

Bond

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center, the main drawback is the price tag. RAPRD estimates the \$49 million bond will cost taxpayers 56 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value while the ensuing 5-year levy would ring in at 24 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

If both the bond and levy pass, according to RAPRD, a property with an assessed value of \$225,000 would pay \$15 per month.

Bill Trumble — a retired professor running for city council — perhaps put it most bluntly at a recent forum. He said he supports the measure, but doesn't think it will pass after voters agreed on a \$45 million bond for a new police station last year.

"This is a hard time," he said. "Inflation is high, gas is high, food prices are high. I don't think it's going to pass."

The proposed recreation center would boast multiple swimming pools, gym spaces, a raised indoor track, fitness rooms, a bouldering wall and day-care facilities along with a host of other facilities including soccer fields and tennis courts.

These offerings are a far cry from the present state of facilities, where the Cascade Swim Center located at 465



Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman

Supporters of the RAPRD bond and levy measure gathered at the site of the proposed recreation center at SW 35th and Lava on Oct. 1 in Redmond.

SW Rimrock Way is the epicenter of RAPRD activities. The center houses the administrative offices of RAPRD and is the only swimming pool in Redmond.

According to RAPRD, the center opened in 1979 for a population of roughly 6,500. The district's population currently sits at about 45,000 people.

Cathleen Wallace, a retired teacher and former swim instructor, said the pool is not big enough to accommo-

date everyone who want to learn how to swim.

"(It's) way over full," she said.

Faced with overbooked swim classes and a shared schedule between high school sports, seniors and everyone in between, some parents are taking their kids to swim lessons in the resort community of Eagle Crest or making the hour-long round-trip to the Madras Aquatic Center.

Emily Fitch — a parent of three chil-

dren ages four and under — said her family doesn't use the Cascade Swim Center and instead drives to Madras.

"The current rec center is at capacity. It's not enough," Fitch said. "We're too big of a community."

But it's not just swimming that's crunched for space and time. According to Mercedes Cook, a parent with two young children, RAPRD saw almost 950 kids sign up for soccer this year from Pre-K through sixth grade.

Location

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a lack of clear communication. Many neighbors felt blindsided and never received letters informing them of the expansion of the program in the Pershall neighborhood until construction was underway, Russell said they learned from their mistakes and that the neighbor notification process is different this time. The organization mailed out 100 letters to businesses and residences surrounding the new site on Sept. 23.

After receiving feedback from the Pershall neighbors, Russell said they will do background checks on everyone that comes into the program. Participants will undergo screenings, an intake and sign a strict program agreement.

"People are nervous about it and I can understand that," Russell said. But in his experience, safe parking has been a successful project that has not put anyone in harm's way.

"We've been hosting this at our facility for almost a year and it's just been such a positive experience," he said.

According to Russell, the longterm goal of the program is to create 10 to 12 locations across the city that can temporarily host three to four individuals for 90 day intervals. He said the sites will be small, clean and not attract a lot of attention.

"It's not the image that most people have of homelessness," Russell said. "It's not Hunnell Road."

In a meeting held at Redmond City Hall on Sept. 20, Sierra Hopper, the program director, said people are always waiting for spots to open up and that demand is only getting higher. They said the need to expand is critical, before the problem gets any worse.

"It grows every day," she said. "I get calls constantly and emails."

Currently, the waitlist is sitting at about 15-20 individuals.

"Most of the people on our waiting list right now are people

with kids," Russell said. "So it's really important for us to provide a space for them."

Russell said they provide case management to help individuals work toward stability, with housing being the most important piece.

Hopper explained how some participants come to the program with nothing to their name. They have no identification, no Social Security card, birth certificate or license. She said they work on getting those things handled for clients, and then try to connect them with longer term housing.

She said some participants' next step may be a homeless shelter, an RV or even a trailer park.

"We might look all over Oregon if that's something they're open to," she said.

Kim Varner, a participant of the program who lives in her RV at the VFW Post 4108 site with her six-year-old daughter, said she lost stable housing after getting away from a bad situation with her ex.

She looked everywhere for a place to park her car to sleep but there was nowhere to go.

"Nobody had answers," she said. "Everybody was full. Nobody could point me in any direction"

Varner, who has been on a waiting list for affordable housing for over a year, works full-time at Rite-Aid and said half of her co-workers are struggling with homelessness as rent prices continue to skyrocket.

"Even though we're in a tough situation, we're not giving up," she said. "Every day we're there. We're still working, we're still giving it our all."

She said the program gives her an opportunity to set down, calm down and take the next step without having to worry about where to sleep next week. But, she recognizes that the safe parking program is a temporary solution as she looks for a more stable place to call home.

"Hopefully," she said, "I'll be able to transition out into a home."

