

# New Multnomah County Corrections Facility New Jail Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 3 November 1998

A newsletter in the public interest keeping citizens informed on the planning and design of the new corrections facility in Multnomah County.

**This is a special edition of the New Jail Newsletter.**

Enclosed is a mail-in survey on issues that have been raised about the proposed North Rivergate jail site. This is an opportunity for people who have

not been able to attend one of the several community meetings Sheriff Dan Noelle and Lt. Bobbi Luna have been attending to make their voices heard.

Please mail the survey no later than Wednesday, November 18, 1998 to:

Lt. Bobbi Luna  
Multnomah County Sheriff's Department  
1120 SW Third Avenue, Room 322  
Portland, OR 97204

or fax to her at 736-6829.

Results of this survey will be part of the site assessment report the Sheriff will submit to the Board of County Commissioners in early-December.

Also in this edition of the newsletter is a list of **Frequently Asked Questions** that citizens raise repeatedly at the community group meetings.

Sheriff Noelle and Lt. Luna have heard over the last few weeks citizen comments and concerns about the potential site at several meetings of neighborhood, business and environmental groups. This feedback also will be part of the site assessment report.

In the first half of December, the Sheriff will present the results of the site assessment at two community meetings as well as host a public hearing. These meetings are being arranged at this time, and we will mail out a special meeting notice listing these meetings in a couple of weeks.

Any questions or comments, please call Lt. Bobbi Luna at 248-3282.

*Title 3*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### North Rivergate Site Assessment — New Multnomah County Jail

**Q:** What is the number of beds at this new jail?

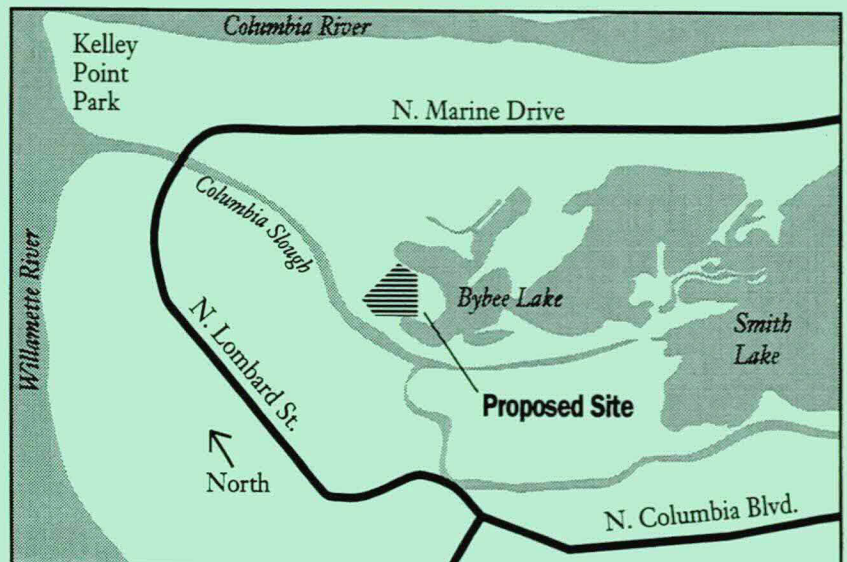
**A:** The initial jail to be built will have 225 beds. Over the next 15 to 20 years, the Sheriff's Office projects that the need for more jail space may lead to expansions of the new jail up to 2,000 beds.

**Q:** How big is the footprint for the new jail? How tall will this thing be?

**A:** The initial jail will be a single story building, about 25 feet in height, and will cover less than ten acres —building, parking, buffer. At build-out, the full 2,000 bed facility would be two stories, 45 feet high, and would cover about 22 acres.

**Q:** Why can't the County expand other jails?

**A:** The County has five jails, and all will soon be at maximum build-out. Recently, the County "double-bunked" the downtown Justice Center Jail, maximizing its capacity. When the final expansion at Inverness is complete the end of this year, that jail will be "land locked" with no more room to expand. Unfortunately, the County still needs more jail space, so a new facility is necessary. That is why voters approved funds for a new jail in May 1996.



**Q: When might you start construction? When are you going to open your doors?**

A: Once the Board of County Commissioners selects a site for the new jail, it will take a year to finish design, followed by 18 months of construction. So if the Board picks a site in January 1999, construction would start in January 2000 and the jail would hold its first inmate in mid-2001.

