

South Banks Project supporters and detractors speak to BAMA

Members of the Banks Area Merchants Association (BAMA), heard guest speakers Terry Flemming and Janice Hayes present the results of a door-to-door survey taken within the Banks city limits by Citizens for Responsible Growth (CRG). According to Flemming and Hayes, the survey revealed that a majority of those questioned would like to see the Banks City Council voluntarily review the South Banks project. Many seemed to feel that there was inadequate community awareness or input re-

garding the project, which will add approximately 250 homes to the city. CRG is not anti-development, according to Flemming, but is deeply concerned about careful planning for the community's future.

Also at the meeting was the developer for the South Banks Project, BAMA member Chris Liu of the Presidential Corporation. Explaining that he understood the problem, Liu used the purchase of a new car for his wife as an analogy for the situation, saying she requested a 5-speed

transmission and received one, when she actually wanted an automatic. In such a situation, Liu said, he would hope he could return to the dealer and make things right and that miscommunication was the problem.

Following the meeting, BAMA President Bob Berini said, Liu requested that he arrange a meeting between members of CRG, BAMA, the Presidential Corporation, the city council and Aho Construction, the primary contrac-

tor for the South Banks Project, in order to correct any miscommunication. At press time, Berini said, he had yet to hear from the council or Aho, though the other parties had responded favorably.

In other BAMA business, it was announced that Sheep Dog Trials will be held two days this year. Qualifying trials will be on Friday, Aug. 18 at a farm outside of Banks, with the finals being held on Saturday, Aug. 19 at Sunset Park in Banks.

Scott VanDomelen was appointed to fill the position of vice-president which was vacated by the resignation of Ed Clark.

BAMA members also voted to authorize Berini to act in their behalf while attending meetings of the pilot "School to Work" program, which unites educators and businesses in an attempt to enlighten students about the "eight hours work, eight hours pay" work ethic, as described by Berini.

Taxpayer organization sets meeting on Hugo recall

The first county-wide meeting of Columbia County Taxpayers United (CCTU) will be at 7:00 p.m. tonight, March 8, at the Village Inn in St. Helens.

The fledgling organization is composed of citizens who want to "ensure that the will of the people is enforced in the areas of economical,

cost-effective, responsible, and representative government in Columbia County," according to Tom Madison, executive director.

The focus of tonight's meeting will be on the effort to recall county Commissioner Bruce Hugo, who has admitted using a county credit

card for personal purposes.

CCTU has announced its support of the Citizens Alliance for Honest Government, which is spearheading the recall effort.

Volunteer signature gatherers will be welcome, Madison said, and visitors will also be asked to join CCTU.

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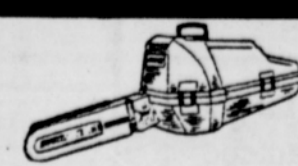


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