



## PLEASE BE SURE TO VOTE

- Who:** Registered Voters of Forest Grove
- What:** Public Safety and Community Services Levy
- When:** **May 15th Special Election** Vote-by-Mail
- Where:** Ballots must be received by the Washington County Elections Office or deposited in the ballot box by 8 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 15th**. The drive-by ballot box is located at 2102 Pacific Avenue in front of the Police Station.
- Why:** To maintain the existing services provided by the 2002 levy. No new positions would be added as a result of this levy. Today's property taxes, including the existing levy, pay for about 75% of police and fire services. Property tax from the new subdivisions that have been developed will help pay for the increased demand from growth but is not enough to replace the revenue the City receives from the existing levy. Without the levy revenue, police and fire services would be reduced to less than the level provided prior to 2002 due to the increasing costs of providing services even at pre-2002 levels. This would also require reduction in services in parks, library and the aquatic center as well.

**Why was the levy needed in 2002?** The City lost property taxes when Ballot Measure 50 was implemented in 1997 as tax bases were replaced by permanent rates. The City operated within very tight budget constraints using Contingency funds (the City's savings account) to balance the budget. City departments maximized efficiency by restructuring and realigning staff assignments and fees were increased to ensure cost recovery for direct services, but Contingency funds continued to be depleted to fill the gaps in police and fire budgets that property taxes did not cover. In addition, the increasing number of calls to 9-1-1, the increased medical-related calls requiring paramedics, and the increase in crime particularly methamphetamine labs and child abuse cases required additional personnel. Proactive traffic enforcement and crime prevention programs had been reduced or eliminated as resources were spent on higher priority demands. As a result of the levy passing, three police officers and two firefighter/paramedics were hired to respond to the growing demands.

**Are citizens satisfied with City services?** The City sent out a survey in December 2006 asking citizens how well the City is providing 31 different services by ranking each service from 1 (very poorly) to 7 (very well). All the services averaged a "4" or above with four services (Fire Response, Emergency Medical Response, Electricity, and Utility Billing Customer Service) averaging a "6". The results continue to show that our citizens are pleased with City services. Comments and suggestions for improvements received on the surveys are being reviewed by the appropriate departments. The City continues to strive for excellence in service to our citizens and to be efficient with limited resources.

**Why did citizens vote "No" in November?** Responses to this question on the survey indicated 58% voted "yes", 36% voted "no", and 6% didn't vote. The main reasons chosen for voting "no" were: *There were too many money measures on the ballot and Need for levy not satisfactorily addressed or publicized.*

The City has stepped up efforts to inform the citizens about the levy more thoroughly than was done in November. Additional information and frequently asked questions may be found on the City's website at [www.ci.forest-grove.or.us/hottopics](http://www.ci.forest-grove.or.us/hottopics). Please do not hesitate to contact the City Manager's office at [bmaughan@ci.forest-grove.or.us](mailto:bmaughan@ci.forest-grove.or.us) or at 503-992-3234 if you have any questions about this levy.

## Information and Frequently Asked Questions About the 2007 Levy...

**What would the Levy do?** The levy would **maintain** the existing fire, police, library, parks and aquatic center services. **No new positions would be added as a result of this levy.**

- It would allow Forest Grove to maintain its current number of firefighters and paramedic personnel, which allows emergency calls to be answered in a timely manner. Having enough personnel also makes it possible to answer more than one call at a time, which happens approximately 370 times a year.
- It would allow Forest Grove to keep 2 paramedics available 24 hours a day to handle medical emergencies, which account for most of the calls for service.
- It would allow Forest Grove to maintain its current number of police officers, which have reduced the number of meth labs in the community, helped reduce crime by being a positive presence in the community and in the schools, helped control identity theft, drug dealers, burglaries and other crimes.
- It would allow Forest Grove to maintain its parks and recreation areas; keeping them safe and clean for residents.
- It would allow our aquatic center to remain open on the weekends.
- It would allow the library to remain open six days a week.
- It would maintain Forest Grove and keep the City operating as it does today. **No new positions would be added as a result of this levy.**

**What is the proposed Levy amount?** Current financial projections indicate the proposed levy of \$1.35 per \$1,000 of assessed property value would be needed to maintain services.

**The current Levy is \$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Why do we need a \$0.36 increase?** Factors such as inflation, rising health care costs, increasing fuel costs, and the costs of new technology, particularly for public safety, are reasons the rate needs to be increased.

**How would property taxes change if the Levy passes?** Property tax owners currently pay \$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV) as a result of the levy passed in 2002. This amount would be continued plus an additional \$0.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value for a total tax levy of \$1.35 per \$1,000 AV. The average home in Forest Grove is assessed at \$180,000 (not market value). The additional property tax for the average homeowner per month would be \$5.41 or \$64.92 a year.

**Ask questions and learn more about the levy and City finances at:**

### **Town Hall Meeting**

**Saturday, April 21, 2007**

**10 AM to 12 Noon**

**Community Auditorium**

**1915 Main Street**

sponsored by Committee for Citizen Involvement

*FYI Forest Grove . . .*



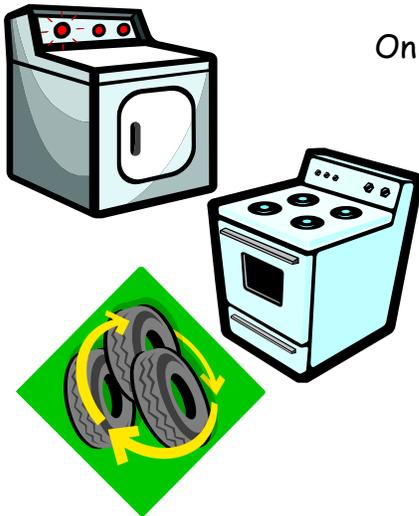
# 2007 Annual Curbside Clean-Up Event

On their regular collection day,  
**Monday, May 7, thru Friday, May 11,**  
residential solid waste customers within Forest Grove city limits in good standing may put out up to six (6) extra bags (32-gallon capacity) of garbage at no charge.

