



What's New?

Richland receives federal stimulus funds for Research District project . . . \$1.68 million in federal economic stimulus funds have been made available to the City of Richland from the State of Washington to **reconstruct First Street**, a primary east-west artery in the Research District, which connects Stevens Drive with George Washington Way. The money will be used for widening and resurfacing the street to three lanes, installing the necessary curb cuts for future growth, and improving and adding landscaping, sidewalks, and underground utilities. **Pete Rogalsky**, the City's public works director, says that the project should go out to bid in July, with work beginning in late August or early September. It will take 6 to 8 months to complete. The project is particularly important because it serves much of the land available for future development in the Research District. To see how First Street fits into the **Research District Master Plan**, go to: http://www.tricitieresearchdistrict.org/images/pdfFiles/08_masterplan.pdf

New laboratories highlight Pacific Northwest National Laboratory campus upgrade . . .

Three major new laboratory facilities will expand PNNL's research capabilities over the next two years. The 73,100 square foot **Biological Sciences Facility (BSF)** and the 75,600 square foot **Computational Sciences Facility (CSF)** are nearing completion on PNNL's main campus and should be occupied by September of this year. The two facilities have cost approximately \$75 million to construct and are being built by a private developer who will lease them back to PNNL. About 310 of PNNL's staff from energy, environmental, national security and fundamental science research missions will be based in the new buildings.



BSF and CSF shown lower center,
EMSL center right, and PSF upper center

The 200,000 square foot **Physical Sciences Facility (PSF) research complex** is being constructed just north of PNNL's main campus on land owned by the federal government. The \$224 million complex is sponsored by several federal agencies and will comprise PNNL's Materials Science laboratory, the Ultra-Trace laboratory, the Radiation Detection laboratory, the Deep Underground laboratory, and the Radiation Portal Monitoring Test Track and High Bay. The complex will be completed in late 2010 and will house about 450 staff members who will support various national security and energy research missions. For more information on PNNL's Capability Replacement Laboratory program, visit: <http://www.pnl.gov/rcf/index.stm>

PNNL named one of 46 new Energy Research Frontier Centers; to receive \$22.5 million from the U.S. Department of Energy. . . The new **Center for Molecular Electrocatalysis** will receive \$4.5 million in economic stimulus funds each year over the next five years. The first round of funding is expected to arrive on August 1. Much of the research will be done at PNNL, but researchers will utilize collaborators from the University of Washington, the University of Wyoming, and Pennsylvania State University. Most of the research at PNNL will be carried out in the **new Physical Sciences Laboratory** complex. More at:

http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/562007.html

Prosperity Partnership develops “A Basic Introduction to Energy-Related American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding Opportunities” for energy-related projects

. . . . The Puget Sound-based **Prosperity Partnership** has released a new guide to assist eligible applicants in finding and securing energy-related funding under the AARA federal economic stimulus-funding program. You can download their very informative PowerPoint presentation at:

<http://prosperitypartnership.org/recovery/PP-ARRAGuide.ppt>.



Tri-Cities ranks 47th in list of inventors obtaining patents . . .

There are many ways to gauge the concentration of those inventing new ideas through patents. New data from the **State Science & Technology Institute** developed by **Arizona State University** for the period 2001-2005 tracks the number of inventors who obtain patents and where they reside. According to the data, the Tri-Cities MSA ranks 47 out of 357 Metropolitan Statistical Areas procuring patents. According to ASU, “the geographic allocation of a patent granted is determined by the residence of the first-named inventor at the time of the grant.” More at:

http://economist.asu.edu/analysis/data_set

United begins direct air service to San Francisco . . . SkyWest Airlines, operating as **United Express**, has launched direct, two-a-day, round-trip flights between Pasco and San Francisco. The service cuts several hours off the time it takes to make the trip flying through Seattle, Spokane, or Denver. In April, Compass Air, operating as **Delta/Northwest**, began daily non-stop service to Minneapolis, making it easier to travel to the upper mid-west, the East Coast, or to Europe from the Tri-Cities. “**Carl Adrian**, president and CEO of TRIDEC, whom has been working with other local partners to improve air service to our area, said, “The Tri-Cities is among few communities of its size in the country that have direct service to five different hubs.” Read more about the new service to regional hubs at:



<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/915/story/624113.html>, and
<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/915/story/517956.html>

Comings and Goings . . .

