

Home and Garden Idea Fair opens this weekend

Clark Public Utilities' annual Home & Garden Idea Fair opens a three-day run at the Clark County Fairgrounds at 9 a.m. Friday, April 28.

The show attended by over 40,000 persons last year, and which features the largest plant sale in the region, continues until 8 p.m. Friday; is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 29, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 30.

There is no charge for admission, but there is a \$5 per vehicle parking fee. However, free bus service is offered on the hour, between the fair and the Westfield Vancouver Mall and the Salmon Creek Park and Ride

Fair attendees are encouraged to bring donations of canned food or make a contribution to area food banks.

The Home & Garden Idea Fair has expanded into the new 110,000 square-foot Exhibition Hall and in addition to exhibitors taking space on the midway, plants shrubs and landscaping exhibits are being shown in the livestock

Clark County annual rate of growth slowing

During the first quarter of 2006, Clark Public Utilities hooked up 912 new residential customers—a 2.26 percent annual rate of growth of 2.26 percent. During the same three-month period in 2005, the electric utility signed up 1,105 new customers, a growth rate of 2.82 percent.

The utility has about 175,000 residential customers.

Utility chief financial officer **Rick Dyer** said Tuesday the utility estimates residential growth to be about 2.7 percent for 2006.

Clark Public Utilities also serves water customers north and west of Vancouver, where the rate of growth appears to be slightly higher than that of Clark County as a whole. So far this year, the water utility had added 196 new customers, for annual rate of growth of 2.7 percent.

Roundabout to get public scrutiny Thursday, April 27

A conceptual design for a roundabout to replace a four-way stop at the intersection of NE 49th Street and NE 137th Avenue will be presented by Vancouver Transportation Services at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 27, in the Burnt Bridge Creek Elementary School cafeteria, 14619-A NE 49th Street.

Consideration of the proposed roundabout, which would be the third roundabout in Vancouver, was requested by the Burnt Bridge Creek Neighborhood Association. The other roundabouts are at the Evergreen Boulevard west entrance to Vancouver Barracks and at the intersection of E 6th Street and Esther Streets near Esther Short Park.

According to **Ryan Miles**, city project manager, the proposed roundabout would accommodate more traffic, improve safety, and cost less than a signalized intersection. Miles says that roundabouts are safer than signalized intersections and that there are fewer and less severe accidents at roundabouts. Cost of the project is estimated at \$2.4 million.

Miles says that a second roundabout on NE 137th Avenue is being considered at NE 39th Street.



New 110,000-square-foot exhibition hall at Clark County Fairgrounds, 17402 Delfel Road, Ridgefield, is one of the main sites of Clark Public Utilities' annual Home & Garden Idea Fair. Free fair is Friday through Sunday this weekend.

Bank of Clark County reaches \$300 million asset milestone

Bank of Clark County president **Mike Worthy** last night announced to a an annual meeting of over 100 shareholders that the bank, which opened in 1999, had reached \$300 million in assets as of April 7.

The local bank has but one location, 1400 Washington Street, but serves its mostly business customers with 20 couriers.

Worthy said that the bank's assets were up over 22 percent in the past year and that, in the same period, the bank's net income increased 47 percent.

News brief

Clark County commissioner **Betty Sue Morris** will answer questions and hear comments about county government during a two hour session beginning at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 28, in the North County Community Food Bank, 17 NE 3rd Avenue, Battle Ground.

Calendar

Clark County commissioners meet in an informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, in conference room B in the Public Service Center.

Tuesday headlines from at home and around the world

[Vancouver man among four soldiers killed in Iraq--KATU](#)

[City's new plan to boost business fees to raise \\$3 million for road improvements axed--Columbian, Jeffrey Mize](#)

[Anna Svidersky vigil unites two cultures--Columbian, Kelly Adams](#)

[Emotional service recalls life of slain teen--KATU, Bob Heye](#) (video available)

[Evergreen teachers agree to shortened day to provide more faculty training and planning time--Columbian, Howard Buck](#)

[WSU Vancouver gets \\$1.9 million grant--Columbian, Margaret Ellis](#)

[Camp Bonneville plans pose fire safety question--Oregonian, Allan Brettman](#)

[Vancouver mayor, city councilors, get pay raises--Columbian](#)

[Port workers to come under Homeland Security scrutiny--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Terrorist Abu Musab Zargawi sends video message--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Bush orders probe into gas pricing--Washington Post, William Branigin](#)

Tuesday on the air

City Minutes (4/23)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Nez Perce Memorial Ceremony—5 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Chicago White Sox at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX

Town Tabloids and the weather

Mike Worthy's fiscal report salubrious. ☞ **Ed Geiger** doing a quick listen. ☞ Joining parents **Kendall** and **Polly Jobe**, and siblings **Kate, Grant, Claire, Kurt, Robin, Annie, Paige, Ethan, Lisa Sam,** and **Adam**, an unnamed 7-pound, 1-ounce girl. ☞ **Tuesday**, some clouds, some rays, 68. **Wednesday**, more clouds, 66. **Thursday**, some gray, some blue, 68.