

Observing Vancouver

Stoner reaffirms city's diversity goals

In ever increasing numbers, Vancouver is distinguished by a diversity of races, religions, colors, lifestyles and physical abilities. Within the city workforce, Vancouver City Manager Vernon Stoner recently reaffirmed the city's responsibility to both reflect and respect the variety of people who call Vancouver home.

"Our mission," he told city employees, "is to take pro-active stance

in attracting, hiring, training and maintaining a workforce that reflects the talent and diversity of our community. In hiring, we will increase our efforts to recruit from a broad and diverse pool of candidates. In the workplace, we will seek to foster respect among our diverse family of employees." This commitment builds on the workforce diversity ordinance adopted by the Vancouver city council in 1993.

"A workforce that reflects our

community will be more accessible and approachable for the people we serve," Stoner explains. "A variety of voices also brings a variety of perspectives and ideas which can only enrich our ability to solve problems and provide services." Stoner wants the city to be a model for other organizations to follow. "Given our unique role in the community, we should be at the leading edge of such efforts."

Work group speeds review

A new city division has been established to streamline the review process for planned development in Vancouver. The Development Services Division will draw together over 50 city employees from various divisions including building, planning, fire code and public works.

David DiCesare, development ser-

vices manager, was selected by City Manager Vernon Stoner to direct the new workgroup. "We're looking at a whole new way of handling development review by consolidating the process under one roof," DiCesare notes. Goals include improved and effective customer service for applicants and neighborhoods.

Did you know?

Vancouver is one of the few cities in America to offer 20-minutes free parking at one- and two-hour meters with the turn of a lever. Easy-to-read stickers make it easy to identify the meters. 15-minute meters have yellow stickers; 30-minutes, red; one-hour, green; two-hour, blue; five- and 10-hour, silver.



CRIMESTOPPERS

Attempted Abduction

Portland Police Bureau detectives, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identifying and apprehending a subject who attempted to abduct a 17-year-old female high school student walking to school.

On Friday, October 18, 1996, at approximately 6:30 in the morning, in the area of NE 77th and Alameda, a 17-year-old female Madison High School student was walking to school, when a man got out of a parked pickup and asked her for help in looking for his lost cat. The man then grabbed the victim, put a

knife to her stomach, and told her not to scream.

The victim saw a neighbor riding his bicycle down the street and she broke free and ran to him. He told her to run to a nearby house, which she did.

The suspect, who got back into his vehicle and left the area, is described as a male white, late 20's to early 30's, 6', stocky build, clean-shaven face, medium low pitched voice, and short dark brown hair, that was combed straight up, with short bangs. At the time, he was wearing a dark jacket, dark trousers or coveralls,

and work shoes.

The suspect vehicle is described as a 1970's to 1980's, American made pickup with primer gray paint and a light colored canopy. The rear taillights were elongated and had white light showing from around the edges of the red lens.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you do not have to give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP (4357).

Lumber price increase reflects industry change

Continued from front

economic squeeze when prices drop, as they may be forced to sell lumber at a price below what it cost to make the product.

"Like buyers, mills prefer stable prices. Lumber prices can fall just as rapidly as they increase, as we saw a couple years ago. These downturns can be triggered by a host of factors, including the seasonal weather problems that affect both home building and logging," Hunt observed.

He noted the last lumber price rise peaked in January 1994, bringing more lumber into the market. But when housing construction

stalled and demand cooled, lumber prices fell by more than 30 percent within 18 months.

Compared to other building materials, lumber generally has been considered an undervalued building commodity. Lumber prices over the past 20 years have failed to keep up with inflation.

Even with current increases, real lumber prices adjusted for inflation are nearly 25 percent below highs reached in previous years.

"Before price stability can return, this country must have a healthy domestic lumber industry and a market that allows fair competition. A steady, predictable timber supply in the West is an essential part of that solution," Hunt said.

WWPA has prepared a special report on lumber prices. "Lumber Prices: A Question of Supply and Demand" is available free of charge from the Association.

To receive a copy, fax your name and address to WWPA, Attn: Price Report, 503/224-3934.

The report can also be viewed at WWPA's Internet site at <http://www.wwpa.org>

Western Wood Products Association, with headquarters in Portland, represents lumber manufacturers in the 12 western states.

The Association provides quality control and marketing services for western mills and tracks industry performance and lumber-related economic trends.

Barn owners get photo opportunity

The city's Office of Heritage Services is looking for good old barns. "We want to photograph Clark County's older barns for a slide show entitled 'Barn Lovers'," says Jane Morrison, heritage services program assistant.

