



# THE VINE

Vancouver Information and News for Employees

July 22, 2009

## City Spotlight: Staff Puts The Fun In Wagon!

FunWagon Adds Zip To A Day In The Park

A white van with a bright paint job is visiting 10 local parks this summer to offer a bit of excitement to whoever shows up. Staffed by Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation and funded by donations to the Clark County Parks Foundation, the FunWagon carries equipment and supplies for a lively couple of hours with park visitors. An energetic part-time staff of two takes the lead to set up craft tables, bowling lanes and games of bingo. Pulling out a bright yellow parachute usually draws a crowd. Soccer balls, basketballs or dodge balls are sprinkled across the lawn.

The purpose of the FunWagon is to provide free, unstructured, supervised safe play designed for ages five through 12. Children and their parents or caregivers are invited to take part in the activities which are planned around adventure, wellness and nature play.

Ariel Huddleston, recreation staffer, says parents think the FunWagon is a "very cool" way to get kids to play games and make crafts. Most kids say it is "so much fun" that some of them want to follow the van to the next park.

Narek Danielyan, the other recreation assistant, says they've had nothing but good remarks from parents and kids. "In a sketching activity," he says, "one of the kids looked down at his work and said 'Wow! that's Amazing!'" Narek says he didn't think the child thought of himself as artistic and he was glad the program showed him otherwise.

Working with the Parks Foundation, staff will also help children post their comments about all the fun on a blog to generate even more community interest in the FunWagon program.

Cheri Martin, Parks Foundation director, comments "With its focus on providing fun, safe, supervised activities to the children of Clark County who might not otherwise have an opportunity to participate in summertime recreational play, the Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Summer FunWagon is a perfect complement to the mission and vision of the Parks Foundation and a program the foundation is both pleased and proud to support and endorse."

Martin also noted that to keep the FunWagon rolling all summer, the Foundation still must raise approximately \$5,000 in private donations. For information on how and where to donate [click here](#).

[Catch the FunWagon at one of these parks this summer.](#)



In the photos:

*From right: Brét Kertz shows off the FunWagon; Narek Danielyan runs a bingo game; Ariel Huddleston plays bowling ball return; kids, parents and staff get to play with*

*the parachute.*

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

*This newsletter is provided by the Media Services Department of the City of Vancouver to all employees. To submit articles, send to [TheVine@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:TheVine@ci.vancouver.wa.us) by 5 p.m. each Monday. Unless it is followed by a holiday, The Vine will be published each Wednesday afternoon.*