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City Hall

BY ANNA GRIFFIN AND RYAN FRANK
The Oregonian

FPDR cash

Posted by [The Oregonian City Hall Team](#) September 29, 2006 18:14

So if the [firefighters](#) and [cops](#) won't bankroll the political campaign to [reform for their pension systems](#), who will? Big time business. We got the answer today when Saltzman [filed his campaign fund raising report](#) for the committee Citizens Fair and Responsible Reform. Saltzman, Leonard and Potter have raised \$51,100 with a goal of hitting \$135,000 before the Nov. 7 election. Besides the \$5,000 from Saltzman himself and another \$5,000 from his mom, here's where the cash came from:

Williams & Dame Development (South Waterfront developer Homer Williams): \$10,000
 Russell Development Co. (Former PDC Chair John Russell): \$10,000
 City Center Parking (Parking magnate Greg Goodman): \$5,000
 Richard Alexander: \$5,000
 Oregon Steel Mills: \$3,500
 Peter Stott (ex-timber executive): \$2,500
 Friends of Randy Leonard: \$2,000*
 Wayne Kingsley (Portland Spirit fame): \$1,000
 R.B. Pamplin Corp. (Ross Island): \$1,000
 Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt: \$1,000

* Footnote on Leonard's donation. Leonard says he made a pitch to the firefighters union to give to the FPDR campaign. The union passed on donating to the FPDR campaign and instead sent Leonard \$2,000 for his 2008 re-election. Leonard re-directed it to FPDR since that's what he hit them up for.

-- Ryan
ryanfrank@news.oregonian.com

Saltzman: New park rules, etc.

Posted by [The Oregonian City Hall Team](#) September 29, 2006 17:07

A few news bits out of Saltzman's office:

- He's bringing new rules for the parks. Should make for a fun debate in early November. Among the rules: No sex offenders in the pools and no smoking within 25 feet of a play area.

- He wants to require the city's 30-plus franchised garbage haulers to use biodiesel, B-20, starting next March.

-- Ryan
ryanfrank@news.oregonian.com

City types invade PDX

Posted by [The Oregonian City Hall Team](#) September 28, 2006 15:36

The [League of Oregon Cities](#) conference is in Portland this week. That's 800 bureaucrats walking around downtown for three days. (Insert your joke here.) The mayors will converge on City Hall today and take a tour of MLK Blvd. It's all part of Potter's grand plan to make friends who will help him pry more school funding out of the 2007 Legislature.

-- Ryan

Sam and the PBA

Posted by [The Oregonian City Hall Team](#) September 28, 2006 15:30

This just hit my inbox. [Commissioner Sam](#) will visit with the [Portland Business Alliance](#) folks Thursday, Oct. 5 to talk about "Business Taxes: What is fair?" Not sure how far he'll go, but Sam might share his secret new plans to reduce the city's [business income tax](#).

-- Ryan
ryanfrank@news.oregonian.com

City Club committee: Condemn Measure 39

Posted by [The Oregonian City Hall Team](#) September 26, 2006 15:48

A [City Club of Portland](#) committee came out against a state measure to curb governments ability to condemn private property in the name of economic development. That's potentially a big deal for the Portland Development Commission. The city's urban renewal agency recently condemned private property for a possible hotel next to the convention center and may pursue it again in Lents at the urging of Commissioner Randy Leonard.

[The committee has a report](#) out on the measure and will debate it at its Friday Forum this week. Scott Seibert, the committee's chair, will present the report, a debate and vote follows for City Club members. To get a seat, visit www.pdxcityclub.org or call 503-228-7231.

From their press release:

City Club's Ballot Measure 39 study committee found that, with several notable exceptions in the early years of urban renewal, government agencies in Oregon generally have been judicious when exercising their right to convey property from one private party to another in furtherance of a public purpose. The committee concluded that economic development should be a paramount concern in Oregon, and that taking away the power of eminent domain for private development would hamper state and local governments' abilities to enter into public-private partnerships and execute urban renewal projects. Therefore, the study committee is unanimously recommending to City Club membership a NO vote on Measure 39.

