

Council for the Homeless names Hope and Action Award winners

Four 2008 Home and Action Award winners have been announced by the Council for the Homeless. The awards will be presented at the council's recognition luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 26, in the Hilton Vancouver Washington.

The winners are as follows:

Community Advocate Award, **Tom Iberle**, volunteer coordinator for the winter shelter program. Iberle is also a volunteer coordinator for Friends of the Carpenter and a member of the Share board of directors.

Quiet Hero Award, **Ken Burris**, a work-study student from Clark College at the Emergency Shelter Clearinghouse.

Community Partner Award, **Peggy Sheehan**, community development manager for the City of Vancouver. Sheehan coordinates agencies which are working on the Ten-Year Plan to end homelessness.

Community Partner Award, **Karen Evans**, coordinator for Clark County's Community Action Program, which is also leading efforts for the Ten-Year Plan.

A Community Volunteers Award will be presented to the City of Vancouver employees who raised start-up funding for Evergreen Public Schools' Homeless Education Program.

Special recognition will be conferred on the volunteers of Project Homeless Connect, consisting of more than 300 people who have served homeless people or people at risk of becoming homeless.

Tickets for the award luncheon are \$30 for council members and \$35 for nonmembers. Reservations may be made by calling **993-9561**.

Parks Foundation growth increases gifts to parks

An increase of more than 150 percent in membership and a variety of funding partnerships, including a bequest from the Theodore Barney estate, has provided the Parks Foundation of Clark County with the wherewith-all to finance \$83,000 in support for parks and recreation programs in 2008, according to **Cheri Martin**, Parks Foundation executive director.

Specific programs are the Rudy Luekpe Senior Center, the Everybody Plays scholarship program and the Access to Recreation Program. In, addition the Parks Foundation has pledged \$10,000 in support of the Chelatchie Trail project.

For further information, call Martin at **693-7050**.

Calendar

The Southwest Washington Blood Program is holding a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, in the parking lot at the Albertson Store at 2108 W Main Street, Battle Ground.

Thursday on the air

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—6 p.m. CVTV

Telecommunications Commission (9/3)—9 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver City Council Workshop (8/25)—11:30 p.m.' CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Kathy Kniep keynoting. <> **Lea Marie Pfau** envisioning Santa Cougar. <> **Greg Jones's** Rocketshop rocketing right along. <> **Joni McAnally** giving space to creek trio.<> **Susan Holton** promoting campfires and candle light. <> **Thursday**, mostly sunny, 56-78. **Friday**, partly cloudy, 59-82. **Saturday**, partly cloudy, 57-79.

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Alisa Pyszka named Vancouver business development manager

Alisa Pyszka has been appointed business development manager for the City of Vancouver's Economic Development Department, according to city manager **Pat McDonnell**.

Gerald Baugh, who had held that position previously is an economic development manager for the Portland Development Commission.

Pyszka will focus on the development and implementation of Vancouver's business recruitment, marketing, retention, expansion and target industry program by working directly with businesses to establish, or retain, their operations in the city.

Pyszka has over 10 years of private sector experience as a development consultant and two years in planning in the public sector. Most recently, Pyszka was a senior project manager for WRG Design, Inc., a Portland-based development consulting firm where she managed a variety of projects, including the redevelopment of the Evergreen Airport in east Vancouver.

Pyszka is a graduate of Miami University and earned a masters degree in urban planning from the University of Kansas. She is also LEED-accredited by the U.S. Green Building Council.



Alisa Pyszka

Attorney general wants Clark County natural gas customers to remonstrate

Washington State attorney general **Rob McKenna's** Public Counsel Section, which represents the public in utility rate cases, wants NW Natural customers to tell state decision-makers what they think about the company's proposed rate hikes.

Monthly bills now arriving in the mail for Clark County natural gas customers will include a notice with details of the proposed increase, as well as a detachable comment form for customers to use to share their opinions with state regulators. Customers also have a chance to speak out during public hearing in Vancouver on November 13.

Portland-based NW Natural wants to raise rates for its approximately 65,000 customers in the three Columbia River counties.

In March 2008, NW Natural filed a request with the state Utilities and Transportation Commission to take in an additional \$4.3 million from natural gas customers in Washington. The company proposed new usage rates and requested to raise the monthly customer charge, which all customers pay regardless of how much gas they use, from \$5 to \$12. If approved, average residential customers would see a nearly 6.3 percent increase in their monthly bills.

NW Natural also wants to adopt "revenue decoupling." Decoupling allows utilities to pass along a surcharge to customers to make up for lost revenue that results when customers use less energy.

Public Counsel section chief **Simon ffitich** said the company's overall revenue is expanding due to growth in its service territory.

"If NW Natural introduces revenue decoupling, customers who conserve energy could end up paying a surcharge," ffitich said. "We also oppose NW Natural's request to increase the fixed monthly charge by 140 percent. This penalizes low-volume users."

NW Natural customers have the opportunity to address the UTC at a public comment hearing in Vancouver at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, in Clark Public Utilities' community room at 1200 Fort Vancouver Way.

For further information, call **(800) 562-6150**.