Forum

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Patrick agreed that there's a learning curve and added that it will be important to find common ground early. Schimmoller spoke about relying on senior staff, like the city manager and senior council members to learn, as well as using primers provided by organizations such as the League of Oregon Cities. Baer responded instead by talking about a cryptocurrency he created.

In terms of homelessness, Schimmoller and Fitch expressed support for a safe parking program in Redmond and the need to roll out more programs to address the growing issue. Baer said he will never support more funding for homelessness.

Patrick said homelessness is a difficult issue.

"We're gonna have to be at the table, beating our heads against the wall, trying to figure out how we can get by and pass all those state safety requirements and find solutions," he said.

The candidates had differing opinions on public safety as well — especially in terms of school safety. Fitch said he would be interested in opening discussions on banning open carry in certain spaces such as around schools, in parks and in public buildings. "I think it's a worthy discussion to have," Fitch said. "I don't know what the outcome would be, but school safety is a high priority."

Baer focused on gun control and said there's an epidemic with too many guns in Oregon and in America. Patrick and Schimmoller, meanwhile, spoke about the need for school resource officers, although Schimmoller added that he'd like to hear from community members about what they perceive as weak points in schools.

When offered a chance to ask each other questions,



Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman

Redmond mayoral candidates faced off in a forum hosted by local Rotary, Kiwanis and Executive Association groups at the Redmond Senior Center on Sept. 27. Left to right, candidates include Charles Baer, Ed Fitch, Jay Patrick and Ben Schimmoller.

Fitch and Patrick both asked Schimmoller why he'd never participated in city government before, and chose to run for mayor instead of city council.

Schimmoller responded by showcasing his endorsements from Mayor George Endicott and legislators including state

representatives Jack Zika and Vikki Breese-Iverson.

Patrick, meanwhile, spent his two minute closing statement expressing his frustration that current mayor George Endicott endorsed Schimmoller rather than him — potentially splitting the ticket between the

two candidates who are seen as more conservative.

"It was well known that I was going to run for mayor when George was finished," Patrick said. "Why George decided to endorse Ben, I do not know."

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OBITUARY



Dorothy Marie Jackson

December 26, 1939 - September 5, 2022

Dorothy Marie Jackson was born in Kalispell, Montana on December 26, 1939 and peacefully passed on September 5, 2022 in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. Her parents were Gerald and Helen Lanthorn. She was the oldest of 4 children and her other siblings were Cathie, Vivian and Eugene (Gene). She graduated valedictorian from Hamilton High School (Montana) in 1957 at 16, where she was a talented member of the Thespians drama club and started her life. She was highly intelligent and engaging to everyone along with being notoriously stubborn and resourceful. When she gave advice, it was invariably accurate and correct. She married Robert Dale Jackson, who predeceased her in 2015. She was the mother of 4 sons: Mike, Mark, Matt and Miles. She saw each get married and have children and she was very involved as a grandmother and doted on all, never forgetting a birthday or major event in anyone's life.



She lived with the family in Redmond, Baker, The Dalles and Pendleton before moving to and settling in Vancouver, Washington where her sons finished school and went on to higher education. In the early 2000's she and her husband relocated to Black Diamond, Washington to be closer to the grandchildren and they spent the rest of their lives there. She loved to garden and had a beautiful rose garden, canned fruits and vegetables, baked and cooked brilliantly, decorated for the holidays (particularly Christmas), and took care of her home and family. She was a gifted artist, firing and hand painting hundreds of ceramics. She always had a dog (or 2 or 3) and these pets enjoyed dog heaven with her. She rewarded them with treats and love. There was always a project she was doing or planning.

She never forgot a friend or family member, remembered birthdays and other significant dates and events. She loved to discuss current events, politics and was highly intelligent. She never spoke ill or meanly of others and tried to see the good in everyone. She was unfailingly articulate and pushed her sons to be educated, work hard, succeed and be good people. Every year at Christmas, she sent out a "newsletter" of the year's events and information she wanted to share. She had a few special people help her and Bob in Black Diamond who were always considered part of the family by all. She was a great judge of character and unfailingly helpful to those she saw as needing it and who were underdogs.

She will be missed terribly for her sharp intellect, her kind heart, her ability to listen and give a thoughtful and smart response, her decency and kindness even to those who were undeserving of it, her acceptance of others regardless of who or what they were and many other qualities. She is survived by all her sons and their children including Rob, Steven, Mark Jr., Joshua, Emily and Matt along with her sister, Cathie in Grand Junction, Colorado, and nephews: Bryan Martin, Garret McGonigal, Kerry McGonigal and Jeremy Lanthorn along with nieces, Amy Martin Shaffer and Sybil Lanthorn Voelker.



Partners In Care

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Elder Abuse: Promoting Safety & Preventing Abuse

During this session you will learn what elder abuse is, types of abuse and neglect, where elder abuse occurs, "red flag" warnings, and what prevention looks like.

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Friday
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Open to the community at no cost.
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