

Neighbor to Neighbor

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

November 2011
Volume 11 Issue 9

Looking for a job? Looking for a better job?

Inside this Issue

- 2 Your Opinion Counts!
Notice of Public Hearing
on an amendment to
VHA's Moving to Work
Agreement
- 2 Are you late turning in
your "Community
Involvement and
Education" tracking
form?
- 2 Smoking Cessation with
Sea Mar
- 2 Fall and Winter
Preparedness
- 3 The Youth Program is
back for the school year!
- 3 Free conversation
groups for adults
- 3 Resident Employment &
Training Program
- 4 Need skills to pay the
bills?
- 4 Play & Learn

Our current "Going Places Network" training is a grand success and we are hoping to begin another class in January. This class is sponsored by Dress for Success Oregon and 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 social media for job leads and much more. You will also work one-on-one with career coaches and build your personal network in a small, supportive environment with other women. Many program participants have received employment through this training!

Meetings will be held at the Vancouver Housing Authority, 2500 Main Street, Vancouver, WA 98660. To register (space is limited) for this program, call Bridgette @ 360-993-9556 or via email to bfahnbulleh@vhausa.com

Are you a working parent in need of help with transportation? Ways to Work can help!

Ways to Work provides qualified working parents who are unable to get funds elsewhere with low-interest loans upwards of \$6,000 to purchase or \$1,000 repair vehicles. Loans can also be used to refinance higher-interest rate car loans. **Approved borrowers** also receive financial coaching on their budget, credit report, and long-term financial goals.

Ways to Work Services

- Get to work, school, and childcare on time
- Increase your income over time
- Manage your money
- Establish good credit
- How to create and manage a household budget
- Manage your bills
- Save for the future

Accessing Services

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 Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas or Clark county
- Have a household income less than 80% of the Portland median income (80% for a family of 4 is \$56,000)
- Have a valid Washington driver's license

To learn more about Ways to Work contact Bridgette 360 993-9556

Vancouver Housing Authority
694-2501

RISE & STARS Community Center
737-2950

VHA Maintenance
694-4506

Visit VHA on the web @
www.vhausa.com

Your Opinion Counts! Notice of Public Hearing on an amendment to VHA's Moving to Work Agreement

The VHA is requesting your comments on a proposed amendment to the Moving to Work Agreement that VHA has with HUD.

This amendment will give the VHA more flexibility as to how it spends the funds provided by HUD. The Agreement already allows VHA to move funds between programs such as Public Housing and Section 8. The amendment will allow VHA use some funds for housing assistance or services to low-income families even if the housing or services are outside of Section 8 or Section 9 (Public Housing) regulations. Examples of how some other MTW Housing Authorities are already using this amendment include: paying for case management and other social services for low-income families, providing short term or shallow housing subsidies, and helping fund the development of new units for low-income families.

You can see a copy of the amendment on the VHA website at www.vhousa.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@vhousa.com.

To comment in person and to hear others, please come to the public hearing:
Monday, November 7, 2011 at 6:00 pm
Hough Room, Vancouver Housing Authority, 2500 Main Street

Are you late turning in your "Community Involvement and Education" tracking form?

Then please attend this **make up meeting**, before it **effects your housing** in a negative way. We will send managers and housing specialist a list of those who have not turned in their tracking form, if you are on this list it could effect your housing. **It is not too late**, the meeting will be held **November 15, 2011** from 3:10 PM ~ 4:10 PM, Vancouver Housing Authority, 2500 Main Street Vancouver, WA 98660, on the first floor in the Community Room. For more information contact Bridgette (360) 993-9556, or via email to bfahnbulleh@vhousa.com.

Smoking Cessation with Sea Mar

If you've been meaning to quit smoking, let Sea Mar help you take the leap. Quitting tobacco is hard, but TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT!! Improve the chances of success by joining our Smoking Cessation class. There is no cost, but if you are not a Sea-Mar client, you will need to fill out "new patient" paperwork at the first session. Classes take place at the Main Street Office from 3:00 – 4:30 pm. Contact Eric McNair Scott from Sea Mar at 360-566-4425 ext. 16425 or at EricScott@seamarchc.org. Sorry, no child care.

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.



The Youth Program is back for the school year!

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!

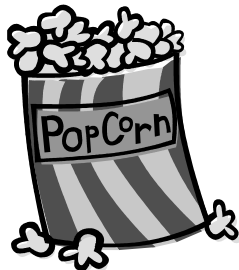
Monday –Teen night with Michael. Food and activities at the Community Center

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



New this year! Family Movie Nights at the Community Center. Bring your family and friends to see a movie and have snacks. Family Movie Nights are the Last Friday of the month, starting at 6pm.

Free conversation groups for adults

Russian Conversation groups at the Downtown Vancouver Library. Practice speaking English in a comfortable setting. No registration required and everyone is welcome. For more information, call Amy at (360) 699-8831. **Downtown Vancouver Library 4th floor, Klickitat Room, 901 “C” Street, Vancouver, WA (New Location).** Every **Tuesday from 10:00AM ~ 11: 30AM.**



VHA Board Of Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, November 23rd, 10:00 AM
2500 Main Street, Vancouver
Meetings are open to the public

Resident Employment & Training Program

This program strives to help residents who are receiving unemployment benefits to find jobs. This month you will learn about agencies that offer Employment opportunities: Pre-employment skills training and job readiness class Job placement assistance, Career counseling, Resume writing assistance, Job referral placement, and follow-up. This class is held once a month. **November 7, 2011** from 1:05 PM ~ 2:35 PM. at Vancouver Housing Authority, 2500 Main Street, Vancouver, WA 98660, first floor, in the Community Room. For more information contact Bridgette (360) 993-9556, or via email to bfahnbulleh@vhausa.com.



Free Ticket For Families **Willy Wonka** at the NW Children’s Theater December 7th at 7:00 PM. Call Becky at 992-0209 for tickets and more information.

Need skills to pay the bills?

Ready to get movin' forward but not sure which road to take? Come to the VHA's Job Skills Fair, where you'll find information about:

- Getting your GED
- Professional/ technical degrees available locally
- Online degrees & certificates
- Paying for your degree or certificate
- Childcare options
- Alternative training options
- Juggling school with the rest of your life!



Thursday, January 5th from 6-8pm.
Childcare available, light refreshments provided. Call 992-0229 for more information.

VHA'S Offices and RISE & STARS Community Center will be CLOSED November 11th, 24th & 25th.

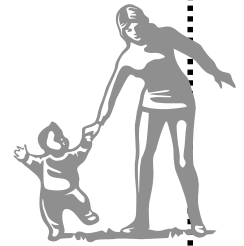
Moms, Dads and other family caregivers:

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.

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Vancover Housing Authority
RISE & STARS Community Center
500 Omaha Way
Vancover, WA 98661
Return Service Requested
360-737-2950