

Observing

Voters To Decide On MAX Light Rail Expansion

Voters will decide on a funding measure in November to expand the MAX light rail network.

Tri-Met Board of Directors followed the unanimous recommendation of the metropolitan area counties and cities to seek voter approval. If approved by voters, the initiative would sell bonds to help fund construction of the next segment of the MAX system. The South/North MAX line would run between Clackamas County and Vancouver, Washington.

If approved by voters, each dollar from the proposed \$475-million general obligation measure would combine with up to five dollars from federal, State of Oregon, and State of Washington sources. The decision followed three public hearings drawing largely positive support for MAX expansion and the funding measure.

"South/North MAX is about staying ahead of the growth curve,

preserving neighborhoods, avoiding gridlock and keeping the air clean," said Tom Walsh, Tri-Met General Manager, describing the decision as the "most important" ever facing Tri-Met.

"If we act now, we can look for the federal government to contribute 50 percent of the cost to build the project," he added. "If we act now, the State of Washington and Clark County are prepared to ask their voters for a similar share. But if we fail to act, there is a very real chance that the opportunity to receive federal help for this project will be lost for a decade or more."

In July, transportation offi-

cials from Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, the City of Portland and others, unanimously agreed that Tri-Met should seek voter approval this November to construct the next MAX light rail segment.

Population in the Portland metropolitan region is expected to grow by 500,000 over the next 20 years. To respond to growth pressures, the region has established a transportation plan calling for the construction of MAX light rail to reduce congestion and keep the air clean. The plan includes transportation options as a way to preserve the region's quality of life.

Senior Health Benefit Advisors Have Answers

Seniors with questions about Medicare and insurance coverage, can get free answers from the state-wide Senior Health Benefit Advisors (SHIBA) program. SHIBA is a network of trained volunteers who assist seniors with questions about health insurance, long-term care, Medicare supplements, medical billing and employer group-retirement benefits.

SHIBA volunteers are available every Tuesday, 1 to 4pm Luepke Senior Center at 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. No appointment is needed at this location.

Starting in September, volunteers will be at Southwest Washington Medical Center, at 400 NE Mother Joseph Pl. on Tuesdays from 1-3pm. They will help people with medical billing questions only. Appointments are necessary. Call the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program for an appointment at (206) 696-8221.

Volunteers are trained by the Washington State Insurance Commissioner's Office. They have no affiliation with any insurance company or product. The program is sponsored by Retired Senior and Volunteer Program.



Honored -- Booker Rice (second from right), vice president and field diversity officer for The Prudential, presents a painting to Anita Marina (far left), outgoing president of the Urban League Guild, the fundraising arm of the National Urban League, during the NUL Conference in Indianapolis, Ind. Also pictured are Marilyn Price (far right), wife of newly elected Urban League President Hugh Price, and Sandra McClelland, incoming president of the Guild. The painting, titled "Women Carrying Water," is the work of Otto Raymond, an artist who resides in Prudential's headquarters city, Newark N.J. It depicts a scene from a traditional Brazilian Village.

Clark County Issues Housing-Fund Challenge

Calling All Lenders: Have We Got A Challenge For You

The Board of Clark County Commissioners has issued a challenge to the private sector: join us in helping people buy and renovate homes in our community.

The challenge was issued in the form of \$10,000 approved by the Commissioners to provide partial funding to operate a new not-for-profit Community Housing Resource Center. An additional \$50,000 is needed to operate the center for the remainder of 1994 and for 1995.

And it's that additional \$50,000 that will make Clark County's challenge "real," because the \$10,000 is contingent upon the community's meeting Clark County's challenge. For every \$5,000 contributed by the private sector or not-for-profit sector, Clark County will contribute \$1,000, with the county's total not to exceed the \$10,000 approved by the Commissioners.

A board of directors for the Community Housing Resource

Center is currently in the process of hiring an interim director, looking for office space, and soliciting funds for the center. Once it is operational, the center will provide assistance, education, and information to people pursuing home ownership and rental opportunities in Clark County.

This includes personalized help in understanding what is needed to buy or renovate a home as well as help in pre-qualifying, budgeting, and understanding agreements. The center will also connect people with special housing needs with providers of shared housing, accessible units, etc. In addition, it will serve as a central information point -- a neutral spot with no pressure -- on programs offered by lenders and public funding agencies.

In offering these services to citizens, the center also benefits the development community and lenders by providing a greater number of educated buyers who

are easier to work with and better prepared for home ownership. And for the community overall, the center stabilizes neighborhoods through a greater number of homeowners and renters who are better prepared for their responsibilities.

The center is a public, not-for-profit, private partnership. The intent has been for government funds to be used for start-up, after which the private and not-for-profit sectors would provide the necessary financial support. In addition to Clark County, contributors to the center thus far include the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Housing Authority, First Interstate Bank, Northwest National Bank, the Clark County Board of Realtors, and Realvest.

For more information about the Community Housing Resource Center -- or, better still, to provide funding to meet Clark County's challenge -- call Bob Dyer, First Interstate Bank, at 944-0416.

