

Observing

Advice To The Leaf-Lorn

Yes. There is hope. There is a place for the leaves to go.

Those falling leaves are at it again. And they don't know when to stop. They're pesky and they're everywhere. But there are some easy ways to become leaf-less in Clark County.

One of the most important things neighbors can do is keep catch basins clear of leaves. If you see leaves covering a catch basin, scoop them away. Otherwise, they'll block the drains and maybe even flood your neighborhood. You can be-leaf it.

And there's Kiss Your Leaves Goodbye Days. The county's Public Works Department will dispose of your leaves free of charge on three Saturdays - October 28, November 18, and December 16 - from

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring all your leaves to Whatley Pit at 11400 N.E. 78th Street. Also, for neighborhood associations willing to coordinate the effort, the county has a limited number of leaf bins that it can take to neighborhoods for on-site weekend disposal events, through December.

And if your debris dilemma is bigger than leaves, Clark County is offering Neighborhood Chipping. It's free debris chipping by the county for neighborhoods that can provide a site for chipping, a chipping coordinator and places for the chipped debris to go. The Saturday morning chipping events provide for an ideal cycle of recycling, county public works officials note. Residents looking for good ground cover or mulch material can come to the chipping

site and pick up a free load of chips brought in by other residents as unchipped debris.

The various leaf and yard debris disposal opportunities are a money saver for residents and county government alike -- plus being environment-friendly. Residents save on private disposal costs and they and the county save the tax dollars otherwise needed for fixing leaf-clogged drains and related flooding problems. In addition, the chipping program helps keep yard debris out of the landfill.

To make Clark County leaf-free there are other options, too. There is curbside collection, composting and self-hauling. To find out more, just pick up the phone and call Public Works.

Downtown Celebrates Halloween With Costume Contest!

People who work, live, or play in Downtown Vancouver are invited to enter a lunchtime Halloween costume contest on Tuesday, October 31, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

All disguised downtowners who want to enter the contest should report to R.P. McMurphy's in the Academy, at 400 East Evergreen.

Costumes will be judged by category at the times listed below.

Prizes have been provided by local businesses, and lunch will be available from R.P. McMurphy's menu.

Costumes entered as "best witch," "scariest," "funniest," or "most effort" will be judged from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

costumes entered as "most creative and artistic," "most gruesome," "sexiest," or "overall worst," will be judged from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Judges include Don Carbone (Cana Realty), Dave Keudell (David Keudell, CPA), Sherri LaPierre (Artists Gallery 21), Pat McDonnell (Clark County), Kate Madsen (City of Vancouver Neighborhood Mediation), Andy Nygard (Edward D. Jones and Company), and Lisa Rasmussen (Signal Graphics Printing).

The contest is sponsored by the Downtown Vancouver Association.

For more information, please call the Association at 360/693-2978.



Spooky Tales On Officers Row

On the night before Halloween, get ready for scary stories, "horror-able" happenings and maybe a few missing body parts.

Over 50 ghostly volunteers will fill out the cast for Ghost Stories on Officers Row Monday evening, Oct. 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

This first-time event, sponsored by the city's heritage program, is designed to be spooky, fun and educational. It is ideal for school-age children and adults.

Authentically costumed volunteer castmembers will retell tales of eerie happenings on the Row -- including the frightful story of the governess who hung herself, the

dead Army officer whose ghost still roams through Grant House, and the mysterious case of General O.O. Howard's "lost" right arm.

"These stories are based on local folklore and on the colorful history of Officers Row," says Jane Morrison, city heritage program coordinator. "The stories are gory, sad, corny and tragic. They're also a fun way to learn about the history of Officers Row."

Ghost story walking tours will begin at the O.O. Howard House. Tours will include scary stops for costumed story-telling at several turn-of-the-century homes along the Row. Participants will enjoy hot cider and snacks at Grant House.

Tickets are available for \$5, or \$15 for an entire family. A special group rate of \$2 per person is available for non-profit youth organizations. Tickets are limited and are available by fax, phone or in person at Bagley Center at 4100 Plomondon and at Marshall Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. Registration is strongly encouraged by Friday, Oct. 20. Proceeds support the heritage education program.

Tours will embark at 10-minute intervals. Start times will be printed on admission tickets. Tours last about one hour. Participants are encouraged to bring flashlights and dress for the weather.

the Barracks following the parade.

The parade route begins at Evergreen and East Reserve, continues west on Evergreen to "C" Street, up "C" to 13th Street, past City Hall on 13th to Main Street, down Main to Eighth, and across Eighth to Esther Short Park. Seating for handicapped spectators will be available at the O.O. Howard House, at the traffic circle on Officers' Row.

The Veterans Day Parade Committee encourages individuals and organizations to participate. For information, please call 360/896-9954 or 360/693-2978.



AROUND ABOUT TOWN

Paul Allen: Don't Stop At The Garden

BY CORA SMITH

The Trail Blazers seem to be moving Portland forward in futuristic prospects for city and community development. It's a blend and sense of community that entertains "a family that entertains together, stays together."

Future opportunities on the back burner may include a giant roller coaster and mega computer entertainment center that would cost \$25 per family member.

Portland is an ideal city that has attracted the interest of dream-maker Paul Allen, his Trail Blazers and his "sports-forward" Rose Quarter. Allen's vision makes way for the north/northeast community's revitalizing process - to build bridges, mend patches to mainstream, motivate and create a beautiful environmentally correct atmosphere that brings successful small businesses to the Northwest, Southwest, Southeast and Northeast Broadway areas.

The next step must be the investment, expanding visions to create a viable, healthy and wealthy North/Northeast culturally empowered-based community.

Paul Allen, we can see your visions, but please see the potential to

invest in a conglomerate of minority-owned small business, beautiful buildings, condos, engaging business comradery with a success, flair, fun and style.