**Q: Will you be able to see the jail from Bybee Lake? Or, from the Columbia Slough? What about lighting?**

A: The County is planning an extensive vegetative buffer to surround the jail to shield views of the facility. The jail building will never be closer than 150 feet from the environmental zone, and the County is planning a 40-foot buffer around the facility fence and perimeter road. In addition, the County will design lighting to focus on the facility grounds, minimizing dispersion into surrounding wildlife areas. The County will form a citizens advisory Working Group to guide buffering for the new jail, including making certain the jail buffering complements plantings planned nearer the Slough and Bybee Lake by other agencies.

**Q: What will this jail look like?**

A: Modern jails do not look like prisons you see in movies. This jail will be an attractive facility, looking very much like other industrial development in the area. The County's goal is for the jail to blend into its surroundings, like the Inverness Jail does in the Columbia South Shore area. A citizens Working Group will advise the County on the physical appearance of the buildings.

Persons concerned about what a jail looks like, how it is run, and how it can fit into an area are urged to take a tour of the Inverness Jail. You can arrange one by calling Lt. Bobbi Luna at 248-3282.

**Q: Will inmates be released from this jail?**

A: Absolutely not. All inmates are released from the Justice Center Jail in downtown Portland.

**Q: How many people will work at this facility?**

A: The initial 225-bed jail will employ about 60 persons, spread over three 8-hour shifts each day, seven days per week. At build-out, the 2,000-bed jail would employ about 300 persons. The average wage is around \$35,000 plus benefits.

**Q: How would the jail's traffic compare to other industrial development?**

A: *- Timing -*  
The traffic generated by this jail is typical of a similarly sized industrial development. A traffic analysis for the new jail will be submitted to the City of Portland for review.

**Q: How long is the average inmate held in a jail?**

A: The current average stay in a Multnomah County jail is 16 days. Inmates serve long sentences at state prisons, not County jails. Because of the short stay, inmate friends and families have little incentive to move closer to the jail.

**Q: What is the impact of a jail on crime in the area?**

A: This was a key question asked during the community siting process. The County had Portland State University's urban affairs and criminal justice department examine this question. In addition, the County examined crime information before and after the opening of the Inverness Jail in Parkrose. There was no detectable increase in crime in Parkrose after the Inverness Jail opened. The PSU report indicates that well run jails can offer a positive public safety benefit

to neighbors. Jails provide an increase in the presence of uniformed law enforcement, a very effective crime deterrent. In addition, crime partners do not come to visit their buddies in jail, because an outstanding warrant check is run on every visitor.

**Q: What about flooding and earthquakes?**

A: The Port in its most recent fill on the site in 1993 raised the peninsula's elevation above the designated 100-Year Flood Plain level of 27.5'. The February 1996 flood saw a bit of standing water on the property, but nothing that would have placed the jail at risk. Of equal concern, however, is road access to the site, which was cut off during the 1996 flood.

A good share of industrial property in the region is in the riskiest zone for earthquake damage. The County is studying the type of foundation supports the North Rivergate site would require so the jail structure survives a seismic event.

**Q: I thought this thing was going to be at Radio Towers — why are you looking in North Rivergate?**

A: After voters approved a new jail in May 1996, the Board of County Commissioners created a 15-member Siting Advisory Committee to pick a site. The committee recommended to the Board the Radio Towers site, a 90 acre parcel, about two-thirds wetland, located west of I-5 and south of the Expo Center.

### **Public Meeting Reminder**

The Sheriff and Lt. Luna will meet with the St. Johns Business Boosters to discuss the proposed new jail site on Tuesday, November 17, 1998,  
7:30 a.m., YMCA,  
8010 N. Charleston Ave.,  
Portland.

# MAIL-IN SURVEY

## North Rivergate Site Assessment — New Multnomah County Jail

*This is your chance to make your voice heard.*

Please finish survey  
on back page.



1. Below is a list of several concerns people have raised regarding siting the new jail at the North Rivergate site on the south end of the Leadbetter Peninsula. For each concern, please indicate the level of importance you attach to the issue (1 = very important, 2 = somewhat important, 3 = not important).

	Importance		
	Very	Somewhat	Not
A. Too close to businesses	1	2	3
B. Too close to residential areas	1	2	3
C. Too close to the Columbia Slough and Bybee Lake	1	2	3
E. Perceived stigma to the area	1	2	3
F. Increased traffic	1	2	3
G. Need to buffer from nature areas	1	2	3
H. Need to shield lighting of facility from nature areas	1	2	3
I. Appearance of the building	1	2	3
J. Flooding of site	1	2	3
K. Cost of roads and utilities	1	2	3
L. Seismic conditions of site	1	2	3
M. Site differs from Rivergate site identified in earlier siting process	1	2	3
N. Other: _____	1	2	3

2. Of the concerns listed in question 1, please indicate by letter which three are the most important to you:

1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd \_\_\_\_\_

3. For each of these three, please list ways you can think of for the County to mitigate the impact:

1st \_\_\_\_\_

2nd \_\_\_\_\_

3rd \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this survey, and mail  
**NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 18, 1998**  
to: Lt. Bobbi Luna, Multnomah County Sheriff's Dept.  
1120 SW Third Avenue, Room 322  
Portland, OR 97204  
or fax to her at 736-6829



The Board decided in September 1998 to stop the design and permitting work at Radio Towers, due to concerns about costs, environmental impacts and the uncertainty of the wetland fill permit process.

