



LEWIS AND CLARK WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS January/February 2012

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The City of Vancouver supports the Neighborhood Associations in their effort to share vital information with residents to create a more informed public. However, the information provided and the opinions and views expressed in this neighborhood newsletter or other documents do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Vancouver, nor does the City determine whether the information published is accurate or appropriate.

Next General Meeting:

May 24, 2012 Thursday 7-8 pm
Neighborhood Meeting at
Riverview Grade School
In the Forum - See you there!

Letter from the Chair:

Our next general meeting is Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 7pm at Riverview Elementary.

On the agenda is discussing our upcoming green waste event and neighborhood garage sale. As always, you will also have a chance to volunteer to help in upcoming & ongoing events.

Garage Sale – June 2nd
Green Waste Event – June 23rd

Also, we will be taking nominations for Board positions for the 2012/2013 year. Our next election will be at the May 24th meeting.

Know that the four of us on the Board cannot do it all. We rely on help from you! There are many opportunities to take part in making your neighborhood even better:

- Great writer?** Help write articles for upcoming newsletters.
- Love meeting new people?** Help be the welcome wagon for new neighbors.
- Want to help those in need?** Help us start a “neighbors helping neighbors” program (small repairs, put up holiday lights, etc.).
- Pass the bar exam? Have a baby? New graduate in the house?** Send us your achievements and let us dote congrats on you!
- Born leader?** We can always use your skills.

The Lewis & Clark Woods Neighborhood Association Board
wishes to thank the families who have made contributions for 2011.
These contributions help us to build a fund to do more things for you!

Those who still wish to contribute may send it to:
Lewis & Clark Woods Neighborhood Association, ATTN: Leslie Keating, 13804 SE
Angus St.

(Past contributions have been \$20 per family.)

Safe Kids - OHSU announces free safety videos for parents

A resource provided through the Partnerships for Healthy Neighborhoods Coalition:

Young children are particularly vulnerable to fire and heat related injury and trauma in the home - including burns, scalds and electrical injuries - so Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and the International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services (iWomen) created two free instructional videos for parents. The 20 minute videos are available in English and Spanish at www.safemoms.org.

Visit Your Clark County Historical Museum – FOR FREE!

The museum is open free from 5 to 9 p.m. the first Thursday of each month February – November for First Thursday Museum After Hours. While you're there, check out the wonderful exhibits...

Working with Tradition: Folk Artists of Washington State – Discover long held international cultural traditions “made by hand” from folk artisans around the state. This interpretive exhibit, from the Washington State Historical Society’s Traveling Exhibit Service, is supplemented with a variety of folk art from the Museum’s own collection.

Road to Equality: The Struggle for Women’s Rights in the Northwest. Time is running short to see this exhibit of the centennial of Washington State women gaining the right to vote on November 8, 1910. From the victory of the 19th Amendment to the struggle to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, many women – and men as well – worked their entire adult lives to secure women’s rights. This exhibit will challenge as well as entertain as you learn more about some of the Northwest’s heroines and heroes from pioneer times until today. Sponsors Margaret Colf Hepola, The Columbian, and Vancouver Business Journal helped make this exhibit possible.

The Clark County Historical Museum is located in Vancouver’s 1909 Carnegie Library building. Regular museum hours are Tuesday – Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission fees apply. A wheelchair accessible entrance to the museum is located on the east side of the museum building off 16th street.

Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main St., Vancouver, (360) 993-5679; www.cchmuseum.org

Thinking about warmer weather? Reserve Picnic Shelters beginning Feb. 1

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation will begin taking picnic shelter reservations starting at **7 a.m.**

Wednesday, Feb. 1 for events occurring this year.

Reservations will be taken by phone at 360-487-7100, or in person at the Marshall Community Center, at 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver. The center will open at 5:30 a.m. on Feb. 1.

