

Rosemere, CCNRC suing Vancouver in federal court over failure to get pollution permit

The Rosemere Neighborhood Association, whose charter to officially represent the neighborhood was withdrawn by the City of Vancouver early this year, and the Clark County Natural Resources Council are taking the city to court over what they call the city's failure to obtain a pollution elimination system permit required by the federal Clean Water Act.

The maximum civil fine for violations of the Clean Water Act are \$27,500 a day.

Vancouver attorney **John Karpinski**, who is chair of CCNRC, says that, although the city made application, it does not have a National Pollutant Elimination System permit that is required for discharges from its storm sewer system.

The city was notified by the plaintiffs of their intention to take the matter to federal court under the Clean Water Act on June 14.

The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington.

The suit alleges that the city's violations of the Clean Water Act have adversely impacted Burnt Bridge Creek, Vancouver Lake and the Columbia River. Further, the suit claims that contaminants from failing septic systems in the Rosemere neighborhood and other areas of Vancouver infiltrate into the storm sewer system and are discharged from its outfalls into Burnt Bridge Creek and Vancouver Lake.

The complaint states That defendant's discharges of contaminated storm water to Burnt Bridge Creek and Vancouver Lake substantially contribute to serious water quality problems in these water bodies is a matter of long-standing concern. As long ago as the 1970s, defendant participated with EPA, Ecology and other government agencies in the development of a plan to rehabilitate Vancouver Lake. Two extensive and costly projects to improve lake water quality, dredging of the lake and construction of a flushing channel to bring Columbia river water directly into the lake, were completed in the 1980s with substantial state and federal funding, while defendant largely failed to implement measures to control pollution entering the lake, including pollution from the defendant's storm sewer system to the lake and Burnt ridge Creek, that all parties to those efforts to rehabilitate Vancouver expected defendant to undertake.

The suit asks the court to force Vancouver to comply with the Clean Water Act, impose fines, and to order the city to control discharges from the storm sewer system.

Creek-side celebration of Burnt Bridge Creek Restoration project is Thursday

The beginning of a \$5.4 million phase-one project for restoring Burnt Bridge Creek will be celebrated at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, along side of Burnt Bridge Creek at NE 65th Avenue, a block south of NE 18th Street. The event includes the Fort Vancouver High School band, displays and refreshments.

Financed through the City of Vancouver's Surface Water Management Program, the project involves planting nearly 20,000 trees and shrubs, lowering the flood plain shelf, enhancing wetlands, and re-establishing the creek's natural water flow.

A 3.5-mile extension of a new trail will also get underway, completing an 8-mile continuous section of the Discovery Trail connecting Fruit Valley with NE Burton Road.

Candidates forum at Clark College to be followed by reception

Nearly two dozen candidates for state legislative offices and Washington's 3rd Congressional District are expected to participate in a candidates forum sponsored by Clark College's Students for Political Activism Now, and the college, beginning at 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, in the Gaiser Hall on the campus.

The keynote speaker is **Ron Dotzhauer**, a political analyst and former Clark County commissioner.

The forum is expected to last until 1:30 p.m. A reception, sponsored by the Associated Students of Clark College follows from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Michael Allen Harrison featured in Thursday Backyard Concert

The *Columbian* Backyard Concert series presents **Michael Allen Harrison**, one of the Northwest's preeminent pianists, in an all-piano concert at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, in The Columbia Valley Elementary School, 17500 SE Sequoia Circle.

Harrison, a Portlander, is a concert pianist, composer, arranger and producer, and is owner of MAH Records. His 24 albums have sold over three-quarter of a million copies. According to the *Columbian*: "Michael's unique brand of music ranges from movie scores to passionate arrangements for piano, orchestra, ballet, jazz, fusion, New Age, Adult Contemporary and Chill."

Now in its 8th year, the series of concerts is free.

Gardner School Art Show opens Thursday in Three Creeks Library

The second annual Gardner School Art Show opens at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, in Three Creeks Library. The show of works by preschoolers through 8th graders continues through Friday, Oct. 22.

Approximately 100 students are enrolled in Gardner School, an independent school in its ninth year in Clark County, teaches fundamental academic skills and content, which students apply to multifaceted topics integrating language, arts, math, natural and social sciences and the arts.

News briefs

An open house discussion of C-TRAN's proposed .03 percent sales tax increase to restore the transit agency's level of tax-based income, which would also improve its current level of service, is at 5:30 p.m. today in the Hazel Dell Sewer District offices, 8000 NE 52nd Court. For further information, call **Scott Patterson, 696-4494**. ☎ Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet in regular session at 6 p.m. this evening in port offices at 111 W Division Street. The new Washington State University Vancouver chapter of the national honor society, Kappa Omicron Nu will be installed at 7:15 p.m. this evening in Classroom Building Room 225 on the Salmon creek Campus. A reception follows.

Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world:

[Rick Melching to retire--Columbian, **Howard Buck**](#)
[After building legacy, Evergreen School's leader will retire--Oregonian, **Holley Gilbert**](#)
[Yacolt mayor quits, leaves town--Columbian, **Margaret Ellis**](#)
[Pridemore campaign ad deceptive, Carlson says--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)
[Community colleges aid U.S. economy--Columbian, **Tom Koeninger**](#)
[St. Helens takes on eerie red glow at night as lava dome rises--KATU, **Peggy Andersen**](#)
[Six U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq bomb attack--USA TODAY, AP](#)

Wednesday on the air

Video Voters' Guide—3:30 p.m. CVTV
18th District Senatorial Debate and Candidate Forum (10/11)—5:30 p.m. CVTV
Presidential Debate (live)—6 p.m. most channels
Telecommunications Commission (10/6)—7 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Planning Commission (10/12)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Myk Heidt providing editorial assistance. ☎ **Chuck Ruhsenberger** reports SR 500 Interchange nearing completion. ☎ **Jim Holder** doing really good work. ☎ **Cheri Cole** saying good news is predicting records. ☎ **Larry Swatosh** coming through with all "A"s. ☎ **Wednesday**, sunny all day, 78. **Thursday**, more sunshine, 76. **Friday**, clouds could return, but still a nice fall day, 70.