

**Clark County making progress towards balanced budget;  
public hearings set for Dec. 1 and Dec. 2**

The Board of Clark County Commissioners is expecting to adopt a balanced budget in early December.

The commissioners met with the county's other elected officials in a lengthy work session on Wednesday. They discussed ways to close a potential \$30 million funding gap related to "downward pressure on construction and retail sales."

"This is a tough situation, but we are getting a lot of good information from our elected officials and department heads," said board chair **Betty Sue Morris**. "We will use their best thinking to arrive at a plan that will provide the best service possible for the next two years."

The commissioners have asked all county departments that report to them to cut 12% for the 2009-2010 budgets. They have asked all other elected officials to cut at least six percent from the departments that report to them. At the work session on Wednesday, presentations were made by Assessor Linda Franklin, Auditor Greg Kimsey, Clerk Sherry Parker, District Court Judge John Hagensen, Prosecuting Attorney Art Curtis, the Sheriff's Office, Superior Court Judge Barbara Johnson and Treasurer Doug Lasher.

**Upcoming budget meetings are as follows:**

- **Tuesday, November 25** — After its regular Tuesday 10 a.m. hearing, the Board will hold a work session with certain county departments in the sixth-floor training room, Public Service Center, Vancouver.
- **Wednesday, November 26** — As soon as a 10 a.m. hearing is finished, the Board will hold a work session with the Budget Office to consider any modifications to the draft budget for the public hearings to follow.
- **Monday, December 1** — 2 p.m. public hearing for elected officials and county department directors to discuss their 2009-2010 biennial budgets, sixth-floor training room, Public Service Center, Vancouver.
- **Tuesday, December 2** — Hearings for the public to speak on the budget:
  - 10 a.m., sixth-floor hearing room, Public Service Center, Vancouver.
  - 6:30 p.m., Rainier Room, Clark County Fire District 5 Northwest Regional Training Center, 11606 N.E. 66th St., #103, Vancouver.
- **Wednesday, December 3** — 9 a.m., Board will meet to review the final 2009/2010 budget. Meetings will be held at 9 a.m. on December 4 and 5 if necessary.

Copies of Clark County's draft 2009-2010 biennial budget are available online at

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/obis/documents.html> or at the Clark County Office of the Budget, sixth floor, Public Service Center, Vancouver.

**Clark College student wins national Coca-Cola scholarship**

Clark College student **Trang Tran** is attending the college this fall as the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. Tran is among 400 recipients nationwide who were honored for their commitment to academics and their community. Tran is currently in the dental hygiene program at Clark College. She has lived in Vancouver for the past 13 years and hopes to remain in the region as she pursues a career.

Tran said, "I have a passion for taking care of people and strongly believe in preventive healthcare. Dental hygiene encompasses these aspects."

Tran supports her local community center by delivering food to the elderly through the Meals on Wheels program. She is also active with the Clark College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges. Last year, she served as Public Relations Officer for the chapter.

Her future goals also include service with Medical Teams International, a faith-based group that allows its volunteers to serve on medical and



**Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation recipient Trang Tran is congratulated by Clark College President Bob Knight.**

dental teams worldwide.

### Festival of Trees launches holidays next weekend

The Vancouver Rotary Foundation's Festival of Trees will be held Friday, Nov. 28 through Sunday, Nov. 30, 2008. The 13th annual festival will be held at the Hilton Vancouver Washington & Vancouver Convention Center, 301 West 6th St. in downtown Vancouver during Thanksgiving weekend.

The event is the chief fundraiser for the Vancouver Rotary Foundation, which distributes community grants, scholarships, international projects and assists "at-risk" elementary school students. Last year nearly 10,000 people attended the event, which raised more than \$150,000 in net proceeds.

More than 60 designer Christmas trees, wreaths, table top trees and gingerbread creations will be on display. Additional event highlights include the Vancouver Community Tree Lighting



evening with a performance by the Patrick Lamb Band at 5 p.m. and the Vancouver Pops Orchestra performance at 6:30 p.m.; a Festival of Gifts; Teddy Bear evening; and a Senior Luncheon Sunday afternoon at Pearson Air Museum.

Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$4 for children 12 and under; and free for children six and under. Senior Luncheon tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

Viewing hours are Friday, Nov. 28, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Full event details are available at [www.festivaloftrees.net](http://www.festivaloftrees.net) or by calling (360) 735-0409.

### Volunteers to decorate Marshall House

On November 24 at 7:30 a.m., a group of volunteers will begin decorating the Marshall House for the holidays with lifelike artificial greenery and other decorations thanks to a grant from the **R.F. Petersen** Memorial Fund managed by the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington. The project was initiated by **Mary Petersen Granger**, the daughter of the man the fund honors.

Last year Granger, president and founder of I Have a Dream of Southwest Washington, scheduled the organization's holiday party at the Marshall House on Officers Row. Although the grand Victorian house was beautifully decorated, the natural greenery adorning the inside of the house was "past its prime," Granger said. Following fire safety guidelines, the greenery had been treated with a fire retardant which had discolored and dulled the natural evergreen boughs.

Granger was determined to make the greenery at the Marshall House breathtaking and fire safe throughout the holiday season every year. Through the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington, for which she is a founder and organizer, she requested a \$5,000 grant from the R.F. Petersen Memorial Fund, set up in her father's name for the beautification of Vancouver.

### Calendar

**11/27**--Sixth Annual Clark County Turkey Trot Thurs., Nov. 27, 9 a.m. Start and finish at Kline Pond. The event includes a 5K Run/Walk and a 10K run (as well as food, a piñata and the traditional Polar Bear swim in Kline Pond after the race). Proceeds benefit The Children's Trust Fund to help disadvantaged children in Southwest Washington. Primary event sponsor is First Independent. Register at,

<https://www.signmeup.com/site/reg/register.aspx?fid=7G2V8K7>. Questions about the event may be directed to: **Patti Bryant** at [turkeytrotclarkcounty@gmail.com](mailto:turkeytrotclarkcounty@gmail.com) or by calling **360-737-9486**.

**12/2**—Columbia River Crossing Open House, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Vancouver Washington, 301 W. 6th St., Vancouver. Information about plans for light rail on Hayden Island and in Vancouver; a replacement bridge across the Columbia River; and improvements to seven interchanges between



60 designer Christmas trees, wreaths, table top trees and gingerbread creations will be on display. Additional event highlights include the Vancouver Community Tree Lighting evening with a performance by the Patrick Lamb Band at 5 p.m. and the Vancouver Pops Orchestra performance at 6:30 p.m.; a Festival of Gifts; Teddy Bear evening; and a Senior Luncheon Sunday afternoon at Pearson Air Museum.

Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$4 for children 12 and under; and free for children six and under. Senior Luncheon tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

SR 500 and Columbia Blvd. in Portland. CRC technical staff will be available to answer questions. More information: [www.columbiarivercrossing.org](http://www.columbiarivercrossing.org).

**12/4**—Divine Holiday Home Tour benefitting the hungry among us in Clark County through the Walk & Knock program. [Click here](#) for additional information and online signup via paypal.

**12/8**—Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Board of Trustees meets in regular session on Mon., Dec. 8, 2008 at the Vancouver Community Library (in Library Hall) 1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver. An executive session is scheduled for 5 p.m. The public meeting begins at 6 p.m.

**12/9**—The Vancouver Library Capital Facility Area Board will hold a special meeting on Tues., Dec. 9, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the Clark County Commissioners Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., Vancouver, for review and approval of the final design for the New Main Library. Call Bruce Ziegman for more information at 360-695-1561.

#### **Friday on the air**

Regional Economic Outlook: Resilience or Recession (11/13)—5 p.m. CVTV

City Minutes (11/9)—6 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Animal Control Hearings (11/12)—7:01 p.m. CVTV

City Council Workshop (11/17)—7:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Planning Commission (11/20)—10 p.m. CVTV

#### **Town Tabloids and the Weather**

**Bob Patterson** doing double duty. <> **Justin Roberti** tracking. <> **Kay Fawn** adorning. <> **Shay Shinall** celebrating. <> **Sharon Lawson** signing up. **Ellen Morgan** updating. <> **Friday**, partly sunny, 41-56. **Saturday**, 30 percent chance of rain, 38-47. **Sunday**, clear and cool, 41-49.