Paul Allen, "move" your design engineers and dream team to enhance the minority business person. Build a plan for a once flourishing business community, your high rolling, risk taking attitude is what this community needs - a voice, money and follow through.

Encourage your fellow mankind, Paul Allen, to be the best "we can be." Roll out the carpet for this North/Northeast community with your blueprints of success - your visions can assist in building self-esteem and utilize talents unseen and of course, build pride, allowing the monies to remain in building an architecturally richer and handsome community.

Paul Allen, after seeing the total full picture of the "come alive" Rose Quarter complex it only builds on my dreams further. Don't stop the construction, continue to upgrade into the community.

Make this city a model by which



By Cora Smith

the nation can visually recognize what team playing and building on talent can indeed, reconstruct, glamorize and produce an economically-based sound inner city.

Empowering the young, partnership with the community, eliminating the "fear of failure syndrome," lending your cooperative corporate winning management skills.

Imagine, what the \$13.4 million you lost to Skypix and Virtual Vision could have done for your extended neighbors by increasing business and housing development which would connect minds, bodies and souls.

It shows that Oregon's development dollars are there, and even if "you've failed before," a winning prospective counts.

Paul Allen, the community has been in obeyance carefully observing your actions and progress, as well as the other 9 mystery Paul Allen investors.

"United we stand, divided we fall."

Spike Lee's Clockers Is A Wake-Up Call To African-Americans

A violent homicide occurred late last night in front of Ahab's restaurant. A 22-year-old black male, Darrel Adams, was shot four times by an unknown assailant who ran from the crime scene. Police say the motive for the murder may involve a battle over drug turf.

A variant of the above news flash appears in newspapers across the country every day. Director Spike Lee built on this phenomena and Richard Price's book to develop the movie Clockers. To be frank, there are very few new wrinkles in Clockers. The movie contains a plethora of negative, stereotypical, yet real, images of African-Americans. Moreover, most youths that live in inner-city communities can relate several real-live events that parallel what happens in clockers. What is interesting about the movie, however, is that Spike Lee bares everything in its absurd detail by weaving an intricate story line filled with subtle, yet obvious, messages. In fact, viewers are likely to conclude from Clockers that there is nothing more absurd than the effects of drugs being imported and traded in African-American communities.

As for the story line, Rodney, a drug operation master in an inner-city housing project, requires that Strike (a.k.a. Ronnie, a drug dealer for Rodney) kill Darrel Adams to facilitate expansion of the drug business. Shortly thereafter, Darrel

Adams is shot to death. Did Strike commit the murder, or did his all-American brother, Victor, do the shooting?

Why would such a hard-working, highly respected, and loveable character as Victor kill Darrel Adams? Since "black-on-black crime" is so rampant in African-American communities, why should the police be concerned about who actually killed Darrel Adams? Why should Tyrone Jeter, a 12-year-old product of a female-headed household, shoot and kill Rodney's henchman to protect Strike? All of these appear as real questions in Clockers, and they serve as Spike Lee's method for getting the viewer to see the absurdity of the reality.

One "absurd" question is not raised in the movie; probably because we all know the answer. Who is really responsible for drugs coming into our communities, and why can't the flow of drugs be stopped? Put simply, why can't a nation as technically advanced as the United States stop the drug trade? This is an absurd question that even Spike Lee wisely chose not to tackle.

What are some of the major messages in Clockers? First, you may be struck by the placidness with which children play in the backdrop to the drug dealing and violence. Though they are oblivious to the reality in youth, it seeps into their subconscious, and they are doomed to relive

it all as adults. Second, you may be amazed by the ingenuity of the young drug dealers in developing their communications and transactions systems. How great it would be if that ingenuity was applied to constructive purposes. Third, you may be appalled by Strike's failure to see a medical doctor given his stomach problems. However, it is common for African-Americans to adopt a death wish and procrastinate on taking action on health matters until it is too late.

I venture to say that if Spike Lee was given an opportunity to decode his messages in plain and simple language, then he would make the following statements: African-Americans must stop selling the drugs of death to their own people. They must take on the mission of cleaning up their communities with the same zeal that drug addicts take on the mission of obtaining drugs for their habits. They must stop the flow of blood from the bodies of young African-American males. Their blood is the life of the communities, and whether the flow is the result of gun shots or AIDS, the flow must be stopped. There are too few strong men in African-American communities who choose to do the right thing and who seek to impose that rightness. But they cannot reshape the communities alone. They need help. If they do not get that help, African-American youths are doomed to a more dreadful reality.

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Mexico Trade Office To Open In Portland

Mayor Vera Katz and Portland's sister city of Guadalajara, Mexico in the state of Jalisco, Mexico, signed an agreement Sunday to create an international trade office in Portland.

The office to be called Casa Jalisco or House of Jalisco is expected to enhance Oregon's economic and cultural ties to the Mexican state.

During her administration, Katz has shifted the focus of sister city relationships from cultural exchanges to economic/trade relations, her office said.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to see Portland's international business strategy come to life," said Katz. "In order to meet our critical challenge of a more prosperous Portland, we need to expand our

international trade relations and opening the Casa Jalisco here in Portland with strengthen the economy of both cities."

Katz and a delegation of over 70 Oregonians attended the signing ceremony in Guadalajara as part of an international cultural and trade mission to Portland's second oldest sister city.

Like Portland, the Mexican port city is also known as the "City of Roses."

Mexico is Oregon's 14th largest trading partner. The state of Jalisco is similar to Oregon in that its economy depends heavily on agriculture and high technology, city officials said. Jalisco supplies about 50 percent of all electronic equipment to Mexico.

Sunday Starts Pacific Standard Time
Turn Your Clocks Back One Hour!