

Community News

## Local American Legion post receives recognition from Police Department

Each year, for the past 49 years, the American Legion St. Johns Post #98 gives special recognition to a North Precinct Police Officer for their exceptional duty as an officer. But on April 28, 2015 the tables were turned when Portland Police Bureau Chief Larry O'Dae visited the St. Johns Post #98 to give them an award. "It is a pleasure to recognize those who take the time to honor Police Offi-



cers," said O'Dae. Post 98 Finance Officer Gerald Caldwell accepted the plaque on behalf of Post 98.

## St. Johns Marvel 29 wins top award

Marvel 29, the newly opened St. Johns development at the foot of the St. Johns Bridge, was recently awarded second place in the Daily Journal of Commerce "Top-Projects" private buildings. The premier awards program, now in its twentieth year, honors the best building and construction projects in Oregon and SW Washington. The developments name, Marvel 29," pays homage to the copper spires of the historic suspension bridge,

In all, there were almost 100 finalists competing, with over 30 finalist entries in the private buildings category. Developer Patrick H. Kessi, founder of PHK Development Inc., said, "We were the only residential apartment building to win an award and I am honored. But what is really exciting is that we built Marvel 29 with lots of local input and talent, and they too share in this honor,"

Two years before the first dirt was moved, Kessi's company turned to residents, business owners and the St. Johns Main Street Coalition for their input. The decision to include rare underground parking was a result of these discussions. The building had to fit in with two active streets and prominent use was made of brick to blend with nearby historic structures. Side by side live-work spaces and ground level retail were built on the active streets.

Concepts for the interior spaces were developed with the businesses and neighborhoods and led to the use of local talent and local



Marvel 29 Developer  
Patrick Kessi

materials. Most of the artwork in the building is local and many of the building finishes were sourced locally. The lobby walls feature Jakarta reclaimed wood that arrived in Portland as trans-pacific shipping crates, and the wood benches in the courtyard are made of reclaimed timbers from Drydock #2 pontoons in the Willamette River.

"My team shaped the structure of Marvel 29 but the people of St. Johns gave it life. We look forward to this award-winning development contributing to a long-term resurgence of this neighborhood," said Kessi.

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## STEM at RHS

Continued from Page 1

"For example," she added, "if you compare the breakdown of educational resources planned for RHS and Franklin, there is a disproportionate emphasis on Athletics and Administrative Services at RHS whereas CTE (Career and Technical Education,) of which STEM is considered a part - is double at Franklin. Franklin also has over twice as many Advanced Placement and Academic Honors classes as Roosevelt. Recently we were told that Roosevelt will have more 'General Education' classes. In other words, Franklin is seen as a more 'academic' high school than Roosevelt. In the differing remodel resources, it is clear the expectations PPS has for Roosevelt students are far more limited than for Franklin students. But, students rise to the level of expectation schools have of them, so where does that leave Roosevelt?"

According to an article written by Ben Cover, John I. Jones and Audrey Watson appearing in the Monthly Labor Review, May 2011, they said, "Overall, STEM occupations were high-paying occupations. The average annual wage for all STEM occupations was \$77,880 in May 2009, and only 4 of the 97 STEM occupations had mean wages below the U.S. average of \$43,460. This clearly shows the importance of making the most out of a school's STEM program and space."

The group said the STEM program is important for students' future jobs, from the Trades to advanced high-tech careers. Students-of-color, and girls especially, are affected most as they are currently under-represented in STEM fields, and opening up opportunities to them requires exposure while in school. 70% of the student body at Roosevelt are students-of-color.

Cohen said on May 18 her group, accompanied by their attorney, met with two PPS central administration staff and two of their lawyers to present their design. She said, "PPS was uninterested in what we had to say. Not a whisper of willingness to compromise, not the smallest nod toward even considering any changes. Therefore, we made it clear our intention to move forward with a lawsuit."