Of special interest are barns built in the 19th and early 20th century or barns that use rare or unusual construction techniques such as hand hewn or laminated beams.

Tell Morrison about interesting barns by calling 699-5288, by Mon-

day, November 18. The "Barn Lovers" slide show is scheduled, Saturday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Grant House Folk Art Center, 1101 Officers Row. To register for the slide show call 696-8236 or 696-8219.

Isabelle Robertson and her two children, plans to move into the west-side home in January.

Portland Habitat for Humanity, affiliated with Humanity International, builds simple, decent houses and sells them, with zero-profit and zero-interest mortgages, to families who subsist on 30 to 50 percent of the median family. Portland Habitat accomplishes its goals of increasing owner occupancy in North and Northeast Portland by partnering with families, volunteers and sponsors. Participating churches raised funds, from \$500 to \$20,000, to build the duplex, and volunteer labor and donated materials limit costs. For more information about Portland Habitat for Humanity, please call 287-9529.

Christmas Choral Concert for Construction

The acclaimed Vancouver Men's Chorus will sing a benefit concert for Portland Habitat for Humanity on Sunday, December 8 at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of Piedmont Presbyterian Church, 5760 NE Cleveland, Avenue. The Chorus' "Treasures of the Season" concert will feature an uplifting selection of sacred and secular songs, from "Ave Maria" to "O Tannenbaum". Concertgoers will delight in an afternoon of song while doing good: Donations collected at the door will help put finishing touches on Portland Habitat's first duplex, located at 4814 NE Killingsworth, enabling one of the families to move into its new house during the holidays.

The duplex project, sponsored

by a coalition of 13 local Presbyterian churches, is on schedule for completion in early 1997. Co-sponsor Piedmont Presbyterian, however, plans to step up the pace and surpass the \$50,000 construction-fund goal with the benefit choral concert. The duplex's east-side home is near completion; with construction crescendoed, the Rosch family will be able to move in before Christmas. Jackie Rosch gave birth in late October to she and her husband Robert's fourth child. Now, their tiny two-bedroom apartment feels more cramped than ever. The dual pressures of holiday chores and a newborn child add extra stress to the Rosch family's life; they can't wait to purchase and move into their new home. Another Habitat family,

Basketball league beckons teens

Teens in grades nine through 12 can register for the city's Winter Basketball League at Bagley Center, 4100 Plomondon, or call 696-8219.

The nine-game season meets at 9 a.m. on Saturdays at two locations--Clark College, 1800 E. McLoughlin Blvd. and at Bagley Center. Starting

date is Saturday, January 11. Team fee is \$110 and player fee is \$24 (\$20 city residents). Call Angie Brosius, 696-8006 for details.

Minority US West contracts

US West awarded two new M/WBE (Minority and Woman-Owned Business Enterprise) contracts and extended two others under an ambitious program that will see some \$350 million spent with M/WBE business this year.

The combined value of the contracts is more than \$18 million, including a two-year \$8 million extension with Hood River Cable, Inc., a woman-owned firm that provides connectorized cable assemblies.

All potential contractors with US West must go through a rigorous and competitive bidding process.

Also awarded were:

- A one-year \$400,000 contract to Faison Office Products, an African American-owned company in Aurora, Co., for copier paper to US West operations in Colorado and Wyoming.

- A two-year \$8 million contract extension for connectorized cable assemblies to Majestic Management, Inc., a small Hispanic-owned business, in Englewood, Co.

- A one-year contract to Faison Office Products an African American-owned company in Aurora, Co. The contract, valued at \$400,000, is for copier paper to US West operations in Colorado and Wyoming.

The Hood River Cable contract is part of US West's ambitious program to "continually increase Minority and Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) portfolio manager. Over the past three years, US West has increased M/WBE spending by 25 percent.

US West needs qualified M/WBEs that can provide mid-to high-range expertise in the areas of information, communications and entertainment products and services. Call the US West M/WBE Relations hotline 1-800-274-9194 for further information.

The Right Shoe

BY VINCE & YOLANDA,
SPECIAL TO THE NNPA

Wearing the right shoe while exercising is important. Comfort is the most important feature. Choose a shoe that fits your sport. For lifting weights choose a shoe specifically designed for weight lifting. They have stiffer uppers than a regular aerobic shoe. They should also have a stable heel which will help if you have weak ankles. For running, buy a shoe with absorbing abilities after 200 to 400 miles on the road, even if the treads aren't worn. If you're a serious runner but run less than 25 miles a week, you should buy a new pair of shoes every four to six months. It's worth the protection.

Price is also important. Keep in mind an expensive shoe doesn't mean you're getting good quality.

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