

# Neighbor to Neighbor

Useful News from the Vancouver Housing Authority  
and the Clark County Resident Council

December 2009  
Volume 9 Issue 10

## Time to think about college scholarships

*It seems like school has just started for the year, but believe it or not, now is the time to think about applying for scholarships for the 2010–11 school year. Here's one opportunity that's available only to housing authority residents.*



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Each year, the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (PNRC-NAHRO) teams up with local housing authorities to provide scholarships to residents. The purpose of the scholarships is to assist residents in achieving their goals for higher education and self-sufficiency. There are five scholarships available. All awards can be used for tuition and fees.

**The Jesse Epstein Scholarship** (one award, four years) is given to a graduating high school senior who has maintained at least a 2.8 grade point average. Maximum award: \$10,000—awarded to the highest ranked Challenge College Scholarship applicant.

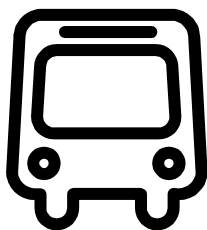
**The Challenge Scholarship** (two awards, four years each) is given to graduating high school seniors who have maintained at least a 2.8 grade point average. Maximum awards: \$4,000.

**The Community College Scholarship** (one award, two years) is given to a graduating high school senior who has maintained a 2.8 grade point average and plans to attend community college. Maximum award: \$2,000.

**The Continuing Education Scholarship** (one award, up to 4 years) is given to students who wish to continue their education. Maximum award: \$4,000.

To apply, you must fill out a form, provide transcripts, a letter of recommendation, and an essay entitled “*Why I wish to pursue a college education*”. Application packets are available at the at the RISE & STARS Community Center at 500 Omaha Way and at the Vancouver Housing Authority office at 2500 Main Street. The deadline is February 12, 2010.

### C-Tran to Present 20-year Plan



Tuesday December 8, 6:30 p.m.

RISE and STARS Community Center, 500 Omaha Way,  
Vancouver

C-TRAN's 20-Year Transit Development Plan (TDP) is looking into the future to determine the levels, placement and modes of transit services needed to meet the transportation demands of a growing community. Once adopted, this long-range plan will guide C-TRAN's decisions for the next 20 years.

There will be a 20 – 30 minute presentation and then open up the discussion for questions. If you have questions for C-TRAN, here's your chance.

Vancouver Housing Authority  
694-2501

RISE & STARS Community Center  
737-2950

VHA Maintenance  
694-4506

Visit VHA on the web @  
[www.vhousa.com](http://www.vhousa.com)

## Homeownership Opportunities!

Vancouver Housing Authority has developed several programs to help low-income families become homeowners. These include:

- **Single-Family Homes for Sale:** VHA has an inventory of several single-family homes available for sale with 20% down payment assistance for those who are ready to become homeowners. Please see our website [www.vhousa.com](http://www.vhousa.com) for the list of currently available homes.
- **Lease Purchase Program:** VHA has an inventory of several single-family homes available through lease-to-purchase program for those who are still working on becoming mortgage ready.
- **Section 8 Homeownership Program:** VHA can pay a portion of your monthly mortgage costs with a Section 8 voucher. This program is only available to current Section 8 tenants and those on the Section 8 waitlist who are close to being mortgage ready. Please see our website [www.vhousa.com](http://www.vhousa.com) for prequalifying examples.

If you would like more information about any of these programs, please contact Mila Fabyanchuk at 360-993-9516.

## Update on VHA Moving to Work Plan

The **2010** MTW Annual Plan was approved by the VHA Board of Commissioners at the September meeting. It was submitted to HUD on September 28<sup>th</sup>. We expect to receive approval from HUD by January 1.

The amendments to the **2009** MTW Annual Plan were approved by HUD on August 10, 2009. The VHA has begun to make those changes. This may affect the amount of rent you pay.

The rent reform changes include:

- The replacement of individual medical deductions with a standard \$700
- The elimination of the Utility Allowance Payment
- Using TANF income even when you have closed your grant
- The simplified utility allowance for Section 8
- The requirement for rent burdened participants to move

Important!

If these changes cause a hardship for you, there is a Hardship Policy. You have a right to ask your eligibility worker for an explanation of how your rent was calculated and to request a hardship exemption if you qualify.

## Fall and Winter Preparedness

It happens every year. School starts and the leaves begin to fall. Don't let those leaves stay on your lawn; they will kill the grass. **If you live in a VHA property, please rake and bag your leaves at least once a week.**

To help make the cold months easier, here are some things you can do.

