

Hillsdale book sale needs donated books and volunteers to sort and sell them

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

The eleventh annual Hillsdale Book Sale takes place on Sunday, July 31, at the Watershed building (Southwest Bertha Court and Capitol Highway) and along the sidewalk nearby. Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The book sale is a benefit for the Hillsdale Community Foundation and is sponsored by Food Front and OnPoint Community Credit Union. Book donations can be made the two Sundays prior to the sale: July 17 and 24 at the Hillsdale Farmers Market (Rieke School parking lot) during the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donations can also be made from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the Tuesdays and Thursdays prior to the sale, July 19, 21, 26 and 28. The mid-week drop-off site is at the Watershed building.

People can park at the southbound curb on Bertha Court and drop off their donations which are tax-deductible. Request a donation form when dropping off books.

"We get a lot of really neat kids' books which we sell bundled at ridiculously low prices," said Rick Seifert who has headed up this event for the last 10 years. "The book sale is a literary Rorschach for Hillsdale and all of Southwest Portland."

Seifert insists on no books without value like textbooks, almanacs,

encyclopedias, dated reference books, and catalogs. Digital video discs and compact discs are welcome.

The sale benefits the non-profit Hillsdale Community Foundation which in the past has provided money for construction of the pedestrian and bicycle plaza next to Food Front Market, street shrubbery, and technical equipment for Wilson High School.

Seifert is seeking volunteers to help on collection days, book sorting, and on the day of the sale. The sale coincides with the annual Hillsdale Business and Professional Association's annual blueberry pancake breakfast.

For more information contact Rick Seifert at wfseifert@gmail.com.



Browsers review the stacks at the Hillsdale Book Sale in July 2011. (Photo courtesy of Rick Seifert)

Hillsdale appreciates customers with 40th annual Blueberry Pancake Breakfast

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

The Hillsdale Business and Professional Association will hold its 40th annual Blueberry Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, July 31 from 8

a.m. to noon at the Key Bank/Casa Colima plaza.

Sponsors include OnPoint Credit Union. Verde Cocina (Café Hillsdale) brings in their Portland farmers market cook stoves and tortilla griddles, saving over \$400 in rental fees and enables the event to keep

prices down.

The Mexican restaurant Casa Colima allows use of their kitchen to wash the blueberries and make the sausage.

Unlike the annual Multnomah Days pancake breakfast that is staffed by Kiwanis Club members, the Hillsdale breakfast is prepared by the business owners, managers and employees of Hillsdale.

According to Mike Roach, co-chair of the business association, the original blueberry pancake breakfast [in 1976] was the brainchild of the late Tony Scuito, owner of the Hillsdale Shoe Repair.

Scuito owned the shop from the early 50's until he sold it in the late 80's.

"He called it a 'Customer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast,'" recalled Roach. "His idea was to have all the merchants thank their customers by cooking them breakfast on a Sunday morning and charging only enough to recover costs."

"We probably charged just a few bucks back at the beginning," Roach said. "Over the years we upped the quality of the breakfast, adding blueberries to the pancakes, sausages, and real maple syrup (donated by Baker and Spice Bakery)."

The pancake breakfast is one of the longest, uninterrupted annual events for a business district. Over 1,200 pancakes are consumed each year with an average attendance of 500-600 participants.

Complete with the local fire truck, musicians, the book sale, not to mention the Hillsdale Farmers Market, this day is Hillsdale's premiere event.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mike Roach at 503-224-3096.



The biggest event of the year for Hillsdale, the Blueberry Pancake Breakfast, takes place on Sunday, July 31 from 8 a.m. to noon. (Post file photo by Erik Vidstrand)

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