

Summer Picnic:
 Sat, Jul 18
 noon - 4 p.m.
 Franklin Park

Northwest Neighborhood

Summer 2009



The appearance of the summer newsletter can mean just one thing: the day of the neighborhood picnic is near!

Pat Jolotta promises entertaining tales of local politics of yesteryear once we have had our fill. **The Vancouver Fire Department** will also make an appearance and, hopefully, not be called to a fire or other emergency.

The neighborhood association is providing plates, cups, napkins and utensils, as well as chips, condiments and drinks. Bring your choice of grilling meat, poultry or soy product for your own consumption and bun. Also please bring a salad or desert to share, as well as spatula or other serving utensil.

See you there!

Autumn meeting:
 Election debates on
 Thursday, October 15
 (see story page 6)

Many bridge toll options -- have your say!

By Fred Bateman

Since the bridge requirements have now been approved by the major parties, the next phase is to determine how to pay for it. In the past



With the 39th St hill in view behind the cherry picker, progress is evident on the overpass project, which should be completed by the winter of 2010.

The Lincoln NA received a Neighborhood Traffic Safety grant and the City received a state grant, so there will also be a series of construction projects between now and then along 39th St, the primary route to and from the NW neighborhood.

both trolls and tolls have been mentioned. I prefer trolls who will come up from under and extract payment for safe passage, however these days there needs to be an assured cash flow to pay off the bonds.

Each of the existing spans was funded by tolls, and the new bridge will likewise need to have tolls, too. This is because there is not enough state and federal funds to pay for it. Among many other bridges, the Alaskan Way Viaduct and the 520 floating bridge across Lake Washington are scheduled to be replaced.

Think of a toll as a user fee, like water, electric and other charges based on uses. If you are among those of us who remember the old tollbooths, well, there won't be any. Instead frequent crossers will have transponders and less frequent users will be billed based upon license plate numbers.

Options for the tolling plan include a flat rate per crossing, variable rate with highest toll during the busiest time, double rates collected one way only, toll both I-5 and 205 bridges, and collect tolls during construction, too, to build up a reserve.

The actual amount cannot be determined until the cost is known, the amount of federal funds is determined and the two states allocate funds. Watch the media for opportunities to comment on tolling scenarios and visit the website listed on page 8.