

COURTHOUSE WATCH

- East County Courthouse: County commissioners voted unanimously on April 22 to go forward with the construction documents. A contractor has been chosen and the expected date of completion is in late 2011. Judy attended the meeting and spoke on behalf of the MBA. In total, 20 members of the public spoke in favor in addition to state senators and mayor of Gresham, none opposed.
- MBA Courthouse committee members met with Commissioners Kafoury, Cogen, McKeel, Shiprack and Cogen, PDC staffer Peter Englander and Portland economic development director Kimberly Schneider in the past few months. Sarah has spoken with various state senators and representatives. Judy has talked with Ted Wheeler about a statewide effort to refurbish and/or rebuild courthouses. She met with Mike Salsgiver, executive director for the Associated General Contractors, to pique the construction industry's interest in a statewide jobs creation effort to work on courthouses. She also spoke with the former CEO of three major wood products companies about the job creation idea. He sits on several major Oregon boards.
- MBA Courthouse committee members also met with Steve Novick to brainstorm possible strategies for a new downtown courthouse. Steve and members of the committee will investigate other areas of the country that have built new courthouses and research various other details identified during the brainstorming session.
- Leslie Kay and Judy Edwards met with a newly established sub-committee that will focus on the building and site for the courthouse. Sarah Crooks will serve on a similar sub-committee that will focus on financing. Chief De Muniz reports that PSU MBA program has agreed to adopt as a project: how to make the existing downtown courthouse into a revenue generating building for the county.