

Happy 4th of July

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# ST. JOHNS REVIEW

Photo:  
Melissa Bartoszewski

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## Land next to Benson-Chaney home is now officially a public park

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) announced on May 29, 2015 they have finalized the purchase of the nearly three acres of land adjacent to 7654 N. Crawford, also known as the Benson/Chaney Home and more recently, Open Meadow School. The city currently refers to the area as the "N. Crawford St. and N. Polk Ave property." An official name will be up for discussion when the park has a Master Plan, but it has not yet been determined when that will occur. But, the un-named Park is now open for public use for picnics, reading, relaxing and other passive activities.



PP&R said the Park's property provides access to the 798 surrounding households; including 477 households not currently served by another park within a half mile. The land contains two Heritage Trees of Portland, both Oregon white oaks (*Quercus garryana*).

"The St. John's Community has experienced considerable residential growth over the past few years," said Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz. She also said Portland Parks & Recreation will maintain the property by mowing, pruning, and trash clean-up, but the bureau won't be making any big changes at this point. That too will occur when resources permit it and the property has its Master Plan, which will help determine its use, features, and future.

ation," said PP&R Director Mike Abbaté, "and, a chance to enjoy two Heritage Trees as well as the views of the West Hills and Willamette River."

The Benson-Chaney home sitting next to the park has been purchased by Brandy Hubbin, who buys homes, refurbishes them and resells them.

In 2014 the historical house was vandalized by a fire and this past spring vandals took the stone stairway on the river-side of the house and destroyed it. However, in late May it was beautifully restored.

The new 2.92-acre park was purchased for \$880,000.

"The addition of this significant north Portland property to PP&R's inventory provides the public with another opportunity for recre-

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## Bank of America in St. Johns closing

The Bank of America at 7410 N. Chicago Avenue will be closing Tuesday, August 25, 2015. Reason given is that, "few customers have been visiting this location and instead are using online and mobile banking." The announcement letter went on to say: "we're sorry for the inconvenience this closing causes." Two other locations in the area will remain open at 2800 N. Lombard and 5775 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Employees at

the N. Chicago branch will be relocated. James (Scott) Conradi, Financial Center Manager said, "With the changes in technology and having a location about three miles away, it's not very cost effective. Especially true with how big an old the building is and the cost of maintenance required. The good news is everyone will be placed at a location nearest to them, so everyone will still have their jobs."

*The Bank of America St. Johns Branch on N. Chicago is closing.*



## It's time for the Annual CATHEDRAL PARK JAZZ FESTIVAL

The St. Johns Review will once again be the OFFICIAL PROGRAM for this year's Cathedral Park Jazz Festival. (The #14 July 10, 2015 issue!!)



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