

As part of the landmark Confluence Project, initiated in 2000, the Land Bridge restores the long ago severed link between the waters of the Columbia and Fort Vancouver National Scenic Site where our city began.

As we did with our vast Columbia River waters in the thirties, we began to capture the clean power of our natural wind corridor in the 2000s.

OUR LAST  
**100**

In 2005, after 69 years and 23 branches, E.W. Firstenburg retired from the First Independent board of directors, leaving his children and a dedicated staff to carry on the First Independent tradition.

On September 11, 2001 we awoke to the horrific news of an unprecedented attack on our homeland -- in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. But the country rallied to rebuild, restore, and reflect.



## Harnessing hope and the wind.

A new decade, a new century, and a wake-up call like nothing the country had seen since Pearl Harbor, 1941. With holes in the ground and holes in our hearts, we did what we always do. We picked ourselves up and began anew.

With a heightened appreciation for all we hold dear, Southwest Washington focused in earnest on preservation, conservation, and sustainability. Green became the watchword for building - in banks, offices, and an impressive new Clark County Public Service Center. Millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours poured into preservation of our past -- from Fort Vancouver to the Confluence Project, from Esther Short Park to the Cedar Creek Grist Mill. And we turned our energy focus to wind, importing 305 complete wind turbines and 102 additional towers in 2007 alone.

Times were indeed changing. So much so that, at the end of the decade, we joined with our fellow countrymen and elected our first African-American President.



When Washington State University gained 4-year status at its new Salmon Creek campus, Ed and Mary Firstenburg donated \$1 million toward the 2006 construction of a new student commons.



The Firstenburg Community Center, named for E.W. and Mary Firstenburg, is the centerpiece for community gathering in east Vancouver. Built in 2004, it is an example of Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED).



When the crossing over Columbia Street, near the Inn at the Quay, became a persistent target for "taggers," a unique partnership solved the problem. The Graffiti Task Force of the Clark County Sheriff's Office collaborated with Lewis and Clark High School students to paint "graffiti art" murals on both sides of the crossing.



In this decade, so many people were building homes and moving into the cities of Clark County that its population reached just under 425,000 in 2008.

were **U** here when ...

In 2003, there were 130,000 daily bridge crossings on I-5.

A BlackBerry 8700c was \$299.99.

2000 to 2010

With hope in his heart and a BlackBerry in his pocket, Barack Obama swept into office in January, 2009, and changed the face of the presidency forever.

