



News Release

New Vancouver information and news service debuts for all Internet users

March 14, 2008



Need to know the city council agenda in advance? Want to get the latest police and fire news? The City of Vancouver's new, free electronic news service has this and much more for anyone with an email address, reports **Donna Mason**, Vancouver's director of media services.

Individuals may enter their email address on a sign-up page and select from one or all 160 initial topics. A menu page offers the complete selection, which may be updated at any time.

Mason says: "We are very enthusiastic about this new service that will empower citizens to receive information as soon as it is available on topics of interest to them without waiting or searching. It puts customers in control of when, what and how they receive city information.

"Citizens have told us that they want more information about city government that is easier to access, but they also only want information about topics of interest to them. This system will provide timely and accurate updates in response to those requests and will open the door for more two-way communications."

The system can also be used to send text messages to cell phones, and this is potentially useful in emergency situations, according to Mason. All of the administrative tasks are done over the Web by the vendor, GovDelivery, whose servers are in the Midwest and thus would be unaffected by a local disaster.

For further information, click on the icon above, or go to www.cityofvancouver.us.

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