

March 9, 2011 – Ridgefield Events

I felt like country folk when I put out the call for help on the **Word House project** and had such a great response. Joe Burton donated 4x4's, plywood, and literature boxes, BJ Babcock and Jean Morrow gave me money, and the Lions Club voted to write a nice check to construct as many Word Houses as possible. Liz Krantz has volunteered to help with the painting, and Bruce Crockett said he would help construct them. Thank you all! You know you're in Ridgefield when people volunteer to help you!

The first Word House is up in front of Alcove Art Gallery, and another will be put up outside the Pioneer Street Café. A third will soon be on display in front of Ridgefield Kayak.

The **houses contain poems, quotation, paintings**, etc., chosen by the sponsoring store. Different sheets will be added each month, so it's worth checking out when you're in town. Some people tell me they plan to collect each month's offering. Eventually we hope to have houses scattered throughout town.

Congratulations to **Gina Scavera**, who won the raffle for a **gift certificate** from the **Dancing Rabbit** at this month's First Friday celebration. Each month one of our local business people donates a prize, which goes to someone who visits each store on First Friday. Come down next month to win a gift basket containing work from the artists at Alcove Art Gallery.

Saturday, March 12th the local chapter of **Ducks Unlimited** will hold its annual banquet at the Ridgefield Community Center. Refreshments are at 5 pm and dinner at 6 pm will kick off a great evening for sportsmen and those supporting habitat for our wildlife.

This is a family oriented event, and a limited amount of tickets will be sold at the door.

You may contact Bruce Wiseman, 887-4582, or Bill Bishop 727-3083 for more information or to purchase a ticket.

Inspiration Plantation, 24311 NW 24th Avenue, is having a **Rummage Sale Fundraiser** this Friday & Saturday, March 11 and 12th, at the farm.

They are officially unpacked and have found themselves with more stuff than they know what to do with! So, in an effort to raise funds for the farm they are selling it! (the stuff, not the farm). And let me tell you, there is a lot of stuff, something for everyone; from clothes,

to household goods, to furniture, and lots of décor items! There will be an ad on Craigslist soon if you want to know more and see some pictures! Information: 503-810-6020, www.inspirationplantation.com.

Congratulation to **Lauren Heflin**, who was named **First Team, All-Great Northwest Athletic Conference** for women's basketball. Lauren averaged 12.5 points a game during the regular season for the Vikings of Western Washington University. She is ranked 14th in NCAA Division II in field-goal percentage, and among the GNAC top ten in six categories. Way to go Lauren!

Bret from **Countryside Ride** will be playing at the **Pioneer Street Cafe** from 11 am to 1 pm this Sunday, March 13th, for their **second musical brunch**. If things go well they may make every Sunday a musical brunch.

Come out and support this talented local musician and enjoy a flavorful brunch. The mimosas will be flowing! Information and reservations: 887-8001

Saturday March 12th – **Inspiration Plantation Farm Tour** - 1:00-3:00 pm. That's right...farm tours are back! Join Matt & Jen for a walk around IP. See, hear and learn all about the past, present and future of this diversified family farm. If you've wanted to come out for a visit, mark your calendar as this event promises to be a fun day at the farm. This is a free event and please be sure to dress appropriately. Inspiration Plantation is at 24311 NW 24th Avenue. Information: 503-810-6020, www.inspirationplantation.com.

First annual **Veteran and Community Fundraiser and Membership Drive**, sponsored by the Sons of American Legion, American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and the Sportsmen's Bar and Grill, will be held on **Saturday, March 19**. There will be music all day, special deals on food, raffles, prizes, etc. Members will be on hand to sign up people who are interested in joining one of the groups - come and support our veterans. Money raised will go towards helping our veterans, their families and for community support. Information: Mike Knerr, 887-3492.

Connect with nature and make a difference when you volunteer at the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge**. Those interested have the opportunity to attend Refuge training events beginning with an open house where you can meet staff and learn about the refuge and opportunities available, pizza is included!

