

Neighbor to Neighbor

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

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Vancouver Housing Authority
694-2501

RISE & STARS Community Center
737-2950

VHA Maintenance
694-4506

Visit VHA on the web @
www.vhousa.com

7th and 8th graders (and parents!): IS COLLEGE WORTH THE “HASSLE”?

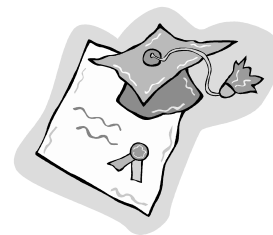
Yes! Here are three reasons why.

1. It's all about the Benjamins. College graduates, on average, make a whopping one million dollars more in lifetime earnings than those with a high school diploma.
2. Unemployment insurance. Did you know that a college degree is the best way to protect yourself against unemployment?
3. Health and happiness. Those with college degrees have better health, exercise more, and smoke less. This is related to the fact that their employers are likelier to offer better health plans and perks like gym memberships.

source: Susan J. Demas, "The Benefits of Going to College"

If you are in 7th or 8th grade, a college degree is within your reach. You can earn a full scholarship, which includes tuition plus money for books, just by doing these four things:

1. Submit an application.
2. Graduate from high school with at least a 2.0 GPA.
3. Be a good citizen and stay crime free.
4. Meet the income guidelines.



That's it! BUT YOU MUST SIGN UP BEFORE JUNE 30th DURING YOUR EIGHTH GRADE YEAR.

Here's How:

- Stop by the Center or call Prudence at 360-992-0232. I will go through it with you, step by step.
- You can also go online to www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound to find out more.

Applications are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian and Ukrainian.

THE COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP HELPS MAKE COLLEGE LESS OF A “HASSLE”

NEW RESIDENT COMMISSIONER

Maudie Jordan, Resident Commissioner, was appointed to the Board of Commissioners in December 2011 to complete a vacated two-year term. Ms. Jordan is the Executive Director of Gates of Grace, two faith transitional homes for women and children, and a NACE III Coating Inspector. Ms. Jordan is the Mentor and Fund Raiser Coordinator for Transitions to Life, which assists women transition back to society after incarceration. Ms. Jordan is a student at Clark College completing her AA degree in Arts. Her plans are to transfer to Multnomah and pursue a degree in Psychology and Theology. Ms. Jordan volunteers for Mission Creek Correctional Center and Second Step Housing, and is a gifted motivational speaker who has the ability to inspire, enlighten and entertain her audience – using her talents and humorous wit to encourage, uplift and motivate incarcerated individuals to make positive lifestyle changes.

NEW YEAR = NEW START.

Commit to Change & Take Time to Transform your life.

We have classes to help you make those changes in **2 key areas:**

- **Relationships - The Biting Back Class:**

Tired of people or bad habits sucking the life out of you? Learn how to “bite back” and find relief from toxic relationships and behaviors. Are you tired of the vampires in your life feasting on your fun, finances, even your freedom? After completing this course you will be better equipped to defeat the Draculas you encounter.

Class size is limited. **Contact Carol Van Atta 360.992.0228** for more information and to reserve your spot today. Class starts Wednesday, January 25, 2011 at the VHA’s RISE & STARS Community Center 6:15 PM to 8:00 PM. Each participant will receive the book *Biting Back* by *Claudia Cunningham* and can earn Community Service Hours and GOALS Program credits for attending. This is an 8-week course. Childcare is available; call Carol for details.

- **Communication & Leadership – Toastmasters:**

Whether you’re a professional, student, stay-at-home parent, or retiree, Toastmasters is the best way to build great communication and leadership skills. You’ll learn how to successfully organize and present your ideas and yourself. Toastmasters will give you the skills and confidence you need to effectively express yourself in any situation.

If you already have some or all of these skills, in Toastmasters, you will enhance them.

This group meets every Tuesday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM at the Clark County Auto Licensing and Elections Office, 1408 Franking Street, Room 233 (second floor). Transportation to the group is available from two VHA locations. **CALL TO SCHEDULE A RIDE** by Monday afternoon at 4:00 PM. Contact: Carol Van Atta, 360.992.0228

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: In February 2012 we will offer a compellingly class for the unemployed, under-employed, and employed-but-unsatisfied. Barriers to obtaining the career, cash, and company you’re interested in will be addressed. **WATCH FOR DETAILS ABOUT:**

The Monstrous Get-a-Job Manual

Super (natural) Strategies for Surviving Slumps and Savoring Success

Looking for a job? Looking for a better job?

The Going Places Network Dress for Success Oregon is free of charge and open to women who are seeking employment. Through 12 weekly meetings you will learn how to present your personal “brand” in interviews, customize your résumé for different positions, navigate LinkedIn and other social media for job leads and much more. You will also have the chance to work one-on-one with career coaches and build your personal network in a small, supportive environment with other women. **Over 1/2 of the participants in our last class are now employed!**

Starting late in January 2012 meetings will be held each week at the Vancouver Housing Authority, 2500 Main Street, Vancouver, WA 98660. You must register (space is limited) for this program by calling 360-993-9556 or via email to bfahnbulleh@vhausa.com

Family Self-Sufficiency Openings

The VHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program has openings! Get training, education, the job of your dreams, and an interest-bearing savings account while you work. Ever dreamed of buying a home? We can help with that too!

