

EAST LANE COMMISH RACE UNDER WAY

East Lane Commissioner Faye Stewart may be facing a lot of opposition in the 2014 election and Kevin Matthews is the latest progressive to enter the fray. He joins former EWEB commissioner Joanne Ernst and Jose Ortal in indicating interest in Stewart's largely rural commission seat.

Matthews says he's "assembling a campaign organization to run for the East Lane County Commission seat," and the theme of his campaign "is bringing a fact-based approach to shared prosperity in Lane County, while supporting a wood products industry we can all be proud of, instead of the worn-out, top-down approaches of trickle-down timber and sprawl development."

Issues in east Lane County such as the destruction of Parvin Butte and the effort by Parvin Butte gravel miners, the McDougal Bros. and Greg Demers, to get a massive water right on the McKenzie River have made Stewart the focus of

criticism and considered vulnerable in the next election. Critics see the water right issue as tied to Stewart's controversial push to rezone and revamp Goshen, where the McDougals and Demers' Willamette Water Co. supplies water. Stewart also recently went to Salem as part of an effort to raise tipping fees at Lane County's Short Mountain Landfill as part of fundraising for his Goshen efforts.

"Resource sellouts like liquidating Parvin Butte and massive log exports from large clearcuts on the industrial slopes of big timber, mechanized and automated, always demanding a free lunch on taxes, toxics and watershed destruction, are a race to the bottom for Lane County communities," Matthews says. He says small-scale timber is compatible with recreation uses of the forest, and he cites a history of service on budget, parks and neighborhood leaders committees.

Matthews is the editor of *ArchitectureWeek*, and he is a 22-year-resident of the East Lane county commissioner district. He says as a longtime community leader, "I've become known as a tough, fair and reliable warrior for the community interest. Time and again I have stood eloquently and creatively against unfairness, institutional error and special interests."

For more on Matthews' campaign, go to the Friends of Kevin Matthews Facebook page at wkly.ws/1hb. — Camilla Mortensen

POT HEADING TO BALLOT IN 2014

Washington and Colorado may have legalized marijuana first, but Oregon's marijuana policy reform advocates are striving to ensure that the Beaver State is a close third in bud states. At press time, activists were planning to file two legalization initiatives Wednesday, May 22.

Paul Stanford, a longtime activist who was the primary author of Measure 80 in 2012, says the first initiative is a very simple amendment to Oregon's Constitution. "It says that people can cultivate marijuana, as long as they're not endangering others, and use it and possess it and the state can regulate it," he explains.

The second initiative is a revised version of Measure 80, which garnered 46.9 percent of the vote in 2012 despite criticisms that Stanford says are addressed in the revised version. "The preamble of Measure 80 addressed the science and history of cannabis first. It proved to be a distraction," he says. "We've also put a limit on how much a person can cultivate for their own personal use, where with the other initiative we didn't put a limit."



CHANGES IN STORE FOR FARMERS MARKET

Move, grow or stagnate. That's the choice the bustling Lane County Farmers Market has been looking at for years. Its members vetoed a big July 2013 move to the Fifth Street Public Market, but they approved a couple of smaller experiments. When the Thursday market opens June 6, it will move from Amazon Park to Fifth Street Public Market. The Farmers Market is moving further than ever before in negotiations to close one or two blocks of 8th Avenue during the Saturday market.

Farmers Market Board Member Jack Gray, also owner of Winter Green Farm in Noti, says the push to expand is, at its heart, about space. "There are certain pinch points at the market where crowds are just too much when we're busy," he says. "There are a lot of access issues during those busy times." More space could help people with families or physical challenges, he says.

Dan Armstrong, spokesman for the Farmers Market, says the Thursday market struggled financially last year at Amazon Park. "The Thursday market move is really an effort to rejuvenate that market," he says. After the vendors and customers have a Thursday market season (hours will be 10 am to 2 pm) at the Fifth Street Public Market, he says the organization will reconsider moving its largest market. "I think we've known all along that what makes the vendors happy is more sales, and so I think that will be the decider," he adds. "It will also depend on how they like the atmosphere there and how is our relationship with Fifth Street Market."

Lynne Fessenden, who is on the expansion committee for the Farmers Market and executive director of the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition, says what might sound like simple growth is actually quite complicated. The Farmers Market must consider factors like visibility, street traffic, parking, number of vendors, congestion and the impact on the adjacent, craft-focused Saturday Market.

Armstrong says the discussions about experimentally closing 8th Avenue between Oak and Park and/or Park and Willamette are very preliminary. The popular Saturday Market has concerns about vendors' ability to load and unload their wares, and the organization worries about losing the marketing impact of the traffic on 8th Avenue. "This isn't something they're dying to see, so we have some conversation yet to go through," he says. "I wouldn't even guess the likelihood of it happening." Gray emphasizes that the Farmers Market is striving to arrive at a joint solution with Saturday Market.

Fessenden says that having a strong, central core market is essential. "It would be ideal if it could be in our Park Blocks," she adds. "It would be ideal if we could take back the 'butterfly' lot block and make that park, but if that's not an option, I would like to see some other covered space where it's really easy to shop in the rain and gather."

Fessenden says that while the Saturday farmers market will still be a little cramped for the beginning of the 2013 season, she thinks farmers market lovers and advocates should be encouraged and step up and volunteer in the midst of all the changes. "We're really not back in the same place," Fessenden says. "The conversation has evolved quite a bit and people have given it some more thought." — Shannon Finnell

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— DAN ARMSTRONG,
FARMERS MARKET
SPOKESMAN