

Metro-sponsored meeting in Vancouver sold out

A Metro-sponsored meeting to hear Vancouver officials discuss the “transformation of this once sleepy city into a vibrant downtown” is sold out, Metro officials said today.

Presenters at the meeting are Mayor **Royce Pollard**, Vancouver economic development director **Steve Burdick**, Vancouver Housing Authority chief executive officer **Kurt Creager**, developer **Thomas Kemper**, and Metro Council president **David Bragdon**.

Thursday’s meeting is one of a series called “Get Centered,” that focuses on visionary developers, architects and elected officials who initiate investment that helps build the region’s vibrant downtowns and main streets. Vancouver’s show-off project Thursday is Esther Short Commons, which provides low-cost housing, retail shops and a permanent Vancouver Farmers Market. The indoor market officially opens this weekend.

Other “Get Centered” target communities are Lake Oswego, Gresham, Beaverton, and Portland’s Hollywood district.

The meeting is from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, in the Hilton Vancouver Washington.

Metro is a directed elected regional government that serves more than 1.3 million residents in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties and 25 cities in the Portland metropolitan area, excluding Vancouver. Metro is the only home rule chartered regional governmental agency in the nation.

Southwest Washington Medical Center awarded national medal of honor

Southwest Washington Medical Center has been awarded a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Medal of Honor for its record of achieving organ transplant rates of at least 75 percent last year. The national average is 55 percent.

During the period, March 2003 through February 2004, 19 lifesaving organs were transplanted from nine organ donors at the medical center. SWMC was one of three hospitals of 78 in the Pacific Northwest to receive the honor.

According to **Kelly Fallert**, hospital services coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank, organ donation rates nationally increased 10.8 percent in 2004, to over 14,000 successful transplants.

Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center open house Thursday

The Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center, 12208 SE Evergreen Highway, is holding its annual teacher and staff open house from 3 to 4:45 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15.

Columbia Springs offers students and the public hands-on science activities in an outdoor setting on 100 acres of urban green space at the historic Vancouver Trout Hatchery. The education center is a partnership of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, Clark Public Utilities, Evergreen Public Schools, Clark College and the City of Vancouver.

The center is also a producing trout hatchery. Field trips are offered at no cost to all public, private and home schools in Clark County. For further information, go to www.columbiasprings.org.

Calendar

Beaches Cruisin’ is 4 to 9 p.m. today at the Portland International Raceway. Adult admission is \$5. The show of classic and cool vehicles continues each Wednesday through this month. ☞ Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet in regular session at 6 p.m. this evening in port offices at 111 W Division Street. ☞ The City/County Television Commission’s meeting, which was continued from a regular meeting last Wednesday, reconvenes at 6:30 p.m. this evening in City Hall. The commission is considering action on a federal regulation which would nationalize cable television and related telecommunications franchising.

Wednesday Headlines at home and abroad

[More than 160 people were killed and at least 285 wounded in a string of bombings and ambushes in Iraq today--New York Times, Robert F. Worth](#)

[Clark County flexed its fundraising muscle Tuesday to boost local children's brainpower in years to](#)

[come--Columbian, **Howard Buck**](#)

[Decision to extend Salmon Creek moratorium delayed until next week--Columbian, **Erin Middlewood**](#)
[County commissioners endorse \\$4.75 million plan for developing the 240-acre Hockinson Community Park; not everyone happy--Columbian, **Erin Middlewood**.](#)

[Vancouver Farmers Market will open its year-round indoor market at 9 a.m. Saturday--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)

[City Manager Pat McDonnell says port rail line proposal does not appear to be at odds with the plan to convert a stretch of industrial riverfront into a residential and business showplace for 10,000 residents--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)

[Gregoire says that a repeal of state gasoline tax would harm road work projects and that the state recognizes Clark County needs--Oregonian, **Holley Gilbert**](#)

[Federal judge rules that a tablet-shaped, 46-year-old monument of the Ten Commandments may continue to occupy space outside Everett's former City Hall--Seattle Times, **Peter Lewis**](#)

[A federal judge declared the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools unconstitutional, Seattle P-I, AP, **David Kravets**](#)

[Starbucks Corp. will spend more on health insurance for its employees this year than on raw materials needed to brew its coffee--Seattle P-I, AP, **Matthew Daly**](#)

[Mortgage rates climb-5.72% for 30 years--USA TODAY, Reuters](#)

Wednesday on the air

Veterans Reconciliation and Honoring Ceremony—4:30 p.m. CVTV

City Minutes (8/28)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Telecommunications Commission (9/7)—7 p.m. CVTV

Stars & Stripes Gala (8/26)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

World War II Commemoration (8/28)—11:57 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Jerry Irwin telling new stories. ☞ **Courtney Warner** putting a shine on her smile. ☞ **Gerald Baugh** offering news tip. ☞ **Jane Van Dyke** preparing for big crowds. ☞ **Alex Meinig**'s initiation a complete success. ☞ **Wednesday**, summer weather prevails, some, 76. **Thursday**, white puffy clouds, breezy late, 70. **Friday**, cloudy, could become a little damp around the edges, 67.