

Community News

University of Portland students help out the community

By Jackie Larson
Review Writer

It was the first day of spring when more than 130 University of Portland students combed the neighborhood in teams to care for tree wells, remove trash, power wash surfaces, remove graffiti, pull out unwanted ivy, and to paint and clean up telephone pole debris.

"This is to give a cohesive feel to the St. Johns business district with a community beautification project," said Sydney Leonard, St. Johns Main Street Community Programs Manager. A number of local community volunteers served as crew leaders during operation Clean Sweep on March 21.

Throughout the morning, a local citizen passing by could be overheard giving a cheerful, "thanks for your hard work," to workers involved in the cleanup. Risa Davis, owner of Central Hotel and former St. Johns Main Street member, was singing their praises and providing students a place to wash up. Rebuilding Together provided supplies.

The collaboration between U of P and St. Johns is due, in part, to the goals of the Pamplin School of Business professional development program. The program as a whole is meant to "make students

more marketable and to introspect on their skills," says student Bryan Chipman. To that end, students are encouraged to experience how contributing to civic improvements shows values-based leadership as well as innovation and creativity. Thus, participation in a service project is required.

"We are making the community more enjoyable," said Bryan Chipman, who appreciates the chance to be part of the program and the community.



Photo by James Moulton



Polishing bricks in front of the Central Hotel. Greg King, a sophomore at U of P who is from Seattle, says the power washing is nothing new to him. He gained experience through a maintenance job.

Photo Jackie Larson



Photo by James Moulton

Right: The 'Island Team' beginning work in preparation for adding new mulch.



Photo by James Moulton

Below: Students Mark Steele, Grayson Andregg and Bryan Chipman remove weeds from a tree well. This is phase two of a longer-term project. Last year, student volunteers laid burlap to hinder weed growth. A future project will include planter boxes.



Photo Jackie Larson



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Kenton Library Events

Health Insurance Enrollment Assistance - Special Enrollment Period
Monday April 13, 5:00-7:30 pm
Friday April 17, 12:30-3:00 pm
Wed. April 29, 1:00-3:30 pm
Get free help signing up for government health care if you qualify for the special enrollment period. Provided by the Multnomah County Health Department in partnership with the library. Call 503-988-5370 to sign up.

Computer Help
Thursdays, 3-5 pm
Library volunteers provide one-on-one assistance with basic computer functions like setting up emails and filling out online forms and applications.

Legos @ the Library
Fridays, April 3 and 17, 4-5 pm
Bring your mad Lego skills to the library and let your imagination flow. Each time, we'll build a new structure to put on display. Bricks and supplies provided. Donations welcome. For kids ages 5-11.

Read to the Dogs SM
Tuesday, April 21, 6-7 pm
Improve your reading skills and make a new friend by reading aloud to a therapy dog. The dogs and handlers are from Pet Partners®. Registration required; call 503.988.6574. For children.

Kenton Library is located at 8226 N. Denver Ave. in downtown Kenton