

## Stamp Out Hunger drive May 10

Letter carriers in the City of Vernonia and throughout Oregon will join with letter carriers across America to do much more than deliver mail on Saturday, May 10.

They will also collect donations of nonperishable food from their postal customers to Stamp Out Hunger during the annual National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive, the

largest one-day food drive in Oregon and in the nation.

Residents in the city limits of Vernonia can help by donating food items such as canned tuna, peanut butter, soups, stews and boxed meals. No glass, please!

Donations may be placed by your mailbox on Saturday, May 10. Letter carriers will collect the donations and deliver them to Vernonia Cares.

Anyone outside the city limits wishing to participate, may bring donations to the Vernonia Post Office lobby.

Last year, this event collected over 800 pounds of food for Vernonia Cares.

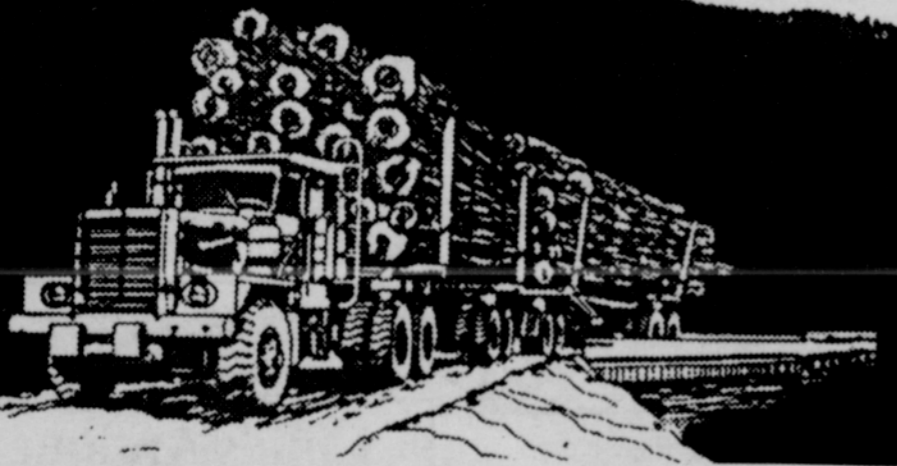
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## A brief primer on public agency budgeting

All city, county, school and fire district budgets, and all agencies with budgets that must be reported to the state, follow the same basic format. Revenues and expenses are accounted for in a variety of funds, each of which has a defined purpose. The purpose may be to keep track of funds allocated for specific projects, such as building a reserve for replacement of buildings or other infrastructure, or to track the revenues and expenses of a department. Usually, a General Fund serves as the main depository of revenue and the 'checkbook' for expenses.

At an agency's first budget meeting, a budget message is delivered and, usually, the budget document is presented to the budget committee for review. The budget document is divided into separate sections for each fund.

Each section, or fund, shows anticipated revenues and proposed expenses for each account within the fund. The proposed amount is followed by a blank column that will be filled by the budget committee's recommended budget. These committees are usually somewhat large and most operate using Robert's Rules of order to make agreed upon changes in the budget.

The recommended budget then goes before the governing body, ie., the board of directors, council, etc., for final decisions. The final column in a budget document is for the adopted

budget, as voted on by the governing body. Also included in the budget document are audited figures showing actual revenues and expenditures for the previous two fiscal years (In this case for fiscal years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002), as well as the adopted budget for the current fiscal year (2002-2003).

Resources (income) are presented first in each budget account and include the anticipated amount of each of the revenue sources that go into a specific fund, for instance, taxes, fees, grants, etc. Expenditures for each fund are also itemized, depending on the anticipated use, such as personnel, travel, materials and services, capital outlay or contingency. A special category included in the expenditure portion, called the "unappropriated ending balance" is intended to provide enough cash carryover to last until resources start coming in for the new budget year. State law requires balanced budgets, therefore, total revenues (resources) must equal total expenditures (requirements).

Budget documents are huge, and are condensed for publication. Only the totals for each major category (personal services, debt service, capital outlay, etc.) are printed. This can make the document extremely difficult to understand, particularly when several entities, such as schools, are combined into one aggregate budget.

## Down by the Riverside at Dibblee Point Beach

Friends of Dibblee Point (FDP) is inviting everyone interested to join in some worthwhile work and good fun, May 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., for the annual spring Beach Cleanup at Dibblee Point in Rainier.

FDP is participating in SOLV's eighth annual Down by

the Riverside Enhancement and Appreciation Day, presented by the Oregon Lottery. Thousands of people will be participating in enhancement projects in more than 100 communities across Oregon.

Volunteers at Dibblee Point will pickup litter along the 110-acre site. Volunteers should

dress for the weather and bring gloves. A community potluck BBQ and award celebration will conclude the day. FDP will provide the hotdogs and condiments, bring along a side dish, chips or soda. Free tee shirts from the Oregon Lottery will be available.

Friends of Dibblee Point is committed to keeping Dibblee Point clean and accessible for the public to enjoy.

## Friends of Dibblee Point Beach planning a workshop on Naturescaping

A workshop on Naturescaping is being offered by Friends of Dibblee Point on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Rainier. Participants will learn techniques to attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife to their yards and gardens with the use of native plants.

Local expert Patt Opdyke with the OSU Extension Service will be teaching the workshop. Workshop cost is \$10.

To register, call Lori at 503-556-2457. Proceeds will go towards costs associated with keeping Dibblee Point Beach clean and free of litter.



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