

City council considering updating utilities billing system, allowing credit card payment

The Vancouver City Council will consider updating its 20-year-old utilities billing system during its 6 p.m. meeting today. The new system would allow customers to pay water and sewer bills by credit and debit cards, electronic funds transfer and automatic withdrawals.

If approved, the first phase of the new system would become operational in September.

The second phase, which would become operational in the first quarter of 2007, would allow payments by internet and telephone.

The city expects that the only impact on city revenues from the new system would be a slight increase due to the imposition of late fees.

County's comprehensive growth plan draft EIS completed, comment solicited

A draft Environmental Impact Statement that examines planning alternatives for housing, industry and commerce has been completed and is up for public review, reports **Martin Snell**, director for Clark County Planning.

County commissioners are expected to incorporate a final planning alternative in its revised Comprehensive Growth Management Plan currently under review. The final plan, which covers growth issues for the next 20 years, is expected to be adopted by the end of this year. The draft EIS can be viewed on the internet by going to www.clark.wa.gov/longrangeplan/review/eis-draft.html. The document is also available on a CD for \$5 from the permit center in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street.

Comments on the draft environmental statement must be received by the county by Monday, Sept. 25.

Comments can be mailed to DEIS Comments, Clark County Planning, P.O. Box 9810, Vancouver, WA 98666-9810, or emailed to compplan@clark.wa.gov.

County commissioners will hold a series of open house meetings on the draft plan beginning Monday, Sept. 11, in Battle Ground.

Local waste water treatment plants get perfect scores

Vancouver's Marine Park and the city's Westside waste water treatment facilities, along with the Woodland and Ridgefield waste water treatment facilities, were among 47 of the state's 305 waste water treatment facilities getting a perfect rating from the state Department of Ecology.

The Department of Ecology will present Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant awards at the Vancouver facilities at noon, Thursday, Aug. 31.

Richard Sample retiring

Richard Sample, executive director of Columbia Non-Profit Housing, is retiring at the end of this month, following nine years of service.



During his tenure, Sample was responsible for the development of 800 housing units for low income, elderly and disabled clients. The most recent addition is the Walnut Grove 64-unit senior housing project.

Sample also supervised the First Home Loan Program, which over the past nine years provided 530 home loans in Clark County.

A farewell reception for Sample is 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31, in the community room of the Vancouver Housing Authority office, 2500 Main Street.

News brief

Unregistered voters have until 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1, to register for the Sept. 19 primary election. Registration can be accomplished by going to the county Elections Department, 1408 Franklin Street.

Richard Sample

Calendar

The Vancouver City council meets in a special session at 6 p.m. today to consider a series of annexations and a revised city services billing procedure. ≈ Clark County commissioners meet in regular session at 10 a.m. Tuesday. ≈ The Clark County commissioners are holding three work sessions Tuesday, Aug. 29. At 11 a.m.

commissioners will discuss the Open Space plan. At 2 p.m. commissioners will discuss Ridgefield sewer planning and expansion. At 3 p.m. commissioners will discuss the Metropolitan Parks District Plan.

Monday Headlines

[Voters must decide--Republican or Democratic ballots--when returning mail votes in September 19 primary--Columbian, **Kathis Dubrin**](#)
[Homeless shelter residents get jobs at area collections agency--Columbian, **Kelly Adams**](#)
[Good time had by all at Firstenburg Community Center celebration--Columbian, **Jose Paul Corona**](#)
[Music, vino lure big crowd to Wine & Jazz Festival--Columbian, **Howard Buck**](#)
[DNA does not match in JonBenet case, suspect released--USA TODAY, AP](#)
[Storm \(Ernesto\) batters cuba--USA TODAY](#)
[Bush touring Katerina destruction in gulf coast--New York times, AP](#)
[Shiite militia clashes with Iraqi troops; bomb kills 13 in Baghdad; eight American soldiers die in past two days--New York Times, **Damien Cave**](#)
[Calderon nears victory in Mexico as court backs presidential election--Washington Post, **Reuters, Chris Aspin and Kieran Murray**](#)

Monday on the air

...Vancouver City Council Workshop (8/21)—3:30 p.m. CVTV
Los Angeles Angels at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX
Portland Beavers at Fresno (live)—7 p.m. KKAD
Vancouver City Council (live) 6 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Lori Simpson taking care of friends. ☞ **Linda Martin** getting bragging rights for illustrious nephew. ☞ **Gayle West-Grimley** providing the numbers. ☞ **Darby Bacon** sighting soaring eagle. ☞ **Cathy Green** entertaining proletariat. ☞ **Lyle Smith** stretching tonsils. ☞ **Terry Sullivan** basking in a little R&R. ☞ **Mick Shutt** getting most of the candles extinguished by Monday. ☞ **Colleen McCormack** doing a favor. ☞ **Monday**, mostly sunny, 84. **Tuesday**, cooling and a little weepy, 68. **Wednesday**, chance of light shower or two, 66.