

# Neighbor to Neighbor

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

February 2010  
Volume 9 Issue 12

## IT'S TIME TO FILE YOUR TAXES!

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Have you done your taxes yet? Do you need help filing them?

We're here to help! Call us to schedule a FREE tax preparation appointment.

**The Community Housing Resource Center**  
**2700 NE Andersen Rd, Suite D3**  
**360-694-8664 x102**

Across from K-Mart on Andersen Road between Mill Plain and 4th Plain Blvd.

The Community Housing Resource Center is the only tax preparation site in Clark County that schedules appointments.

Appointments are available from

**10 am – 1 pm**

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday**

Volunteers from AARP Tax-Aide, who are IRS certified tax preparers, partner with the Center to provide this free service. So call us!



Your return will be prepared, electronically filed, AND you may have your refund electronically deposited into your checking or savings account all **free of charge**.

### Claim All Your Tax Credits

**You may be eligible for the Earned Income Credit (EIC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) on your 2009 Tax return.**

Did your family earn less than \$43,279 and have three or more qualifying children? **You can get an EIC up to \$5,657.**

Did your family earn less than \$40,295 and have two qualifying children? **You can get an EIC up to \$5,028.**

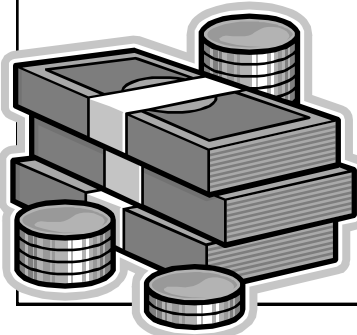
Did your family earn less than \$35,463 and have one qualifying child? **You can get an EIC up to \$3,043.**

Did your family earn less than \$13,440, have no qualifying child and are between the ages of 25 and 64? **You can get an EIC up to \$457.**

Many families that earned more than \$3,000 may qualify for the Child Tax Credit refund – up to \$1,000 for each qualifying child under age 17.

**Want more information?**

**Call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1040.**



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)

## Your Opinion Counts!

### Notice of Public Comment Opportunity

The VHA is requesting your comments on changes to the Hardship Policy for the Section 8 Voucher and Public Housing Programs. The Hardship Policy allows tenants who have a financial hardship caused by a minimum rent or Moving to Work rent reform policy to request an exemption to the policy.

The VHA is proposing the following changes to the policy:

- Add a review of eligibility to the process of requesting a hardship
- Change the Hardship Panel to the Executive Director and his/her designee(s).
- Remove the condition to work with a Housing Resolution Specialist

You can see a copy of the proposed changes on the VHA website at [www.vhausea.com](http://www.vhausea.com) and at the RISE and STARS Community Center (500 Omaha Way) or the VHA Main Street Office (2500 Main Street).

You can send written comments to David Overbay, Vancouver Housing Authority, 2500 Main Street, Vancouver, WA 98660. You can email your comments to [doverbay@vhausea.com](mailto:doverbay@vhausea.com).

The final policy and the comments received, will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval at their February meeting.

## New life skills class/support group: Learn to Manage Conflict



*Can conflict be a good thing?*

*Why does conflict make people angry?*

*How do you deal with it?*

All of us face conflict in some form or another. Whether it's at home or on the job, knowing what to do about conflict can make the difference between having a fiasco or a good night's sleep. It can even make a difference between keeping your job and losing it.

Everyone, at one time or another, experiences conflict. It's part of dealing with people and situations. Since we can't avoid it, we better learn to manage it.

So how can you learn to deal with conflict? One way is to join the latest Life Skills Class/Support Group, ***Dealing with Anger and Conflict***.

For more information or to sign up, contact group facilitator, Carol Van Atta, right away so she can order your personal workbook. Call: 360-992-0228 or email: [cvanatta@vhausea.com](mailto:cvanatta@vhausea.com)

**Class starts on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM.**

**If you need childcare, contact Carol right away. Snacks are provided.  
Class size is limited, so register today.**



## 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 or lease to purchase. These homes are for families who are ready now to become homeowners. In order to qualify you need an income of at least \$25,000 a year. We can provide you with down payment assistance of up to 20%. Home prices currently range from \$155,000 to \$185,000. Please see our website [www.vhausea.com](http://www.vhausea.com) for the list of available homes.

**Section 8 Homeownership Program:** VHA can pay a portion of your monthly mortgage costs with a Section 8 voucher. This program is available to current Section 8 tenants and those on the Section 8 waitlist who are close to being mortgage ready. Qualified families typically have at least \$25,000 in annual income.

For more information, contact Saeed Hajarizadeh at 360-993-9510.

**Have you seen the hottest new show on TV?**

On the VHA's *Housing Matters* show in February, learn about the Vancouver Housing Authority's non-subsidized Workforce Housing program. Also, learn about a large community partnership that is providing training and employment for low-income people. *Housing Matters* airs on Comcast Channels 21 and 23 in Clark County, or may be viewed through the VHA web site at [www.vhausea.com](http://www.vhausea.com).

# 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 February 15th.**

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

<b>Teens 6:00—8:00 PM—6th grades thru 12th grade</b>					
	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
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		Computers

## Special Activities for February...

### **For Youth:**

**Heart Healthy Activities.** February 8th, 9th, 10th & 11th, 3:00—5:00 PM. Game, events, snacks & prizes.

**Black History Day.** Wednesday, February 17th, 3:00—5:00 PM.

### **For Adults:**

**“The 39 Steps”**, Portland Center Stage.  
Wednesday, February 24th, 6:30—10:00 PM.  
Call Kurt @ 992-0214.

### **For Families:**

**Bookmobile** at the Community Center.  
Wednesday, February 3rd & 17th, 2:00—4:00 PM.

**Family Soup & Story—First Ladies Day.**  
Monday, February 22nd, 6:00—8:00 PM. Food, a story & a craft, all about the women behind our presidents. All ages.

**“Little One-Inch”**, Tears of Joy Theatre. Saturday, February 13th, 11:00 AM. Call Kurt @ 992-0214.

**Swim.** Wednesday, February 17th, 6:00—8:00 PM.

# 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.

## CCRC Meeting

*(Clark County Resident Council)*

Meets quarterly. Next meeting is February 9th at 11 AM. Call Kathi @ 992-0203 for more information.

## Coffee Hour

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 February 15th.**

## VHA Board Of Commissioners Meeting

Wednesday, February 24th, 10:00 AM

2500 Main Street, Vancouver

*Meetings are open to the public*

## Resident Advisory Board still needs new members

The VHA Resident Advisory Board (RAB) is looking for a few good men and women.

- Are you interested in helping the VHA provide high quality housing?
- Do you ask good questions?
- Can you see the “big picture” and speak on behalf of all VHA residents?

If you are a VHA resident and you answered “yes” to the questions above, we really need you! Come be a part of our group.

Meetings are held at the RISE & STARS Community Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30.

Snacks and child care are provided. If you are interested in applying to be a part of the RAB, contact Kathi at 737-2950 between noon and 5 p.m.

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Vancouver Housing Authority  
RISE & STARS Community Center  
500 Omaha Way  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
360-737-2950