Picnic shelters available to reserve:

- Lewisville Regional Park (13 shelters)
- Vancouver Lake Regional Park (2 shelters)
- Frenchman’s Bar Regional Park (2 shelters)
- Captain William Clark Regional Park at Cottonwood Beach (2 shelters)
- Salmon Creek Regional Park/Klinline Pond (2 shelters)
- Leverich Community Park (1 shelter)
- Marshall Community Park (1 shelter – new for 2012)

Reservations cost \$25 to \$100 per day, depending on the size of the shelter. The fees are used to help pay for parks maintenance and operations. Shelters not reserved will remain available on a first-come, first-served basis at no charge, as are shelters in all other county or city-owned parks.

For more information, including reservation fees for specific shelters, visit www.vanclarkparks-rec.org.

Select “Picnic Shelter Reservations” from the “Parks & Trails” menu.

Notes from the 12/1/11 Neighborhood Leadership Meeting with the City Manager Vancouver Fire Service: Now and In the Future

Chief Molina gave the 2010 Response Report. He emphasized the importance of working smoke detectors in every residence in the neighborhood and talked about how this has been a major focus in the last year- firefighters and volunteers have installed smoke alarms in 1,000 area homes. He mentioned the importance of being trained in CPR and the use of AEDs and talked about how we are exploring new ways of delivering fire services to citizens. He reviewed the fire stations and said all are being reevaluated for the most optimal locations. Four of our stations surveyed would currently not survive an earthquake and need to be retrofitted; one is the station we are in tonight; another was built in 1934 and one is the closed station we just reopened recently. As we consider the need to replace fire stations, we also are looking for how to be more efficient - are these in the best location since they were built decades ago and the population has grown since then?

City Manager Eric Holmes spoke about state tax reforms over time and the impact of those reforms, reducing the City's general fund available to provide services. The structural deficit in the City budget does not even keep up with inflation - had existed since the 1990's and was masked by growth in real estate market revenues and development construction activities. Three different tax reforms had a significant impact on the city budget and then the construction industry took a downturn, beginning in 2007. Mr. Holmes also explained that the City must balance its budget, and in order to do so the city has reduced expenses by over \$30 million and 20% of its workforce over the last three years to compensate. Every service and department in the City has been impacted.

Most recently, the city was faced with the decision to reopen a closed fire station. A federal grant was applied for and received, but there were certain strings attached that would have increased the City's deficit once the grant expired. After a successful negotiation with the firefighters union to help contain some of the City's long term costs, Station 6 was re-opened. The federal grant is only a temporary fix for two years, the City is also looking at finding new efficiencies and asking for input from experts in business, labor, academia and the community.

Can we deliver services more efficiently? How do we measure success? In both fire and all other City departments these are important questions to ask, as we change with the times. The City has been making substantial changes to adapt. We are still assessing our community's needs in this new economy and determining how we are doing to meet those needs amidst long term economic challenges. We need feedback on how best to do that. The City offers a wide variety of services but we can't do everything we did in the past. Aligning our services with the highest needs, changing how we do business and adapting over time is vitally important.

Q&A from the group:

- A suggestion was made that when the city is asking about service priorities it would be helpful to present it with a forced ranking approach, to better identify the priorities.
 - Structural deficit explained.
 - Two different types of expenses:
 - Capital -- money to be spent on "brick and mortar" projects -- buildings, roads, specific capital projects, money that legally cannot be diverted to other needs; investments for generations to come
 - Operational -- "running the business" expenses. Labor, supplies, equipment. Are we providing service the best way we can?
 - CRC, biomass, baseball -- these are not City projects, city money has not been spent on these projects. Staff time in planning, permitting and policy is required to evaluate the community needs of these larger, regional capital projects if they are approved. These are federal, state or county projects that we can influence but are not City projects and our dollars are not being spent on them.
 - The City of Vancouver does have an obligation to cover the debt payment of the Hilton if necessary. The funds used are from Lodging Tax dollars and not the general fund and are specifically dedicated to the Hilton.
 - Jan. 17 Council Forum -- details will be coming soon via email and the Office of Neighborhoods Weekly Update. Fire Marshal Heidi Scarpelli -- explained the Fire Corps program and encouraged leaders to take the information back to their associations, along with a call for volunteers.
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