

Main Street update plans include two-way street, big sidewalks

For much of Vancouver's history, Main Street *was* downtown. It was an economically robust artery through downtown. It was *the* connection between the states of Washington and Oregon. Main street was built for horse-drawn vehicles. It once provided profitable electric street car service. Once, Main Street pedestrian traffic was so lively that the stop signal at Main Street and what is now Evergreen Boulevard would halt all vehicular traffic to allow pedestrians to cross the intersection in any direction, including diagonally.

Even pre-World War II Interstate Bridge traffic nearly suffocated Main Street. Highway 99, which carried interstate traffic, was relocated a block west of Main Street to Washington Street at what is now McLoughlin Boulevard, to give Main Street some breathing room.

Main Street, though, didn't succumb to automobile traffic: it gradually died for the lack of traffic. Automobiles began taking shoppers to places like the Vancouver Mall.

Vancouver's Main Street, between 6th Street and 15th Street, is one-way north—out of town. Shooting a cannon up Main Street would not hit a thing. Shooting a cannon down Main Street would violate the one-way rule that city planners are looking at changing.

The current plans, for which an open house is set for 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, in the Vancouver Marketplace, 210 W Evergreen Boulevard, are to open all of Main Street to two-way traffic and to open Broadway, between 6th Street and 15th Street, to two-way traffic. Parallel parking would replace angle parking.

Plans being shown next Tuesday are for three configurations, ranging from 15-foot travel lanes to 10-foot, ten-inch travel lanes. Sidewalks could be widened to as much as 21 feet on the east side of Main Street.

Planning for reconstruction of Vancouver's Main Street and Broadway is already funded. However, the conversion to two-way traffic was to have been financed by a beefed-up schedule of city business licenses and fees. Reconstruction is tentatively scheduled for 2007.

For further information go to www.cityofvancouver.us/MainStreet.

Brian Baird and astronaut James Reilly to visit nLight Photonics, area schools

U.S. Rep. **Brian Baird** and U.S. astronaut **James Reilly** will visit area nLight Photonics and area schools Thursday, June 1, honoring Mentoring Advance Placement students, teachers and mentors.

nLight photonics put together the first MAP program, which combines math and science education with real-world applications. nLight employees were mentors during the first year of the program.

The tour ends Thursday evening at Washington State University Vancouver with a 6:30 p.m. reception.

Baird has introduced legislation to expand the concept of the Clark County program nationally.

Saturday wildlife garden party offers inspiration for gardeners, fun for kids

The Water Resources Education Center opens its natural garden of wildlife-welcoming plants with a garden party from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 3. The opening party is free and is for adults and children, according to center spokesperson **Cory Samia**.

Tips will be offered on how to garden for the birds and the bees, how to attract monarch butterflies, and how to eliminate pesticides and attract wildlife. The celebration includes giveaways and hands-on activities.

Overlooking the Columbia River, at 4600 S.E. Columbia Way, the Water Resources Education Center also offers exhibits, events and educational programs about water resources and how to use water wisely.

A division of the Vancouver's Department of Public Works, the center oversees one of the metropolitan area's few remaining natural Columbia River riparian areas, nearly 50 protected acres of adjacent wetlands providing feeding, nesting and resting habitat for more than 120 species of fish and wildlife.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Admission is free. Further information is available by going to www.cityofvancouver.us/watercenter.



Doug Lasher schedules re-election campaign kickoff for county Treasurer

Democrat **Doug Lasher**, who has held the office of Clark County Treasurer for the past 22 years, has set the kickoff for his 2006 re-election campaign for 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, at the home of **Kelly Puntaney** and **Mike Shepherd**, 5401 SE Scenic Lane, Unit 205, in Tidewater Cove.

Special guest for the evening is Washington State Treasurer **Mike Murphy**. For further information, call **576-9783**.

News brief

Southwest Washington Medical Center has won a national silver award for an ad it created conveying thanks to medical center donors **Ed** and **Mary Firstenburg** and **David** and **Patricia Nierenberg** for their combined \$30 million contribution to the medical center and women's services. The Aster Awards, presented by *Marketing Healthcare Today*, attracted 2,500 entries. The ad was produced entirely by SWMC marketing staffers **Sarah Mottram**, **Ken Cole** and **Matt Schoolfield**, reports director of marketing **Chad Dillard**.

Odds were 1 out of 26 and Insider nailed it

Su Moran, award-winning Wells Fargo banker, has a very simple, easily spelled first name, Su. A monkey blindly selecting any one of 26 letters could have selected the correct first letter, S. The monkey at the *Insider*, writing about her award yesterday failed and hit the D key. Dorry for the mistake, Su.

Today's headline stories

[Heroes catch girl in Hazel Dell apartment fire--KATU](#)

[Crowds put squeeze on Clark County jail space--Columbian, **John Branton**](#)

[Clark County follows gut instinct on new policy targeting junk food--Columbian, **Thomas Ryll**](#)

[St. Helens to reopen for climbing--Columbian, **Erik Robinson**](#)

[Sarah Austin pays tribute to her pal Meghan Bottemiller--Columbian, **Tricia Jones**](#)

[JH Kelly proposing first office condos in Clark County; \\$6 million worth--Comlumbian, **Cami Joner**](#)

[Wal-Mart may be checking out Hayden Island--Oregonian, **Ryan Frank**](#)

[Clark County brokers deal between railroad operators that should put northern excursion line back on track--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)

[Mortgage loan demand dips at 30-year rate hits four-year high of 6.66 percent--USA TODAY, Reuters](#)
[Katie Couric sheds final NBC tear--Washington Post \(photos\)](#)

Wednesday on the air

Career Finding Tips (5/3)—4:01 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Youth Achievement Celebration (4/29)—5 p.m. CVTV

Colorado Springs at Portland Beavers (live)—6:30 p.m. KKAD

Employment, Mental Health and Wellness (5/19)—7 p.m. CVTV

Capital Perspectives (4/18)—8:28 p.m. CVTV

Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony (5/18)—9 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus (5/8)—10 p.m. CVTV

Bravo! Vancouver: Happy Birthday Amadeus (5/21)—10:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Julie Moore answering benefit questions. ☞ **Michael Woods** providing further information. ☞ **Cary Buhler** on the road. ☞ **Karen Ciocia** wasting no time at all. ☞ **Craig Walker** issuing timely bulletins. ☞ **Julie Kummer** announcing that there is sausage in today's quiche. ☞ **Bill Ganley** giving good advice. ☞ **Wednesday**, some sun, possible showers, 73. **Thursday**, cooling, possible showers, 68. **Friday**, rain showers likely, 64.