Around the same time, the Port of Portland offered to the County the opportunity to purchase property on the Leadbetter Peninsula in North Rivergate for the new jail. The Port, which had initially opposed a jail in Rivergate, cited the reduced jail footprint and the County's willingness to consider lesser priority industrial property as reasons it was now willing to negotiate with the County. As a first step, the Board directed the Sheriff to conduct a site assessment for the North Rivergate site. A report is due the end of November 1998.

**Q: Will this jail hinder the actions that may be proscribed in a settlement of that lawsuit about Rivergate fill?**

**A:** Our understanding is that the Port of Portland is holding onto, and will not sell to the County, any property it may need to take the mitigation planting and other actions that may be involved in settling the lawsuit.

**Q: Isn't the 40-Mile Loop Trail supposed to go by here? Will the County allow a trail or access to Bybee Lake next to a jail?**

**A:** Right now, plans are for the 40-Mile Loop Trail to go along the Columbia Slough on Leadbetter Peninsula. The trail itself will be on property retained by the Port of Portland. The Sheriff's Office has no problem with this at all, nor with working for an access point for Bybee Lake.

### Conditional Use Review Pre-App Conference

To obtain a more complete understanding of the issues the City of Portland land-use review process would raise for a jail in North Rivergate, the County has scheduled a pre-application conference to gather comments from City of Portland bureaus. This meeting is set for Tuesday, November 17, 1998 at 3:00 p.m. at the Bureau of Planning, 10th Floor, Portland Building, 1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland. Pre-ap conferences invite City bureaus to comment on projects in the conceptual stage. For more information, call Lt. Bobbi Luna at 248-3282.

4. Several persons have identified community benefits that could accompany construction of the jail at this site. Please rate the importance of each (1 = very important, 2 = somewhat important, 3 = not important).

	Importance		
	Very	Somewhat	Not
A. County could improve recreational access to Bybee Lake.	1	2	3
B. Increased law enforcement presence in Rivergate will deter crime.	1	2	3
C. County could develop effective buffer of native plants.	1	2	3
D. Road and utility infrastructure increases value of industrial area.	1	2	3
E. Jail will keep more criminals behind bars.	1	2	3
F. Public developer more sensitive to neighboring natural areas than a private industrial developer would be.	1	2	3
G. Less traffic-intensive development than typical industrial development.	1	2	3
H. Other: _____	1	2	3

5. If the County works with interested citizens on the designing, planning and operation of the new jail, can this site work for the new jail?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

6. Any other comments or suggestions?

---



---



---



---



---



---

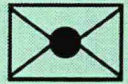


---



---

Thanks for your thoughts.  
Please clip and mail to the  
address on page 3 by  
**Wednesday, November 18, 1998.**



If you have any questions, call Lt. Luna at 248-3282  
or e-mail her at: [bobbi.l.luna@co.multnomah.or.us](mailto:bobbi.l.luna@co.multnomah.or.us).



JIM MORGAN  
(SMITH & BYBEE LAKES)  
METRO REGIONAL PARKS & GREENSPACES  
600 NE GRAND AVE  
PORTLAND OR 97232-2736

RESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PORTLAND, ORE  
PERMIT NO. 11

Multnomah County Sheriff's Department  
12240 NE Glisan St.  
Portland, OR 97230

# New Multnomah County Corrections Facility

# New Jail Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 4 November 1998

A newsletter in the public interest keeping citizens informed on the planning and design of the new corrections facility in Multnomah County.

## First Up: Public Briefings on the Site Assessment

In late-September 1998, the Board of County Commissioners directed Sheriff Noelle to conduct a preliminary site assessment of a parcel in North Rivergate, at the south end of the Leadbetter Peninsula, offered by the Port of Portland as a location for the new Multnomah County jail.

Work on this technical study of engineering, environmental and land-use challenges the new site poses is nearing completion.

The next edition of the New Jail Newsletter will feature a summary of the results of this study.

As part of this site assessment, Sheriff Dan Noelle and Lt. Bobbi Luna met in October and November with several neighborhood, business and environmental groups.

