

Community News

for North/Northeast Portland

Safe Summer Fun: From the National Safe Kids Campaign

Relaxation, family vacations and loads of warm weather activities -- that is what summer means to most Americans, especially children. Summer break revs up most every child's desire to cram in as many adventure-packed activities as possible before returning to school. That is why parents and caregivers must make their children's safety a top priority during what doctors and emergency room staff call "trauma season." More unintentional childhood deaths and injuries occur between the summer months of May and August than any other time of the year.

"With all of the excitement that accompanies summer, adults and children often put safety on the back burner," said Heather Paul, Ph.D., executive director of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

"There are many simple ways that families can make their homes and communities safer for kids. No one anticipates that a tragedy will strike during this fun-filled time, but this is when children are pushing their abilities to the limits," she added.

By putting safety first and following the guidelines below, you can help ensure endless safe summer fun for the whole family.

Backyard Basics

Your home is most likely regarded as the safest place for your children to play. What many parents and

caregivers forget is that injuries can happen anywhere, even in your own backyard, if certain safety precautions are neglected. **Follow these guidelines to help your children safely enjoy playing in your backyard:**

- Always supervise children, even if they are "only in the backyard."

- Make sure all fences and gates are secure. Fix broken rails and check to see if there are any protruding parts.

- Remove poisonous plants. Many common household and garden plants can be poisonous, and should be kept out of children's sight and reach. If you have any concerns about a plant, contact the nearest Poison Control Center or a medical professional. Keep Syrup of Ipecac on hand, but use only after consulting a doctor or emergency medical personnel.

- Keep tools out of children's reach. Never leave gardening tools where children can find them or fall on them.

- Lock up barbecue grills and gasoline containers.

- Make sure children drink plenty of water. Children can become dehydrated. Periodically bring children inside for a rest and a drink, especially on hot and humid days. Make sure children use sunscreen when necessary.

Getting To Know

Community Child Care Forum

Franciscan Enterprise, Common Bond, and Albina Ministerial Alliance's Family Day Care will host a community meeting for parents and families on child care programs and services available in the King Neighborhood area. The Community Child Care Forum will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on Wednesday, July 19 at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N. E. 7th Avenue. Residents of King Neighborhood and surrounding community are invited to attend this free forum. Child care will be provided as a "children's fair" with supervised activities such as face painting and storytelling.

Franciscan Enterprise is one of four non-profit community development corporations in Oregon participating in process of identifying child care needs in their service area communities. Franciscan is working with a Planning Committee to assess child care needs and available supply in King Neighborhood. The Committee will identify several possible projects for Franciscan to undertake in the coming year, such as developing a store-front child care resource center in the neighborhood. Before the final project is selected, Franciscan would like further community input. Franciscan owns over 30 residential properties in Northeast Portland which are rented to low-income families.

Common Bond, A Community Celebration of Families, is a parent-child development center located at 4919th Avenue. This Volunteers of America/Urban League Program serves families with children ages birth to 3 years. Common Bond's services include parent information classes and support groups, personal home visits, drop-in play group sessions, children's health screenings, and service referrals. Common Bond provides a safe, stimulating environment for children that features equipment, books, and toys specially designed for young children.

Albina Ministerial Alliance's (AMA) Family Day Care program is the North/Northeast Portland contract agency for Metro Child Care Resource & Referral (Metro CCR&R). Metro CCR&R is a coalition of four referral programs in the Tri-County area, linking child care providers and parents. AMA's Family Day Care Program is a free service for parents and child care providers. The program offers parent referrals, information on quality child care, and child care subsidies; it provides child care providers with support services and technical assistance.

Your Neighborhood

There is always comfort in knowing your children are playing only a few blocks from home. However, this comfort can give you and your children a false sense of security when it comes to safety.

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign suggests following these tips for playing safely in the neighborhood:

- Familiarize your self with neighborhood play areas. Inspect playgrounds for rusted or broken equipment and dangerous surface such as concrete or asphalt.

- Warn children about unacceptable play areas. Garages, construction sites, abandoned buildings, railroad tracks, dumpsters, waterfronts and unsupervised swimming areas may appeal to a child's sense of curiosity, but they should be strictly off-limits!

