County Holding Workshop for North Bethany

Interested people are welcome at a Design Workshop for North Bethany at PCC's Rock Creek Events Center, Building 9, 17705 NW Springville Road, Saturday, May 19, from 9:00 until noon. They can weigh in on the initial alternatives for this 800-acre “community of distinction” north of Springville Road between 185th and the county line. The sketches include potential locations for neighborhoods, local shopping, parks, open space, roads, trails and civic spaces. The workshop will also feature a young person’s art contest with the theme “What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?” Art supplies will be provided. Materials for the workshop will be posted on the project web site www.bethanyplan.org, along with a feedback form so those who do not attend can also participate. For more information, please contact Angela Brown at 503-846-3968 or e-mail angela_brown@co.washington.or.us.

Road Maintenance Ahead

Washington County is gearing up for another busy season. Contracts are going out for 19.9 miles of pavement overlay, 46.9 miles of slurry seal, three culvert replacements, and one railroad crossing replacement. Our crews will machine patch 14.0 miles, chip seal 26.5 miles, upgrade 5.7 miles from gravel to chip seal, perform major repairs on at least three bridges, install two French drains, and restore a roadway and stream. In addition our crews will provide drainage maintenance (ditching), vegetation maintenance (mowing, trimming, chipping, spraying), bridge inspections and repairs, guardrail repairs, and sign and pavement marking replacements. Our inspections staff will make sure the contractors are sticking to the specs, while our project development folks will be working on next year’s projects. Here’s to a safe and productive road construction season!

You have been asking... For county crews to clear your roadside

Spring is here, bringing beautiful sunny days, cheerful flowers, and the vigorous growth of vegetation alongside county roadways. County crews give top priority to safety issues such as overgrown vegetation that hides signs or blocks visibility at intersections. To report a hazardous road situation, call 503-846-ROAD. But be patient - service requests for vegetation trims can really stack up in the queue this time of year. You can help by trimming roadside vegetation adjacent to your property. For more information, visit www.wc-roads.com and click on Roadside Vegetation.

Si a usted le interesa recibir este boletín de noticias en Español, comuníquese con Angie Aguilar al 503-846-7819, o via correo electrónico: angie_aguilar@co.washington.or.us. Gracias.

Bike and Ped power... Tips to Share the Road Safely

Motorists and bicyclists have the same rights and duties when driving on Oregon’s roads. Here are some tips for sharing the roads safely.

Motorists:
• When passing a bicycle, slow down and allow at least a three feet clearance.
• When turning left, watch for and yield to oncoming bicycles.
• Look for bicycles before opening your door.
• Expect the unexpected. Children on bicycles are often unpredictable.

Bicyclists:
• Ride predictably, be visible, and obey traffic controls and laws.
• Signal turns and lane changes, watch for oncoming traffic before making the change.
• Drive on the right side of the right-most lane in the direction you want to go (not on the left opposing traffic, not on the sidewalk).
• Where a road is too narrow to safely share with a vehicle (and where passing would be unsafe), drive in the center of the lane.
• You may pass on the right only if it is safe to do so. Do not pass stopped cars at a crosswalk or intersection or if a car ahead of you is signaling a right turn.


We are REACHing for excellence in customer service.
The following projects will begin construction between May and July 2007:

- Sunnyside Railroad Crossing south of Wren Road
- Speisschaert Road Bridge over Council Creek
- Cornell Road from Evergreen to Bethany/158th
- Gales Creek Road at David Hill Road intersection
- 170th/173rd Avenue Extension from Baseline to Walker

Brookwood Ave. - Witch Hazel to TV Hwy
The contractor is installing waterlines and storm drains and widening the road south of the railroad tracks. Widening and “clearing and grubbing” has begun north of TV Highway. Utility companies continue to relocate their lines. The contractor for the railroad will be working on the tracks during the next several weeks. Project completion date is May 2008.

Greener Road Bridge
New concrete beams were installed in April. The work is progressing well and on schedule. The bridge will be open to traffic no later than May 12, 2007. All roadway plantings, and other finish work should be completed by mid-June.

Oleson Road - Fanno Creek to Hall Blvd
Utility companies continue to relocate their lines along the project, making for some rough patches. The contractor is installing storm drainage systems between Hall and Garden Home Road. Project completion date is November 1, 2008.

Scholls Ferry Road Bridge Replacement
The contractor has cleared the work area and is preparing to begin work on the support pilings. The existing bridge will remain in place while the new one is built downstream on the same alignment as the original 1929 bridge. This will allow construction to take place without road closures. Project completion date is July 31, 2008.

Sunset Drive - Beal Rd to University (Forest Grove)
The project continues with storm sewer installations along the west side of the street. Utility companies continue to relocate cable and phone lines. Roadway grading will begin following completion of underground work. Project completion date is October 15, 2007.

Hillsboro Regional Center Pedestrian
This project will add sidewalks between 7th and 10th Avenues and Baseline and Maple Streets in Hillsboro. All Concrete Specialties, Inc. of Vancouver will be the contractor. Project completion date is September 1, 2007.

Lombard from Broadway to Farmington (Beaverton)
This road realignment is under construction by Stacey & Whitebeck as part of TriMet’s commuter rail project. Project completion date is October 30, 2007.

National Public Works Week May 20-26 recognizes the people who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. These unsung heroes improve the quality of our lives. Please plan to attend the Public Works Fair May 19 and 20 at Washington Square. Washington County is partnering with Clean Water Services, the Joint Water Commission, and ODOT to provide kid friendly displays and activities. See the latest information on the new Commuter Rail, Highway 217 and planning for North Bethany. Spin the “Wheel of Safety”; learn how “Permits Protect” at the Good-Wall/Bad-Wall display; “Go Native” with native plants; “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle” to prevent waste; get a free “Freeze the Grease, Save the Drain” kit; “See and be Seen” on the roadway – plus much more.

Street Light Outages: New Software, Same Ol’ Number
Streetlight outages now come in many shapes and sizes. Ownership and maintenance of streetlights come in just as many varieties - even streetlights along county-owned roadways. Ownership may be with the Street Lighting District (SLD), County Road Fund, homeowner associations, cities, or even with PGE. Maintenance is another matter. In some cases we handle the call; in some cases we refer the call. Fortunately there is one stop for the public to call: 503-846-7626. Please be aware that during this month, Operations staff will be learning a whole new XP based software to track and identify the patchwork of streetlights. Although no delays in service are expected, patience is appreciated.