

Observing Vancouver

Murky Water Lines In Sifton

When the City of Vancouver Water Utility turned on a new water transmission line, it sent murky water into water lines serving customers in the Sifton area northeast of the city. "Undetected sediment in the line went into the system," says Dan Swensen, public works construction manager. As of Friday afternoon, several thousand residents in the area either had no water or cloudy water coming from their taps. Swensen advises water customers in the area not to turn on devices

that run on water, such as washing machines.

Although the water is murky from the sediment, it has been chlorinated and should not pose a health hazard.

City crews are working on the problem and hope to have clear water running through the new line soon. "We have been doing a massive flushing to clear the system," says Swensen. "Once our lines are clear, customers can turn on their taps and flush their own lines."

The new 25-inch water main runs some 6,000 feet from near 39th Street and 142nd Avenue to Fourth Plain and Ward Road. It was built in anticipation of increased demand for water in that area.

Friday's activation of the line was not the first time water has passed through the new main.

It previously had been flush with chlorinated water in preparation for use. "We regret any inconvenience to our customers and appreciate their patience," Swensen says.

Ernie Vande Zande Chosen City Employee Of The Year

Vancouver City Manager Vernon Stoner compared him to the Energizer Bunny before naming Ernie Vande Zande, manager of Pearson Airfield, as City of Vancouver Employee of the Year.

The announcement was made at the fifth annual awards ceremony for city employees.

Vande Zande was praised for his untiring work during the February flood when Pearson Airfield prop-

erty and planes were threatened by rising water. His long hours and efforts to keep property loss at a minimum were lauded as well as his good spirit and willingness to help. As the floodwaters rose he helped evacuate planes to a safe location.

Vande Zande was hired June 2, 1989 as facilities administrator for the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department.

In addition to his work with the

city, Vande Zande is the manager of the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team, made up of competitors in rifle, pistol, trap, skeet and running target. He will attend the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia in July.

Other special peer honors went to: Doris Girt, parks; Aaron Odegard, public works; Alison Chinn, law; Sharron Wannamaker, public works; and the Police Department patrol shift.

Looking At Affordability

The Housing Unit of the county's Department of Community Services has prepared an analysis of housing costs in Clark County.

The report, which compares the county to other areas in the Portland region as well as to other communities in Washington, is available at the department.

"In part, this report grew out of a pledge made by both the county and the city of Vancouver to report on the changing nature of the community," said Mike Piper, Department of Community Services Director.

Piper said the report was compiled to address a number of questions such as:

- What is affordable housing?
- Is housing becoming less affordable in Clark County?

• How do house prices vary across the county?

• What are the components of the price of an average home?

• What does all of this mean?

Included are statistics from 1990 to 1995. The report is written in a question and answer format with graphs to back up the text. It is not highly statistical and is designed for the reader interested in a better understanding of local trends. For example, the report notes that:

- There is a significant - and worsening - shortage of affordable housing in Clark County.
- Based on income alone, home ownership is now beyond the reach of the majority of the county's households.
- Clark County ranks as the sixth

most affordable of the 15 areas in the Portland region.

• Overall, Clark County ranks as having the second highest home prices of the nine counties in the state of Washington selected. (Other counties surveyed were King, Pierce, Thurston, Yakima, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Lewis and Pacific.)

• The median price for houses sold in Clark County in 1995 was \$118,500 for an existing house and \$132,000 for a newly constructed house.

The Housing Unit plans to add more information each year based on the questions the community asks about affordable housing.

To obtain a copy of the report, call the Department of Community Services at 737-6123.

City Presents Sports Choices

Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department hosts the Hershey Track Meet on Thursday, May 16 at the Hudson's Bay High School track. Meet is free for boys and girls ages nine to 14. Register starting at 4 p.m. Events include a softball throw, running and long jump. Meet begins at 5:15 p.m. and concludes

about 8 p.m. Volunteers are needed. Call 696-8006 to volunteer.

Boys and girls ages five through 11 can sharpen their soccer skills at a special class which meets on two Saturdays, May 18 and 25 from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Bagley Center, 4100 Plomondon. Cost is \$14 or \$10 for city residents.

Try pickleball at Marshall Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin. Pickleball is a cross between tennis and whiffleball, played indoors.

This drop-in class is for adults, ages 18 and older. Class meets Thursdays from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. cost is \$3.25 or \$2.75 for city residents.

City Honors Volunteers At Evergreen Awards

The Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department hosted the fourth annual Evergreen Awards ceremony Wednesday, April 24, to recognize businesses, organizations and individuals who donated time, money, skill and other valuable support to programs during 1995.

agency management of staff, supervisors and lifeguards.

Marshall Pool also won a Gold Award in 1994 and received the first-ever, perfect 100 percent score.

