

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. awards neighborhood grants

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. has awarded neighborhood grants for 18 community projects. SWNI chose these projects, not all of which received all the money they requested, from among 22 applications. The neighborhood coalition had \$22,053 available, its share of the \$200,000 citywide budget.

The money was allocated from the City of Portland General Fund through the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, and distributed to the city's seven neighborhood offices and coalitions.

The grants are intended to "increase the capacity" of community-based organizations, provide for outreach to "under-represented communities," and foster partnerships between neighborhood associations and coalitions and other community organizations.

This may be the last year, at least for awhile, for the program. Now in its third year, it is designated "one-time funding" that is officially not part of a bureau's regular budget. Mayor-elect Sam Adams has said he will direct all city bureaus to submit budgets that are free of one-time funding, and "cut packages" showing ways to cut the bureau's regular budget by a total of five percent.

The Southwest neighborhood grants are as follows:

Bridlemile Neighborhood Association received \$350 to "invigorate the neighborhood association." Proposed strategies include "increasing the number of people coming to neighbor-

hood meetings," "allowing people who come to give structured information," and "creating a more welcoming atmosphere" for newcomers.

Southwest Watershed Resources Center received \$875 for equipment, including a portable canopy for outdoor events and a projector to allow visiting speakers to make presentations.

Neighborhood House received \$1829 for improvements to their Sustainable Garden Project. The money would be used to further develop the garden space, make it more accessible, plant more vegetables for the emergency food program, and use the garden for education for children and community organizing.

Southwest Trails Committee received \$725 to install a drinking fountain at the Raz-Baack Crossing. Southwest Community Health Center received \$511 to "promote exercise and community-building in Southwest Portland," and especially to involve "under-represented communities" in community walks and activities.

Far Southwest Neighborhood Association received \$500 for a neighborhood-wide picnic and ice cream social. Crestwood Neighborhood Association received \$1,000 to continue their "Dickinson at the Movies" program in Dickinson Park.

South Portland Neighborhood Association received \$2,000 to involve businesses in their Willamette Park concert series. Jackson Middle School received \$1500 for a Cultural Arts Day, with local artists and musicians.

Southwest Crime Prevention and

Public Safety Committee received \$2,000 for providing information to the parents of at-risk children, holding a Community Policing Reception, and holding the third annual Hoopin' It Up youth basketball camp.

Homestead Neighborhood Association received \$1538 for their Full Circle Plant Program to restore neighborhood park land. **Shomeri Teva of Congregation Neveh Shalom** received \$750 for Tu to You Bshareff, a program to install plantings on the side of a Fanno Creek tributary.

Multnomah Village Business Association received \$2,000 for a community mural at the Multnomah Arts Center.

South Burlingame Neighborhood Association received \$1775 to clean up a property at Southwest 12th Avenue and Spring Garden Road, and install a neighborhood sign.

Multnomah Historical Association received \$1050 to publish research on area historic homes, research and document the history of the business district, and provide signage for primary historic buildings and businesses. **Marshall Park Neighborhood Association** received \$1550 for a National Night Out celebration. Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southern Washington received \$300 for a garden project at Robert Gray Middle School.

Replacement of Fanno Creek sewer line scheduled to begin next summer

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

The Portland Bureau of Environmental Services has completed repairs to the Garden Home section of the Fanno Pressure Sewer Line, making repairs in 12 places, spokesperson Stephen Sykes told *The Post* last month.

Long-term plans call for replacement of the system. Despite public misgivings, the current system was built with plastic pipe in the year 2000, and began to fail in 2005 and 2006. BES now concedes the system has to be replaced rather than just repaired.

The work is scheduled to begin next summer.

In the meantime, the City has been sending its sewerage to Washington County's Durham Wastewater Treatment Plant via a 36-inch gravity sewer pipe. This system's capacity is adequate to the need during dry weather, but during extreme rains the combined flow could overload it.

To cover this contingency, BES has installed a pumping and screening system on Southwest 86th Avenue. If the "detour" system exceeds capacity, this backup would result in "highly diluted, partially treated wastewater" flowing into Fanno Creek.

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