

Festival of Trees opens holiday season

The choices are many. The benefits are impressive. The Annual Vancouver Rotary Foundation Festival of Trees has grown into the premier charitable event of the Christmas season, having raised over \$175,000 last year from the sale of decorated trees, wreathes and garlands, and from admissions to the main ballroom of the Hilton Vancouver Washington, where more than 60 decorated Christmas scenes are on display.

Even so, some things are free, in particular the annual Vancouver Community Christmas Tree lighting show in Esther Short Park, which begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23. The tree will be lighted at 7 p.m. The Vancouver Pops Orchestra entertains with a free performance in the Hilton at 8 p.m. after the tree lighting ceremony.

Decorated trees are arriving today in the Hilton for final preparations and judging. Public viewing hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Adult admission is \$5; seniors \$4; children 7 through 12, \$3.

Other events are the Teddy Bear Carnival for children from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday and a senior luncheon in Pearson Air Museum on Sunday.

The big to-do is the black tie optional dinner and auction that opens at 5 p.m. Saturday in the Hilton. At 6 p.m. dinner will be served and the live auction will begin. Tickets prices range from \$150 for the hoi polloi, to \$200 at the most fashionable of tables.

Rooms at the Hilton for the night are being offered at a special rate of \$79.

Parking, however, in the city lot in the Vancouvercenter is free, included in the price of ticket events.

County-Vancouver considering joint agreement on growth issues

The Board of Clark County Commissioners will consider a formal agreement for working with the City of Vancouver on growth planning issues in the future during a regular board meeting at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27.

The Vancouver city council is expected to consider the agreement at a regular council meeting on Monday, Dec. 3.

Leaders from both jurisdictions have provided input to county and city staff to establish a foundation to become more collaborative on issues such as annexation and the sizing of urban growth areas. The potential need for a more formal approach to planning in areas of mutual concern came to light during recent exchanges concerning the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

"The planners, city attorney's office, and I have taken everything we have heard from our policymakers and drafted a proposal aimed at settling immediate differences so that we can move forward together without the pall of potential litigation," said **Rich Lowry**, the county's lead land-use attorney.

Lowry said discussions leading to the proposal were guided by the goal of avoiding a long and costly dispute over plan changes that were adopted in September, including new urban growth boundaries and zoning scheduled to take effect in January. The city and other interested parties have until December 7 to appeal the changes to the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board.

The complete text of the proposal is available on the county Web site at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/longrangeplan/review/index.html>.

Downtown 7th Street open to traffic

After years of being designated for buses only, Vancouver's 7th Street between C and Washington streets will open this evening to two-way regular traffic.



Annual Vancouver Rotary Foundation Festival of Trees opens Friday morning for three-day run in the Hilton Vancouver Washington. Last year the event raised over \$170,000 for students and other charities.

The traffic revision follows implementation of C-TRAN's new service plan and opening of the Stockford Village 99th Street Transfer Center.

Another traffic change is a new traffic signal at Washington and 7th Streets.

Calendar

The *Insider* will be celebrating Thanksgiving by not publishing on Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23. Many other offices and governmental agencies are also making Thanksgiving a two-day holiday. <> The annual Vancouver Rotary Foundation Festival of Trees is being celebrated in the Hilton Vancouver Washington Friday, Nov. 23, through Sunday, Nov. 25. <> The Puget Sound Blood Center is holding a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23, in the Health Education Center auditorium in Southwest Washington Medical Center. <> The annual Vancouver Community Tree Lighting Ceremony begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23, in Esther Short Park. Santa Claus is scheduled to arrive at 7 p.m. when the tree is to be lighted. <> Arts Equity Theatre is presenting *Blood Brothers* at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23, Saturday, Nov. 24, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 25, in the Main Street Theatre, 606 Main Street. Tickets range from \$15 to \$24. For further information, call **695-3770**. <> The Christian Youth Theatre presents *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25, in the Fort Vancouver High School auditorium. Tickets range from \$8 to \$11. For further information, call **750-8550**.

Wednesday on the air

U of W vs. Texas A&M (live)—4 p.m. ESPN2

RSVP Recognition Luncheon (10/20)—5:45 p.m. CVTV

New Jersey at Portland (live)—7 p.m. CSN, KXL

Clark County Land Use Hearings (11/20)—7 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Dan and Cindy Myles entertaining in high style. <> **Edith Wood** taking 85 in stride. <> **Paul Kretschmar** checking out pool. <> **Darrel Miller** time. <> **Tony Johnson** deemed affable. <> **Boren Biswas** eloquently waxing. <> **Ruth Waite** going for pie first. <> **Wednesday**, partly sunny, 48. **Thursday**, sunny, 47. **Friday**, sunny, 48.