

## **Clark Public Utilities, Clark County and the City of Vancouver kick off \$1 million energy conservation effort**

Clark Public Utilities, Clark County, and the City of Vancouver have joined together to offer a pilot energy conservation program for eligible homes and businesses in the Hazel Dell area and Fourth Plain corridor, thanks to \$1 million in federal stimulus funding awarded by the state.

**Larry Blaufus**, senior manager of energy services and technologies for the utility, said the program, called Project Energy Savings, would get under way in March when Hazel Dell neighborhood volunteers will canvass the pilot area between Northeast Minnehaha and Northeast 68th streets east of Interstate 5.

In Rose Village and Fourth Plain Village, staff from Americans Building Community and volunteers will canvass these neighborhoods in the pilot area, which is bounded by I-5, SR-500, Burnt Bridge Creek, and Fourth Plain.

Volunteers will share energy conservation information and schedule an energy audit, which could lead to financial assistance for weatherizing homes and small businesses of those who meet eligibility requirements.

These neighborhoods will kick off Project Energy Savings with an Energy Fair from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, at Hazel Dell Elementary School, 511 N.E. Anderson Road. Clark Public Utilities energy counselors and weatherization contractors will discuss and demonstrate energy-saving measures for the home. There will be door prizes, refreshments and children's activities.

A Clark Public Utilities energy counselor will provide an energy conservation kit along with a complete analysis of qualifying homes and businesses. The analysis will provide a detailed energy consumption report and customized action plan for efficiency improvements. The audit will identify ways to save money and energy, and include a list of available cash incentives for efficiency improvements. Among the conservation improvements are installation of insulation, duct sealing, and air sealing.

The program is open to those who live in the targeted areas with combined household incomes that are above requirements for low-income weatherization programs. For a family of four, that's \$3,675 a month. For a two-person household, the minimum is \$2,428. Customers with lower incomes may be eligible for other conservation programs offered by the utility and Clark County.

This program will pay for some energy conservation measures. Clark Public Utilities has weatherization and appliance rebates, as well as low-interest loans for additional improvements.

For more information, contact Clark Public Utilities at 992-3345 or visit [www.clarkpublicutilities.com](http://www.clarkpublicutilities.com).

## **County calls for district court judge applications by March 1**

Clark County is accepting applications to fill a vacancy created by the recent resignation of District Court Judge **Rich Melnick**, who was appointed by Gov. **Chris Gregoire** to succeed retiring Superior Court Judge **Robert Harris**.

To qualify, candidates must be registered voters of Clark County and lawyers admitted to practice in the state of Washington. They must obtain and complete a questionnaire from the Board of County Commissioners' Office on the sixth floor of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St. There is no charge for the questionnaire, on paper or on disk, but it is not available by mail.

Completed questionnaires must arrive on paper at the Commissioners' Office by 5 p.m. on March 1. Email and faxes will not be accepted.

After the deadline, a list of qualified applicants will be forwarded to the Clark County Bar Association and to the Washington Women Lawyers for preference polling. Results of the polling will be provided to a screening committee, which will interview each applicant. The committee will recommend a group of finalists to be interviewed by the commissioners, who are expected to make an appointment by March 31.

The screening committee will include County Administrator **Bill Barron**, retired Superior Court Judges **James Ladley** and **John Skimas**, and local attorney and past president of the bar association, **Jean McCoy**.

"District Court is a key element of our local law and justice system," says Barron. "This process has served us well in identifying excellent candidates in the past, and we look forward to filling this vacancy very quickly."

Under state law, the newly appointed judge must run for election at the next general election, which will be held in November.

**Walk and Knock breaks record**

Over 162 tons of food and over \$50,000 were collected during the 25th anniversary of the Walk and Knock Food Drive. All food and cash donations were delivered to Clark County Food Banks. This new record easily smashes the previous record of 155 tons of food, which was set in 2002.

Plans are underway for next year's food drive, which is set to begin, as always, on the first Saturday of December, in this case, December 4, 2010. For more information or to volunteer, visit [www.walkandknock.org](http://www.walkandknock.org) or contact 1-877-995-6625.

**News Briefs**

Salmon Creek Kiwanis offers a Valentine's Day concert coupled with the chance to help needy families and children by attending the club's sixth consecutive winter fund-raising concert featuring the Misty River Band. The Misty River Band, a popular fixture on the Northwest folk, country, bluegrass and Celtic music scene, will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, at Skyview High School. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the following locations: All Salmon Creek Kiwanis Club members; all Columbian Credit Union branches; Music World, 502 E. Main Street, Battle Ground; Music World, 7916 NE 6th Avenue, Hazel Dell; Beacock Music, 1420 SE 163rd Avenue, Vancouver; River City Music, 13215 SE Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver; Garside Florist, 6610 E. Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver. Same-day sales (\$18): 2:15 p.m., Feb. 14, Skyview High School, 1300 NW 139th Street, Vancouver. For more information about Misty River, visit [www.mistyriverband.com](http://www.mistyriverband.com). For concert and Kiwanis information, call **Darrell** at 693-7981, **Ron** at 699-1234, or **Gregg** at 574-3747.

**Calendar**

The Parks Advisory Board meets at 6:30 p.m. tonight, Feb. 9, in the Battle Ground Community Center, 912 East Main Street. For more information, call 342-5385. <> La Center Planning Commission meets from 7 to 9 p.m. tonight, Feb. 9, in City Council chambers, 214 East 4th Street. <> There will be a Parks Advisory Board meeting held from 7 to 10 p.m. tonight, Feb. 9, in the Ridgefield Community Center, 210 N Main Avenue. <> Washougal Planning Commission meets for a work session at 5:30 p.m. today, Feb. 9. <> A ribbon-cutting for the Siler Star Travel's 10th year anniversary will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. today, Feb. 9, 7513 NE Fourth Plain Road. Call 694-2588 for more information. <> Fort Vancouver Regional Library Board of Trustees meets for a special meeting at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, in the Cascade Park Community Library, 600 NE 136th Avenue.

**Tuesday on the air**

Vancouver Housing Authority: Housing Matters (2-7)--4:30 p.m. CVTV  
Election 2010: The Clark County Republican Party 2010 Lincoln Day Celebration (2-6)--5 p.m. CVTV  
2010 Annual Port Re:Port (2-4)--7 p.m. CVTV  
Vancouver Planning Commission (1-26)--8 p.m. CVTV  
The National Football Foundation & College Scholarship Hall of Fame Clark County Chapter (1-20)--8:30 p.m. CVTV  
Clark County Animal Control Hearings (1-13)--10:30 p.m. CVTV

**Town Tabloids and Weather**

**Lisa Silveira** promoting high-end beauty brands. <> **Harold Shields** preparing to take on middle-schoolers.<>. **Tuesday**, partly cloudy, 57-37. **Wednesday**, p.m. showers, 48-44. **Thursday**, rain, 56-46.