

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Clark Public Utilities income beating budget estimates

When Clark Public Utilities put the 2003 budget together last year, it predicted a loss of \$664,000 by the end of July 2003.

Instead, because revenues have increased and power planners have leveraged vagaries in the cost of electricity and natural gas for a profit, the utility finished the first seven months of the year over \$3 million beyond expectations.

The utility was \$2,545,000 in the black as of July 31, according to director of finance **Rick Dyer**.

About half of Clark Public Utilities' power supply comes from a fixed contract with Bonneville Power Administration. The remainder is usually produced by the utility's nearly 250-megawatt natural gas-fired River Road generating plant.

But not always. By managing what is known as the "spark spread," the relative differences in the prices of natural gas and surplus electricity, Clark is sometimes selling unused natural gas for more than it has paid for it, and sometimes it is buying electricity for less than its cost of producing it. So far this year its boosted the utility's revenues by over \$2 million. It's a form of arbitrage, says **Patrick McGary**, one of those responsible for the utility's power managing decisions.

Although lower than last year, the utility's rate of residential customer growth is a healthy 1.98 percent. Over the last seven months, 1,719 new residential customers were signed up.

With that customer growth and increasing use of power for air conditioning, Clark's sales of residential electricity have been increasing.

On average, Clark's nearly 160,000 residential customers spent \$85.09 for electricity in July.

Section 30 Subarea Plan to be introduced during an open house at Illahee School

The future of Section 30, a square mile of land east of Vancouver but within the city's urban growth boundary, will be discussed at a joint City-Clark County open house from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight in the Illahee Elementary School, 19401 SE 1st Street.

The square mile of land is bounded by NE 172nd and NW 192nd Avenues between NE 18th Street and SE 1st Street.

City and county planners are jointly developing plans for this subarea and are seeking input from residents and interested persons, according to **Mike Mabrey**, spokesperson for the county Community Development Department.

For further information, call Mabrey at **397-2375**, extension **4343**.

Retailer with a story could win up to \$20,000 in emoluments by locating in Vancouver, WA

Retailers who have at least two other locations outside of downtown Vancouver are eligible for up to \$20,000 in

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first-year lease expenses and other services if they select at least a 2,000-square foot location in downtown and lease the space for five years.

Contestants are asked for a business plan and to explain why they believe moving into downtown Vancouver to do business makes good sense.

The contest is sponsored by the Bank of Clark County, West Coast Bank, Architects Barrantine Bates Lee, A & J Cabinets and the Call to Action Committee, a consortium of local organizations and businesses encouraging other businesses come to downtown.

"We're the place to be," says **Greg Lueck**, Call to Action member and co-owner of the successful Firehouse 12 Glassworks and Gallery, 518 Main Street.

Applications for the contest are available from the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce.

People

A fundraising event for Vancouver City Council candidate **Larry Smith** is from 5:30 to 7 p.m. today in the American Legion Post on St. James Road in Minnehaha. For further information, call **Bob Day**, **883-1221**.

News briefs

Clark County commissioners are holding a public hearing at 7 p.m. tonight on a proposal to place a .25 percent real estate excise tax measure on the ballot, which if passed, would raise money to buy and maintain greenways, habitat and farmland. The proceedings will be aired live on CVTV, Channel 23.—The Port of Camas Washougal commissioners meet at 6 p.m. today.

Wednesday on the air

Vancouver City Council, Position 4 candidates—5 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver City Council, Position 5 candidates—6 p.m. CVTV

Tampa Bay at the Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KOTK

Tacoma at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

County Commissioners re: Real Estate Tax (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus—11 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2003

Alaska Air Group	26.80	+17	Linear Technology	41.17	+1.37
Alcoa	27.62	-13	Microsoft	26.42	-.15
Amazon.com	45.88	-05	Nautilus	11.45	-.01
Bank of America	77.63	-26	Nike	55.67	+.25
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	24.94	+.28
Bemis	44.96	-23	PepsiCo	44.03	-.04
Boeing	36.14	+43	Precision Cast	24.20	+.40
Boise Cascade	26.55	+12	RLRN	24.69	unch
CenturyTel	33.95	-25	Starbucks	27.12	+.02
Costco	31.79	+17	TSM	11.80	+.34
Expeditors Intl.	37.20	-39	Tektronix	22.67	+.40
Georgia Pacific	22.62	+41	US Bancorp	23.45	-.11
HPQ	19.52	-06	Wash. Mutual	38.30	-.57
Intel	28.02	+31	W. Coast Bancorp	19.04	-.05
Kvocera	62.15	+56	Weverhaeuser	58.54	+.54

DOW: 9333.79 -6.66 NASDAQ: 1782.13 +11.48 S&P: 996.79 +.06

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Augie MacGruder making a night of wonder and charm.— Matt Young soon returning to the scene of his greatest triumphs.— Angela Meinig having good words for kitchens.— Karen Stanley practicing with a stick.— Nancy Retsinas qualifying for new e-mail address.— Wednesday , sun begins comeback, 80. Thursday , sunny and warm, 83. Friday , continued warm and sunny, 86.	Acapulco 91/75 Athens 86/65 Chicago 82/60 Dallas 98/76 Hong Kong 88/77 Los Angeles 82/60 London 74/52 New Orleans 92/75 New York 87/73 Orlando 90/70 Paris 83/55 Phoenix 92/80 Rome 89/69 Seattle 72/54 Sydney 66/45 Tokyo 84/72 Washington 91/71
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