

MAPLEWOOD NOTEBOOK

April Hill Park Improvements

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Maplewood Neighborhood Association chairwoman Jill Gaddis stated that a mere \$28 donation per household in the localized area would more than cover the matching funds. But the group is constrained by various factors, including costs and potential nuisance, from an all-out direct mail or door-to-door campaign to the neighborhood.

"We want to get the word out that it's not the amount of money you give, it's the giving itself," said Gaddis. "Recently, a young man contributed ten dollars because that's all he could afford, and that means as much to us as a thousand dollar contribution."

The group recently held a fundraiser, "Arf in the Park," on Sunday, Sept. 22 that featured a variety of services and games oriented to the neighborhood's four-legged friends.

The event was geared to dog owners and offered education on new rules related to proper park etiquette for canines, with park rangers present who described leash laws.

The group distributed doggy poop bags, bandannas, and a host of other free gifts donated by local merchants who cater to pets. Despite rain and strong winds, the event was a success according to organizers.

Proceeds raised from the Arf in the Park's sale of raffle tickets were earmarked for the matching funds campaign.

"I realized as we were organizing the event that it fit perfectly within the mission of our Friends of April Hill Park project. We're trying to allow the whole community, including pets, to enjoy this public space," Gaddis said.

The group is hosting a silent auction on Oct. 26 from 7:00 to

10:00 p.m. at Maplewood Coffee and Tea, 5206 SW Custer Street, to raise funds for the project.

Gaddis and the organizers are calling for the community to donate antiques and other items of value for the event. Admission is \$30 for pre-sale tickets and \$35 at the door.

Neighbors can make online financial contributions to the effort or inquire about silent auction donations by visiting SWNI.org/aprilhillpark.

The group is also organizing an Indiegogo campaign that will feature a video appeal for funding for the park upgrades. Indiegogo is a crowd-sourced fundraising platform that appeals to a variety of nonprofit projects.

Local neighbors are providing videography and design for the campaign free of charge. Gaddis expects the group's project to go live on the Indiegogo site a few weeks after completion of video production.

OHSU Students Assess Community Needs

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a growing problem everywhere and families are forced to choose between paying bills and buying nutritious foods.

Special diets or cultural meals may not always be available or affordable either. Parsons Farm Stand in Multnomah Village does accept SNAP and WIC vouchers but closes October 31.

And currently, no grocery supermarkets are within walking distance. (Safeway on Southwest Barbur Boulevard and Capitol Hill Road is slated to reopen in November.)

Transportation

Topography and connectability are the main issues with Southwest transportation.

Environmental regulation, budget cuts, and reduction in human

resource services contribute to lack of sidewalks, trails and safe routes. And many improvements are the fiscal responsibility of the homeowner.

This leads to social isolation, less physical activity, and less access to food and health services.

Social isolation

Neighborhood House Senior Center does provide activities, classes, and transportation but is limited and cannot reach everyone.

The Meals-on-Wheels organization does provide lunches. Art and fitness are available through the Multnomah Arts Center. However, seniors continue to express feelings of isolation especially if family or friends are no longer around or nearby.

"We want to thank everyone for helping us out with the report," Benton said. "This includes Neighborhood House, Loaves and Fishes, Head Start, Portland

Bureau of Transportation, the Southwest Community Health Clinic, and SWNI (Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.)."

This report was presented at the SWNI Board meeting in August. A full copy of the report and poster may be accessed at the SWNI office, website, or by calling Sylvia Bogert at 503-823-4592.

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