

Mayor's budget preserves funds for Southwest sidewalks and SUN schools

CITY HALL

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Mayor Sam Adams' budget, published last month but still subject to change at press time, was kind to Southwest Portland in many ways.

It preserved about half the funding for the Neighborhood Small Grants Program, \$8 million worth of new sidewalk construction, and southwest's three SUN School programs. However, despite heavy lobbying, the budget does call for the closure of Fulton Park Community Center.

For the Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), the budget includes \$100,000 (half of last year's budget) for the citywide Small Grants program, given by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) and the city's six other neighborhood coalitions for special projects conceived by neighborhood associations and other grass roots groups.

SWNI's share will drop from \$23,000 this fiscal year to \$10,000. "We're really glad this program was preserved," SWNI Executive Director Sylvia Bogert told *The Post*. "There'll be more competition for the funds, but we'll work with it."

The ONI budget also included

cost of living increases for Bogert and other neighborhood personnel. Adams' budget also preserved \$16 million, split between southwest and East Portland, for the construction of sidewalks where they do not currently exist.

"The mayor kept his promise," SWNI Transportation Committee chair Roger Averbek told *The Post*. "Both coalitions really need this." The budget also restored funds for street cleaning and maintenance, once on the chopping block.

There is a chance southwest can receive additional transportation funding this year. The State of Oregon has a \$20 million program to enhance bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Portland can request a maximum of four projects, and SWNI is lobbying for the Southwest Barbur Demonstration Project, which would provide \$1 million worth of improvements between 19th and 26th avenues.

"The City should be looking at long-standing needs on major arterials where there are major safety concerns," Averbek said.

The Bureau of Parks will preserve funding to continue SUN School programs at Jackson Middle School and Robert Gray elementary school, once considered in jeopardy. A third SUN program at Markham School receives funding from other sources.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Grand opening scheduled for Gibbs Street pedestrian bridge

The grand opening celebration for the new Gibbs Street pedestrian bridge will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 23.

The bridge extends from Southwest Kelley Avenue to the South Waterfront, and is the first direct pedestrian connection in decades between parts of what was once a unified neighborhood.

There will be speeches by Mayor Sam Adams, among others, free rides on the Oregon Health and Sciences University aerial tram from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and several community walks, according to project manager Jean Seneschal Biggs.

SWNI officers re-elected

The Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. board of directors re-elected their officers last month, all running without opposition.

Those elected were Marianne Fitzgerald of Ashcreek, president;

Ken Love of South Portland, first vice-president; Sam Pearson of South Burlingame, second vice-president; Lynda Troutman of Marshall Park, treasurer; and Lee Buhler of South Portland, secretary.

The election stood in sharp contrast to the previous year, when there was sharp conflict for several of the officer positions.

SWNI volunteers to be honored

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. will hold a Volunteer Recognition banquet at 7 p.m. June 19 at the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 S.W. Capitol Hwy. The event will recognize individuals put forth by participating SWNI organizations and bodies as outstanding volunteers.

A partial list of those to be honored, available at press time, includes Nancy Hand of Arnold Creek, Dan Manville of Ashcreek, Steve Beining of Far Southwest, Susan Egnor of Homestead, Marty Hickey of Maplewood, John Delance of Marshall Park.

Additional honorees include Jim Davis of South Portland, Mary-Catherine McElroy Fuchs of SWNI's Parks Committee, Michael Reunert of the Schools Committee, Sandy Morgan of the Transportation Committee, Dr. Bob and Dana Fischer of Public Safety, and Lynda Troutman of the SWNI Board.

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