Additional trainings have a specific focus for those interested, and new and returning volunteers are encouraged to apply. Registration is required so contact (360) 887-4106 or josie_finley@fws.gov to sign up. Training events are as follows:

Open House & General Orientation: March 17, 6 pm-7:30 pm, Ridgefield Community Center

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Cultural Education Training: March 19, 10 am-3 pm, Clark County Fire & Rescue Station at 911 N 65th, Ridgefield

Environmental Education Training: March 24, 10 am-3 pm, Ridgefield Community Center

Habitat Restoration Field Orientation: April 9, 9 am-12:30 pm, Ridgefield NWR River 'S' Visitor Contact Station (1071 South Hillhurst)

The new spring **Belly Dance class** begins Wednesday, March 16th at The Old Liberty Theater, 115 North Main Avenue (entrance through Seasons). Beginners: 6:30-7:30; Intermediate/Advanced: 7:30-8:30. \$65 for 8 sessions. Everyone is welcome to participate in the entire two hours for the same one-class price.

All ages are welcome and no special attire is required. Register in advance at Seasons or at the first class. Questions? Call Ilia @ 360.727-3387 or e-mail ilijane@comcast.net.

Plankhouse Spring Opening program

The Plankhouse is finally opening up for the season!

Join us at 2 pm on March 27, from noon to 4 pm as we welcome Judge James Swan, re-enacted by Stephen Ricketts, as he relays his adventures as an early traveler in the Northwest in the mid 1800's. Judge Swan thoroughly documented his experiences and relationships with Native American communities in his book published in 1857.

We will also be celebrating the anniversary of the day Lewis and Clark met the people of Cathlapotle, with guided walks at 12 pm and 3:30 pm on the Carty Unit to explore the Local Lewis and Clark legacy. Children's activities are included from 12 pm-4 pm. For more information contact Katie Harrison at (360) 887-4106 or Katie_Harrison@fws.gov.

Nominations are being accepted for the 13th annual **Youth Achievement Awards** in Clark County. The program will recognize up to 300 people between the ages of 11 and 19 at a program on May 21. The awards will recognize achievement in 11 categories.

Nomination forms are available at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/youth-family/commission.html>. Deadline to apply is April 1. For more information, call 397-2130, ext. 5133.

Inspiration Plantation is looking to **hire an intern** to work on their farm. This will be a paid position for some lucky person wanting to learn about farming first hand. Some of the intern's many jobs will be:

Animal management: processing, rotational grazing, feeding, egg collection, cleaning and regular animal care.

Construction and farm maintenance: farm buildings, structures, fences, pasture preservation, etc.

Garden and greenhouse installation and maintenance: planting, irrigation, weeding, picking, etc.

Direct marketing: through the Farm Store, to buying clubs and wholesale customers and at farmers' markets.

This person need not have previous farming experience, merely a fascination with farming and a desire to learn. It will start as a part-time position with the possibility of full-time employment and requires a long-term, seasonal commitment through November, 2011. If you're interested, e-mail your resume to inspirationplantation@gmail.com.

Volunteer at the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge** on Saturday, March 12 from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Come out to the refuge and help with habitat restoration by planting native trees in areas normally closed to the public. Contact Jill Peoples at Jill_Peoples@fws.gov or (360) 887-3883. Meet at the River "S" Unit Kiosk, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Ridgefield, WA 98642.

WANTED: an arbor. **Pioneer Street Café** is going to open an outdoor seating area next to their building, and they need to create an enclosed space, set off by a fence or plantings. They're hoping someone will donate an arbor, or something similar, to use as a gateway into the area. If you can help, call Jessica at 887-8001.

LOOKING AHEAD

A Day for Dragons - Saturday, March 26, at the library. Information: 887-8281.

Clark County Public Utilities **Home and Garden Idea Fair** - April 29, 30, May 1 at the Clark County Event Center.