

Merchants can seek exclusion

Tri-Met exemption possible

by DAVE PINSON
Staff writer

DAMASCUS — Thanks to a new law, Damascus businessmen can begin the process of trying to remove themselves from the Tri-Met business tax rolls.

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt signed into law Saturday the Tri-Met boundary bill, which allows communities that are not receiving direct transit service to ask Tri-Met to remove them from its transit district.

The closest bus service to Damascus is at Carver junction, about two miles west of town. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Dave McTeague, D-Dist. 25, had argued that Damascus businesses should not have to pay for service they aren't receiving.

McTeague and other backers of the bill are pleased with the final legislation.

"It's wonderful and it restores our faith in the system," said Ginger Leach of Damascus Travel. "We could not (leave the transit district) without the help of our Legislature."

Members of the Damascus Merchants Association circulated petitions in 1986 seeking bus service or relief from the tax. Some 800 signatures were collected on petitions during the drive.

The process of removing Damascus businesses from the Tri-Met district will begin with preliminary discussions this fall, McTeague said.

"The process can't officially begin until the first of the year," McTeague said.

The Tri-Met board of directors might be able to make a decision on the Damascus matter next fall, he said. He believes the Damascus area has a good chance of being allowed out of the transit district.

"Indications are that they're receptive at looking at this problem," he said.



A bus stop at Carver Junction provides the closest bus service to Damascus.

Tri-Met officials were helpful with the legislation, McTeague said. He also credited Sen. Glenn Otto, D-Wood Village, and Rep. Al Young, D-Dist. 5, with providing timely and needed assistance to the measure as it moved through the legislative process. The bill gained final House approval on June 20.

The new law stipulates that the Tri-Met board could automatically

remove an area from the Tri-Met service district if 15 percent of the citizens in the affected area sign petitions supporting the action. The new law requires that the community to be removed from the transit district must be at least a mile from a Tri-Met bus line and have no direct service planned for five years.

The payroll tax is six-tenths of 1

percent of the gross payroll of a business. The amount of tax paid is dependent on the size of the business's payroll, said Pam Dunham, Tri-Met spokeswoman.

Tri-Met would not lose any revenue because of the new law, Dunham said Monday, because the transit district will make up the difference by increasing taxes for the rest of the district.

Gift store in Boring offers 'country' items

The Lace Haystack, a gift store featuring "country and Victorian" items, has opened at 28112 S.E. Highway 212 in Boring.

The business is owned by Gresham residents Kathy Mishima and Paula Hryciw. Portland resident Linda Garrison works part time at the shop.

All three women work full time as unit secretaries at Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center.

The Lace Haystack, which offers handcrafted gifts and home decor, is Mishima's and Hryciw's first storefront business. The sisters owned and operated their own crafts manufacturing business under the name Katt-Pa Kreations for the past several years.

For the past three years, Mishima has had her eye on the Boring building, which once housed an antique shop, as a possible site for a store. Mishima drives through the

area on her way to work.

The building is in a well-traveled location and "has the charm we were looking for our store," Mishima said. The women have landscaped the exterior and refurbished the interior.

The Lace Haystack, which opened July 1, will mark its grand opening from Sept. 8 through Sept. 14, Mishima said.

Mishima and Hryciw make many of the crafts at the store, which carries some things they have purchased outright and others on consignment, Mishima said.

The shop is opened from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays. The business telephone number is 663-9594.

Mishima and Hryciw are David Douglas High School graduates.

Bonneville festival slated

A bluegrass festival, a puppet show and a volkmarch are part of Bonneville Dam's 50th anniversary celebration this weekend.

The Columbia River Bluegrass Festival begins at 7 p.m. Friday, July 24, with a country swing dance at the Skamania County fairgrounds at Stevenson, Wash. Stage shows will be held from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 25. A gospel show featuring Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 26.

The festivities also include a

blueberry pancake breakfast at 8 a.m. Saturday and a barbecue Saturday afternoon.

The 10-kilometer volkmarch, an organized hike sponsored by the Oregon State Volksport Association, starts from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days. Hikers should take Interstate 84 to Exit 40 and go to the Bradford Island Visitor Center. Bicyclists will start in the Bonneville Second Powerhouse parking lot off Washington Highway 14.

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In brief

VFW statue finds a home

The Sandy Veterans of Foreign Wars have raised \$32,000 to build a veterans memorial, and now the Vietnam-era soldier has found a home.

The Sandy City Council had wanted to place the statue in the "V" in the middle of U.S. Highway 26 on the west end of town, but Bruce Cook, chairman of the veterans memorial committee, said the city's property at the corner of U.S. 26 and Highway 211 would be a better spot.

The statue would be on the southeast corner and would face northwest, Cook said. Three flags would fly behind it and it would be lighted at night.

A building on the site will be removed because it is a safety hazard. The VFW has received donations of shrubs to landscape around the statue, but Cook asked that the city maintain the small park.

Cook said the site on Highway 211 would have three advantages — it would be visible, have available parking and would be accessible for people who wanted to walk up to it.

In addition, there would be no "political problem" in getting the state to approve the site. The property in the "V" is in the state's right of way.

The City Council unanimously approved the site at the intersection of Highways 26 and 211.

Cook said the VFW would like to

hold a "media event" on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, to dedicate the statue. He said state and national representatives would be invited.

Manager upset by vandalism

The manager at Camp Arrah Wana, 24075 E. Arrah Wana Blvd., said the camp has been the victim of three vandalism incidents in which toilet paper was spread across the property.

"I'm tired of cleaning it up," said Alice Paugh, camp manager of the American Baptist Church camp.

Paugh believes the vandalism is being done by young boys and wonders why those boys are not being supervised late at night.

She said she is sure it is not camp residents because the camp's brand of toilet paper is not being used.

She said Sun Village, a group home for boys located nearby, has been vandalized four times in the past week, and a private yard has been vandalized as well.

Abandoned cat needs vet care

An abandoned cat in southeast Sandy is in need of a home, and two women are hoping to find it one.

The cat, which is a "nice, gentle animal," according to Sherrie Price,

was abandoned two weeks ago and is slowly starving to death.

The cat recently got into a fight and needs veterinary care for its eye. Price has treated the eye with antiseptic but says the cat needs more attention.

Diana Britton said she called the former owner but he refused to do anything. "The cat is losing its eye and is slowly starving to death," Britton said.

People who would like to adopt the cat may call Britton at 668-3660 or Price at 668-6658.

Members sought for Sandy band

Members of a music advisory committee at Sandy High School are hoping to form a community band in Sandy.

Steve Christensen, music director at Sandy High School, said students go through grade school and high school musical programs and then end up without an outlet for their musical training.

Christensen said he receives

several requests for bands each year, and he can only commit the high school band to a limited number of outings because of scheduling conflicts.

Among the events at which a community band might play would be the Fourth of July fireworks show, the Mountain Festival, the Starlight Parade in Portland and at Christmas time in the local shopping centers.

"I think a community band would do a great deal toward promoting the Sandy community," said Bob Graves, chairman of the advisory committee.

Graves is also a member of the board of directors at Mt. Hood Community College, which will offer a music class at the Sandy High School campus this fall.

People who would like to dust off their instruments and play in a community band should sign up for the course. It will be offered Tuesdays from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Christensen said musical instruments would be provided in some cases.

For more information, call Christensen at 668-6180 or Graves at 668-8172.

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