

Letters: CCC expansion funding; Clackamas Fire recognizes Fire Prevention Month; M97; urban renewal; Angel Falconer

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Autumn is in the air. Our campuses came back to life with the return of Clackamas Community College students and the start of classes. Each fall brings in new students and new energy. This fall also brings continued work on our bond projects and a new legislative season.

When we conducted our yearlong community engagement process in 2013, the community told us you would like to see modernized facilities and equipment as well as improved safety features on our campuses. To grow and continue supporting every student, the college, along with all of our fellow Oregon community colleges, may request funds from the state.

We have received funding from the state in the form of matching grants on some of our current bond projects — \$8 million for Harmony Phase II and \$8 million for the new Industrial Technical Center (ITC). Harmony Phase II replaces the former Oregon Institute of Technology building and will grow CCC's health science, workforce development and general education offerings. The ITC will benefit electronics, automotive, machining and manufacturing.

This session, we will be asking for matching funds for our DeJardin Science Complex (\$8 million). Next session, we will ask for match funding for a new Community Center (\$8 million). The science complex will modernize classrooms, labs and facilities, benefitting water and environmental technology, high purity water, nursing and health science. The new Community Center will co-locate critical support services, such as veteran services, disabilities resources and career coaching, in one convenient location.

These bond projects will increase local access to affordable education and train students for high-demand careers. For more information on our bond projects, visit clackamas.edu/BondInformation.

Joanne Truesdell

Clackamas Community College president

Fire prevention is this month's theme

Every October, Clackamas Fire District #1 recognizes Fire Prevention Month. This year's theme, which is determined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), is "Don't Wait — Check the Date!"

According to the NFPA, three of five home fire deaths occur in residences without a working smoke alarm. Many people know about the importance of testing smoke alarms regularly to ensure that they are working properly, but did you also know that smoke alarms need to be replaced every 10 years? The reliability of a smoke alarm greatly diminishes after 10 years, so it is important to check how old all of the smoke alarms in your home are. In order to find out how old they are, simply look at the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture should be printed. If it has been 10 or more years since the alarm was manufactured, install a new smoke alarm!

In addition to making sure that your smoke alarms are less than 10 years old, it is important to test them monthly to make sure that they work. Taking just a few moments each month to press the test buttons on your smoke alarms could save your life in the event of a fire.

Other important tips for keeping your family safe include installing smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside all sleeping areas, and on every level of your home, and keeping doors closed in order to slow the spread of fire. If a smoke alarm in your home starts sounding, get outside and call 9-1-1.

If you would like to learn more about the importance of smoke alarms, and other aspects of fire and life safety, attend one of Clackamas Fire's open houses throughout the month of October. Citizens are encouraged to visit the stations during these times to take tours of the stations and apparatus, spend time with the firefighters that serve their community, and to learn valuable fire and life safety information. Below is a list of the upcoming open house dates and locations:

Saturday, Oct. 8

1 to 3 p.m. at Fire Station 14

28655 S.E. Highway 212, Boring

Saturday, Oct. 15

1 to 3 p.m. at Fire Station 15

624 Seventh St., Oregon City

Saturday, Oct. 22