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City Launches New Traffic Safety Program At King School

The King School in Northeast Portland is taking part in a new city program to slow down speeding motorists near elementary schools and make neighborhood streets safer for all students.

"Motorists who dart through school zones at high speeds endanger everyone, but especially our children," said commissioner Earl Blumenauer, who oversees the Office of Transportation. "It's time to fight back."

Blumenauer announced the start of the School Safety Project on the first day of classes in Portland. The new program assigns 20 extra police officers to enforce traffic laws at five schools, examines each site for possible engineering improvements, and expands city-wide traffic safety education efforts. Joining Blumenauer at a news conference were Dave Williams, Assistant Chief of Police, and Denise Kingsbury, President of a North Portland Speed Watch group.

"The School Safety Project came from the community and the city working together to solve a problem that affects us all," said Blumenauer. Portlanders concerned about the impact of traffic on neighborhoods recently wrote an action plan for the Bureau of Traffic Management. The traffic safety portion calls for targeted enforcement at elementary schools, engineering changes, and educational materials.

The King School and four other elementary schools were selected for one month of increased enforcement based on recommendations by parents, teachers, and police. The other test sites are the Clarendon School, 9325 N. Van Houten, Irvington School, 1320 N.E. Braze; Markham School, 10531 S.W. Capitol Highway; and Whitman School,



There was no Safety Patrol to help prevent this accident, which occurred as King School was being dismissed.

7326 S.E. Flavel.

A large number of motorists now exceed speed limits at these schools. According to city records, the percentage of all motorists who speed nearby ranges from 32% at the Clarendon School to 81% at the King School.

"Enforcement is the top priority for parents and teachers at these schools," said Assistant Chief Williams. "Our resources for this are limited, but thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Oregon Traffic Safety Division, we can assign extra officers to each site this month to catch speeders."

"But we won't just be writing tickets for speeding," said Williams. "Besides traffic enforcement, during

this month each officer will work with teachers, parents, and students to encourage safety efforts." Both the Police Bureau and the School District Police are providing officers for the project.

"Parents also have a role to play here," said Kingsbury. "Our SpeedWatch group has had tremendous success in slowing down motorists. We'll be stepping up our efforts during the school year." Each of the five test sites has its own SpeedWatch group.

"We'll be looking at speed counts and accident figures at the end of month to see the effects of increased enforcement," said Blumenauer. "If it proves successful, we could continue this part of the program at other schools

next year if the funds are available again. In the meantime, engineering and education can also make our streets safer."

As part of the School Safety Project, the Office of Transportation is considering engineering changes in each area, including better signs, new crosswalks, and increased maintenance of street lights. Later this year it will distribute a traffic safety curriculum, a SafeWalk Map showing the location of crosswalks, stop lights and street signs, and the Passport to Traffic Safety, a booklet with safety tips.

For more information about the School Safety project, call Stacey Conley at the Bureau of Traffic Management at 796 5391

SOLV And KGON Announce Volunteer Opportunity

...for "Paint The Town Clean"

On Saturday September 12, Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV) and KGON radio coordinated a one-day effort to paint over some of the worst graffiti in the city of Portland. On Saturday, September 12th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. volunteers were invited to go to various areas in the city where they would be provided with materials and instructions. It is hoped that hundreds of citizens would participate in this effort to show support for some of Portland's hardest hit communities and to send a message of concern to those who would vandalize with graffiti.

The one day event was sponsored by Coors Pure Water 2000, Thriftway, Portland General Electric and Rodda Paint. Areas from which graffiti is to be removed were identified with the assistance of the Youth Gangs Task Force of the Portland Police Bureau. The Portland Paint and Coatings Association and the Portland Chapter of the Painting & Decorating Contractors of America provide professional assistance on the day of the event. Other support was provided by the Portland Police Bureau, City Of Portland Envi-

ronmental Services, the Office of Neighborhood Associations and Gerber Advertising.

Chief Tom Potter of the Portland Police Bureau said about the program "Many of our fellow citizens are working to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. This cleanup project provided an opportunity for us to become involved and work towards improving the livability of our community."

"Paint the Town Clean" is one in a series of environmental action programs called "Community Cleanup Crusades" being coordinated and sponsored by KGON Radio. Other programs in the series include a storm drain stencil drive to remind citizens not to dispose of waste in storm drains, a media educational component and a benefit concert.

SOLV is a nonprofit organization started in 1969 by Governor Tom McCall to address issues of livability in the state of Oregon by bringing together government, business and citizen volunteers. "Paint the Town Clean" is the latest in a long line of events that SOLV coordinates.