- Children under age 10 should never cross streets alone. Remind children ages 10 or older of the rules of pedestrian safety such as using sidewalks and looking left, right, and left again for traffic before crossing the street.

Safe And Smart Cycling

Most every child yearns for a bicycle during the summer, dreaming of new paths to triumph and trails to blaze. While friends are away on vacation, a bicycle can become a child's stand-in

companion while searching for new summer adventures. Unfortunately, children often attempt risky stunts and exhibit careless behavior. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 88 percent of those injured while performing stunts are children ages 14 and under.

Each year, approximately 300 children ages 14 and under are killed and another 400,000 are injured in bicycle-related incidents. Two-thirds of all bicycle fatalities occur between May and September.

Using a bike helmet every time you ride is one of the following safe cycling guidelines recommended by the National SAFE KIDS Campaign:

- Purchase an approved bicycle helmet for each child. Insist the helmet is worn correctly every time the child goes for a ride. Helmets reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent and brain injury by almost 90 percent (Buy only helmets that meet safety standards.)

- Teach children safe bicycle behaviors. Emphasize the fact that a bicycle is a vehicle, not a toy. Check with local safety organizations to find

out about bicycle safety days and rodeos, and have your child participate.

- Make sure the child's bicycle works properly. Are reflectors secure? Test the brakes. Can the child completely grasp handbrakes? Does the bicycle stop right away? Make sure gears shift smoothly and tires are secured tightly and properly inflated.

- Familiarize yourself with the child's bicycling environment. Encourage the child to bike in safe environments, such as those with bicycling environment.

PDC Promotions In Two Departments

The Portland Development Commission has promoted two staff members in the Workforce and Target Industries Department.

Lynn St. Jean has been promoted to the new position of Workforce Development Project Manager overseeing the creation of regional workforce development initiatives in targeted industries. St. Jean will manage projects related to target industry development, job creation, and programs to increase the supply of local trained workers. She will also assist in marketing Portland's workforce to attract and retain companies to the area.



Jess McKinley, Project Manager, Portland Development Commission

PDC's JobNet program. She has a B.A. in Science from Southern Oregon State College in Ashland, Oregon.

Jess W. McKinley has been promoted to the new position of Workforce Development Project Manager. He will manage the building of systems and community capacity to assure that targeted community residents can access job opportunities offered by PDC's economic development activities.

McKinley joined PDC in 1991 as Project Coordinator in PDC's JobNet Program. He holds a B.A. in Religion from Warner Pacific College in Portland.

Families Escape With Fire Detectors

Working smoke detectors may have saved the lives of four adults and 11 children when flames swept through their northeast Portland apartment.

Officials said the detectors were installed about a month ago when the fire department was dispatched to a first aid emergency at the apartment at 10 N.E. Fargo St.

The crew noticed there were no smoke detectors and installed four of the devices free to the families who were living there. "They worked tonight and may have saved the lives of all the occupants," officials said, last Wednesday, following the 9:45 p.m. fire.

A faulty electrical fan cord was blamed for starting the fire in the 2nd floor of an apartment. Fire was coming out of three windows on the second floor when firefighters arrived.

25th ANNIVERSARY

Join in celebrating The Portland Observer's twenty-fifth anniversary.

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5th Year Anniversary Sale

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	Regularly	Sale Price
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All Women's Outfits.....	\$59 ⁹⁵	\$39 ⁹⁵
All Snakeskin Shoes.....	\$159 ⁰⁰ - \$129 ⁹⁵	\$99 ⁰⁰
Snakeskin Belts.....	\$10 ⁵⁰	\$7 ⁹⁹

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Public Awareness Event

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Statue Fund

You are cordially invited to attend a fund raising event and preview of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Statue, which will, ultimately, be located at The Oregon Convention Center.

Cascade Community College
705 North Killingsworth
Portland, Oregon
Saturday - July 15, 1995
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Please come meet Michael Florin Dente, the local sculptor who is responsible for this fine piece of artwork.

All donations, large or small, will be greatly appreciated. For more information, call Laurie at 503-283-1638.