

Observing

Clark County Commissioners Expected To Adopt Sales Tax

The Board of Clark County Commissioners is expected to adopt an ordinance imposing an additional one tenth of one percent sales tax on purchases made within Clark County. The revenues will be dedicated exclusively to support law and justice activities. Commissioners Betty Sue Morris and Mel Gordon have said they anticipate voting for such an increase.

The commissioners' action is part of their adoption of a biennial budget for 1999-2000.

The new sales tax ordinance includes the following stipulations:

- * The additional revenues will not supplant any monies currently budgeted in 1998 for law and justice purposes.
- * Ten percent of the new revenues will be designated for programs that provide early intervention, counseling, and treatment of young offenders referred to the county courts, with the goal of keeping them out of detention.
- * Elected officials responsible for law and justice programs will report to the community at least annually on the services that the new revenues are providing.

"We all know there are some pressing needs in the criminal justice system," said Betty Sue Morris, chair of the Board of Clark County Commissioners. "This new revenue stream won't solve all of the problems, but the action we're taking will help us deal with many of the public safety issues that currently face our community. It also maintains the county's fiscal solvency."

These are some of the additional programs and services the new revenues will fund:

- * 12 new sheriff's deputies
- * 2 new prosecuting attorneys
- * 1 new court commissioner
- * Jail-work center and its staffing
- * Juvenile justice center and its staffing
- * Extended service contracts between the sheriff's office and the cities

In addition, the commissioners' action will take some of the pressure off the county's road fund, which has been looked to as a potential source for meeting specific law and justice needs, in particular sheriff's patrol deputies. Preliminary budget recommendations included \$1 million from the Road Fund to support criminal

justice activities; this change will reduce Road Fund support to \$640,000.

The sales tax change means that residents will pay an additional \$1 on a purchase of \$1,000. The increase is expected to take effect in early 1999.

An important factor in the commissioners' decision is the county's overall budget situation. Principally as a result of Referendum 47, which put a lid on property taxes, budget projections show the county having increased difficulty in funding law and justice activities, as well as other activities that rely on property tax revenues, in the years ahead. The additional sales tax is expected to provide the county with approximately \$2 million annually for law and justice activities; cities will also receive revenues as a result of this change.

State law permits counties to impose the additional sales tax for criminal justice purposes. Of the eight largest counties in the state of Washington, Clark is the only one not to have imposed the additional tax. Twenty-five of the state's 39 counties have already passed such an increase.

Panel Recommends Arts Group For Columbia Arts Center

The City of Vancouver will begin contract negotiations with the Arts Council of Clark County (AC3) to operate the Columbia Arts Center. A seven-member panel heard presentations Monday from two potential operators of the facility. The panel, composed of representatives from local business, arts and education, recommended negotiations get under way with AC3.

Proposals resulted from a Request for Proposal (RFP) process that began last summer with the help of a citizen-member RFP Advisory Panel. Two members of that panel participated on the Monday's review panel.

AC3 seeks to operate the facility as a performance space for local theater groups, as well as gallery space for artists. Educational programming, special events, rentals and a summer cinema program are part of the mix. The other proposal came from the Players Theatre Restaurant and Lounge. Players representative Sally Booton sought to operate the Columbia Arts Center as a dinner theater.

"Both proposals represented a lot of work, research and passion," said Pam Brokaw, Cultural Division Administrator. "The review panel reached a consensus that the AC3 proposal best met the requirements and spirit of

the RFP."

The city will now begin discussing terms of a contract with AC3. It is hoped that the contract will be agreed upon and signed before Jan. 1, 1999.

Appointed by the City of Vancouver, review panel members were: Larry Swatosh, Cultural Commission and RFP Advisory Panel; Elson Strahan, Clark College Foundation; Jan Oliva, Cultural Commission and RFP Advisory panel; Phona Sen Hoss, The Columbian; Marcia Ross, Evergreen School District assistant superintendent; David DiCesare, Vancouver National Historic Reserve manager and Mary Robinson, business advisor.

City Invites Applications For Project Review Committee

The City of Vancouver is seeking applicants to fill four vacancies on the Project Review Committee. The Project Review Committee is a non-member citizens group appointed by City Council to review plans for building and remodeling in Vancouver's downtown, waterfront area and Central Park. The committee goal is to

maintain and improve the appearance and architectural tone of those areas, and to encourage innovation and flexibility in design.

Members serve four-year terms, with two terms maximum. The Project Review Committee regularly meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month, 4-6 p.m. in City Hall

Council Chambers.

For applications or further information, contact Peggy Furno in the City Manager's Office at City Hall, 210 E. 13th St., P.O. Box 1995, Vancouver, WA. 98668 or call 696-8484 (fax 696-8049). Applications must be submitted by Monday, Jan. 4, 1999.

Washington State Trip And Fuel Permits Now Available

As of Monday, December 7, citizens needing Washington State trip and fuel permits can obtain them from the Clark County Public Works Operations Division. The permits are available for purchase at the Operations Division, located at 4700 NE 78th Street, Building A, Vancouver. Those making their purchase by a Visa or Master Card credit card can order a permit by tele-

phone at (360) 397-2446. The permit will be faxed to you upon completion. Permits will be issued Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The prices for the permits are as follows:
 Fuel permit \$22.00
 Trip permit \$13.00
 Fax fee \$1.00 (for permits ordered via telephone)

In addition to the fuel and trip permits, the Clark County Public Works Operations Division also sells the following county and state permits:

- * Overlegal permits
- * Structure move permits
- * Utility permits

For more information, please contact the Clark County Public Works Operations Division at (360) 397-2446.

