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Early sustainability conference registrants will save \$50

Those registering for the community's first sustainability conference being held in the Hilton Vancouver Washington, July 10 and 11, will save \$50 in registration fees, reports **Mike Piper**, the city's spokesperson for the conference.

The cost of attending the two-day conference is \$275 for early registration completed by Friday, June 20. After that the registration fee is \$325.

The cost of the keynote address by **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** is included in the conference registration package. Individual tickets to Kennedy's presentation are \$25 each.

The conference is followed by a day of free activities Saturday, June 13, at Marine Park and in the Water Resources Education Center.

The conference is designed for elected officials, business leaders and anyone interested in creating a more sustainable future.

For further information, go to www.cityofvancouver.us/conference/main.htm.

County growth rate about the same as it was in 2007

During the first four months of 2008, Clark Public Utilities signed up 742 new residential customers, a rate of growth of 1.34 percent.

If it continues, the rate of growth would nearly generate the approximately 2,300 new residential customers the utility signed up in all of 2007. In 2006, the utility added nearly 3,000 new residential customers.

Old flags deserve decent retirement

Tired and tattered U.S. flags may be retired in an official flag retirement ceremony. From 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 14, in the Clark County Fire & Rescue headquarters, 21609 NE 72nd Avenue, Battle Ground.

The official ceremony is in collaboration with the Battle Ground Elks Lodge, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Old flags may be dropped off prior to the ceremony at the fire and rescue headquarters and stations at 505 SW 1st Street, Battle Ground, and 911 N 65th Avenue, Ridgefield.

Clark County Democrats open campaign office

Clark County Democrats have opened offices at 1-06212 NE Coxley Drive, Suite 103, reports **Dena Horton**, county Democratic Committee chair.

The suite will also provide office space for U.S. Rep. **Brian Baird**, Gov. **Chris Gregoire**, and other statewide and local Democratic candidates.

The county Democratic Committee telephone number is **892-6052**.

Columbia Credit Union opens second green branch

Columbia Credit Union this week opened its second green branch, this one in the Grand Central retail development. The new branch will replace Columbia Credit Union's Heights Branch at 5403 E Mill Plain Boulevard.

The newest branch office conforms to the stringent Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council. This branch is modeled after Columbia's Washougal branch, which opened earlier this year.

"This level of social responsibility sets the standard among Vancouver's financial institutions," says **Parker Cann**, Columbia's CEO.

News brief

Free admission to the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is being offered by the National Park Service on Thursday, June 19, the official date of the induction of the fort site as a national monument by the National Park Service. The Congressional Act that created the Fort Vancouver National Monument was signed by President Harry Truman on that day in 1948. Originally more than 90 acres were set aside to commemorate the story of the fur trade in the Pacific Northwest. A subsequent act of Congress enlarged the original monument side and changed the name to the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. The site's normal hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Visitor fees are \$3 for adults, \$5 for a family.

Calendar

Downtown Vancouver's Association First Friday Art Walk is 5 to 7 p.m. this evening. Opening receptions are being held at Pacific Continental Bank, 911 Main Street, and Pepper's Mexican Bar and Grill, 800 Main Street. Tours depart every 20 minutes. **Cold Steel**, Fort Vancouver High School's steel band, will entertain outside Devine Consign, 904 Main Street. Most art galleries will remain open until 9 p.m. <> The Southwest Washington Blood Program is holding a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 7, in the sanctuary of the Evergreen Bible Church, 9600 NE Mill Plain Boulevard.

Friday on the air**Seattle Mariners at Boston (live)—4 p.m. FSN, KFX**

Clark County Land Use Hearings (6/5)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Portland Beavers at Sacramento (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

Port of Vancouver Commissioners (6/5)—8 p.m. CVTV

Army News Watch—11 p.m. CVTV

All Sports Awards Banquet (6/3)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Ruth Waite taking weather complaints to higher power. <> **Judy Zeider** paving the way. <> **Heidi Ondler** first to join A-list. <> **Arch Miller** drumming up lunch business. <> **Gordon MacWilliams** in the midst of the forest. <> **Bill Lothspeich** giving out big thank you. **Friday**, looks and feels like rain, 50-55. **Saturday**, showers, 49-62. **Sunday**, may be dry, but cloudy, 49-68.