Come to the next FSS Orientation for more information

When: Wednesday, January 11th, 2012 at 5:30 PM

Where: Vancouver Housing Authority 2500 Main St Vancouver, WA 98660

Who to contact for more info: Hilaree at (360) 993-9540

COME WALK WITH US!

Need some time off from the Holiday shopping? Or maybe just some mild exercise, encouragement, and/or resources for employment?

Join the GOALS program walking group! We meet every Wednesday at 9:00 am at Westfield Shopping Town (at the Outback Steakhouse entrance). Walk the mall while chatting with GOALS participants, receive encouragement and network with others.

For more information, contact Karin at (360) 993-5301 ext 110



VHA RISE & STARS COMMUNITY CENTER YOUTH PROGRAM

500 OMAHA WAY, VANCOUVER, WA 98661 992-9232

Check out our Daily Schedule for elementary youth (K-6):

3:00 –Snacks and games

3:25 –Homework Time.

4:00 –Activity Time (see our weekly activity schedule below.)

4:30 –Technology Time (youth will earn “screen time” by working on their homework)

Weekly Activity Schedule (elementary youth):

Monday –Crafts

Tuesday –Science Club

Wednesday –Cooking Club

Thursday –Kid’s Club

Friday –Fun Day!

Teen Schedule (grades 6-12): Teen activities begin at 6pm!

Monday –Teen night with Michael. Food and activities at the Community Center

Tuesday –Boys and Girl’s Club

Wednesday –Teen Activities at the Community Center

Thursday –Teen Activities at the Community Center

Friday –Teen Movie Night at the Community Center

Time to think about college scholarships

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 four 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 (one awards, four years) is given to graduating high school senior who have maintained at least a 2.8 grade point average. Maximum awards: \$4,000.

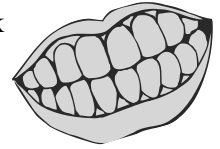
The Community College Scholarship (one award, two years) is given to a graduating high school senior who has maintained a 2.8 grade point average and plans to attend community college. Maximum award: \$2,000.

The Continuing Education Scholarship (one award, up to 4 years) is given to a student who has been out of high school for at least four years and wishes 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 17, 2011.

Free Dental Services

Thanks to the Clark College Dental Hygiene Program, there will be dental services for VHA



residents at the RISE & STARS Community Center this winter.

The services are free and include dental cleaning, fluoride treatment, education and referrals. Services will be available by appointment on February 9th, 16th, 23rd, March 1th & 8th.

Space is limited!!! Please call Sharon at 992-0205 for more information and to schedule an appointment

Are you a working parent in need of help with transportation?

The Ways to Work Family Loan Program helps working parents to get a low-interest loan to purchase a used car or repair an existing vehicle. They are a non-profit program through Family Answers, Inc. that provides affordable loans to low-income families who lack access to fairly priced loans from traditional lenders because they have poor credit or no credit history.

To be eligible for a loan you must be employed for at least 20 hours a week for 3 months continuously, have sufficient disposable income available to repay the loan, be an involved parent living in Clark county, have a household income less than 80% of the Portland median income and have a valid Oregon driver’s license Next meeting will be held

Date: January 10th

Time: 6-8 P.M.

Place: Rise & Stars Community Center 500 Omaha Way, Vancouver
RSVP: Bridgette 360 993-9556
Childcare provided please call if you need childcare

Resident Voices Needed!!

Have you ever wondered why the VHA operates the way it does, why it has the rules, regulations and policies it does and wished you could share your ideas about these subjects? Well, now is your opportunity! The Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA) is recruiting residents for the Resident Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB provides the opportunity for residents to present input to the VHA on matters that affect them, including new policies and plans ~after all, who knows better what you need, what you want and what will assist you and your family the most?

The RAB is made up of Public Housing and Section 8 residents. It meets quarterly on the second Monday of the Month (for 2012 the meetings will be February 13; May 14; August 13 and November 12) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the VHA's Administrative Offices at 2500 Main Street. *Lunch is provided and transportation assistance is available.*

We are looking for people who broadly represent the population of the VHA; if you are a Public Housing or Section 8 resident who cares about their housing and wants to make a difference you are the perfect candidate for the RAB. Contact Syble at 993-9501 or scrow@vhausa.com or see the website www.vhausa.com for an application.

**VHA'S Offices and RISE & STARS
Community Center will be CLOSED &
January 2nd & 16th.**

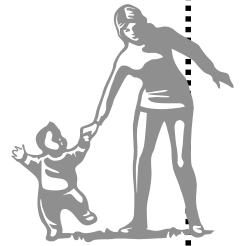
**Moms, Dads and other
family caregivers:**

DROP IN and

PLAY...

SHARE...

DISCOVER!



Play & Learn

**A fun, interactive way to
spend time with your 0-5
year old.**

Thursday mornings,
10 AM to Noon
VHA RISE & STARS
Community Center
500 Omaha Way

For more information
call Sharon @ 992-0205.

360-737-2950

Return Service Requested

Vancouver, WA 98661
500 Omaha Way

RISE & STARS Community Center
Vancouver Housing Authority

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