- Be sure all hoses are detached from the outside faucets. If you leave your hose hooked up and it freezes, it could break the outside faucet. **If you live in a VHA property this will cost you \$100.**
- If you have foundation vents around the outside foundation of your unit, please cover them. The easiest and least expensive way to do this is to cut a piece of cardboard a little bigger than the vent and position it over the hole up against the screen. This will help keep pipes from freezing, keep floors warmer, and reduce your heating costs.
- If you have separate storm windows, make sure they are closed. This will reduce your electrical bill.
- When the weather gets really cold, 20° or below, it is a good idea to leave a little hot and cold water running in both the bath and the kitchen. This will prevent your pipes from freezing. Leaving sink cabinet doors open to let in room heat will also help.
- If your washing machine is in your garage or other unheated area, you may want to make provisions to protect it.



## Family Self-Sufficiency Openings

The VHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program has partnered with Second Step Housing and is accepting new participants! Receive a personal case manager who can help you with career exploration, goal setting, job search, training and education, budgeting, homeownership and much more. The VHA will also set up a savings account for you as you go to work!

Don't hesitate...give us a call for details, questions, and to sign up! Public Housing residents contact Mary Hopkins at 993-5301 ext 126. Section 8 residents contact Sydney Velez at 993-5301 ext 125

# VHA RISE & STARS COMMUNITY CENTER YOUTH PROGRAM

500 OMAHA WAY, VANCOUVER, WA 98661 737-2950

## Activities for Youth in grades K - 12

Open to youth living in VHA Section 8 and Low Rent housing. Parents must come in and complete a registration form before their child can attend activities. For information and to register call 737-2950.

Permission slips required for all field trips.

*Please note: In compliance with state law, some children will be required to use booster seats or car seats with harnesses when on field trips in our van.*

*Due to the limited number of seats available, children may occasionally be excluded from trips.*

**Schedule is subject to change.**

**Youth Programs CLOSED December 24th, 25th, 31st & January 1st.**

Youth 3:00—5:00 PM—Kindergarten thru 5th grade					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3:00—4:00 PM	Snacks				
3:00—5:00 PM	Homework Help, Board Games & Game Room				
	3:00—4:00 PM Computers	3:30—4:30 PM Science Club	3:00—5:00 PM Homework Club	3:00—5:00 PM Cooking Class	4:00—5:00 PM Computers

Teens 6:00—8:00 PM—6th grades thru 12th grade					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6:00—8:00 PM	Smart Choices 14—24 year olds Youth Area 11—13 year olds	Teen Cooking Class	Teen Craft	Gym	Open for Teens
7:00—8:00 PM		Computers	Computers		

## Special Activities for December...

### For Families:

**“Narnia”**, Northwest Children’s Theater. Monday, December 7th, 6:00—10:00 PM. Call Kurt @ 992-0214.

**Bookmobile** at the Community Center. Wednesday, December 9th, 2:00—4:00 PM.

**“There’s a Nightmare in My Closet”**, Tears of Joy Theatre. Saturday, December 19th, 11:00 AM. Call Kurt @ 992-0214.

**Make a gift Day.** Monday, December 21st, 1:00—5:00 PM. Make a gingerbread house and other gifts. Call Becky @ 992-0209.

**Big Screen Movie Event.** Tuesday, December 22nd, 1:00—5:00 PM. Game room, popcorn & a movie. Call Becky @ 922-0209.

**Holiday Party with Santa.** Wednesday, December 23rd, 1:00—5:00 PM. Call Becky @ 992-0209.

**Family Soup & Story.** Monday, December 28th, 3:00—5:00 PM. Food, a story & a craft.

**Holiday Dance.** Tuesday, December 29th, 3:00—5:00 PM. Music, games, dancing & refreshments.

**Family Swim Day.** Wednesday, December 30th, 1:00—5:00 PM. Call Kurt @ 992-0214.

# RISE & STARS Community Center Happenings

500 Omaha Way Vancouver  
For more information call 737-2950

## CCAPS

*(Community Center Adult Program Sponsors)*

1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month, 11 AM. Call Sharon @ 992-0205 for more information.

## Adult Craft Day

Cancelled for December.

3rd Wednesday of each month, 9—11 AM. Call Sharon @ 992-0205 for more information.

## CCRC Meeting

*(Clark County Resident Council)*

Meets quarterly. Next meeting is November 10th at 11 AM. Call Kathi @ 992-0203 for more information.

## Coffee Hour

Cancelled for December.

4th Wednesday of each month, 10:30—11:30 AM. Call Kathi @ 992-0203 for more information.

**VHA'S Offices and RISE & STARS Community Center will be CLOSED December 25th & January 1st.**

**VHA Board Of Commissioners Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 16, 10:00 AM**  
**2500 Main Street, Vancouver**  
*Meetings are open to the public*

***Holiday  
Family  
Night***

**December 10th  
5:00—7:30 PM**

VHA RISE & STARS  
Community Center  
500 Omaha Way

*Caroling ☆ Food  
Entertainment  
Crafts*

**RSVP 737-2950**

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US POSTAGE  
PAID  
VANCOUVER WA  
PERMIT NO. 609

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