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**Two-day conference on city open spaces
culminates this evening in public meeting**

How Vancouver can continue to create vibrant public spaces: internationally known public spaces expert **Fred Kent** will discuss this in a public session at 6 p.m. this evening in the Red Cross Building, 605 Barnes Road in Vancouver Barracks.

Kent has been in Vancouver the past two days meeting with groups of people who advocate "vibrant public spaces." New opportunities to create new public spaces are being boosted by development of the Boise Cascade waterfront property, the proposed new I-5 Columbia River crossing, RiverWest in downtown Vancouver, and high-capacity transit.

Kent is founder and president of Project for Public Spaces. For further information, call **Gerald Baugh, 735-8805**, or **Jane Kleiner, 619-1113**.

**Construction begins on another
WSU Vancouver classroom**

Continuing to grow as a full four-year campus, Washington State University Vancouver will begin construction in late January on a new undergraduate classroom building. The university awarded the project to Triplett Wellman of Woodburn, Ore., based on its bid of \$16,234,328. Completion is planned for the fall of 2009. The building was designed by Thomas Hacker Architects of Portland.

The project consists of approximately 55,500 gross square feet of space, including thirteen general classrooms of various sizes, two computer labs, and faculty office and administrative support space for the College of Education.

The new building and its surroundings have been designed as WSU Vancouver's first Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design-certified project, earning the LEED silver level distinction under the Green Building Rating System. In addition to continuing the use of building materials common with other campus buildings, the building's interior finish will also feature wood ceiling paneling harvested on-site from a large Douglas fir tree required to be removed.

"This building will finally give us a permanent home for our programs in education," said WSU Vancouver Chancellor **Hal Dengerink**. "But most importantly it provides some of the additional classrooms that we need to accommodate our four-year students."

**Battle Ground taking applications
for city council position**

To fill Position 2 vacancy on the Battle Ground City Council, the city is accepting applications through Friday, Jan. 25.

Applicants must be registered voters in Clark County and to have resided within the Battle Ground city limits for at least a year.

The term expires in Dec. 31, 2008. For further information, call **342-5008**.

**Citizen Emergency Response Team
offering training for new members**

The Clark County Citizen Emergency Response Team is offering training and soliciting for new members to help the community to be better prepared for disaster.

The CERT, a coalition that includes the Vancouver Fire Department and Clark Count Fire District 6, offers the following curriculum:

Disaster Preparedness/Terrorism. Light Search and Rescue Operations, Disaster Fire Suppression. Disaster



**\$16 million WSU Vancouver classroom will provide
additional class space for four-year students.**

Psychology/Team Organization and Disaster Medical Operations, Part I & II. Disaster Exercise.

The deadline to register for the January and February classes is Friday, Jan. 25. CERT recommends that attendees come as neighborhood teams. Cost of the training is \$20. For further information, call **Leah Edwards**, 576-1195.

Clark County Law Library extends public hours

Because public use of the Clark County Law Library has been increasing over the past two years, public hours are being extended from 20 to 30 a week, reports law librarian Maria **Sosnowski**.

New public hours for the law library in the first floor of the Clark County Courthouse, 1200 Franklin Street, are 10 a. m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The library is closed on the fourth Thursday of each month until 1 p.m.

News brief

The 49th District legislative delegation is holding a town hall meeting from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Jan. 12, in the sixth floor hearing room in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. Presenters are 49th District Democrats Sen. **Craig Pridemore** and state Reps. **Bill Fromhold** and **Jim Moeller**.

Calendar

Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet in regular session at 6 p.m. this evening in port offices at 111 W. Division Street. <> **Rivkah Loewus** leads an Open Microphone Poetry Night in the Vancouver Community Library, 1007 E Mill Plain Boulevard, at 7 p.m. this evening. <> The Puget Sound Blood Center is conducting blood drives Thursday, Jan. 10, from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of Underwriters Laboratories, 2600 NW Lake Road, Camas, and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the City of Vancouver Operations Center, 4711 Fourth Plain Boulevard. <>

Wednesday on the air

Port of Vancouver Commissioners (1/8)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Golden State at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. CSN, KXL

Washougal Transfer Station Hearing (12/6)—7:30 p.m. CVTV

Columbia River Crossing Task Force Meeting (11/27)—9:15 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

The birth last night of **Tristan Patrick Small**, 9 pounds, five ounces, to **Kris** and **Jennifer Small**, made grandparents of **John** and **Anne McDonagh**. <> **Warren Cook** searching for counter. <> **Duke Simpson** sharpening tools. <> **Lee Davis** on the horn again. <> **Wednesday**, showers likely, 40-45. **Thursday**, rain, 43-50. **Friday**, showers, 44-51.