

# Help coatless in Washington Co. Fire operating levy is renewal, not new

The need has never been greater and it's never been easier to make a difference in your community. Here is your opportunity to make sure that nobody goes without such a basic necessity as a coat this winter.

Washington County is collecting new and clean, gently used coats and jackets as part of the One Warm Coat community service project. Coats of all shapes and sizes are welcome. One Warm Coat is dedicated to distributing reusable coats, free of charge, directly to local children and adults. The program is an easy way for you and your family to pass along coats and jackets that you no longer need.

Washington County has made donating a coat simple. Just bring your coats and jackets to one of the following locations:

- Public Service Building Lobby or Cafeteria 155 N. First Avenue, Hillsboro,
- Washington County Sheriff's Office Lobby 215 SW Adams Avenue, Hillsboro,
- Clean Water Services 2550 SW Hillsboro Highway, Hillsboro,
- Land Use and Transportation 1400 SW Walnut Street, Hillsboro.

Coats will be collected from now until November 20. Then Washington County will take care of the rest. All donated coats will be given to the Family Justice Initiative Washington

County Counseling Program, and the Domestic Violence Resource Center.

"More people than ever need help these days. I am proud of the thousands of coat drive organizers whose creativity and generosity of spirit are making a real difference in their own communities." said Sherri Wood, President and National Coordinator for One Warm Coat.

One Warm Coat is a national non-profit organization that supports and encourages coat drives. It helps individuals, groups, companies and organizations across the country collect coats and deliver them to local agencies that distribute the coats free to people in need. More than one million coats have been provided to those in need at no cost since its inception in 1992.

For more information on One Warm Coat, visit their website at [www.onewarmcoat.org/](http://www.onewarmcoat.org/)

Banks Fire District will be seeking renewal of its local option levy November 3rd. Measure 34-167 is a continuation of the current levy approved by voters in 2004.

The new levy will not take effect until after the current levy expires in June of 2010. The levy rate of \$0.62 per \$1000 of assessed value, allows the Banks Fire District to continue current fire and emergency medical operations for an additional 5 years. The funds raised by the continuation of the local option levy will allow the District to continue meeting its operational costs. These costs include building and apparatus maintenance, firefighter training, public education, protective clothing, utilities and medical supplies. The District's current permanent tax rate established in 1998 of \$1.08 per \$1000 does not allow the District to meet operational expenses. No additional programs, personnel or capital im-

provements are planned; continuation of current response capabilities is the objective behind the levy revenue. Supplemental revenue sources the District has relied on, such as timber revenue and grant funding, have been dramatically reduced due to the economic down turn. Renewal of the levy is more important now than ever.

Banks Fire District 13 provides fire and emergency medical service to 136 square miles

of Northwest Washington County, including the communities of Banks, Buxton, Manning and Timber. Banks Fire District is the only fire district in Washington County that provides emergency services with a highly trained all-volunteer fire-fighting force.

"Our 70 volunteers are excited to provide this service to their community. We just want to keep a good thing going," said Fire Chief Brian Coussens.

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