Kids First Winter Wonderland Seeks Donations

Community organizations, businesses and agencies are asked to donate gifts and games to over 300 underprivileged children in the city's "Kids First" after-school program.

The gifts will be distributed at a

Winter Wonderland event on Tuesday, Dec. 22, from 7-9 p.m. at Bagley Community Center, 4100 Plomondon.

Staff from the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department will entertain with crafts, carnival

games, face painting, raffles, caroling, refreshments and a visit by Santa Claus. Kids will use their good-behavior tickets to win raffle prizes.

To donate or to be a sponsor, call Teresa Williamson at 696-8065.

Chief Fraijo Elected President Of Regional Fire Chiefs Association

Vancouver Fire Chief Dan Fraijo has been elected president of the Southwest Washington Fire Chiefs' Association (SWWFA). This 16-member group is dedicated to excellence in fire suppression, hazardous materials operations, and emergency medical service provision. One of the group's fo-

cal points is implementing legislation to support fire prevention. During his one-year term as president, Chief Fraijo will focus on current fire service issues, including making technical information and guidance available to all members. He will also cultivate closer coordination among Southwest Washington

fire service agencies to enhance public safety.

Chief Fraijo heads the consolidated Vancouver Fire Department and Clark County Fire District 5, which serves over 186,000 people in a 100-square-mile service area. He oversees an annual budget of over \$18 million.

POLICE NEWS

West Virginia Homicide Suspect Arrested In Portland

On December 8, 1998, Tuesday, at approximately 11:30 A.M., Gregory S. Crouch, DOB 07-30-62, was taken into custody without incident in a southeast Portland check cashing store by Portland Police Bureau Detectives. Crouch was the subject of an outstanding arrest warrant from Knappa County West Virginia in which he is charged with First Degree Murder. Crouch was transported to the Portland Police Detective Division where he was interviewed and confessed to killing Thomas Hawkins, age 36, in Cross Lanes West Virginia in on Thanksgiving Day.

On the morning of December 6, 1998, the Oregon State Police in LaGrande, cited and released Crouch

for Theft of Services. At the time of his arrest, it was not known Crouch was a homicide suspect. Later that same date, an arrest warrant was issued and entered into the National Crime Information Center, NCIC, computer charging Crouch with First Degree Murder.

The Oregon State Police then issued an all points bulletin to police agencies in Oregon and Washington for Crouch and the vehicle he was driving, a silver 1986 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer bearing West Virginia license plate number 6SF 557, in an effort to relocate him and take him into custody.

On December 8, 1998, at approximately 10:15 A.M., a Portland Police

Officer spotted the listed suspect vehicle parked and unattended at a repair shop on SE 82nd Ave. and SE Tibbetts St. at which time detectives, wearing plain clothes, surveilled the vehicle and established, through the repair shop employees, that the person who brought the car in for repair was thought to be on foot in the area waiting for the car to be fixed.

Detectives located Crouch at a nearby check cashing business, located at 8201 SE Powell Blvd., where he admitted his identity and stated he believed the police in West Virginia were looking for him.

Crouch will be lodged in the Justice Center Jail pending extradition to West Virginia.

Foster Care Resident Missing In North Portland

A 35 year-old Portland man has been reported missing since December 3 from his adult foster care home in North Portland. The home operator and County officials seek the public's help in locating Joshua Petefish.

Mr. Petefish has not been seen since he left Anthony Adult Foster

Care on December 3 near N. Greeley and N. Killingsworth streets. He was wearing a brown checked quarter length coat with a fur lapel, dark blue sweatshirt, dark blue Levi's and black Nike tennis shoes. Mr. Petefish is a white male with black hair, approximately 6'2, 210 pounds, with notice-

able scare on his forehead and neck. anyone with information about Mr. Petefish's whereabouts should contact Julius Wright at Anthony's Adult Foster Care (287-3665; pager 952-3852) or Monica Mumper with Multnomah County's Division of Developmental Disabilities (248-3658, Ext. 22812).

be free of cellular bills

coverage you can count on from the world leader in wireless...AIRTOUCH.

- ▶ no contracts
- ▶ no deposit
- ▶ no monthly bill
- ▶ no credit check

control your airtime

getting started is easy...visit these AirTouch Prepaid Cellular retail locations...

Direct Link Cellular & Paging
2914 N Lombard St., Portland, 286 5555
 Music Galore
3213 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., Portland, 288 9180
 El Mercado
525 NE Killingsworth, Portland, 288 5869
 Cellular Connections
10655 SE Stark St., Portland, 256 4055
 Beeper City
500 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., Portland, 232 7449
 Communication Plus
317 NE Killingsworth, Portland, 735 1422
 Let's Talk Wireless
2813 SE 122nd, Portland, 762 5659

AIRTOUCH™
PREPAID
Cellular
Calling Card
\$50

cards available in \$15, \$30, \$50 or \$100 denominations.
 * some restrictions may apply.

AIRTOUCH™
Cellular