

April 2, 2010

East County Courthouse Celebrates Grand Opening

WHAT: The long-awaited and much-needed East County Courthouse celebrates its grand opening next week.

The celebration of the new and improved court facilities for east Multnomah County residents will be on **Tuesday, April 10 at 10 a.m. at Southeast 185th Avenue and Stark Street in Gresham.**

"This is a huge milestone that means east county residents will finally have the nearby access they deserve for essential court services," said Commissioner Diane McKeel, who represents east Multnomah County on the Board of Commissioners.

"And we're pleased this project is both on time and on budget," said McKeel, who will be speaking at the April 10 ceremony.

Also scheduled to speak at the grand opening are Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen; Commissioner Judy Shiprack; Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul De Muniz; Multnomah County Presiding Court Judge Nan Waller and Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Schrunk.

Multnomah County broke ground on the \$19.6 million courthouse in January 2011 on a 4.2-acre lot in the Rockwood neighborhood at Southeast 185th and Stark.

The new courthouse replaces the current leased Gresham Courthouse, and will serve people being adjudicated for misdemeanors, violations and small claims. The courthouse also will be used for landlord and tenant actions, ex parte hearings and the filing of documents for all civil and domestic relations actions.

The project team for the new energy-efficient LEED-certified courthouse included Peggidy Yates, county manager of strategic planning and projects; construction manager Howard S. Wright Constructors; project manager Shields Oblatz Johnsen and the design team of LRS Architects.

Self-guided tours of the new courthouse will also be available after the April 10 ceremony until noon.

WHERE: Southeast 185th Avenue and Stark Street in Gresham

WHEN: 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 10

CONTACT: David Austin 503-803-8616