She added, "The current plan perpetuates a pattern of discrimination and insensitivity to North Portland."

Cohen said, "There is still time to enlarge the stem workspace. Our plan would only require a 'change order' to the construction. If put

into place now it will not disrupt the overall construction. The plan will leave the Makerspace intact but push out the gym to create more space for STEM. Until concrete is poured this approach can be done. 30' would provide 6,000 total sq ft for STEM and, it would be a great deal cheaper to correct this mistake now than down the line."

Cohen and her group are asking those interested to join the lawsuit. "We need more people in the community who have children at Roosevelt or children who will be going to Roosevelt, to step up alongside our other plaintiffs, to reflect the real people who will be harmed by the current plan."

She suggests those interested to write or sign on to a letter supporting this change. "We especially need leaders from city-wide organizations that our students-of-color connect with."

There will be five three-minute public speaking opportunities at Portland School Board meetings: May 26, June 9 and June 15. Email and/or call the Board Clerk Caren Huson-Quiniones at 503-916-3906 or chusonqu@pps.net.

Cohen added, "PPS acknowledges treating Roosevelt poorly in the past, referring to 'historical inequities.' Yet, have we seen no acknowledgment that the remodel of Roosevelt should begin to fix these inequities. We have an opportunity right here, right now to improve the school - not just cosmetically, not only for areas where 'school spirit' has shone - such as Theatre and Athletics - but for the educational mission of providing a high

quality academic education, an education that provides students a foundation for so many stimulating and prosperous careers."

For more information, email [info@civictinker.net](mailto:info@civictinker.net)

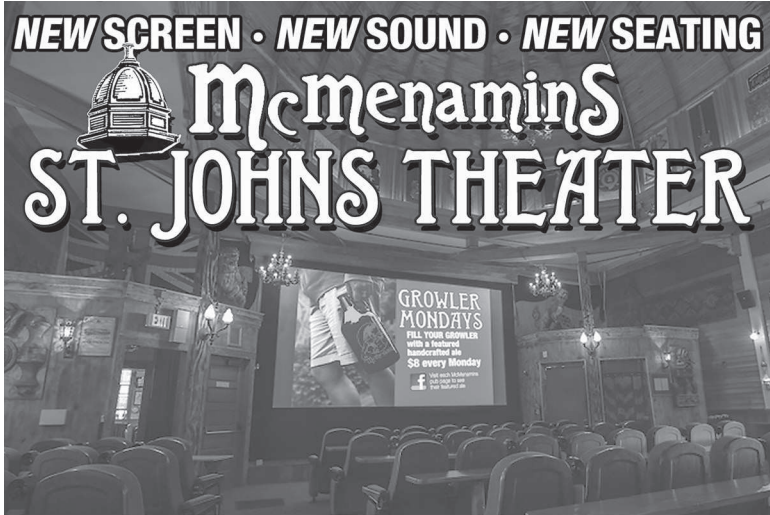
From an article at <https://www.nms.org/Portals/0/Docs/Why%20Stem%20Education%20Matters.pdf>:

"Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are where the jobs are.

Stem job creation over the next 10 years will outpace non-STEM jobs significantly, growing 17 percent, as compared to 9.8 percent for non-stem positions. Jobs in computer systems design and related services - a field dependent on high-level math and problem-solving skills are projected to grow 45 percent between 2008 and 2018. The occupations with the fastest growth in the coming years - such as biomedical engineers, network systems and data communication analysts, and medical scientist - all call for degrees in STEM fields."

The above article gives further proof that the STEM program at RHS needs to be given the highest priority during the remodel to help give students all the advantages other schools are being given.

*(The Review placed several phone calls to PPS for their response and/or comments on the issue, but was unable to speak with anyone, or phone calls were not returned.) This article was a collaborative effort by the group leading the STEM effort for RHS, the editor of the Review and articles written by various authors regarding the importance of STEM.)*



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