



SKAMANIA COUNTY

NEWS FROM FACILITIES & RECREATION

Holiday Open House Edition

You Don't Want to Miss This



Skamania County Christmas Basket Fund

Mark Your 2010 Calendars!!!



Columbia Gorge Bluegrass Festival
July 22-25

Don't forget to grab a copy of the Winter 2010 Recreation Guide, available today! Be sure to check out these exciting upcoming programs:

Kid's Ceramics at Rock Creek Center, Saturday, 12/12, 9-11AM

Kid's Winter Break Outings Holiday Movie

Tuesday, 12/22, grades 5-8
Wednesday, 12/23, grades 1-4

Ice Skating
Monday, 12/28, grades 1-4
Tuesday, 12/29, grades 5-8

Boot Camp Fitness Challenge
Start the year off well!
January 4-February 5

Community After School Program (CASP) Stay busy after school, every Monday through Thursday, grades K-8

The Skamania County Christmas Basket Fund presents baskets of food and toys to over 200 families in need this season. Started in 1980 by a few county employees, the organization is still going strong through the contributions of dedicated volunteers, led by Ila Mae Thompson (pictured right). With an annual cost of \$5,000 to provide these services, the program would not exist without the donations of our generous community members. We thank you for the gifts you brought, today. The fund continues to accept canned food and new toys until December 16th (no homemade items, glass, expired or dented cans, please) at the second floor entrance of the Skamania County Courthouse. Monetary donations are gladly accepted year round at the



Ila Mae Thompson has led the Christmas Basket Fund Effort since 1980.

Stevenson branch of River-view Community Bank, and Tennon Accounting.



Skamania County Fair and Timber Carnival
August 11-15



Catch up with Skamania County Facilities and Recreation on Facebook or

Call: 509-427-3980

E-mail: parks@co.skamania.wa.us

Visit:

www.skamaniacountyparks.com

www.skamaniacountyfair.com

www.columbiagorgebluegrass.net



CASP participants will present the kids' cool creation table at Winterfest 2010.



Winterfest 2010

Skamania County Facilities & Recreation is gearing up for a flurry of fun at our annual Winterfest! The FREE event hits Old Man Pass Sno*Park January 23, 10AM-2PM. Bundle up the family, and celebrate winter with traditional snow play activities, including sledding, snowshoeing, snow skating,

and snowman building. Visitors will enjoy backcountry safety and survival presentations, and chilly crafts brought to you by the Skamania County Community After School Program (CASP). There is no admission to the event, but a Sno*Park Permit is required for each vehicle.

NEWS FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Happy Holidays from Facilities and Recreation

A great deal of activity is taking place involving the Facilities and Recreation Department.

Most notable is the remodeling/addition of the Rock Creek Center to accommodate Community Health and Senior Services. This new combination Community Services Center will be a one stop location for a variety of Recreation, Cultural and Community Health uses. The additional 12,500 square feet of space will be used for **Community Health**, including the Counseling Center and Public Health; **Senior Services**, including a Senior "drop in" Lounge and an addition to the Auditorium for dining; and, a **multipurpose meeting room space** designed for public and governmental use. The building can also be used as an alternate E.O.C. when needed for multiple disaster events, or if the primary E.O.C is unavailable. The addition consolidates and replaces three existing buildings, provides enhanced meeting and event

space, creates economies of operation, as well as increased staff safety and efficiency. The complete plans as well as the ever-changing work in progress is visible at 710 SW Rock Creek Drive. The project should be entirely completed by April, 2010.

Also under major renovation is the **Courthouse Annex** housing Public Works and Community Development. This remodel provides the one-stop service center for public works, development, building, environmental health and planning concerns as well as enhanced utilization of space. The remodel of the forty year old structure provides energy saving features and modernizes the building for current and future technology. It will be completed in January, 2010

One other major renovation was much less visible, but extremely important. As technology has become essential to almost every county operation -- especially at the Courthouse and Sheriff's Office -- the need to modernize our sixty year old courthouse's electrical system became critical. In recent months, we have performed complete **replacement of the trans-**

former and switch gear

which provides power to the courthouse and the county's data and communication systems. We have provided emergency generator capability to keep those systems operable in the event of any type of power fluctuation. The project will be completed with some hill-side stabilization, landscaping, and paving by Spring, 2010.

The Recreation side of the Department's operation has also had a busy year. Our fitness programs have taken on additional classes including more aerobics and conditioning classes; our recreation offerings provided a wide range of activities from trips and special camps to computer and language classes; and, we worked with Deborah Messinger's School of Dance to provide a comprehensive dance studio at the Exhibit Hall on the Skamania County Fairgrounds. We opened up the Exhibit Hall with beautiful windows overlooking the gorge, and, with the help of SCPOP and WSU extension helped provide a Community Garden on the fairgrounds. We have also launched a planning effort to upgrade and make better use of

Home Valley Park for a variety of sports programs.

Finally, our Events program just keeps getting better. Our annual Skamania County Fair and Timber Carnival continues to provide an outstanding agricultural and community oriented fair with increasing notoriety among fair professionals. Completing only our second year of operating the Columbia Gorge Bluegrass Festival, we have created new achievement benchmarks for this type of festival in the Northwest. In addition to these big events, we sponsor at least 12 other community events throughout the year. Take a look at our Recreation Guide, get on our e-news list, or visit skamaniacountyparks.com to get more information.

Happy Holidays. Best wishes for the new year! Make 2010 the year you review our programs and get connected to your community through Skamania County Facilities and Recreation.

Sincerely,



Scott B. Pineo, Director




The Rock Creek Community Services Building should be complete by April 2010



News from Around Skamania County

Holiday Greetings from your Assessor's office! The assessor's office would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Here in our office, sales have been trickling in, one to two a week, with sales prices typically close to the assessed value. We are currently finishing our inspections and preparing the 2009 sales data for our appraisals in 2010. Most of you will receive your updated values by the end of May. Have a safe and happy Holiday Season!



Skamania County

Skamania County Facilities and Recreation wishes you every happiness this holiday season and throughout the coming year!

The Skamania County Health Department celebrates its first year of Health Department services under county control. We have a dedicated team of nurses and staff that are flexible and remain excited about innovative approaches to Community Health. The Health Department has participated in an intense flu season and through community coordination met the needs of our residents. The Health Department provides the following services: Family Planning, WIC, Immunizations, STD/HIV, Communicable Disease, TB testing, Maternal/Child Health Services, MSS, Oral Health, Child Care Health Consultants, Child with Special Health Care Needs Consultant, and Emergency Preparedness.