Schwenk elected Chairman of the Washington Technology Center . . . Mike Schwenk, vice president and director of technology deployment and outreach at **Pacific Northwest National Laboratory**, was elected at WTC’s June 18 board meeting. The **Washington Technology Center**, along with **Energy Northwest**, operates the **Applied Process Engineering Laboratory (APEL)** in the Tri-Cities Research District. More information at:

<http://www.watechcenter.org/news/2009/07/wtc-board-elects-officers-mike-schwenk.html>

Research District welcomes two new businesses . . . More than 30 citizens attended a welcome

party sponsored by the TCRD at the **SIGN Signature Center** on June 24 in order to welcome two new businesses to the Research District. In November of 2008 **HAPO Credit** opened a new, 2,400 sq. foot branch at **2952 George Washington Way**. The new full-service branch office employs eight. According to **Cheryl Luechel**, Vice President of Operations for HAPO, the whole idea of the new branch goes, “. . . right back to our roots. Hanford gave us our start and we want to give back to the people who have made it possible for us to be successful.” HAPO’s new location is open Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. until 5 p.m., as a convenience to Hanford workers, and offers a full range of services, including an ATM and drive-through window. HAPO has 11 branches and total assets of \$662.8 million. <http://www.hapo.org/>



The other new business that has located at SIGN is the **CG Café**, owned by local Country Gentleman restaurateur and caterer, **Steve Simmons**. “We’re tickled to be able to be at the SIGN complex and

we're looking forward to serving the needs of the people out there at breakfast and lunch.”
<http://www.cg catering.com/>

The Signature Center is a 2,000 square foot meeting facility with a preparatory kitchen, full AV capability, and high-speed wireless connectivity. In addition to serving as SIGN's corporate headquarters, the Signature Center is home to **The Digital Image**, a graphics design firm, and convenient drive-through espresso stand. An additional 5,000 square feet of space is available for future development at the Center. For more information, contact Jennifer Brown at 509-375-1341 or visit: http://www.thesignaturecenter.com/firmset_ftr.htm



SIGN (Surgical Implant Generation Network) was incorporated in 1999 by orthopedic surgeon, **Dr. Lewis Zirkle**. His mission is to provide training and instrumentation to a worldwide network of surgeons who use the techniques designed by Dr. Zirkle to treat severe fractures, often the result of war or other turmoil in developing countries. **Jeanne Dillner**, CEO for SIGN, said that the company now has 26 employees at its North Richland facility. If you want to know more about SIGN and their programs, visit: <http://www.sign-post.org/>



In Focus. . .

InnovaTek, Inc. named semi-finalist in Clean Tech Open . . . **InnovaTek**, located in the APTEL technology incubator in the Research District, has been named one of the semi-finalists in the inaugural **Pacific Northwest Clean Tech Open** competition, sponsored by an organization of leading entrepreneurs, academics, investors, and companies, working together to accelerate the development of clean technology startups. The competition seeks out early-stage clean technology companies, and provides unique resources to empower these start-ups to become viable businesses. Twelve semi-finalists were selected from more than 50 entries. The teams are competing for three regional prizes of up to \$50,000 in cash and in-kind services as well as for one national prize of up to \$250,000 in cash and services.



InnovaTek's entry focuses on renewable hydrogen fuel cell technology. InnovaTek was one of the original signatories to Memorandum of Understanding leading to the TCRD being designated as a state **Innovation Partnership Zone**.

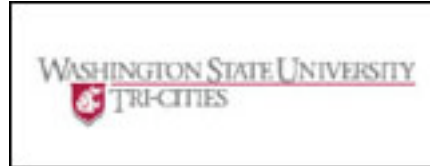
Another Tri-Cities company, **NHThree, LLC**, was also named a semi-finalist. This company is perfecting a clean and cheaper method of making anhydrous ammonia, which is used mostly in fertilizers and to make other chemicals. The two local companies will travel in mid-July to San Jose, Calif., for a “boot camp” where national experts in venture capital, business, law, marketing, and sustainability will help them to further develop their business plans. For more, see: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/915/story/632493.html>

Research District establishes industry targets . . . While the TCRD works to facilitate cooperation and interaction between the companies and organizations located there, at its core, it is an economic development organization focused on the physical development of the District and creating new jobs and tax base. To accomplish that, each year, the TCRD board and executive director develops an **Annual Strategic Planning Framework and Action Plan** to guide them in this process. As a part of that process, the TCRD focuses on specific **industry targets** that have appeared to have a particularly close correlation with the strengths of the TCRD. These include: **clean energy, biosciences, environmental technologies, and computation/software**. Review the Action Plan and other TCRD planning documents at: http://www.tricitiesresearchdistrict.org/annual_planning.html

However, sometimes an opportunity presents itself within the District – beyond the scope of our normal efforts – that provides great promise for the future. The following story is an example of such an opportunity.

