

Welcome, Salmon Creek Grand Opening



Vancouver police to cut specialized units to focus on patrol positions

To ensure proper police patrol staffing, the Vancouver Police Department is considering assigning specialized or focused enforcement unit personnel to the patrol division, reports police chief **Clifford Cook**.

These and other changes planned for the department will be presented to residents in the West Precinct at a forum at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, in Discovery Middle School. The West Precinct covers most of Vancouver west of Andresen Road.

According to Cook, the Vancouver Police Department must reduce its budget by \$2.3 million for the 2009-2010 biennium as part of the overall reduction in city expenditures, expected to reach \$6 million for the biennium.

Anticipated budget cuts are the result of the current recession, but the police department has been operating below Federal Bureau of Investigation guidelines.

Cook says: "Since 1997 the Vancouver Police Department's police officer staffing level has been reduced from a high of 1.9 officers per thousand citizens to a current low of 1.2 officers per thousand. The FBI recommendation is 2.5 officers per thousand, and the national average is 2.0 officers per thousand citizens.

"Although we have managed to reduce crime in some areas, those efforts have primarily been successful through the use of specialized field units, such as the Career Criminal Apprehension Team, two Neighborhood Response Teams and membership in the regional Gang, Drug, Domestic Violence and Crimes Against Children task forces.

"These types of units are extremely effective in reducing crime and criminal behavior. However, the end result is a debilitating cost to our basic patrol services and detective divisions."

Cook continues, "Currently our patrol division is inadequately staffed to meet ongoing service demands and insure officer field safety."

The department is also considering the elimination of two Neighborhood Response Teams, reduction of 8 police officer positions in the motorcycle and traffic car units, reduction by one police officer in the K9 Unit, and elimination of the property crimes detective unit.

Southwest names new breast care center in honor of local survivor

Southwest Washington Medical Center's new \$5.6 million breast care center will be named the Kearney Breast Care Center in honor of local philanthropists **Lee and Connie Kearney**.

The Kearneys were among the first to contribute to the fundraising campaign, pledging \$2.5 million in support of a new breast care facility. Connie is a member of the Southwest Foundation board and a 10-year breast cancer survivor. Lee is a Southwest Washington Health System board member.

The Kearney Breast Care Center will nearly double the size of the medical center's current facility. It will be on the 4th floor of the Physicians' Pavilion on the medical center's Mill Plain campus.

"I know the importance of proper diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, as well as the emotional impact it has on women and their families," says Connie Kearney. "We believe in supporting a facility that combines the finest medical expertise and technology with a genuine desire to protect the emotional well-being of its patients."

From screenings to diagnostics to consultations, the center offers integrated medical services in a spa-like setting. The center will also accommodate a host of complementary services such as therapy rooms for massage and meditation.

"The Kearney Breast Care Center will be a women's health center that goes beyond breast screening and diagnosis," according to **Sherril Allen**, Breast Care Center manager. "The facility gives us room to put our staff,



Connie and Lee Kearney

diagnostic services, and complementary support services under one roof.”

In addition to the Kearneys’ gift the center has received more than \$4 million in other community support, including more than \$4 million the *Pink Power Gone Wild!* fundraising campaign.

For further information, call **514-3106**, or go to www.pinkpowersw.org.

County commissioner candidate forum at WSU Vancouver Friday

A Clark County commissioner candidate forum has been set for 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, at Washington State University Vancouver.

Sponsors of the forum, in addition to WSU Vancouver, are the Building Industry Association of Clark County, the Clark County Association of Realtors and the Washington Farm Bureau.

The forum will be moderated by **Marvin Case**, publisher of *The Reflector*. Candidates expected to participate are **Pam Brokaw** and **Tom Mielke**, candidates for District 1, and incumbent **Marc Boldt**, and Vancouver city councilperson **Jeanne Harris**.

For further information, call **694-0933**.

Calendar

The Regional Transportation Council has cancelled today’s meeting. <> The board of Clark County commissioners meets in an informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in conference room B in the Public Service Center.

Tuesday on the air

49th District, Position 2 Candidates—3:45 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Chamber of Commerce Installation—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Election 2008: Candidate Forum (live)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Economy in Motion (9/26)—8:30 p.m. CVTV

Jack Nisbet: Columbia River History (9/24)—11:15 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Liz and **Steve Miesen** saying hello. <> **Jordan Miesen** captivating. <> **David Pitonyak** headlining *The Buzz*. <> **Bill Knight** offering the essence of **Dave Barry**. <> **Rob Palena** joining the A-List. <> **Tuesday**, possible morning showers, 45-63. **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, 46-61. **Thursday**, cold showers, 45-53.