

Observing Vancouver

Community Center Opens

The City of Vancouver's new Water Resources Education Center recently opened with a splash Feb. 24-25, and managed to pull off a surprise honor for former Mayor Bruce E. Hagensen. The Center's large airy meeting space was dedicated as the Bruce E. Hagensen Community Room, a decision made and kept mum by his mates on the City Council. Mayor Royce Polard made the announcement at the formal ribbon-cutting ceremony on the outdoor plaza with a crowd of several hundred in attendance.

The Center drew over 4,000 people to the two-day opening says Vicki Ridge-Cooney center manager. Citizens turned out in droves for an early morning pancake breakfast provided by the Lions and Leos and over 3,500 hot, baked-on-the-spot cookies were handed out by volunteer bakers.

The building is now open to the public from 2-5 p.m. Wednesday; 2-8 p.m. Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sunday and Monday. It is a reserved for school groups form 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday,

Wednesday and Thursday.

"Interactive" is the key work for visitors. They can explore the entire complex via an interactive computer exhibit; pump up water pressure to show the city's water needs in a model water tower; trace racing lights that show the path of water from well to faucet; spin a polarized lens to follow the hidden movements of water through the cycle from rain to earth and back again; taste water from different sources and voice their opinion as a TV "newsbite".

Meeting Focus Parks System

Proposals for developing a core parks system of neighborhood and community parks in the Vancouver urban area and regional parks countrywide, as well as alternatives for funding development of such a system, are the subject of a series of meetings scheduled for this month.

The proposals have been generated to address the fact that areas

throughout Clark County have not developed parks fast enough to meet the growing need.

Rapid growth has impacted potential park locations countrywide. In addition, in a time of diminishing financial resources, sufficient funding for a core parks system is an issue for jurisdictions.

The upcoming meeting will pro-

vide an opportunity for citizens to find out more about the proposals for a core parks system, to provide input, and to ask questions. A series of similar meetings has already been held in various parts of the Vancouver urban area.

For more information, please contact Glenn Lamb or Lisa Hix, Clark county Parks, 699-2467.

First Come, First Served

Airplane owners looking for a place to park their planes may want to call Pearson Field and sign up for a new T-hangar. The City of Vancouver is planning for the year 2002 when part of Pearson Field reverts to the National Park Service. At that time the city will lose 73 hangars which currently sit on Park Service land.

"Demand is skyrocketing for T-hangar space and most of our tenants have committed to lease new T-hangars when we get financing approval," says Ernie Vande Zande, Pearson Field manager.

The city is examining financing to build 80 new T-hangars. Fees from leases would support the investment.

A T-hangar is a garage for an

airplane. The proposed T-hangars at Pearson would be wood-framed, metal-sheathed buildings with 40-foot sliding doors, asphalt floors, lights and electricity. Leases are for one year and require a one-month deposit.

Call Ernie Vande Zande, 696-8446 for details on leases and space available.

Boy Scouts Awarded Funds

Shumway Neighborhood Association was awarded a Neighborhood Matching Grant from the City of Vancouver's Office of Neighborhood Association and local Boy Scouts.

The project includes painting addresses on curbs in the Shumway area to assist deliveries and to identify locations for emergency vehi-

cles. Neighborhood Matching Grants are available to city neighborhood association for projects which have long-lasting benefits and create a sense of community.

Grants are given on a 50/50 basis of matching funds. Neighborhoods supply 50 percent of the project costs in cash or in-

kind; the city supplies the other 50 percent. Eleven grants have been approved by the city manager and councilmembers since the program started in 1993.

The next deadline for grant applications is Wednesday, May 1. To get a packet of grant information call the city's Office of Neighborhoods at 696-8222.

Lowry Signed Transport Funding Bill

Gov. Mike Lowry signed a state-wide transportation funding bill in front of Vancouver City Hall Thursday morning, March 28, at 9 a.m. The bill, part of the supplemental 1996 budget passed by the state legislature earlier this month, includes \$7,070,000 for Vancouver's long-anticipated Mill Plain Extension Project.

The Governor chose Vancouver as site of the signing because of the significance of the Mill Plain project. The road will open some 1,200 acres to industrial develop-

ment in the port area and help create an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 new jobs over the next 20 years.

The 1.3-mile Mill Plain Extension will provide much-needed, uncongested access into the port area. Current port access is limited to the narrow lanes of Fourth Plain Boulevard and along Eighth Street through a congested industrial area.

The new road will also improve recreational links between the Columbia River and Vancouver Lake.

"We are now ready to begin work

on right-of-way acquisition and design," says Thayer Rorabaugh, city transportation manager. Construction is expected to start in mid-1997 and take about two years. It will extend west on 15 Street over the Burlington Northern railroad tracks to a connection with Fourth Plain Boulevard west of Fruit Valley Road.

The state funding, encouraged by Gov. Mike Lowry, will be added to money from various other sources to meet the project's estimated \$24 million price tag.

Clark College Classes For Seniors Provide Variety & Stimulation

Health gurus stress that the most important factors in keeping fit when over fifty are exercising both mind and body and maintaining an interest in the world.

In Southwest Washington we are blessed with that opportunity through The Focus on Mature Learning program at Clark

College. Those over 55 can participate with their peers in a stimulating variety of cultural and educational experiences. Fees range from \$14 to \$28.

