

**DIRECTOR'S
DESK**

By Israel Bayer



I've been an avid baseball fan all my life. Growing up in industrial Illinois, right across the river from St. Louis, baseball was introduced to me at a very young age.

Day after day and night after night my friends and I would play for hours on end, sandlot baseball games in the neighborhood. Eventually, I would go on to play the sport until a rotator cuff injury and eventually surgery ended the dream of playing baseball under the nighttime lights. More than any other game in my mind, baseball mimics life.

I grew up watching and listening to the St. Louis Cardinals and the Kansas City Royals in the summertime, and had the pleasure as a kid of watching both of those great teams win a World Series in the 1980s. My friends and I would stay up late at night and argue who was the better center fielder, Willie Wilson or Willie McGee.

I still love the game. I check box scores daily and regardless of what has been going on in my life, for better or worse, baseball has remained a constant. I still to this day listen to both the Cardinals and Royals games online and travel to Seattle at least once a year to catch a series.

I've lived in Portland on and off for the last 10-years. I try to catch the Memphis Redbirds when they come to town, and that has nothing to do with the Beavers and more to do with my hometown team. The Redbirds were in town this week for a four-game series. I was to busy to catch a game. I suppose I'll have to wait until next year. Point being, minor league baseball - not a priority.

Many of our vendors are also avid sports fans, including baseball. We took a straw poll in the office and ask if vendors ever went to the games and if Portland should save the Beavers. Several vendors said they stand outside the left field wall at different times during the summer and watch the games for free, but they on very rare occasions have the time or money to go see a game.

Out of 15 vendors Street Roots I talked to none of them felt one way or the other about the Beavers staying in Portland. After telling them it may cost the city \$42 million dollars to keep the team and it may affect affordable housing in the Lents neighborhood - every single one of them said, "\$42 million dollars?" Yes, \$42 million dollars. "No way!" I couldn't agree more.

ACT NOW

Steps you can take to make a difference

What you can do:

Please email Portland City Council Members

Commissioner Randy Leonard rleonard@ci.portland.or.us

Commissioner Dan Saltzman dan@ci.portland.or.us

Commissioner Amanda Fritz amanda@ci.portland.or.us

Commissioner Nick Fish nick@ci.portland.or.us

 Mayor Sam Adams http://www.portlandonline.com/mayor/index.cfm?action=updateItem&category_id=1022&c=49271

Please tell them:

- There are many competing needs that the citizens of the City of Portland have during these tough times. There are transportation needs, employment needs and economic development needs.
- In this time, we must secure affordable housing for seniors, people with disabilities and hardworking families. If we don't preserve the TIF 30 percent set-aside in all URA districts these vulnerable people will be forced out of neighborhoods by rising property values.
- If the Portland City Council is serious about making Portland family-friendly, creating affordable housing for families is a must.

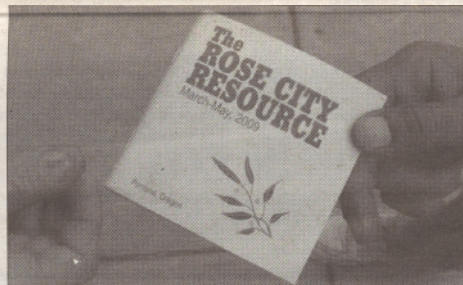
AT ISSUE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Action needed to preserve the 30 percent TIF set-aside for affordable housing in the Urban Renewal Areas

The City Council is currently considering relaxing the set aside for the Lents Urban Renewal District in order to fund a \$42 million minor league baseball stadium. This stadium proposal is the first big test for the set aside. Please take action by contacting all five members of Portland City Council.

The Rose City Resource goes online

If you've ever found yourself in need of social services, you know how confusing it all can be. Long lines, limited hours, seemingly arbitrary eligibility criteria, going from place to place to connect the dots in hopes of getting the help you need.



The Rose City Resource makes it all just a little bit easier. The 100-page booklet records the hours and locations of basic services including shelters, meals, and health clinics, as well as advocacy and long-term solutions such as recovery programs, legal aid, and transitional housing. The guide includes more than 350 listings in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties and is now available in both English and Spanish. Every year, the pocket-size guide helps thousands of individuals and families independently access the services they need.

Now, the Rose City Resource is available online with an expanded "Know Your Rights" section and an extensive "Policy" page to share the facts about homelessness and poverty. Read more about it on

page 3 of this edition of the paper, or check it out for yourself at www.rosecityresource.org.

The Rose City Resource is partially funded through partnerships with the City of Portland and 211 Info. But to keep updating and publishing this all-in-one resource, Street Roots needs community support. The guides are more important than ever. While programs are shifting and shrinking, many people are finding themselves in need of services for the first time. Your support will keep the Rose City Resource in the hands of the people who need them.

Donations of any size are welcome! We are also looking for Rose City Sponsorships of \$1,000 - \$5,000. For more information, call Israel Bayer at 503-228-5657.

 Street Roots
 211 NW Davis St.
 Portland, OR 97209

Return service requested.

SUPPORT STREET ROOTS AND THE ROSE CITY RESOURCE GUIDE

With a contribution of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$ _____

Send your check to:

Street Roots, 211 NW Davis, Portland, OR, 97209

Street Roots is a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization. Your donation may be tax deductible.

 Or donate securely online at www.streetroots.org