

Library district lowers bond assessment rate

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library District has lowered, from 17.5 cents to 13.47 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation, the estimated average annual property tax rate Vancouver property owners would pay over the life of the bonds for the new Vancouver and eastside Vancouver libraries.

The rate reduction is due to the higher property tax assessments recently posted by the county assessor. The adjusted rate is based on the total bond issue proposal of \$43 million, which voters are being asked to approve Sept. 19.

“We want to reassure Vancouver property owners that the library bond proposal will remain at \$43 million. Higher property values will not result in higher costs for property owners.”

Before the bond issue rates were lowered, the cost to the owner of a \$250,000 home for the bond issue would have been \$44 as year. Under the new rates, the tax on a \$250,000 home would be \$33.68. The cost on a \$325,000 home would be \$44.

The library district has already received an estimated \$8 million in private support for the renewal project.

McGavick calls Clark the “can-do” county

Mike McGavick, on the campaign trail to take away **Maria Cantwell**’s Democratic seat in the U.S. Senate, made a series of stops in Vancouver Wednesday, including coffee with the *Insider*, espousing a populist theme that the government can do what the citizens want it to do. He admits, however, it doesn't happen often enough.

Just beyond the vast windows in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay restaurant is Interstate 5, where twin interstate bridges born nearly a half century apart are clogged with afternoon traffic. At the rate current planning is going it will be a century, plus a decade after the first span opened in 1917, before motorists will see any traffic relief between Vancouver and Portland.

McGavick says that’s too long. “Vancouver and Portland is a major rail, highway and river transportation center. Its commerce is vital to the nation.”

McGavick makes no promises, but he says between the effective local leadership and effective leadership in Washington, D.C., that perhaps the new I-5 crossing could be completed in half the current 20-year timetable.

McGavick, a former public relations practitioner who first went to Washington, D.C., with former Sen. **Slade Gorton**, and who successfully ran Gorton’s 1988 campaign to return to the Senate, often worked in southern Washington on behalf of Gorton. According to McGavick, Clark is a can-do county. You have the leadership here that gets things done, he says, pointing to the growth of the Port of Vancouver and growth in the high-tech industry.

Upper Main Street closes for annual Uptown Festival

Led by Mayor **Royce Pollard**, the annual Uptown Festival Children’s Parade at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, opens two days of festivities on Main Street between McLoughlin and Fourth Plain Boulevards.

Uptown Main Street will be closed to motorists during the two-day event. Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20.

New this year is the Uptown Idol Karaoke Contest from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, at 1800 Main Street.

Entertainment at two stages includes dancers, musicians, other performers. There is no admission charge for the event, which is expected to attract over 22,000 people. For further information, go to

www.uptownvillage.com, or call **Ronnie Noize, 882-1298**.

Feds cut local funds for local Workforce Council programs

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development council will get \$4.6 million for employment and training assistance through June 2007, an 18 percent reduction from last year.

The federal Workforce Investment Act funding is passed along to local workforce areas by the state Employment Security Department.

Individuals who need help finding a job or obtaining job training should call the WorkSource center, **735-4983**.

Calendar

The Columbia River Crossing Task Force meets at 4 p.m. today in the southwest Washington Department of Transportation offices at 11018 NE 51st Circle. ☞ Taste of Vancouver opens a four-day run this evening with a performance by **North by Northwest** at 4 p.m. in Esther Short Park. Headlining the opening night is the Vancouver Symphony in a concert of light classical music. There is no admission charge this evening. Food and beverage vendors will be in abundance. ☞ *Herringbone*, the one-man musical by Arts Equity Onstage is being presented at 7:30 p.m. this evening and Friday and Saturday, Aug. 18 and 19, in the Main Street Theatre, 606 Main Street. Admission is \$8.

Thursday headlines

[PGA Championship Leaderboard](#)

[Gigantic crane nestling in at Port of Vancouver--Columbian, Jonathan Nelson](#)

[Fair attendance up a smidge--Columbian, Thomas Ryll](#)

[Candidate McGavick fields questions at forum--Columbian, John Branton](#)

[Columbian newspaper building construction apace--Columbian, Julia Anderson](#)

[Should we leave Iraq? Major split in state--Seattle Times, Alex Fryer](#)

[Federal Judge orders end to warrantless wiretapping--New York Times, David Stout](#)

Thursday on the air

Vancouver Land Use Hearings (6/15)—3 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Planning Commission (live)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Portland Beavers at Las Vegas (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

Seattle Mariners at Los Angeles (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX

Columbia River Crossing Task Force (7/12)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Brian Scott taking charge. ☞ **Elliott Bundy** rethinking cursive. ☞ **Ryan Halleran** advancing the cause. ☞ **Steve Sines** up to the challenge. ☞ **Greg Shine** coming up with multi-million-dollar news. ☞ **Thursday**, warmer but still cloudy, 76. **Friday** hot and sunny, 90. **Saturday**, continued sunny, 86.