

# Observing Vancouver

## Vancouver Seeks Volunteer Firefighters

In keeping with a tradition of volunteerism in the fire service, the Vancouver Fire Department (VFD) is conducting a recruitment to fill 15 volunteer firefighter positions. Deadline for applications is June 30.

"Volunteer firefighters are a valuable asset to the Vancouver Fire Department and to the entire community," says division Chief Ron Oliver. "Our goal is to deliver trained back-up support to the line firefighters during emergencies. These men and women are an important community asset and we are prepared to make an investment in their training."

There will be a competitive process for filling the 15 openings. Certain requirements must be met including: residing within the area served by the Vancouver Fire Department, minimum age of 20, ability to pass both written and physical ability tests, and attendance at a training school. In addition, all new volunteer firefighters are required to attend training on a regular Monday evening schedule throughout the year.

Along with backing-up line firefighters during emergency response situations, the volunteers also support the department by delivering

public education programs, such as teaching CPR and first aid classes.

Primary functions of the position include extinguishing fires, salvage and overhaul, ventilation and rescue, and assistance in performing emergency medical treatment.

Testing will take place in mid-July. For an application packet, contact the VFD at 892-4323.

The VFD is the fourth largest fire department in Washington. It serves an area of about 100 square miles and 186,000 people. Firefighters responded to over 13,000 emergency medical calls and 3500 fire calls last year.

## Clark County Takes Action Against Bad Checks

The Clark County Prosecutor's Office has reinstated its NSF Check Diversion Program to help businesses recover losses on bad checks valued at less than \$250. This special service is available free to all businesses located in the county, unincorporated areas and cities alike.

As in the past, checks involving felony conduct, which includes forgery and drafts of more than \$250, are referred for investigation to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

"Our goal is to ensure restitution to local businesses and promote responsible check writing," says Clark

County Prosecutor Art Curtis. "We also help businesses protect themselves from accepting questionable checks in the first place."

Education is a big component of the program. Classes are held for bad-check writers to promote responsible behavior. The unit also teaches businesses how to protect themselves from bad checks by taking precautions, such as asking for a driver's license or other picture identification.

"There has been a lot of interest in the business community about reinstating this program," says coordinator Debbie Garvin. "It was originally

eliminated in 1995 due to budget cuts."

This time around, the program is a joint effort between the County and the City of Vancouver. Garvin is based out of the Adult Diversion area of the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, which supports the program by providing 25 hours of her time a week, office space, and computer equipment. Other partners provide funding and staffing help, including the Clark County Sheriff's Office, Vancouver Police Department, City Attorney, and Clark College.

## Career Exploration and Job Fair

Clark County Community Services, in collaboration with public and private sector partners, introduces a summer career exploration and job fair. This event is designed to bring together employers and prospective employees.

Date: June 17, 1998

Venue: The Water Resources Education Center

4600 SE Columbia Way,

Vancouver

Time: 9:00AM-4:00PM

This is a community service event, admission is free to the public and there is free parking. Inter-

ested employers can still participate. Please contact Dave Richardson, at the Southwest Washington Private Industry Council, by Friday, June 12, 1998, to reserve a table and display area. There is no cost to participating employers.

## Protecting Our Children From Lead Poisoning

BY LORE WINTERGREEN

Lead is a metal that can become a powerful poison that stays in your body a long time. Unfortunately, a little goes a long way.

The primary cause of lead poisoning now is lead based paint in homes built before 1950. Though homes painted until 1978 have significant lead in the paint that can cause poisoning, household paint that is deteriorating and creating dust and chips can be breathed in or eaten. Young children are especially at risk (think of the number of times your toddler puts their hands in their mouth). Yet, unless lead paint is removed with safety precautions, renovations on older homes can create an even higher danger of poisoning.

A child with lead poisoning as low as 10 micrograms per deciliter may not show any visible symptoms. Noticeable symptoms might look like flu or headaches. Even at this low level, lead causes serious and long term health problems such as: brain and nervous system damage, hearing problems, heart disease and kidney damage. At higher levels of lead in blood, you can suffer such severe things as blindness, seizures, coma and death.

We know that children with neuro behavioral problems such as Attention Deficit, inability to concentrate, and/or hyperactivity are more likely to have difficulty learning in school and to experience social problems. In fact, as adults, those with a criminal history are more likely to have had a history of lead poisoning. Thus, the impacts of lead poisoning can be life altering.

Most people don't even know about the effects and sources of lead poisoning. how can we be expected to protect ourselves from something we don't even know is dangerous. Yet, lead poisoning is preventable.

In the United States, lead poi-

soning is one of the most common childhood diseases, and children of color are more often its victims. Portland is no different.

Lead poisoning can effect anyone, as it is an environmental issue. It is an environmental justice issue because African American and Latino(a) children in Oregon are three times more likely than their white counterparts to be poisoned by lead.

As a practical matter, prevention is the only realistic "cure" for lead poisoning. Available medical treatments are expensive and painful, do not completely remove all lead from the body, and are powerless to undo brain damage.

