

Community News

for North/Northeast Portland

Volunteers Needed For North Portland Paint-A-Thon

Who: Housing Our Families and Trimet
What: Paint-a-Thon
When: Saturday, August 12, 9 am to 4 pm.
Where: Five houses in North Portland's Boise Neighborhood
Contact: Kris Smock: 335-0947 x 301

Volunteers are needed to paint five homes owned by low income residents of North Portland's Boise Neighborhood. On Saturday, August 12, community members, church groups, local businesses, schools, and youth groups will join together to transform five neighborhood eye-sores into beautiful homes. The Paint-a-Thon, which is co-sponsored by Housing Our Families and Trimet, is a community-based effort to revitalize the Boise area.

No experience is necessary. Groups and individual volunteers are welcome. The houses will already be prepped and primed, and volunteers will be supervised by professional painters. All equipment, tools, paint, and supplies will be provided.

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Hill Blasts Sizemore, Lottery Initiative

State Treasurer Jim Hill said he is opposed to an initiative petition recently filed by Bill Sizemore, the Executive Director of Oregon Taxpayers United.

The "Lottery Spending Limitation Act" would ban the use of lottery revenues to back state bonds. The state is considering using lottery revenues to back bonds for the construction of the South-North Light Rail project, which is how the state suc-

cessfully funded Westside Light Rail.

"Mr. Sizemore's initiative is an irresponsible attack on the state's finance," Hill said. "If passed, this initiative would completely close off the use of lottery revenues to finance any needed revenues to back bonds is an important financing tool for the state and reduces the tax burden on Oregonians."

"It is no secret that Mr. Sizemore opposes the South-North Light Rail

project and this initiative is an attempt to kill the project by closing off a source of the state's financing. But what he failed to consider are the long-term, negative impacts this initiative will have on the state's financing. If Mr. Sizemore wants to stop the light rail project, then he should take in on directly; not by going through the back door and damaging Oregon's finances in the process," Hill said.

In May 1995, Oregon voters approved a constitutional amendment that allows lottery revenues to be used for education and the repayment of bonds.

"A few months ago, the voters decided this issue and overwhelmingly supported the use of lottery revenues to back bonds," Hill said. "I question why Mr. Sizemore is asking the voter to consider this issue again."

West Side Streetcars Proposed

Portland City Council members are supporting a plan to bring streetcars back to the southwest and north-west inner-city.

A contract with Portland Streetcar, Inc. authorizes the preliminary engineering work on a Central City Streetcar between Portland State University and northwest Portland and the Removal and reconstruction of the Lovejoy ramp in northwest Portland.

In addition to the preliminary engineering work on the streetcar alignment, the contract also includes a feasibility study connecting the

streetcar from Portland State to Oregon Health Sciences University and Macadam Avenue and a finance package for final design, construction and operation of the Central City Streetcar.

Currently, the Lovejoy ramp is an elevated structure that connects the Broadway Bridge with Northwest 14th Avenue. The reconstruction of a much shorter ramp would remove a barrier to the development of housing the area.

The project is seen as an excellent incentive for the private sector to develop housing at the densities en-

couraged by the city.

The contract calls for the preservation of historic artwork on the Lovejoy ramp support columns.

"The removal of the Lovejoy ramp is an important step forward in our effort to build housing in the Central City," emphasized Commissioner Earl Blumenauer who oversees the Office of Transportation.

"By providing housing with major employment centers, we will be more successful in managing growth, increasing transit ridership and encouraging alternate modes of

transportation."

The Central City Streetcar portion of the contract is \$1.5 million, and could go to construction as early as 1999. Engineering for the Lovejoy ramp removal and reconstruction is just over \$1 million and may go to construction as early as 1997.

Portland Streetcar, Inc., is community-based, non-profit corporation established with the single goal of implementing the Central City Streetcar as a project that will benefit the livability and economic vitality of Portland and its Central City.

General Store On Mississippi Opens Ice Cream, Barbecue Planned

Leonard Smith, a longtime community activist, has announced the grand opening of his new Grandfather's General Store at 3524 N. Mississippi Ave.

The unveiling of this fresh new store, just north of Fremont, will take place on Tuesday beginning at 6 p.m. in conjunction with National Night Out, the annual neighborhood crime prevention event.

Smith will provide live music and free balloons for the children.

In addition to his own selection of

snacks, ice cream, groceries and convenience items, the store will feature such ice cream specialties as real, made-to-order milkshakes, banana splits and sundaes.

For the grand opening will be John Barnes' mobile barbecue Porky's, which will be at the store on a regular schedule. The store is now open, seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Smith invites the public to enjoy National Night Out by stop by for the special festivities, music, barbecue and delicious ice cream.

Community Clean-Up Help Available

A neighborhood clean-up planning guide, litter bags and promotional items are available from the organization Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism.

Clean-up projects have been planned in all parts of the state and range in size from community-wide groups to individuals who pick up litter during daily walks.

Last year, over 130 communities in Oregon coordinated cleanups through the SOLV program.

Buttons, stickers and signs to advertise clean-up projects are available.

The 1995 program was launched by Gov. John Kitzhaber in May as a call to action for citizens to help increase the livability of the state.

The planning guides and more information are available by calling 647-9855 or 1-800-322-3326.

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