

Clark Public Utilities gets \$15 million settlement from Bonneville Power

Clark Public Utilities and the Bonneville Power Administration have tentatively reached a settlement of BPA's payment obligation to Clark under the residential exchange program. Clark will receive \$15 million in benefits.

Before the settlement is final, it is subject to public comment on the proposal. Deadline for public comment is January 16.

The settlement is a result of Clark's request to receive benefits under BPA's residential exchange program, which allows utilities to receive a payment to help offset costs of power they produce or purchase from sources other than BPA to serve residential customers.

The program, in effect for several years, has mainly benefited residential customers of private utilities, but also benefits Clark Public Utilities' customers who receive electric power from the utility's River Road generating plant, which produces power generated by natural gas.

County building fees decreasing

While some Clark County building fees were increased for 2006, overall building fees for the coming year will be decreased 4.7 percent from the current year, reports **Richard Carson**, Clark County Community Development Department director.

Building permit fees were decreased 2.9 percent, according to Carson.

To improve services during 2006, the department is hiring three additional building inspectors and will expand the Battle Ground office, Carson said.

Van de Water memorial service Wednesday

A memorial service for **Eleanor Van de Water**, a founder of the Fort Vancouver Tapestry Project, who died last week, will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, in the First Presbyterian Church, 1200 SW Alder Street, Portland.

Mrs. Van de Water was a well-known fiber artist who had commissions throughout the world.

Born in Sioux Falls, S. D., Mrs. Van de Water was a graduate of Vancouver High School and Eastern Washington University.

Survivors are her daughter, **Gretchen**, a son, **Peter**, a brother, **Donald Jones**, and one grandchild. Remembrances may be made to the Fort Vancouver Tapestry Project.

People

Nadine Robertson has been elected president of the Vancouver Rotary Club. **Debbie Abraham** and **Joe Cote** have been reappointed to the Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. **Dennis Campbell**, **Walt Gordon** and **Maradee Potter** have been reappointed to the Clark County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board.

News briefs

The Clark County fire marshal reminds residents of unincorporated Clark County and the City of Vancouver that fireworks may not be set off on New Year's Eve. Fire works have been banned in unincorporated Clark County since 1997. This is the first year they have been banned in Vancouver on New Year's Eve, however. The fine for the first violation is \$250. **Parking pay stations**, which take credit cards as well as money, will be installed on Esther Street between 6th and 8th Streets in January. Similar to those in Portland and Seattle, parkers will select the amount of time they want to park and the pay station will issue a receipt that is to be placed in the car window. The new pay stations have been installed in the city's Park & Go parking facility in the Vancouver-center. Parkers there need not note their parking space, but will only have to affix a receipt on the driver's side window.

Calendar

The Vancouver City Council meets in workshop session at 5 p.m. this evening and will hear a report on Clark County's proposed ten-year homeless plan. The council also meets in regular session at 7 p.m. **Clark Public Utilities' commissioners** meet in regular session at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20. **Clark County commissioners** meet in regular session at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Monday on the air

Vancouver City Council Workshop (live)—5 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver City Council (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Monday headlines at home and from around the world:

[Southwest Washington Medical Center wing on track--Columbian, **Julia Anderson**](#)
[Evergreen Airport development appeals postponed until January--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)
[Albina Fuel taking over 8th and Main bank building--Columbian, **Julia Anderson**](#)
[Bill and Melinda Gates and Bono named Time's Persons of the Year--Seattle Times, AP, **Desmond Butler**](#)
[Afghanistan convenes first popularly elected parliament in 30 years--USA TODAY, AP](#)
[President's approval rebounds--Washington Post, **Dan Balz** and **Richard Morin**](#)
[Bush defends eavesdropping program--Washington Post, **Fred Barbash** and **Peter Baker**](#)
[How to file a complaint with the state Attorney General's office--Columbian](#)

Town Tabloids and the weather

Kathy Condon exchanging ounces for pennies. ☞ **Dale Magers** taking a look at the world from the other side. ☞ **Russ Dyer** and **Pat Eby** doing handshaking routines. ☞ **Kurt Colvin** achieving flying first. ☞ **Jocie Braaksma** extending season's greetings. ☞ **Monday**, cold, rainy and gnarly, 40. **Tuesday**, warming with rain, 40. **Wednesday**, possibility of snow or freezing rain, 39.