Items should follow the normal guidelines:

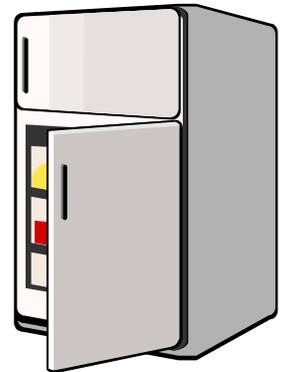
- ⇒ NO construction materials, sod, concrete, asphalt, bricks, rocks, dirt, or building materials.
- ⇒ NO hazardous waste.
- ⇒ Bags should be tied securely so contents do not spill.

The bags will be picked up by a separate truck so it may not coincide with the pickup of the roller cart(s).



On **Saturday, May 12**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Forest Grove Transfer Station will be accepting appliances (3 per customer) and tires (4 per customer) at no charge. Sorry, **NO** televisions, computers, or hot tubs will be accepted. Proof of address will be required.

**Any questions about curbside cleanup, please contact Waste Management at 503-249-8078.**



If you have additional bulky waste or have conflicts with this date, the Washington County Cooperative Recycling Program's Annual Spring Clean-up & Bulky Waste Collection happens May 1 through May 25. *(See back for more information.)* The City has a limited number of \$40 coupons to use towards disposal fees at the Hillsboro Landfill at 3205 SE Minter Bridge Road in Hillsboro. These coupons will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact the City at 503-992-3234 or [bmaughan@ci.forest-grove.or.us](mailto:bmaughan@ci.forest-grove.or.us) to receive a coupon.



Special Thanks to Waste Management for providing this public service clean-up event and to Metro Regional Government for providing funds to offset disposal fees.





**Special Thanks to**



**METRO**

PEOPLE PLACES  
OPEN SPACES

Metro Regional Government  
for providing funds to  
offset disposal fees



Waste Management's Hillsboro  
Landfill & Tualatin Valley Waste  
Recovery for hosting the event



Washington County Cooperative Recycling Program  
**2007 Annual Spring Clean-Up,  
Bulky Waste Collection**

Residents of Banks, Cornelius, Durham, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Sherwood, Tigard and unincorporated Washington County can receive a \$40\* coupon towards disposal at the Hillsboro Landfill and Tualatin Valley Waste Recovery facility from May 1 through May 25, 2007. Residents should contact their City Hall or Washington County Solid Waste and Recycling Program [503 846-8609] for coupons. Quantities are limited and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Acceptable Items**

- Furniture (box springs, mattresses, couches, chairs, etc)
- Appliances
- Passenger car tires
- Unpainted/untreated wood/fencing
- Automobile batteries
- Bathroom showers, sinks, tubs and toilets
- Hot tubs.

**Non-Acceptable Items**

- Food waste
- Liquid waste
- Business waste
- Explosives
- Computer equipment and monitors/TVs (Recycle these items!)
- Household hazardous/Medical waste (chemicals, paint, motor oil, sharps/needles)  
*Take these items to Metro's Hazardous Waste facilities or mobile community events.*

Please do not bring materials commonly accepted at the curb, including household trash and recyclables (cardboard, paper products, glass, motor oil, containers, etc.)

**Take reusable items to a qualified non-profit for resale/reuse or review the Drop-off Depot Matrix on Recyclewise.org for recyclers of many materials in your area.**

*\*Fees exceeding \$40 will be the responsibility of the coupon redeemer at the time of the transaction.  
Private vehicles only – No commercial vehicles permitted*

**City Offices**

- Banks (503) 324-5112
- Cornelius (503) 357-9112
- Durham (503) 639-6851
- Forest Grove (503) 992-3200
- Hillsboro (503) 681-6219
- Sherwood (503) 625-5722
- Tigard (503) 639-4171

**The Hillsboro Landfill  
& Tualatin Valley  
Waste Recovery**

3205 SE Minter Bridge Road  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123  
[www.wmnorthwest.com/landfill](http://www.wmnorthwest.com/landfill)

**Disposal Rates  
and Information  
for Residential  
Self-haul Materials**

*(All loads subject to a \$2.00  
Environmental Fee)*

These materials will be recycled

**Appliances**

Contains CFC . . . . \$28.00 ea.  
Non-CFC . . . . . \$12.00 ea.

**Batteries**

Automotive . . . . . \$2.00 ea.

**Tires**

Passenger off rim . . . \$6.00 ea.  
Passenger on rim . . . \$8.00 ea.  
Truck off rim . . . . \$16.00ea.  
Truck on rim . . . . \$26.00 ea.

**Demolition/  
Construction Debris**

Concrete with rebar  
. . . . . \$10.00/cu yard  
Clean concrete . . \$6.30/cu yard  
Asphalt . . . . . \$2.20/cu yard  
Stumps > 24" . . \$9.00/cu yard

A mixed-load of materials in a car, minivan, SUV, pick-up, or 6' or smaller trailer will be charged at the flat rate of \$36.00.