10000 Greet Bill Clinton



Governor Bill Clinton Monday September 15 under a hazy sky in downtown Portland's Pioneer Square, 10,000 people came to see Presidential Candidate Bill Clinton who was on a tour of the Northwest. He later went on to Eugene and Spoke to families in the Timber Industry

African-American Banking Executive Highlights

Urban Bankers' Awards Banquet



Patrick M. Prout.

Patrick M. Prout, an executive vice president for Bank of America and one of the highest ranking African-Americans in the organization, will be the keynote speaker for the Oregon Association of Urban Bankers (OAU) second annual Awards Banquet. The event is scheduled for Thursday, September 24 in the Holiday Inn Windows Ballroom, 1021 NE Grand Avenue.

Prout heads the bank's Northern California Commercial Banking Division and is responsible for managing its regional commercial offices in San Francisco, San Jose, Palo Alto, Oakland, Concord and Santa Rosa. Prout has an extensive background in banking and business and has worked for such com-

panies as IBM, Miller Brewing, Chase Manhattan Bank, American Petroleum, and Ranier National Bank. A native of New York City, he is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and holds an MBA from the Harvard University Graduate School of Business. Prout's theme for the event is "Banking & Business - A Community Partnership."

OAU was formed to give minority professionals in the financial services industry a forum to exchange ideas and establish a network of support. Its members represent the major banks in Oregon, and U.S. Bank. The organization encourages representation from related financial services industries such as insurance, finance, real

estate, and brokerage and securities.

The program will feature the presentation of a \$1,500 scholarship to a graduate of the Jefferson High School Financial Academy program. "OAU has established this award to encourage a student to pursue a career in the financial services industry," said Benita Harris, chapter president and a vice president in Cash Management for First Interstate Bank. "We hope to continue this scholarship program and make it larger each year."

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. with a no-host reception. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased in advanced by contacting June Clarke, Continued on page 3

Summer Employment Opportunity Allows Youth To Explore Career Options

This summer Heather Briggs, 18 years old, of Aloha is working for the Internal Revenue Service as a receptionist. Heather is one of 1,360 low-income youth enrolled in summer work experience programs through The Private Industry Council (TPIC) this year.

For Heather, the opportunity to work in an office setting is not only a chance to make some money this Summer, it's also the opportunity to explore a career goal. "When Heather came to me for a summer job, she was incredibly focused. She knew that she either wants to work in an office or be a nurse. Because she was so clear about her goals and objectives, I placed her in the only receptionist position I had, and it's worked out wonderfully," says Nancy Karmiller, Heather's youth advocate at The Private Industry Council.

Heather explains, "Nobody in my family has ever had a real career before, and my sister and I want something better for ourselves. I want to make sure I have a good life." Heather's sister,



who wants to be a veterinarian, is involved in another work experience program this summer through The Private Industry Council at the Washington Park Zoo.

Heather's supervisor Patti Craig, Chief - Personnel Systems Section, and Karen Schaefer, Assistant Personnel Systems Manager, are equally enthusiastic about the program. "We really needed a receptionist, but were unable to fund the position. So, when I found out we could get some free help through The Private Industry Council, I jumped on the opportunity," says Craig.

"One objective of summer work experience programs is to provide youth with tangible job skills," says Dennis Cole, President of the Private Industry Council. "Additionally, the program also provides a community service by supplying needed manpower to public and non-profit agencies," Cole continues.

Schaefer adds, "Heather has been just great! She's very motivated. She

just jumped in and has done a wonderful job." Schaefer continues, "While Heather seemed a little scared of the phones at first especially when things got busy, she developed her own system of tracking calls and has taken on added responsibilities during the time she's been here."

In addition to answering phones, Heather is also helping with filing and assists the timekeepers with alphabetizing time cards. The Portland personnel office of the IRS processes timecards for the almost 1000 employees assigned to the Portland/Boise districts.

Both Craig and Schaefer wish Heather could stay on full-time. "We set Heather up to test for a position with the federal government the next time testing is available. But, the outlook on federal hiring is pretty grim right now," says Schaefer.

Heather also is sorry to see her summer job come to an end. "The people here have been wonderful. There's a lot of opportunity here. I had a great time,

and I learned a lot."

While Heather would like to stay on at Portland's IRS office, she is very realistic about the federal hiring situation. Therefore, she has made alternate plans to complete her GED this fall. Heather left the public school system when she was 16. She has a learning disability and did not feel the public school system was set up to give her the individualized attention she needed.

Providing summer work experience opportunities for low-income youth is just one of the many employment and training programs provided by The Private Industry Council. TPIC offers more than 35 different programs either on a direct or contract basis to both low-income youth and adult residents of Multnomah and Washington counties.

The Private Industry Council is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote individual self-sufficiency and a skilled workforce by eliminating barriers to productive employment.