The Sheriff has scheduled the following two meetings to present the technical findings to the community, to answer questions and listen to comments and concerns.

**Thursday, December 3, 1998 — 6:30 p.m.**  
Roosevelt High School Auditorium  
6941 North Central, Portland  
Tri-Met: Bus #75 — 39th Ave. - Lombard  
— and —

**Tuesday, December 8, 1998 — 7:30 a.m.**  
Nordstrom Distribution Center  
5703 North Marine Drive, Portland  
Tri-Met: Bus #6 — MLK

In addition, the Sheriff is briefing interested former-members of the expired Siting Advisory Committee. The committee is not being reformed, and it will not be asked to take any formal action. The Sheriff is interested in the advice of these individuals. That

briefing will occur on Tuesday, December 1, 1998, starting at 6:00 p.m. at Nabisco, 100 NE Columbia Boulevard, Portland (Tri-Met: Bus #6 — MLK). The technical information presented at this meeting will be no different than that offered at the two public meetings.

## Followed By a Public Hearing

After these briefings, Sheriff Noelle is hosting a formal public hearing at which members of the community can offer time-limited oral or written testimony on whether the North Rivergate site is suitable for the new jail. The Sheriff will forward testimony offered to the County Commissioners.

That meeting is scheduled for:

**Tuesday, December 8, 1998 — 6:30 p.m.**  
Lobby of Exhibit Hall E  
Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center  
2060 North Marine Drive, Portland  
Tri-Met: Bus #6 — MLK

Written testimony for the public hearing can be submitted either at the public hearing on December 8 or by mail.

Mail written testimony to:

Sheriff Dan Noelle  
Multnomah County Sheriff  
12240 NE Glisan Street  
Portland, OR 97230

To be part of the record, the testimony must be received by Wednesday, December 9, 1998.

## Then, to the Board of County Commissioners

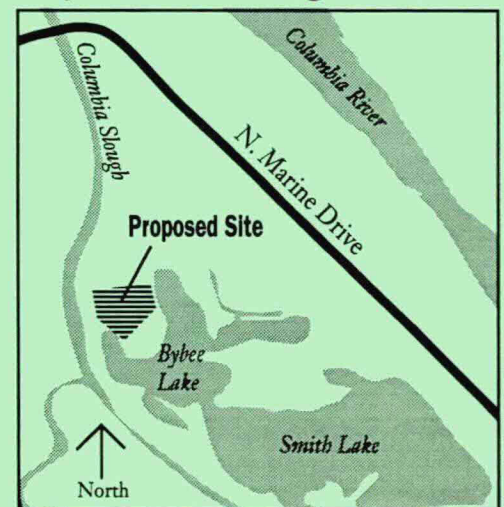
After the public hearing, the action shifts to the decision-makers, the Board of County Commissioners.

On Thursday, December 10, 1998, the Sheriff will present the results of the North Rivergate site assessment to the Commissioners at an informal board briefing. The public is welcome at board briefings, but no public comment is accepted. That briefing is scheduled to begin at 9:45 a.m. at the County Courthouse, Room 602, 1021 SW Fourth Avenue, Portland (on the bus mall).

Cable Channel 30 will broadcast the round table briefing of the County Commission live, and repeat the briefing on Friday, December 11th at 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 13th at 1:00 p.m.

Board action on resolutions to site the jail at North Rivergate will occur at future meetings of the Board of County Commissioners. Public comment will be welcomed at these meetings of the Board. Dates and times for Board meetings at which Commissioners will consider or discuss resolutions regarding the jail siting will be publicized in future editions of the New Jail Newsletter. With the holidays coming up, action is unlikely until early in the New Year.

## Proposed North Rivergate Jail Site



# ATTENTION - *Public Meetings*

## *Results of Technical Site Assessment*

Thursday, December 3, 1998

6:30 p.m.

Roosevelt High School Auditorium

6941 North Central, Portland

Tri-Met: Bus #75 - 39th Ave.-Lombard

Tuesday, December 8, 1998

7:30 a.m.

Nordstrom Distribution Center

5703 North Marine Drive, Portland

Tri-Met: Bus #6 - MLK

## *Public Hearing*

Tuesday, December 8, 1998

6:30 p.m.

Lobby of Exhibit Hall E

Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center

2060 North Marine Drive, Portland

Tri-Met: Bus #6 - MLK

JIM MORGAN  
(SMITH & BYBEE LAKES)  
METRO REGIONAL PARKS & GREENSPACES  
600 NE GRAND AVE  
PORTLAND OR 97232-2736  
--

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PORTLAND, ORE.  
PERMIT NO. 11

Multnomah County Sheriff's Department  
12240 NE Glisan St.  
Portland, OR 97230