The aquatics program at Marshall Pool includes lessons for all ages, lap swim, lifeguard training, kayaking and aqua aerobics.

Marshall Pool opened in 1965 and is the city's only public swim pool. It is part of Marshall Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd.

Kaiser Closure Will Mean Different Hospital Care

From March 31 on, the 320,000 Kaiser Permanente members living in the Portland-Vancouver area will have new options for hospital care. At that time, Providence St. Vincent Medical Center becomes a Kaiser Permanente "plan hospital." It will provide emergency services and adult inpatient medical, surgical, and obstetrical care, and will serve as Kaiser Permanente's regional center for high-risk obstetrical and neonatal care, and continue to be the center for cardiac surgery.

Few children today require hospitalization. When inpatient care is needed Kaiser pediatricians will care for young patients at Oregon Health Sci-

ences University.

"As always, where members are hospitalized will depend on where their doctor practices and the type of care needed," said Thomas Syltebo of Bess Kaiser Medical Center.

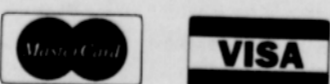
Included in the changes is a phased closure of Bess Kaiser Medical Center. Over the next several weeks the hospital will go from having approximately 130 patients a day to about 50.

Urgent care and 24-hour emergency care will be available at Bess Kaiser through 1996. Outpatient surgery, Gynecological and emergency surgeries and most medical admissions will not be affected this year.

The decision to close Bess Kaiser rather than undertake expensive upgrades and other needed improvements comes at a time of rapid change within health care.

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For Our Schools

The Portland Public Schools Foundation announced a drive to urge small and mid-sized companies to join the Campaign For Our Schools. The announcement was made at Powell's City of Books, on May 13, and coincided with an appeal letter to more than 2,000 Portland businesses, co-signed by civic and business leaders. The letter urges businesses to join the Campaign For Our Schools by making a direct corporate contribution, establishing a matching fund for employee contributions, encouraging employees and customers to participate in the March For Our Schools, and donating a percentage of sales to the campaign.

The letter is signed by eight civic and business leaders: Mayor Vera Katz; Portland Public Schools Foundation president on Saxton of Ater Wayne Hewitt Dodson & Skerriit; Nike's Tom Clarke; Michael Powell of Powell's City of Books; Gun Denhart of Hanna Andersson; Sho Dozono of Azumano Travel; George Passadore of Wells Fargo; and Chief of Police Charles A. Moose, Ph.D.

The Campaign For Our Schools is a community-wide effort to support public schools in the face of massive budget cuts. The Campaign aims to raise as much of the Portland Public Schools' \$15 million budget shortfall as possible by the last day of school, June 12 through appeals to small, mid-size and large companies donation hotline (1-800-290-0000) promoted by an advertising campaign designed by Wieden & Kennedy which encourages all members of the public to make an immediate contribution the March For Our Schools, a fundraising pledge walk of 30,000 students, parents, grandparents, teachers, businesses, community and political leaders.

The March For Our Schools will begin at 4:30 at the Rose Garden on Saturday, June 1, 1996.

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2 DAYS ONLY - MAY 17-18

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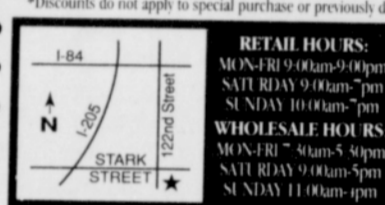
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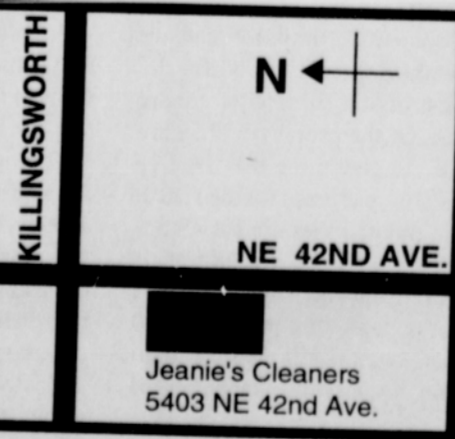
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Good On Incoming Dry Cleaning Orders Only
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Expires 5-31-96

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\$3.25
Good On Incoming Dry Cleaning Orders Only
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Expires 5-31-96

New Playground At Vernon

Vernon Elementary is raising money to pay for a new playground. Currently the school has a small wooden play structure with a slide, 2 tire swings and some climbing bars. Only 12 to 15 students can safely play on it. There are 550 students at Vernon ranging in age from 4 to 11 years old. The staff students and families of Vernon have been raising money to build a new playground. So far, by saving pennies, and selling candy and Christmas Ornaments, they have raised \$9,000.



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Inflation Buster Dry Cleaning Special
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