Washington State Lottery

Wednesday, August 10, 1994
04-17-19-20-23-42
Saturday, August 13, 1994
20-22-31-39-44-47

Vantech Buys The Building

Sales Agreement With Clark County Government Paves Way To Hire More Workers With Developmental Disabilities

Vantech has always been serious about its work. Consider these facts: This Vancouver non-profit firm that employs persons with developmental disabilities does work for 55 companies in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. Vantech employees assemble dental equipment, sort and bag coffee beans and even make garbage disposal bags for the United States Navy.

Now Vantech is solidifying its position in the local business community even more by purchasing its building from Clark County. Cost of the facility was \$590,000. The county, however, gave Vantech an \$80,000 price break which reduced the sale price to \$510,000. The purchase agreement will be celebrated during a ceremony and open house on August 18 at Vantech Enterprises, 6511 E. 18th Street in Vancouver. Members of the public are invited to the open

house which will be from noon to 3pm. A ceremony recognizing the building's new owners will begin at 1:30pm.

Since beginning its operation in 1981, the company has rented space from the county, which over the years upgraded and expanded Vantech to make it a model facility in the Pacific Northwest for persons with developmental disabilities. By assuming ownership of the facility, Vantech is now assuming greater control of its corporate operations. Ownership will actually reduce Vantech operating expenses and allow the company to hire additional workers with disabilities.

"Vantech is one of the best-kept business secrets in the community," said John Magnano, chair of the Board of Clark County Commissioners. "The county has long been supportive of persons with disabilities in the workplace and this is a logical next move for Vantech, the community that it provides employment to and the broader Clark County community as well."

City Fills Teen Coordinator Post

The Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department announces the selection of Johnny Tucker as its new teen recreation programming coordinator.

Tucker will organize and coordinate teen activities with emphasis on Friday and Saturday night programs. He will act as staff liaison to the Teen Council which is made up of 10-15 teens representing local schools. He will organize trips and teen-oriented classes.

He is also assigned the task of developing a full-service teen center with recreation and social services in line with the City of Vancouver's high priority on offering positive alternatives teens.

Tucker was previously the youth program coordinator for the Community Drug and Alcohol Center for the past six years. He can be reached at Bagley Community Center beginning Sept. 1. His supervisor is Dave Weese.

Flemming Is Medal Of Freedom Recipient

Arthur S. Flemming, president emeritus of the University of Oregon was among nine distinguished Americans receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom Aug. 8 from President Bill Clinton during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House. Flemming, 89, was honored with the country's highest civilian honor for his lifetime of outstanding achievement in education, civil and human rights, and government service.

"I'm personally thrilled that Dr. Flemming, who has been a forceful civil rights leader, advocate for aging Americans and influential voice for higher education, is receiving this signal recognition for his many decades of distinguished service to the American people," said Dave Frohnmayer, the university's president.

Besides Flemming, other medal recipients honored Thursday were the political cartoonist Herbert Block, the late farm worker activist Cesar Chavez, UNICEF executive director James Grant, civil rights activist Dorothy Height, former U.S. Rep. Barbara Jordan of Texas, labor leader Lane Kirkland, House Minority Leader Rep. Bob Michel of Illinois and former Peace Corps director R. Sargent Shriver.

Flemming, who also received the Medal of Freedom in 1957 from President Eisenhower, has had a distinguished career that has included service both in the academic and political arenas. He has been president of three higher education institutions: Ohio Wesleyan University, the University of Oregon, and McAlester College in St.

Paul, Minn. He also chaired the American Council on Education.

Flemming's government career has spanned administrations from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Ronald Reagan. Included is service on the U.S. Civil Service Commission, on the first and second Hoover Commissions on organization of the Executive Branch, and as secretary of health, education and welfare.

Flemming chaired the White House Conference on Aging and served as U.S. Commissioner on Aging. He headed the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights until he was removed by President Reagan, moments before Flemming made public a report criticizing the Reagan's administration's policies on school desegregation.

Partnership To Tackle MacArthur Median

A newly-forged partnership between Burgerville USA Restaurants and the City of Vancouver will focus on enhancing the median ditch along MacArthur Boulevard.

Burgerville employees from the restaurant at 7401 E. Mill Plain Blvd. have come forward and have volunteered to orchestrate a work party to clean up the median. The City will provide dump trucks, and other volunteer groups will participate in the clean-up. It is scheduled from 8 to 11am on Saturday, Aug. 20.

Pat Klinger, a Burgerville official, says his company is interested in working with the city for several years to insure that this unique native-plant landscape project is a success. The company

has pledged to feed the volunteers at the spruce-up event.

Despite a 10,000-gallon-a-week city watering program, recent blistering-hot weather killed about half of 700 hardy trees planted in the median this spring. Those trees and a crop of weeds need to be removed to make way for replacement plants.

MacArthur Landscape Project:

The MacArthur Landscape Boulevard median landscaping pilot project is the first such undertaking in the city without a costly irrigation or drainage system. It was funded by a \$21,500 state grant and matched by the city funds for initial maintenance.

The gravel drainage ditch extends for one and one-half miles from Lieser Road to Mill Plain Boulevard. At the urging of local neighborhood associations, the strip was planted last spring with native trees which are both drought-tolerant and able to thrive in standing water.

After establishment, the median landscaping will transform the unattractive drainage ditch into a self-supporting natural woodland/wetland environment. Then, public dollars won't be needed to water or maintain the naturalized plantings. Only the sturdy plants will survive and multiply.

Dead plants are being replaced under guarantee from the vendor nursery.