-- Ryan
ryanfrank@news.oregonian.com

Sam's Island banishment

Posted by [The Oregonian City Hall Team](#) September 26, 2006 15:38

[Commissioner Sam Adams](#) promised to be back with a [plan for Hayden Island](#).

That plan landed with a thump this week. The commissioner of transportation has [posted a tome on his Web site](#) giving his evidence to temporarily ban development on the island at Portland's far north end. Regular readers will remember that Adams first mentioned the ban after [Wal-Mart](#) showed interest in putting a store on the island.

Adams, no fan of the world's biggest retailer, worried that people racing for low prices would further clog the arteries of Interstate 5.

Now Adams says he's got evidence to back him up: A traffic study by the engineers at David Evans & Associates that gave I-5 traffic an "F."

Look for a council debate during at a 6 p.m. hearing next Wednesday at City Hall, 1221 S.W. Fourth Ave.

-- Ryan
ryanfrank@news.oregonian.com

Lars on Potter

Posted by [The Oregonian City Hall Team](#) September 12, 2006 15:45

A Lars Larson show intern has accused Mayor Tom Potters staff of breaking elections law by sending out a press release that expressed support for tax measures for Portland schools.

Eric Wilson, a 21-year-old Oregon State University student, objected to a Sept. 1 press release that promoted the mayors trip to three Portland schools on the first day of class.

The press release said Potters visit to David Douglas, Portland and Reynolds schools would show his support for grassroots campaigns to better fund education for the citys children. ... Each school has a measure on the November ballot to raise critical funds to meet their unique needs.

Investing in students today pays all of Oregon back tomorrow, Potter said in the release.

In Oregon, its a no-no for a government employee to promote or oppose any tax measures while theyre on the clock. Potters spokesman, John Doussard wrote the release on city time and using his city e-mail account.

Larson, a frequent City Hall critic, talked about Potters visit on his show on KXL 750-AM and alerted Wilson to it. When I saw him campaign at a school for a tax levy, thats when a red flag went up, Wilson said.

-- Ryan

Sam v. Wal-Mart, Part 92

Posted by [The Oregonian City Hall Team](#) August 18, 2006 17:56

Over in [Commissioner Sam Land](#), he says [Wal-Mart](#) may be scouting out a [new location on Northeast 82nd Avenue](#) across the street from Madison High School. Sam says a developer filed preliminary paperwork for a 240,000 square foot big box store. Sam's folks posted the drawings on his site under the headline: "Wal-

Mart's on the March in Roseway?"

"This is a *really* big box whatever it is," Adams said.

But Jennifer Holder, Wal-Mart's spokeswoman, says the site is not on the company's list right now. "It's not our application. It is not our site. It has not been approved," she said. "It's pure speculative real estate right now." She says developers often file preliminary plans, then try to recruit Wal-Mart to go there.

She says the world's biggest retailer continues to look at Hayden Island and to think about appealing Beaverton's decision for a no-go on a store there. And they are still very interested in expanding in Portland, Holder says.

Holder also poked at Sam for taking up so much time to track Wal-Mart's moves: "I think Sam Adams is wasting taxpayer resources."

Either way, a big box of that size could be tough to get through the city. It would mean serious new traffic to 82nd and would likely end up requiring the council's OK. And we all know which way this council would be likely to lean.

UPDATE: I talked late Friday with a spokesman for the developer, SmartCentres of Canda. They don't have a retailer picked yet for the 82nd Ave site. They say they filed the application to start the land-use process and will market the site to a retailer later. The firm is a big developer in Canda. So far, 118 of their 170 shopping center -- or centres as they call them -- have been anchored by a Wal-Mart.

-- Ryan
