

### **Port of Vancouver “Delivers Possibilities” at Port Re:Port**

Economic development is happening, on the ground now at the Port of Vancouver USA, and that’s the theme for Thursday’s Port Re:Port, “Delivering Possibilities”.

Port Re:Port, the annual state of the port breakfast, will be held from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, at the Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay.

In his State of the Port Address, Executive Director **Larry Paulson** will cite evidence of the types of economic development and jobs currently happening at the port—which calls itself the “Port of Possibility”. He will also review the port’s cargo performance for 2009 and provide a look into 2010’s expected performance.

As an example of the economic impact delivered by the port in 2009, two Vancouver firms—HDJ Design Group and BergerABAM—have sustained jobs as a result of development of port properties, including Terminal 5 and the former Rufener Farm, now known as Centennial Industrial Park, despite the troubled times presented by the economy.

Thanks to port projects, both firms sustained jobs including the high-visibility construction-related jobs including surveyors, engineers and planners, but also behind-the-scenes positions such as information technology, administrative support and other jobs related to the daily operations of business not directly tied to construction.

“Keeping these jobs here in our community is important,” says HDJ Design Group’s **Greg Jellison**. “Most of our staff lives and spends money in this community. It keeps our economy going.”

Current port projects include the construction of the Terminal 5 Unit Train Facility (Rotschy, Inc. of Yacolt, more than 100 jobs); deconstruction of the buildings on the former Rufener Farm—now Centennial Industrial Park—property (15-20 jobs); and various other projects around the port that total another 35-40 jobs. Bonneville Power Administration also has jobs on the ground in the Vancouver Lowlands decommissioning and dismantling the substation that formerly served Alcoa Aluminum on the property that is now the port’s Terminal 5.

“Economic development is really the heart of this story,” says BergerABAM’s **Helen Devery**. “Jobs provided by the Port of Vancouver’s development are providing the economic activity that this community badly needs. In fact, the port is one of the few bright spots that keep this community’s recovery moving forward.”

Construction of the port’s West Vancouver Freight Access rail project will account for as many as 1,900 construction and construction-related jobs. At full build-out, the port expects as many as 1,000 permanent jobs to occupy the 218-acre Terminal 5.

The 58-acre Centennial Industrial Park, which is ready for development and zoned light industrial, would support hundreds of jobs as well.

Port tenant Great Western Malting is also preparing for major construction of new facilities within its own leasehold, providing engineering jobs today at the east end of the port property.

Paulson will also report that while some commodities – particularly steel, lumber, and aluminum, among others – were down in 2009 due to the global economy, others – including wind energy components, heavy lift project cargo, steel scrap and malted barley – continue to grow.

From the Port Commission’s perspective, Oliver will highlight the policy work and flexibility in business operations, helping tenants navigate the economic storm. Oliver is also expected to talk about fiscal responsibility, recalling the commission’s leadership to pay for port development as it goes – rather than all at once.

Port Re:Port will be taped for later cablecast by CVTV. The show will also be made available online at [www.cvtv.org](http://www.cvtv.org).

### **Walk MS—Walking near you!**

Thousands are expected to come out and help raise multiple sclerosis awareness and more than \$600,000 at this year’s MS walk. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Oregon Chapter will celebrate Walk MS 2010 in 10 communities across Oregon and SW Washington during two weekends in April. Funds raised will support direct services for over 7,000 people with MS and their families in Oregon and SW Washington, and national MS research to find a cure for this chronic disease of the central nervous system.

“Walk MS is the epitome of community events, with sites and festivities taking place in 10 corners of the Pacific Northwest,” says **Jennifer Mains**, Walk MS Coordinator for the Oregon Chapter. “Though location

alone doesn't make an event--passionate participants and truly dedicated Community Walk Captains are the key component to creating hometown Walk MS events that we're so proud of. These volunteer leaders know their neighborhoods, know their walkers, and work so hard to raise awareness and funds for their friends, family and neighbors living with MS."

Walk MS at the Vancouver location will be Saturday, April 10 at 10 a.m., Red Lion at the Quay, 100 Columbia Street.

All walks are fully accessible, 5k walk routes, with refreshments and entertainment along the way.

To register individually or as a team, volunteer for Walk MS, or a list of other locations visit

[www.walkMSoregon.com](http://www.walkMSoregon.com) or call 800-344-4867.

### Give someone the gift of life by donating blood this Valentines Day

Southwest Washington Blood program is having a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, inside Westfield Mall, on the upper level across from Nordstrom, 87000 NE Vancouver Mall Drive.

The need for volunteers is urgent as inventory levels have dropped by more than 20% after the holidays and have reached alert and critical levels (less than a 2 day supply) of three different blood types (A Pos, O Neg & B Neg). O negative has dropped by 40%, and B negative by 50%. All blood types are needed every day.

There are many appointment slots left open. To donate, visit <http://www.psb.org/programs/drive.asp?URL=1606>, and sign up online or or call Yvette at 567-4810 and make an appointment. Walk-ins are also accepted.

### News Briefs

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's will host its annual fund-raiser, "Symphony Stems & Steins" at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, in the grand ballroom of the Hilton Vancouver in downtown Vancouver. Preparations are being made for the annual symphony auction and dinner, which will include beer and wine tasting, Spanish-inspired treats and featured entertainers Maestro **Salvador Brotons** and vocalist **Valerie Day**. Cost of individual tickets are \$50, and tables can be purchased for \$750, which offer attendees added benefits as well as reserved seating. Both can be purchased online at [www.vancouversymphony.org/](http://www.vancouversymphony.org/) or by calling the VSO office at 735-7278.

### Calendar

La Center City Council will be holding a work session at 6 p.m. tonight, Feb. 3 in La Center City Hall, 214 E 4th Street. <> A park board meeting is being held at 4:30 p.m. tonight, Feb. 3, in Washougal City Council chambers. <> Loaves and Fishes will be serving hot meals to senior citizens from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in the La Center Community Center, 1000 E 4th Street. <> Noting the high percentage of people out of work in Clark County and related reports of hardship, County Commissioner **Steve Stuart** is urging members of the community to bring donations of non-perishable food to the 2010 State of the County event to be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, at Skyview High School, 1300 N.W. 139th St., in the Salmon Creek area just north of Vancouver. The Salvation Army will have representatives on hand to collect donations and forward them to local food banks as people gather.

### Wednesday on the air

School Finance 101 - The Role Levies Play in Public Education (2-2)--4 p.m. CVTV  
Clark County Animal Control Hearings (1-13)--6 p.m. CVTV  
Councilmember Pat Jollota Community Reception (1-12)--7:20 p.m. CVTV  
VPD All Access: Neighborhood Police Officers--8 p.m. CVTV  
Vancouver Housing Authority: Housing Matters (1-3)--8:30 p.m. CVTV  
Forum: Emergency Preparedness for Clark County (1-21)--9 p.m. CVTV  
Washington State Jail Industries Board: Working Inside-Out--10:31 p.m. CVTV  
Vancouver Planning Commission (1-26)--11 p.m.  
City Minutes (1-24)--11:25 p.m. CVTV

### Town Tabloids and Weather

**Rebecca Gomez-Millner** playing detective. <> **Thomas Herring** busy creating a masterpiece. <>  
**Wednesday**, showers, 49-43. **Thursday**, showers, 50-45. **Friday**, showers, 59-43.