

# Park Bureau gives Fulton Park Community Center higher priority

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Lee Perlman  
The Southwest Portland Post

According to spokesperson Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Portland Parks and Recreation has made some revisions in a previous draft budget.

The park bureau, like all City bureaus, had prepared draft budgets with cut levels of four, six and eight percent to meet expected budget shortfalls, as ordered by Mayor Sam Adams.

An earlier budget called for the closure of the Fulton Park Community Center as a way to meet the four percent cut. Fulton Park's closure is still on the table, but now only if a six percent cut is called for.

The latest budget also rescinds an earlier call for closing operations of park "splash pads" and working water features.

In their place, the bureau proposed to eliminate an administrative position and slash its printing budget by \$100,000. Kennedy-Wong said she was unsure of the practical effect of this last cut.

The earlier budget suggested transferring 13 City-run SUN School recreation programs to Multnomah County, achieving a saving in administrative costs.

The current budget suggests keeping the SUN Schools under City administration, but to eliminate three of them. The City has yet to decide which three to cut, Kennedy-Wong said.

### Markham Neighborhood Association may soon dissolve

The Markham Neighborhood Association may soon officially dissolve



Fulton Park Community Center may be spared from proposed budget cuts by Portland Parks and Recreation. (Photo courtesy of Isabel Souza)

their neighborhood as a community unit, spokespeople said last month.

Neighborhood groups have gone inactive over the years due to a lack of committed volunteers to carry on the work, and neighborhood boundaries have changed as smaller groups have seceded from larger ones or chosen to affiliate with an adjacent organization.

However, for a neighborhood group to say it is no longer an independent entity, while not a first, is highly unusual.

According to Markham board member Philip Richards, the neighborhood association is currently inactive and unviable. "We are split by an impenetrable barrier (Interstate 5), and by the boundaries of the Portland School District, with half of our children going to Markham and half to Stevenson," Richards told *The Post*.

Some, though not all, of those currently active feel the territory should be split between the South Burlingame and West Portland Park neighborhood associations. They have had conversations with the leadership of both or-

ganizations, and both seem receptive to the idea, Richards said.

### Pearson elected to serve neighborhood coalition

Sam Pearson, who represents the South Burlingame Neighborhood Association on the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. board, was unanimously elected as to be the group's second vice president at their January meeting. He succeeds Sharon Keast, who resigned the post to take a part-time staff position in the SWNI office.

### Southwest Candidates Fair set for April 10

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) will hold a Candidates Fair the evening of April 10 at the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 S.W. Capitol Hwy. SWNI is inviting all candidates for City Council Position 1, which Randy Leonard currently holds and is not running for re-election to, and Position 4, currently held by Amanda Fritz.

SWNI will also hear from supporters and opponents of Measure 26-125 on local library funding. The coalition of neighborhoods decided not to provide speaking time for Mayoral candidates because, with 18 in the race, they felt it would not be possible to be inclusive and also have a meaningful discussion.

### Multnomah Boulevard sewer line work continues

The Portland Bureau of Environmental Services will continue installing new sewer lines on Southwest Multnomah Boulevard this month, working eastward between 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> avenues, according to BES spokesperson Stephen Sykes. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays the work will require restricting traffic to a single lane controlled by flaggers.

Near Southwest 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sykes said, the work may interfere with access to adjacent commercial businesses; BES is seeking to find alternative parking for workers and customers. As the work is completed, the bureau will replace sidewalks damaged in the process.

BES is also working on creating a new Fanno pump station near Southwest 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Although it will serve Portland, the station would be located in Washington County, and it is now undergoing land use review by that jurisdiction.

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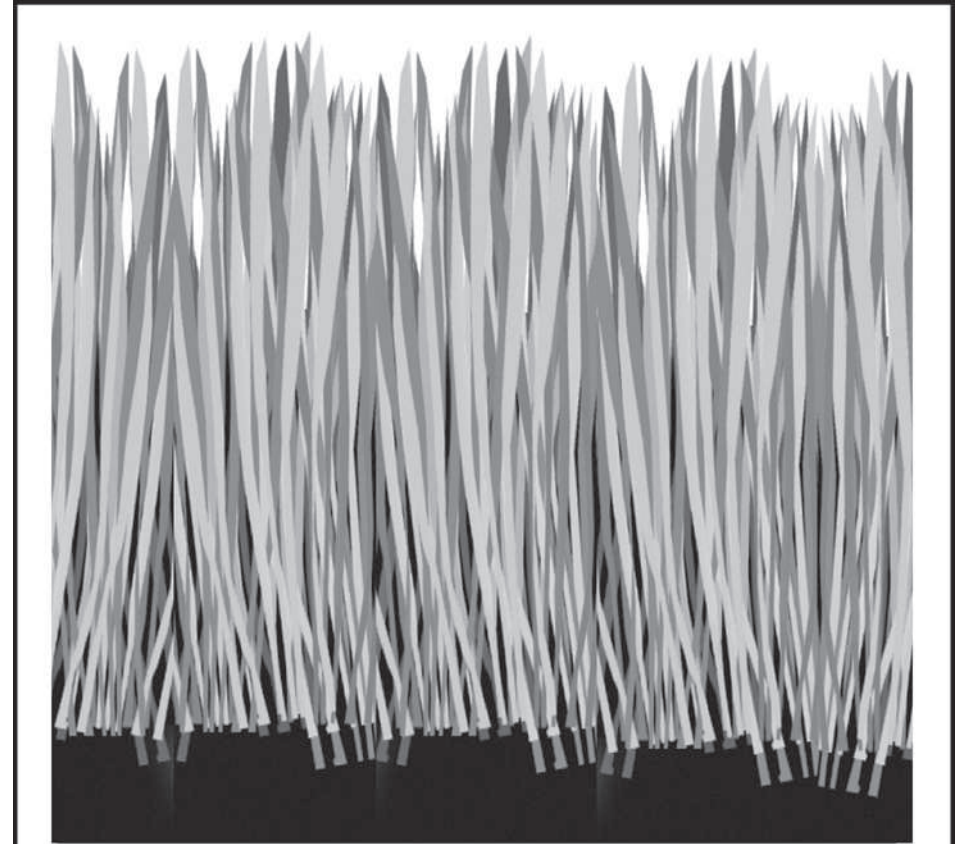
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