

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

C-TRAN board opts to restore service, plans to ask voters for .03-cent sales tax increase

C-TRAN's board of directors, consisting of elected officials from Clark County, were unanimous in adopting a 20-year plan of action for the cash-short transit agency that would restore and improve service by doubling its sales tax base.

C-TRAN was one of the most financially sound municipal transit agencies in the northwest when, in 1999, voters statewide approved Initiative-695, which repealed the state's onerous automobile excise tax and tore a 40 percent hole in the agency's operating budget.

Since then, C-TRAN has been digging into a large bank of reserves it primarily held for bus replacements. That source of funding is drying up.

During the past several months the board has been studying alternatives. At a meeting last night the board selected an option calling for adding on a .03 percent sales tax to the existing .03 percent sales tax base.

The plan, which must be approved by voters, would restore services cut in recent years by C-TRAN and extend most rural services.

The vote on the sales tax increase could come at a regular countywide election in September. Unlike property tax measures, which require a 60 percent supermajority approval, this measure would require only a simple majority.

The board also authorized staff to develop an alternative plan should the tax measure fail. Two other alternative plans, one of which would have called for a .06-cent sales tax increase, were discarded.

The C-TRAN board of directors, chaired by Vancouver City councilperson **Jeanne Harris**, consists of the three Clark County commissioners, **Betty Sue Morris**, **Judie Stanton** and **Craig Pridemore**, Vancouver City councilpersons **Jeanne Stewart** and **Tim Leavitt**, La Center mayor **Jim Irish**, Battle Ground councilman **Bill Ganley**, and Washougal councilperson **Stacey Sellars**.

Vacancy on Evergreen School District board to be filled by appointment

The Evergreen School District board is seeking candidates fill a vacancy created by the recent resignation of **Glen Gipe**. Gipe resigned because of personal and health reasons.

The appointment will be for approximately 20 months.

Applications must be completed and presented by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20. For further information, call **Carol Fenstermacher**, 604-4088.

Wastewater fees in La Center to increase

Rates for customers of Clark Public Utilities' Wastewater System in La Center will increase March 1.

The current residential charge of \$22.50 will increase to \$26.89, the first increase since 1989. Connection fees will also increase, from \$2,000 currently to \$4,320.

The monthly charge for low-income seniors remains at \$20.25.

WEDNESDAY

Feb. 11, 2004

Utility commission chair **Nancy Barnes** said the rate increase is needed to pay for construction costs of the recently completed sewer treatment plant, which currently exceeds federal standards.

Clark Public Utilities Wastewater System serves 750 La Center customers. The utility also provides water service to over 26,500 customers in Hazel Dell, Salmon Creek, Lakeshore, Hockinson, Brush Prairie, La Center, Meadowglade, Amboy and Yacolt, and electric services to 163,000 customers countywide.

Students to design billboards for clean water

Clark County school students from all grades are invited to help the county's Clean Water Program design billboards to teach people about reducing pollution, keeping water clean and protecting water resources.

Four winning entries will be displayed on outdoor advertising billboards this spring.

Entry forms are available from **Cindy Stienbarger**, education and outreach coordinator for the county program. Call **397-6118**, extension **4584**, for further info.

News briefs

Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet in regular session at 6 p.m. today in port offices at 111 W Division Street. ~~SSS~~ Vancouver Ford automobile dealer **Jon Crendon** presents "I swam with the sharks and lived to tell about It: Lessons from the automotive sales industry" at the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce's East Chamber Council meeting at 11:45 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, in Camas Meadows Golf Club, 4105 Meadows Drive. Registration is \$15. For further information, call **694-2588**.

Wednesday on the air

Green Building—4 p.m. CVTV

State of the City Address—6 p.m. CVTV

Brandon at Portland Winter Hawks (live)—7 p.m. KUPL

Telecommunications Commission (1/21)—7 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Planning Commission (1/13)—9 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EST Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2004

Alaska Air Group	27.25	+.38	Linear Technology	42.73	+.76
Alcoa	37.39	+1.85	Microsoft	27.15	+.13
Amazon.com	47.14	+1.55	Nautilus	14.69	+.19
Bank of America	81.99	+.37	Nike	73.20	+.96
Bank of Clark County	20.00	unch	Nordstrom	39.99	-.01
Bemis	50.06	+.47	PepsiCo	51.10	+.31
Boeing	44.49	+.89	Precision Cast	48.98	+.28
Boise Cascade	33.54	+.73	RRLRN	27.01	-.26
CenturyTel	27.00	-.02	Starbucks	37.37	+.45
Costco	39.15	-.26	TSM	10.98	-.05
Expeditors Intl.	39.82	-.81	Tektronix	34.36	+.37
Georgia Pacific	29.72	+1.36	US Bancorp	28.03	+.18
HPQ	23.84	-.28	Wash. Mutual	45.00	+.55
Intel	30.99	+.45	W. Coast Bancorp	21.90	-.05
Kyocera	69.81	+.39	Weyerhaeuser	63.95	+2.06

DOW: 10,737.7 ^{123.88}44 NASDAQ: 2089.66 +14.33 S&P: 1157.76 +12.22

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Amy Nguyen takes bus to dinner party and returns, having accepted **John Bacon's** carats-approach proposal. ~~SSS~~ **Lorna Ingenthron** offering car pool partners prizes. ~~SSS~~ **Cami Joner** making ladder climbing look easy. ~~SSS~~ **Wednesday**, mostly bright sunshine, 54. **Thursday**, mostly sunny through early afternoon, 55. **Friday**, sunny leading to possible showers, 55.

Acapulco	91/72
Athens	46/38
Chicago	32/22
Dallas	46/32
Hong Kong	64/58
Los Angeles	72/48
London	51/44
New Orleans	62/50
New York	38/25
Orlando	71/62
Paris	44/35
Phoenix	67/44
Rome	51/39
Seattle	52/36
Sydney	99/68
Tokyo	47/36
Washington	45/28