



These are strategic measures that will improve our effectiveness and help us better meet our coming financial challenges.

- Vancouver City Manager Pat McDonnell, on recent restructuring efforts affecting the Transportation and Media Services departments - the final component of an initiative he claimed would save the city \$700,000 annually.



## Fourth Plain eats

First Annual International Food Festival set to kick-off July 10 in Vancouver

BY PAUL LEONARD | of the VBJ

In a celebration of the diverse string of shops, restaurants and businesses lining Fourth Plain Boulevard, organizers planned to inaugurate the first annual 4th Plain International Food Festival on Saturday, July 10 at Warrior Field in Vancouver.

More than 15 restaurants are on tap to participate at the event, which will feature offerings ranging from Mexican, Indian to Greek cuisine. "I've been here since the time

had come to simply press forward with the concept of an annual festival," said Sharif Burdzik, assistant vice president and team leader at First Independent Bank in Vancouver and the chair of the Fourth Plain Boulevard Business Coalition.

According to Burdzik, the food festival began as a way to draw visitors to this 2.5-mile-long stretch of Fourth Plain between St. John's Boulevard and Burton Road, which despite being one of

Vancouver's busiest vehicular and mass transit corridors, is still often overlooked by diners and shoppers.

That's a goal shared by one of the Fourth Plain Corridor's oldest tenants, Butcher Boys, which will begin moving from its current location near Grand Blvd. to a bigger location at 4710 E. Fourth Plain Blvd. on the night of the food festival, according to manager Peter Kurfurst.

"We're trying to get people down here to check out the

businesses they may not even know are down here," Kurfurst said.

The heavily-trafficked stretch of roadway has been the focus of increased attention from local elected officials, transportation engineers and Clark County's business community of late. A recent C-TRAN planning board meeting featured a proposal to establish a rapid transit corridor on Fourth Plain,

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*Michelle Kerasas*

## A watershed effort

Washougal firm to lead Toutle River sediment management

BY VBJ STAFF

More than 30 years after a massive eruption changed the landscape of Mount St. Helens, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is taking another approach to manage sediment still finding its way into the North Fork Toutle River and ultimately the Cowlitz River.

The Mount St. Helens Grade Building Structures Pilot Project is expected to slow down the flow of the river and allow sediment to settle on the mountain before it gets

into the watershed.

"If they work the way we believe they will, these structures will stop sediment and encourage small islands to form," said Marci Johnson, project coordinator. "Those islands, in turn, will help form habitats which could produce food for wildlife."

LKE Corp., a Washougal-based construction company, was awarded the contract June 10. The project's cost is \$3.5 million

and is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 - also known as the federal stimulus program.

"We are very excited. This is a one-of-a-kind project," said Mike Walsh, project manager at LKE Corp.

Construction on the pilot project began this month in the sediment plain above the Sediment Retention Structure (SRS), which means a

popular area for visitors to Mount St. Helens will be off limits.

"Hikers will not be allowed in and around the staging and construction areas," Johnson said. "People will be able to see the construction from viewing areas near the SRS and Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitors Center."

The eruption of Mount St. Helens on May 18, 1980 dramatically altered the Cowlitz and Toutle River

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