

Citizen involvement needed to prevent, report and remove graffiti

CRIME PREVENTION
NOTEBOOK

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Almost \$3 million taxpayer dollars. That’s the amount spent each year eradicating graffiti in the Portland metro area.

But if you think this only happens in the inner city or on freeway signs, you’re mistaken.

Graffiti is a growing problem, according to Stefanie Adams, crime prevention coordinator for Southwest Portland, especially in the Southwest.

“No community is immune,” Adams stated. “But the public and business owners can do something about it.”

When there is a problem with defacing public property, there is a feeling of an uptick in crime. When graffiti is not removed, it can attract more crime.

Finally, graffiti doesn’t necessarily mean there is a gang problem.

“Eighty-five percent of this problem is the act of a tagger,” Adams explained. “They want notoriety, get an adrenaline rush from it, and tagging is a way of leaving their moniker like a type of ‘business card.’”

So what to do about it? Adams presented several options at the monthly Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting in May.

Prevent. Remove graffiti as soon as possible. That means within 24-48 hours. Lighting a property that gets plagued with the ink, stickers, or paint can deter repeat episodes.

Shrubs or thorny plants can be introduced; fences or railings installed; and limiting access to roofs are great ways to deter tagging.

Community murals are another way to resolve a problem as taggers are more reluctant to deface them since their ‘art’ cannot be as easily observed.

Report. Call the City of Portland’s Graffiti Hotline at 503-823-4TAG (4824). Report graffiti on your own property to the *non*-emergency police line (823-3333). There is also an Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) website for reporting purposes. www.portlandonline.com

Only call 911 to report graffiti *in progress*. Photographing vandalism is always recommended.

If you have a smart phone, there is a free app to report it: PDX Reporter. In order for the information to be usable, it must include a clear, close-up photo, your contact information and a physical address of the graffiti. If your phone has GPS capability, this will be recognized by the app auto-



Graffiti removal is the responsibility of all citizens. Calling 503-823-4TAG is one way of reporting it to the city and have it removed. A free app for smart phones is also available: PDX Reporter. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

matically.

Remove. Property owners are responsible for cleaning up graffiti on their property within ten business days. There is variety of low /no-VOC (volatile organic compounds) paint available at many fire stations or by calling the Graffiti Abatement Program at 503-823-5860.

Never remove graffiti from someone else’s property. Report it instead. Cleaning graffiti off stop signs, directional signs or other public property

should be left to city officials. Transportation Bureau technicians have solvents which won’t ruin the face of the sign.

Livability is one of the highest values rated by residents and business owners in the southwest. Adopting a few streets, picking up litter, and organizing graffiti removal teams are ways citizens can work together.

According to Adams, the City will train volunteers and outfit them with the necessary resources.

The following public service announcement is sponsored by

The Southwest Portland Post

Come To

Portland's Party 2013

CITYFAIR

Carnival Rides, Food, RoZone Concert Series

GRAND FLORAL PARADE

June 8, 2013

Reserved Parade Seats @ the Memorial Coliseum

Tickets, Schedules & Information at

RoseFestival.org

Parker Realty, Inc.

Multnomah Village - \$385,000

First time on the market in over 22 years. Beautiful, peaceful location – walking distance to the Village & Gabriel Park. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths - NEW open kitchen with gas cooking, living room w/ vaulted ceilings & fireplace. Double garage w/ shop area.

The inventory of houses for sale in the Portland Metro area remains at historic lows. High demand for homes in our area coupled with low interest rates and lack of homes for sale translates to higher prices! If you are thinking of selling contact us today for a free market analysis.

503-977-1888 • 7830 SW 35th Ave., Portland, OR
www.parkerrealtyportland.com

Jeff Parker
Your Neighborhood Realtor Since 1980

503-977-1888 • 7830 SW 35th Ave., Portland, OR
www.parkerrealtyportland.com

Healthy Pets Northwest

All Natural Pet Foods

Raw Food Diets

Allergy Relief

Herbal Remedies

Pesticide-Free Flea Control

Eco-Friendly Toys and Beds

Portland's Favorite Neighborhood Pet Supply Stores

Three Convenient Portland Locations

7642 SW Capitol Highway
971-222-2686

1736 SE Hawthorne Blvd
503-236-8036

2224 NE Alberta St
503-249-6571

Look for Monthly Specials at:
www.healthypetsnw.com

The Natural Alternative for Pet Foods & Supplies