WSU creates class wine research and education program; hires industry expert; will build research winery and teaching laboratories at TCRD . . .

“I haven’t tasted a 100-point wine yet. As long as (the potential for making one) is still out there, I wouldn’t want to stand still.” That’s what drives **Thomas Henick-Kling**, the first director of WSU’s new viticulture and enology program, who arrived on March 1. His program will be headquartered at the WSU-TC campus in the Tri-City Research District, but will include additional facilities and activities at Pullman and Prosser as well.



The 52-year old Henick-Kling learned about wine early when he traveled around his native Germany with his father, a wine buyer. He received a Master’s degree in microbiology from Oregon State University and a Ph.D. in Australia. He spent 20 years as faculty member at Cornell University in New York where he led their wine research and extension program. Most recently, Henick-Kling was the director of the National Wine & Grape Industry Centre at Wagga Wagga, New South Wales.

At WSU, Henick-Kling is tasked with building a world class wine research and education program that will train undergraduate and graduate students to work in the wine industry, locally and around the world. However, his major task will be to support the wine industry with great research and an educated workforce. “Research is really essential. We know about most of the defects and flaws that affect wine, but we really only know with scientific certainty about 10% of the attributes, and that will occupy us for a very long time. To do that, we need to establish close partnerships between the university and wine industry leaders. There is much to learn, yet, even about our better-known local grape varieties, like Lemberger, Riesling, and Merlot, not to mention such newer varieties as Petit Verdot.



Henick-Kling

Henick-King hopes to build a world-class wine research and education program. To begin with, those facilities will be split between the East Building and BSEL on the Tri-Cities campus and WSU’s Pullman campus. He anticipates that many students in the program will begin their studies in Pullman and then transfer to WSU-TC for their junior and senior years, where they will be involved with ‘hands-on’ projects and training in the local wine industry.

WSU recently announced plans to build a new 25,000 square foot research winery on the hillside overlooking the new demonstration vineyard that has already been planted at the entrance to the Tri-City campus. The new three-level facility will cost between \$10 and \$15 million, according to Henick-Kling, and will be financed from a combination of public and private funding, with construction beginning as early as next year if the money is available. “It’s a teaching and research facility that welcomes the public,” he said.

WSU’s program will be interdisciplinary, involving economics, microbiology, chemistry, and biochemistry, allowing students to work and study under world-class scientists while at the same time providing opportunities for the students to work and associate with industry leaders from Washington’s 600 wineries. “We see tremendous opportunities for collaboration with the chemists and microbiologists at PNNL. I am just starting to develop those relationships.”

Henick-Kling is the second noted researcher to be attracted to WSU-TC in two years. He follows **Birgitte Ahring, PhD**, Director of the Center for Bioproducts and Bioresearch and the Battelle Distinguished Professor at WSU, who recently came to WSU from Denmark and UCLA to direct the

new \$27 million **Bioproduct Science Environmental Laboratory** in 2008. More information visit:

http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/470163.html and
http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/v-print/story/638617.html

Mitch Horowitz Presentation Available . . . Mitch Horowitz, Vice President and Managing Director of **Battelle's Technology Partnership Practice**, spoke at the last TCRD Speaker's Forum on May 13. If you missed his excellent presentation, **Advancing Research Parks: Emerging Trends, Best Practices and Strategies for Recruiting Companies**, it is available at: http://www.pnl.gov/techrealization/media/mitch_horowitz_presentation.pdf

Upcoming . . .

July 21 . . . The City of Richland Economic Development Office will host **“Don't Be a Statistic – 56% of Small Businesses Fail Within the First Five Years,”** featuring **Bruce Davis**, of the local Small Business Development Center and **Art Tackett** of the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments. **Richland Community Center** from **8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

July 29 . . . The Three Rivers Entrepreneur Network presents a special July workshop: **“Domination Marketing: Using the Internet to Gain a Maximum Competitive Edge.”** The speaker will be **Michael Belba**, an Internet Consultant, Internet Marketing Strategist, and Conversion Expert. He will help you discover what the internet really is, discuss the massive online demographic shifts that are occurring, and explain how to place your business in front of your target market for maximum exposure. **Richland Community Center** from **1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Got News . . . ?

We invite your contributions! We will consider any items about the [Tri-Cities Research District](#), or its stakeholders, including news, awards, and notices of upcoming events. Please send text and photos to [C. Mark Smith](#) or call (509) 628-9575.