a specific building, he can call a staff member at the main computers and information about the system can be quickly called up and relayed via radio.

Commissioner Magnano Rules Out Third Term

Clark County Commissioner John Magnano has announced he will not seek a third four-year term on the board of Clark County Commissioners.

"I believe that in eight years as a county commissioner I've accomplished the things that were important to the community," Magnano said Friday. "It's time to try new things and to start a new chapter in my life."

"Announcing my intentions now gives Clark County citizens time to evaluate potential candidates," Magnano added.

Looking back on his time in office, Magnano said he is particularly proud of his involvement in adopting the new Comprehensive Growth Management Land-Use Plan for Clark County, which he considers a sound foundation for maintaining the county's livability in the years ahead. He also pointed to the acquisition of critical public open space

during his tenure -- Frenchman's Bar in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands, Lucia Falls in North Clark County and considerable use of Conservation Futures dollars to protect lowlands along the East Fork of the Lewis River.

Other actions Magnano noted were his support of progressive programs for youth and improving government's responsiveness and professionalism.

"The professional team in Clark County government that has come together in the last eight years is meeting the challenges facing this community," Magnano said. "I'm proud to have been a part of this effort."

He cited other achievements as the:

- Restructure of the county's entire budget process including more community involvement.
- Completion of the new Department of Emergency Services 9-1-1

Center building.

- Development of a revised social services delivery system involving public/private partnerships that solve problems instead of addressing the symptoms.
- Improved neighborhood and community outreach programs.
- Expansion of Corrections Department programs that put offenders to work.
- Improved working relationships with cities, ports and other public and bi-state agencies.

Magnano said there is still much to do in the 12 months to come as he completes the remainder of his term and serves as newly elected chair of the C-Tran Board of Directors and chair of the Washington State Association of counties, Western District.

Magnano said he enjoys community service and working with the public. "When I began this job, I was positive, optimistic and idealistic about the future. I still am."

Police News

Auto Thefts Dip After 5 Years

Mayor Vera Katz credited new efforts by the Portland Police Bureau and citizen involvement for the city's first decrease in auto thefts in five years.

There were 9,307 motor vehicles reported stolen last year, compared to 9,777 in 1994, a decrease of 4.7 percent.

"While I'm excited that our anti-auto theft efforts seem to be paying off, I'm staying cautiously optimistic," said Katz. "We must keep the pressure on car thieves, so that these

numbers don't turn out to be a one shot deal."

Katz gave credit for the decrease to the use of anti-theft devices by more residents and with citizens signing up with the police bureau's Combat Auto Theft program.

CAT members receive stickers for their cars which allow police to pull over the vehicle if it's on the road between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. Katz is in the process of trying to get the program implemented statewide.

The police bureau also joined with several other law enforcement agencies in November to form an Auto Theft Task Force.

The task force is focusing on making arrests in high auto-theft areas and on finding new strategies for thwarting criminals.

"We realize that auto theft is not just a Portland problem," said Katz. "That's why we're working with regional partners on strategies that will help lower auto theft rates for all of Oregon."

DA Hires Crime Prevention Advocates

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office has been recruiting people to join a new neighborhood crime prevention program.

The effort is an outgrowth of the federal AmeriCorps program initiated by President Clinton.

In the Portland area, the district attorney's AmeriCorps Members

for Neighborhood Safety will be comprised of 11 full-time community safety advocate positions starting in early February.

The advocates will perform community service in the areas of transit safety, graffiti abatement and youth outreach.

AmeriCorps members will re-

ceive a living allowance of \$7,900 during the 10 month position and are eligible to receive an additional certificate for \$4,700 after completing 1,700 hours of community service.

The goal of AmeriCorps is to create leaders for the future, while improving communities.

Simpson Grants Interview With BET Network

O.J. Simpson has granted Black Entertainment Television (BET) a live interview that will air as part of the network's two and a half hour special program entitled O.J. Simpson: Beyond the Verdict, for Wednesday, Jan. 24 beginning at 9:30 p.m.

The interview will be conducted by BET News Anchor Ed Gordon and broadcast live from an undis-

closed location in Los Angeles.

"Although the primary focus of Beyond the Verdict is a look at the life for Mr. Simpson and American after the trial of the century, there have been no restrictions placed on the questions we will be allowed to ask," said Jefferi K. Lee, president, BET Networks.

"We like all other media outlets, have been seeking an inter-

view with Mr. Simpson for months. We are pleased that he has agreed to speak with BET News and we look forward to being the first network to bring it to America," Lee said.

BET is the nation's first and only national television network providing a platform for quality programming targeted toward an African American audience.

Working To Feed Local Seniors

Loaves & Fishes and other Oregon Meals-On-Wheels programs, the National Association of Meals Programs (NAMP) and Reynolds Metals Company are continuing their three year partnership of providing nourishing meals to seniors citizens in Oregon. Throughout January, the Reynolds Metals Company is donating a portion of its profits from sales of Reynolds products at participating supermarkets. This donation to programs like Loaves & Fishes will help feed hungry seniors this winter.

Don Ballinger, Executive Director of Loaves & Fishes, said: "We are delighted that Reynolds has once again joined forces with Loaves & Fishes and with all of the NAMP programs nationwide to make a difference in the lives of seniors everywhere."

Last year's campaign was very successful and we are hoping that this year's campaign is even better. I urge everyone to remember that when you shop in participating stores this January and purchase a Reynolds product you are helping to ensure that no senior citizen in this community will go hungry this winter."

Loaves & Fishes feeds over 3,200 seniors every day. These seniors and others need nutritious meals daily and Loaves & Fishes Is Always There For Them.

Founded in 1969, Loaves & Fishes serves seniors through its network of 19 neighborhood based meal sites in Senior Center, Community Centers, and Churches. Seniors interested in learning more about the agency's nutrition program can call 777-2424.

Loaves & Fishes is always in need of volunteers and donations. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please call 777-2424.

Help us make this winter season and everyday better for our seniors.

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