



# Parks Foundation

## CLARK COUNTY

Ensuring uncommonly vibrant parks, trails, and recreational programs throughout Clark County. January 2010

## In this Issue

Resolution *cover*

Kids First *page 2*

Happy New Year *page 2*

**City Spotlight:** *cover*

### Board Members

Linda Barber

Marianne Barrus

Matt Bisturis

Dan Clark

Carrie Gaines

Henry Gerhard

Debbi Hanson

Roy Heikkala

Nelson Holmberg

Clarence Hughes

Arlene Johnson

Susan Johnston

Sharon Lien

Jaime Parra

Larry Smith

Todd Stryker

John Wiesman

### Staff

Cheri Martin

Executive Director

Dawn Mattson

Accounting Specialist

Kimber Huntington Webb

Marketing Specialist

### Parks Foundation

P.O. Box 2397

Vancouver, WA 98668

360.619.1170

[www.parksfoundation.us](http://www.parksfoundation.us)

## Resolution

n. 1. Firm determination 2. An act of resolving to do something 3. The fineness of detail that can be distinguished in an image 4. An explanation, as of a puzzle or problem: SOLUTION.

Did you know that more than 50 percent of Clark County children in grades 8-12 get less than 60 minutes of physical activity each day and that more than 25 percent of our children are overweight or on the verge of becoming overweight? In our community, 62 percent of adults are classified as overweight or obese. Physical health directly impacts our mental health...and we all want a healthy community, right? Utilizing our many outstanding parks, trails, and recreational programs can play a significant role in curbing the growing trend towards less activity and weight gain.

The Parks Foundation is currently working with parks and recreation departments of Clark County to determine critical needs in battling this health epidemic. You can help! Make a resolution to use your parks, trails, and recreational programs. Walk, run, play, volunteer. Improve your health and the health of Clark County. Join us on Facebook and Twitter to share your efforts, connect with other likeminded individuals, and learn more about what you can do to get healthy and stay healthy through your parks and recreation programs.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2010.

Cheri Martin

Executive Director

## City Spotlight Battle Ground

TREE OF HOPE  
This tree shows Courage,  
Strength, and Survival  
each day giving HOPE to  
everyone!

The Tree of Hope and Reflection Bench recently dedicated at Kiwanis Park in Battle Ground was originally intended to honor and remember those we have lost to cancer. The tree's growth is meant to symbolize the strength, survival, and courage of cancer patients and their loved ones. Cancer survivor Linda Kravas, who spent two and a half years fundraising for this project, realized just prior to the dedication ceremony in November that the tree and bench will likely come to represent many different things as community members enjoy the tree and reflect on individual life experiences. "With the economy and the many challenges we face many families may need a place to reflect on what their life might be at any given time," Linda explains. Thank you Linda for creating this special place for everyone. Your courage, strength, and survival are inspirational.



## Special Santa Visit

Thanks to Ron Edwards of Western Construction, children enrolled in the Washington Elementary Kids First program received a surprise visit from Santa this year. Ron wanted to brighten the lives of some special kids so he helped Santa arrange the visit.

Kids First, a free, fun, safe, after-school program, is an important program of the Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Department providing games, sports, arts & crafts, storytelling, music, science, nature, drama and much more – even snacks! Kids First is currently offered at Washington, Image, and Fruit Valley Elementary Schools during the school year and additionally Hough, Minnehaha, and Evergreen Park in the summer.



## ROCKIN' IN THE NEW YEAR!

Thanks to Vancouver's new mayor, Tim Leavitt, the New Year's Eve Bash at the Heathman, benefiting both the Parks Foundation and Community Choices, was a huge success.

In choosing which community nonprofits would benefit from the event, Mayor Leavitt explained, "The Parks Foundation of Clark County and Community Choices are both very close to my heart and do incredible work to help make our community a healthier, greener, safer and more beautiful place to live, where each of us can thrive."

A big thank you to Mayor Leavitt and committee members RaeAnn Clark, Lisa Goodrich, Roy and Cindy Heikkala, and Temple Lentz.

Happy New Year!



Stay connected to the Parks Foundation - Join us on Facebook and Twitter! Download photos of parks and trails in Clark County, learn about upcoming events, and receive weekly tweets about connecting to nature.

