

## VENDOR WORK ADS

Will exchange work to any local dentist. Trying to get new dentures. Painting, remodel, etc. Leave message at Street Roots, 503-228-5657 for John Alden.

Married, out of work. Will work for you doing any odd job. References. Trying to keep apartment. Call Sean at 509-218-8124.

Marshall and Julie W.: Lots of experience and local references. Very reasonable rates and quality work with some extras, mower and some yard hand tools. Will do any work within reason on bus line or if you pick us up. Also willing to deliver papers. Please call (503) 946-3959 or (503) 774-3350.

Very experienced landscaper and mover. Willing to do any job. Clear and current license. No vehicle, limited tools. Call me anytime at 503-839-3965. Rick Buck.

Kevin Bynum: Street Roots vendor and guitarist seeks to exchange an honest days work for a decent-playing, acoustic guitar. Call Street Roots at 503-228-5657 or Kevin at 206-888-9336.

Bill Atkinson: Yard work, moving, misc. Four-hour minimum, \$10 an hour. Call Street Roots office at 503-228-5657.

Vicki Sittinhawk: House cleaning, very thorough. References. Call 503-287-4174.

Bruce Heino: Available for yard work, general assistance, four-hour minimum, wage negotiable. Please call the Street Roots office or contact New Seasons at 33rd and Killingsworth.

Handy man needs work: moving, painting, yard work, clean-up. If I can sweat and you can be doing something else, please call me at 503-803-2533.

# 'We are like family'

*Season comes to a close at the Park Rose market, but the bonds remain*

BY ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Marty Bastian and I sat in chairs outside the Street Roots office on a cloudy October morning and chatted about his life as a newspaper vendor. He is 52 years old and, as he told me, is "always hoping for the best." The main thing he was hoping for on that morning was a regular job.

Street Roots vendors are self-employed. They purchase their newspapers for 25 cents a copy and keep the difference between that and what they receive selling the papers. Hours they spend sick or getting health care reduces their income from sales. Marty was recently laid up with lower back pain, which cut into the amount of money he could contribute to his housing costs.

Marty knows down to the penny how to budget his money so that he can remain housed. He told me that if he works seven days a week selling newspapers at the Park Rose Transit Center and the Park Rose Farmers' Market on Saturdays he earns an average of about \$45 per week. He saves at least \$10 of that money to buy more newspapers (40 newspapers) each week.

## VENDOR PROFILE Marty Bastian

The rest of his income from selling Street Roots and doing odd jobs for acquaintances goes toward rent and general upkeep. Food stamps help take care of his nutrition needs.

Of course, some weeks Marty sells significantly more than 40 newspapers. Most vendors tell me that Street Roots sells well right after it is published, but sales are pretty lean the second week of the edition. Bad weather and unpleasant economic news can also eat into sales rather dramatically.

Marty enjoyed talking about spending his Saturdays at the Park Rose Farmers Market, and seemed sad that it is closing for the winter at the end of October. He smiled, telling me how he helps the market's organizers, Steve and Joy, set things up each

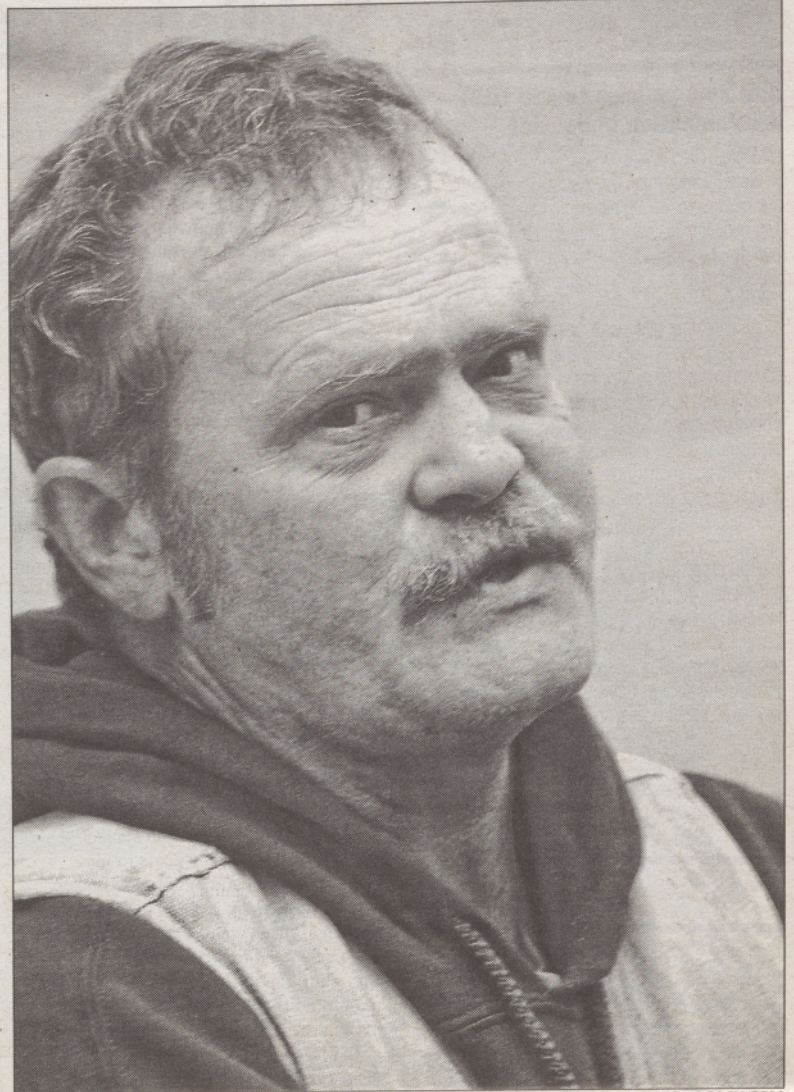


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ WWW.PHOTOADVOCACY.COM

Saturday morning. "We do things to help each other out at the market."

The vendor pointed to the dark green hooded sweatshirt he was wearing. Steve and Joy had given it to him in early October. It had been a cold and windy morning. "I've worn it every day since they gave it to me." The sweatshirt has the Park Rose Farmers Market logo embroidered on the front, lying over Marty's heart. "We are like a family at the market," he said. "We feel comfortable with each other."

As Marty and I talked about how he budgets his money, I thought that I could learn some lessons from him about the value of a penny. He is careful and lives on little income. For example, he bicycles nearly an hour one way from his house to the Park Rose Farmers Market in order to sell newspapers to shoppers. The Park Rose Transit Center is a little closer to home. It takes about 40 minutes to bike there to work. He's trying to save his money for a little gas engine for his bicycle to improve his commute.

He is too far from the Street Roots office to ride his bike there, so he buys a two zone

transit ticket on days he needs to go to Old Town to purchase newspapers.

Marty told me that Park Rose is in transit zone 3. Consequently, he rides the bus and Max back home on his transfer, then rides his bicycle the rest of the way to work in order to save 50 cents each week.

Besides a gas motor for his bicycle, Marty is looking for two things that he thinks will make his life easier. The first one is a competent chiropractor he can afford and who will help him with his lower back problems.

The second thing is a job as a prepcook or dishwasher in a restaurant. He told me that he has had 31 years experience as a prepcook and is actively searching for that kind of a job. It needs to be near good public transportation or within walking or biking distance of the house he shares with friends.

"Most restaurants are either laying people off or not hiring." He said that some restaurants are advertising for prepcooks, but he says they are too far away from public transportation for him to be able to work there.



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a change in our community