

Next Meeting:
Thursday
January 26th
7-8:30 p.m.
Franklin School

Northwest Neighborhood

Winter 2006



The Two Sides of Volunteerism

By John Rowe

As with most neighborhoods, ours is a diverse collection of folks. We range in age from infancy to centenarians, with needs and capabilities to spare.

One side of volunteerism - the giving side -- can meet some of these needs, and the other - the receiving side - will make good use of the capabilities.

While anyone can be a volunteer, those who are retired or otherwise have time on their hands are most likely to do so. And organizations that coordinate volunteerism are often more successful at matching someone in need with a volunteer who has particular skills and experience, as well as compassion.

Just a short distance north of here, at 7414 NE Hazel Dell Avenue, is a modest, but impressive building that houses Southwest Washington's **Human Services Council**. This is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve people's lives by connecting them to opportunities, information and services. They accomplish this in part through volunteers either directly or as part of a larger service. (see Two Sides on page 3)

Emergency Preparedness Committee Shares Research and Training Opportunity

By Leonard Bauhs

Since our meeting in October, a committee of your neighbors has been researching emergency preparedness on a number of fronts. Ted Anderson has researched what other neighborhood associations are doing with the issue. Fred Bateman has built on his own experience with emergency radios, otherwise known as NOAA or SAME radios, in an article beginning on page 2. Gail Becker, who has assembled the first 72-hour kit that I am aware of in the neighborhood writes about the process she used and the choices she made along the way, beginning on page 4.



Ted's research has uncovered an opportunity for Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training from the Shumway Neighborhood Association. About a year ago, concerned residents of that neighborhood applied for and received a federal grant to send 100 people to CERT training and about 90 have completed the course. Sessions specifically organized for Shumway neighbors have a few slots available for early February.

Tami Kihs, the Emergency Manager for the Vancouver Fire Department, will present information at our meeting on

Thursday about CERT training in general and about the sessions in February and beyond. If you want to be better prepared for fire, hazard and medical emergencies when disaster strikes, please plan to attend on Thursday night.

Port Expansion Means New Road, Railway

By Tom Knappenberger

The Port of Vancouver is planning to double in size within the next five to seven years through its Columbia Gateway project. The impact of this project will be felt in the Northwest Neighborhood primarily through the expanded road and railways.

Under the plan, extending 26th Avenue north to connect with Fruit Valley Road will increase port access. Of the three alternatives, one would intersect with Fruit Valley north of 39th Street, another at 61st Street, and the third just south of the Burnt Bridge Creek Bridge.

The road extension would allow trucks to exit I-5 at 78th Street, travel west to Fruit Valley and south to the port. The two rail extension alternatives would connect the port with the main line, and a third would run around the west side of the lake, connecting near Felida. (see Port Expansion on page 2)