For instance, in a series of five classes follow the cross-cultural experiences of an extended family as they move from Burma to India and

finally to the U.S.

This will provide a different view of Eastern social practices, customs and languages, and you'll gain an understanding of the difficulties in adapting an Eastern life style to the radically different Western mode of living.

This course begins April 4th.

Community Clean-up Focuses On Parks

"We're celebrating Earth Day on Saturday, April 20, by inviting county residents to join us at a work party," so stated Clark County Commissioner Mel Gordon, who has championed the idea of a county-wide clean-up day. Clark County and Clark Public Utilities are organizing an effort which will enlist the help of volunteers to repair storm damage to county parks.

"Our parks have experienced an extraordinary amount of downed limbs, litter, and debris as a result of this year's high winds and flooding," Commissioner Gordon noted. "There's a lot that needs to be done to get the parks in shape for the summer, so we've decided to ask for help from our citizens."

Gordon said that he and his fellow county commissioners anticipate that many citizens will be interested in participation in the Earth Day event. He pointed to the outpouring of volunteer assistance that took place during the recent floods as evidence that residents care about their community and are willing to pitch in when they are needed.

The principal focus of this year's clean-up is Lewisville Park north of Battle Ground. Assistance is needed to haul branches to a central point for chipping, pick up litter and debris, repair turf, plant trees, repair trails, and stabilize river banks. Volunteers will be asked to arrive at the park between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, with work expected to contin-

ue until about 3 p.m. C-Tran will provide free transportation between the 134th Street park and ride (Salmon Creek) and Lewisville Park. The Park and Ride is located in the vicinity of the NE 134 Street and Interstate 5 interchange.

Although Lewisville Park will be a focal point, residents are also encouraged to organize clean-up activities in their neighborhood parks.

Residents interested in participating in the Earth Day clean-up are asked to call 699-2375 ext. 4104 and leave a name, address, and the number of people who will be volunteering. Information will be mailed to participants prior to the clean-up.

SENIORS TAKE A HIKE

Seniors who like hiking are invited to go with the Forever Young Hiking club on two upcoming hikes. Champoeg Park is the destination for a Thursday, April 4 hike along

terrain which includes some hills. Hikers leave at 9 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. The cost is \$10.50 (or \$7.50 for city residents).

The Wildwood Trail in Portland is

the spot for Monday, April 8. This is also a medium terrain hike. Hikers leave at 9 a.m. and return at 4 p.m. The cost is \$7.50 (or \$5 for city residents). Call 696-8236 for information.

Be Wary Of Flood Damaged Cars

Assess the Damage

Vehicles caught in the path of Oregon's recent flood waters may have suffered damage to the engine and electrical system.

"Most vulnerable are the engine, transmission and other components of the drivetrain," said AAA Oregon President Roger Graybeal. "Unless these vital parts are completely restored, contaminants from the flood water will cause premature wear and shorten the life of the vehicle."

The car's electrical system may have to be replaced. Corrosion and oxidation can occur several weeks after the components are cleaned, forcing the vehicle's owner to replace the electrical system.

Determine the cost

Car owners should contact their insurance company for verification of coverage limits before seeking repairs. The vehicle should be taken to a qualified technician for inspection. All mechanical components, including the engine, transmission, axles, brake system and fuel system need to be checked for water contamination.

Once the damage has been deter-

mined, the flood water should be removed and disposed of properly. Contaminated fluids may include the oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, power-steering fluid and anti-freeze. The system must be flushed out with clean water or solvent before replacing the fluids.

Calculate the Risk

"Total restoration of a flood damaged car can be as extensive and as expensive as restoring a classic car," said Graybeal. "Before deciding to repair a car, compare the value of the vehicle to the cost of the restoration."

The engine and electrical system are only a part of the problem in restoring flood damaged cars. Door locks, window regulators, wiring harnesses, heating and air conditioning components and many other small devices are tucked away in hidden body cavities. These may be virtually inaccessible for cleaning and drying. As a result, these items may fail at a later date because of contamination by dirty water.

Know What You're Buying

Flood damaged vehicles can be

shipped anywhere for resale and could be in the marketplace for months. AAA suggests motorists exercise caution when buying new or used cars.

The Auto Club recommends the following tips to help motorists avoid buying a flood damaged car. Don't buy a car without having the vehicle inspected by a qualified technician. A vehicle's title history will help determine whether it sustained flood damage. A tell-tale sign of flood damage on new and used cars is the presence of dried mud on components under the hood. A damp or musty odor in the trunk or interior is another warning sign. In older cars, new carpet and upholstery may indicate flood damage.

AAA Oregon is a not-for-profit motor club serving nearly half a million members in Oregon. It is a member of the American Automobile Association's federation of 113 motor clubs. AAA serves more than 38 million members in the United States and Canada with travel, financial, insurance and automotive-related services.



Business Profile

CASCADE PIZZA

Albert Bittar and his wife entertain youth with free Pizza as a reward for their achievements. Bittar immigrated from Toreno, Italy in 1994 and bought Cascade Pizza, located across from Portland Community College's Cascade Campus, in late January. He is happy to help young people and wants to be a contributing member of the community.

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