

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership beginning to beef up

Prodded by concerns that Vancouver Lake could simply dry up in the foreseeable future, the Port of Vancouver in partnership with Public Works Departments of Vancouver and Clark County, the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department, and the Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association formed the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership.

Nine members from the public are being sought to join representatives of the public agencies to provide guidance for the new organization.

The new partnership will develop a community vision for the future of the lake and is expected to develop strategies to achieve that vision.

Vancouver Lake, although only a few feet deep, is the largest lake in the southern Washington-Portland metropolitan area.

With two major regional parks on its western shore and at Frenchman's Bar on the adjoining Columbia River, the lake supports aquatic activities including boating, sailing, wind surfing, fishing and swimming (when the algae is not too thick), hiking and bird watching.

Nominally fed by Burnt Bridge Creek, the lake is connected to the Columbia River by a flushing channel on the west and Lake River on the north.

Applications for membership on the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership must be completed by Friday, Aug. 20. For further information, call **Maureen Chan-Hefflin, 693-3611**, or **Loretta Callahan, 759-4479**.

County employment rate stays the same but 1,900 more people at work

Although Clark County's non-adjusted employment rate remained the same in June as it was in May, 6.9 percent, the county added 1,900 new jobs bringing the total of employed persons in the county to 174,800, according to the state Department of Employment Security.

The statewide non-adjusted rate of unemployment for June was 6.1 percent, the same as it was in May. A year ago the statewide employment rate was 7.6 percent and Clark County's rate was 10.3 percent.

The national rate of unemployment in June was 5.6 percent.

"The state economy has leveled off, following the national trend," according to **Sylvia Mundy**, state Employment Security commissioner. "Both the total labor force and employment grew, but so did the number of unemployed."

Port to acquire Elmer Rufener farm, adding 265 acres to its holdings

Port of Vancouver commissioners today unanimously agreed to add the 265-acre Elmer Rufener farm to the port's holdings. The cost of the farm was \$5.9 million.

The farm is just north of the Lower River Road which borders the port on the north. About 58 acres are already zoned for light industry. The rest is zoned for agriculture,

according to Port executive director **Larry Paulson**.

According to port commission chair **Arch Miller**, the additional property contiguous to the port's current operating facilities will allow us to expand and enhance out competitive edge in the global marketplace."

Discount tickets for the Clark County Fair on sale

Discount admission tickets and carnival ride coupon books for the Clark County Fair on sale through Thursday, Aug. 5, at most credit unions, and First Independent and Riverview Community Banks. Tickets are also available through TicketMaster outlets and the fair website, www.clarkcofair.com. The fair is August 6-15.

Advance admission tickets are 25 percent off gate admission process. Carnival ride coupon books offer up to a 50 percent discount off onsite ticket prices. Reserved seating for some fair events can also be bought now.

News briefs

The C-TRAN board of directors meets at 5:15 p.m. today in the C-TRAN administrative building, 2425 NE 65th Avenue. ~~SES~~ The board of Clark County commissioners meets in informal session at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 14.

People

John Fratt, former executive director of the Port of Kalama, most recently director of governmental relations for the Port of Vancouver, is retiring August 31. Fratt, who has had a long career in governmental service and who has been active politically, expects to be offering consulting in governmental affairs, mixed in with some travel.

Tuesday on the air

Clark County Youth Achievement Celebration—4:30 p.m. CVTV
City Minutes—6 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT, Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Alaska Air Group	21.11	-1.04	Linear Technology	37.54	+64
Alcoa	32.19	+0.02	Microsoft	27.60	-29
Amazon.com	49.60	+5.55	Nautilus	18.39	+07
Bank of America	85.13	+28	Nike	73.90	-21
Bank of Clark County	20.00	unch	Nordstrom	42.49	+27
Bemis	28.05	+35	PepsiCo	53.18	+11
Boeing	50.26	+06	Precision Cast	56.00	+190
Boise Cascade	34.52	-28	RLRN	21.27	-23
CenturyTel	31.09	+09	Starbucks	45.80	+19
Costco	41.26	+44	TSM	7.63	+04
Expeditors Intl.	48.77	-27	Tektronix	31.26	-09
Georgia Pacific	34.81	+07	US Bancorp	28.53	+36
HPQ	20.25	+14	Wash. Mutual	38.90	+18
Intel	26.14	-10	W. Coast Bancorp	21.75	+07
Kyocera	83.05	+41	Weyerhaeuser	60.44	+22
DOW: 10,247.59 +9.37 NASDAQ: 1931.66 -5.26 S&P: 1115.14 +79					

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Wayne Nelson delivers soliloquy without soapbox. SES	Acapulco	91/79
Bob Moser preparing for 37th festival. SES	Athens	89/66
Nancy Baker gets better view elevator chair. SES	Chicago	90/67
Walter Evans giving and receiving. SES	Dallas	98/76
Jerry Johnston keeping keel even. SES	Hong Kong	84/76
Tuesday , mostly sunny, 88.	Las Vegas	107/82
Wednesday , early clouds give way to sun. 85.	Los Angeles	84/64
Thursday , a few cooling clouds, 79.	London	70/54
	New York	76/68
	Orlando	92/75
	Paris	64/48
	Phoenix	105/87
	Rome	75/53
	Seattle	80/58
	Sydney	63/40
	Tokyo	86/73
	Washington	90/74