Blood lead testing and follow up are essential. You have to be assertive in demanding that your children get this test. Children in North/Northeast Portland should be getting the test at 1 year and 2 years old. If you children are older than 2, but less than 6 years old and have not been tested, have them tested as soon as possible. If you don't have insurance or are not on the Oregon Health Plan, contact Lore with the Urban League of Portland at 280-2662 or Josiah Hill with Physicians For Social Responsibility at 274-2720 for free testing.

If someone in your family tests between 10-19 micrograms per deciliter, call Lore for information. Multnomah County Health Department will automatically follow up with those people testing 20 and above.

There are some free programs and resources available in our com-

munity now so it is a good time to find out if you need help (please see the related 'Resources' box).

It's important for us to try to protect our children from ever getting lead poisoning. Preventing lead poisoning requires aggressive efforts to stop lead exposure before people are poisoned. While aggressive lead poisoning prevention programs have begun in other states, there currently is neither a comprehensive plan nor adequate funding to eliminate lead poisoning in Oregon.

We know that to effectively address lead poisoning we must come together to identify issues, needs, available resources and gaps. Protecting children from lead poisoning will require that we work together. Your perspective and voice is needed. The powers that be are not going to do much of anything about this unless we make them do something. Come to our planning meeting on Monday, June 15, 1998 from 6-8:30 pm at the urban League of Portland, Shelton Hill Conference Room, at 10 North Russell Street.

RSVP to Lore wintergreen at the Urban League of Portland at 280-2662. She will also provide you with updated information on lead poisoning: effects, sources, self-help and community efforts. If you need child care, a ride, or translation assistance let Lore know at least a week in advance.

Please note that the building is wheelchair accessible. Everyone is encouraged to bring food or beverage to share.



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## POLICE NEWS

### F r a u d

The Beaverton Police Department, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in identifying and apprehending a subject responsible for passing thousands of dollars in bad checks.

Using the name Elliott Simpson, with a date of birth of June 9, 1969, the subject obtained fraudulent identification in both Oregon and Washington. The identification was then used to open a checking account. During a five-day period in early March, the suspect was responsible



for passing approximately \$14,000 in fraudulent checks.

The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 30 years of age, 5'10" tall, weighing 200 pounds with short black hair and brown eyes.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

### Injury Accident

The Portland Police Bureau Traffic Division, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in determining the circumstances surrounding a serious injury accident that took place on Tuesday, May 27, 1998.

On that date at 4:30 in the afternoon at NE 6th and Broadway, Portland Police officers attempted to stop a red Chevrolet Camaro with a loud stereo. Instead of stopping, the car sped off with officers in pursuit. As

the car sped southbound on NE Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, officers discontinued the pursuit because of heavy traffic and erratic driving by the operator of the Camaro.

The Camaro continued southbound on MLK at a high rate of speed, and turned eastbound onto NE Davis Street. Arriving at NE 12th and Davis, the officers found that the Camaro had struck another car, seriously injuring the driver of that vehicle, and

then punched a hole in the wall of Portland Bottling company, where the Camaro burst into flames. The driver fled from the vehicle, but was caught and held by an employee of Portland Bottling.

The driver, identified as 27-year-old Travis Scott Calhoun, was arrested on charges relating to the accident and outstanding warrants.

If you have information, call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

## Themes define youth day camp

The Vancouver Clark Parks and Recreation will offer a Youth Day Camp at Marshall Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. The camp runs June 29-August 28 from 7 am to 6 pm.

This program offers working parents an alternative to daycare and a positive recreational experience for children 6-12 years old. The Youth Day Camp consists of nine weeks of activities, with each week's activities centering on a theme.

This year's themes are:

June 29-July 2	Stars and Stripes	August 3-7	Masterpiece Art Works
July 6-10	Down Under	August 10-14	Wild, Wild Wet
July 13-17	Worldly Wonders	August 17-21	Spaced Out
July 20-24	Play that Funky Music	August 24-28	Mini Masters
July 27-31	Enchanted Adventures		

There are four different fee options:

Fee Option A:	7 am-6 pm	\$120.50	(in/city \$96.25)
Fee Option B:	8 am-5 pm	8:30 am-5:30 pm	\$98.50 (in/city \$78.75)
Fee Option C:	8:30 am-4:30 pm	8 am-4 pm	\$87.50 (in/city \$70)
Fee Option D:	9 am-4 pm	\$76.75	(in/city \$61.25)

Registration fees are per week. Registration is limited to the first 65 children on a first come first serve basis. Register at Bagley Community Center, 4100 Plomondon. Call 360-696-8065 for more information.

## Metro Recycling Information 234-3000

**Real people.  
Fast, helpful answers.  
Six days a week.**



Call Metro Recycling Information when you need information about:

- recycling and reuse options
- garbage disposal
- ways to prevent waste
- composting and natural gardening
- safer alternatives for home and garden
- hazardous waste disposal

Metro Recycling Information is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call us for a free refrigerator magnet so you'll always have our number handy.



**Tip of the week: Don't call it "trash" before you call us.**

Remodeling?

Metro has a database of business that recycle and salvage wood, roofing material, plumbing, paint and more. Call 234-3000 for information. Visit Metro's web site at: [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org)



**Metro Regional Services**  
Creating livable communities

Metro is working to ensure that we have access to nature, clean air and water and resources for future generations. Waste prevention and safe disposal are ways you can create a more livable community.