

NORTHWESTnews

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INITIATIVE SIGNATURES DELIVERED

Robert Ball, Good Government Initiative chief petitioner, delivered 40,000 signatures to Portland's elections office Jan. 17. If they are verified, voters will decide in May whether to amend the city charter to include district representation and a system of checks and balances.

"The support by leaders representing neighborhoods, business, union and community groups for our initiative has been truly fantastic," says Ball, a gay police reserve captain and real estate investor. "When officials are elected from districts and have offices in their districts, they will know more about the specific needs and very real concerns of that part of town."

SPIRIT OF PRIDE NODS SOUGHT

Nominations are being accepted for the 2002 Spirit of Pride Awards, which recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions within the sexual minorities community. The deadline is Feb. 12.

Consideration is based on visibility, years of volunteerism, leadership and service to the wider community. The recipients will be recognized during Pride 2002, which is scheduled for June 15 and 16 at Waterfront Park.

Send nominations to pridenorthwest@usa.net or P.O. Box 6611, Portland, OR 97228-6611.

CAPITOL PRIDE MIGHT MOVE

Salem's annual Capitol Pride celebration might have a new date and location.

Organizers met Jan. 9 and considered moving the three-day event from August to June. Several new locations also were suggested, including Millrace Park and Bush's Pasture Park.

The goal is to improve attendance, fund raising and volunteer participation. The next meeting will start 6:30 p.m. Jan. 23 at LifeLine AIDS Project, 3896 Beverly Ave. N.E.

For more information contact chairwoman Dani Leis at 503-831-3278 or leis7@juno.com.

CAPITOL FORUM TURNS 25

The Capitol Forum, the oldest gay and lesbian social service organization in the mid-Willamette Valley, celebrated its 25th anniversary Jan. 12 at the Rightside Showbar in Salem. The group was founded Jan. 11, 1977, and for 25 years also printed *Community News*, Oregon's oldest gay and lesbian newspaper.

SALEM POLICE PLAN FORUM

The Salem Police Department will sponsor a forum to discuss issues of concern to the sexual minorities community Jan. 24. The meeting will start 6 p.m. at the Salem Senior Center, 1055 Erixon St. N.E.

Lt. Dan Cary, the department's representative to the Salem Human Rights and Relations Advisory Commission, says several months ago someone suggested a forum similar to Portland's

Sexual Minorities Roundtable. "I thought instead of trying to copy something, we're going to try and do our own thing."

Cary hopes to start a dialogue, create rapport, answer questions and determine what can be done to work things out. For example, one concern might be how the department treats trans people who are placed under arrest.

Cary also suspects that harassment occurs outside Salem establishments catering to the sexual minorities community but that incidents

they will not be in uniform. Future forums might be held if specific issues need to be addressed.

For more information call 503-588-6230.

TRANS OFFICER'S SETTLEMENT OK'D

A two-year ordeal has ended for a trans officer who accused the Portland Police Bureau of harassment.

Damon Woodcock negotiated a settlement to resign, agree not to work for the city, drop his pending stress-related disability claims and other internal affairs complaints, and receive \$205,000. The Portland Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund voted Dec. 11 to pay him \$185,000, and the Portland City Council quietly approved its \$20,000 portion Jan. 9.

Woodcock hasn't been on the job since July 1999, when he was the victim of an alleged bias crime shortly after former Chief Charles Moose instructed the officer to move into the men's locker room. A co-worker scrawled a circle around his nameplate and drew a slash through it, causing him to fear for his safety. □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA



Former cop Damon Woodcock (right) has received \$205,000 as part of a job stress settlement

are not reported. "If we don't know about it, there's not much we can do," he says.

Cary and another officer, Laura Seefeldt, want to keep the atmosphere low-key and informal, so

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