

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Taste of the Bite

Tom McCall Waterfront Park is the site of three days of food and music during the Bite, a Taste of Portland celebration for Oregon Special Olympics. Events begin Friday and continue through Sunday.

Learn child CPR

A CPR course specifically designed for those who care for children on an on-going basis is offered by Red Cross on Sunday from 8:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.. The course teaches how to prevent and care for childhood injuries, care for an infant or child who stops breathing or is choking and give CPR. For more information or to register, call 280-1440.

Free weatherization

The Community Energy Project offers free home weatherization to seniors and other area residents. If you are unable to do your own weatherization, they will do it for you. Call the project at 284-6827.

Faces opens at firehouse

Faces in the Mountain, a new play about survival and friendship takes place Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m. at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. The play is about a busload of urban kids who get stranded on Mt. Hood and features the Youth Theater Project, student actors ages 8 to 16, who are participating in the center's summer theater program.

Diversity skills

Your entire family is invited to participate in a free diversity training workshop on Tuesday, Aug. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the community meeting room of the Village Square Shopping Center, 16026 S.E. Stark. The workshop is sponsored by the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission to provide information, guidance and support to people who want to learn how prejudice and oppression works, how it is sustained and how we can interrupt its vicious cycle. Call Linda Hunter to register at 823-5136.

Circus coming

Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey's Circus, The Greatest Show on Earth, performs Sept. 17-21 at the Rose Garden. Tickets are now available at the Rose Quarter Ticket Office and all Ticketmaster locations or charge by phone at 224-4400.

History celebrated

A day of living history through the eyes of Native Americans, explorers, soldiers, fishermen, riverboat captains and settlers will be part of a Cascades on the Columbia celebration at the Bonneville Lock and Dam on the Washington side of the Columbia River Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can take I-84 to Cascade Locks and cross over the Columbia using the Bridge of the Gods.

Chefs cook for youth

Top local chefs, waiters and businesses will help make a difference for homeless youth at the Salvation Army's Greenhouse Chefs de Cuisine annual fundraising dinner, Tuesday, Aug. 19. With the theme "A Summer Evening in Italy," the event features an eight-course dinner of Italian specialties created by volunteer chefs from top area restaurants.

Gear up for golf

Mt. Hood Community College is gearing up for its fourth annual golf scramble and dinner, "Par Excellence," Sept. 9 and is seeking community and business support. Event proceeds will be used to help meet special needs at the college, including scholarships, equipment and special projects. Last year 130 people golfed for fun and prizes while helping the MHCC Foundation.

SUBMISSIONS: Community Calendar information will be given priority if received two weeks before the event date.

Opinions in on MLK upgrade

Give us an appealing boulevard with parking, greenery and a grocery

BY LEE PERLMAN

Area residents want Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to be nicer looking, have more parking, and have locally-oriented businesses, especially a grocery.

The respondents were less sure of whether, and how, the street's central median should be removed, and they are strongly divided on whether the street should have bike lanes.

These were some of the conclusions of a recent workshop on the redesign of the boulevard held at King School. About 175 people "voted" with stick-on dots (green for agreement, red for disagreement, yellow for something in between) on possible "vision statements."

According to project manager Andre Baugh of the Portland Office of Transportation, the results will be used to create "discussion alternatives" for the redesign of the boulevard. These will be presented at a second workshop on Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m., also at King School.

The end result of the process will be a plan for \$1 million worth of improvements to the street.

Baugh says that the response to some



Portland City Commissioner Charlie Hales addresses plans for Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard during a video taping along the thoroughfare and in front of the offices of the Portland Observer. (Photo by M. Washington)

vision statements was strong enough to be considered a mandate.

For instance, one calling for an "aesthetically pleasing and pedestrian friendly environment" received 40 yes votes against only 5 no votes and two neutrals.

"Rundown buildings are remodeled, restored or replaced" received 68 yes votes, one no, one neutral.

"Pedestrians of all ages have safe and convenient crossing" 46 yes, one no, two neutrals.

"Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard serves local neighborhood" 37 yes, four against, two neutral. (Calls for a new grocery store cropped up repeatedly in written notes by participants.)

By contrast, a proposal to remove through truck traffic from the boulevard received 36 yes votes, 15 no votes and eight neutrals, a more mixed signal that makes its implementation much less likely, Baugh says.

A vision saying, "The corridor is accessible to all modes (pedestrians, bicycles, cars, transit and local service vehicles)" re-

ceived 52 yes votes against just 11 no votes.

However, Baugh says, this does not necessarily mean that bike lanes will be placed on the boulevard; they could go on adjacent streets such as Northeast Seventh or North Williams or Vancouver avenues. The responses included a number of written statements for and against bike lanes on MLK in roughly equal numbers.

For years community leaders have called for removal of the boulevard's median, but there seemed to be ambivalence about this goal.

Can't wait for The Bite

Food, fun and music bring diversity to Waterfront park

Forget for a minute all the normal festivities to The Bite - 20 restaurants with diverse ethnic cuisines, outstanding Oregon wineries, and five stages featuring over 75 bands.

This year's Bite, Aug. 15, 16 & 17 will take place on Waterfront Park's renovated turf.

More than \$2 million has been "sunk" into festival infrastructure, including underground natural gas, electric, sewer, and water hook ups.

Plus a new high tech drainage system that's been installed in the turf. So gone are the days where the grass along the sea-wall resembled the Gobi Desert more than a park.

In addition to the noteworthy grass, the Bite's brand new features include VHI's Route '97 Rock 'n' Roll Road Trip, Sony's giant PlayStation video game extravaganza, the 18th Annual World Footbag Championships, and a new music showcase for local artists - the Portland songwriter's stage.

VHI's "Route 97" will roll into town looking like a standard tractor-trailer unit. But don't be fooled. This specially-designed trailer, using state-of-the-art hydraulics, converts into a 1,600 square foot platform stage.

Bite goers will have the chance to get a rock 'n' roll makeover with 60s face painting, a "Ziggy Stardust" 70s glam station, a "Karma Chameleon" 80s punk hair salon, and the "Tattoo You" fake tattoo parlor.

The music channel is also planning a possible live broadcast via satellite during the festival.

Early African American lives recounted

Exposition to convey period's cultural history, heroic accomplishments

Free black men during the Revolutionary War fought bravely along side the Colonialists at such battles as Lexington and Bunker Hill.

African Americans by the names of Mountain Man, Moses and Black Harris helped the Applegate family blaze a new and safer trail through the Oregon country.

These and other stories from 300 years of African American history will be re-enacted Saturday from noon to 8 p.m. across the street from the Urban League of Portland in the green space at North Williams and Russell.

An encampment will be set up to include story tellers, mountain men, trappers, soldiers, patriots, cowboys, buffalo soldiers, explorers, military camps, race horse jockeys, and covered wagons.

Janice Scrooges will play music from the three centuries of black history in America.

The event is sponsored by Hyalite, an arts, cultural and educational non-profit organization and KBOO radio. Supporters include Legacy Emanuel Group, the Urban League, Pratt & Larson, Waddles, Oregon Leather, Michelle Piano and Organ and Portland Community Development.



Portland Neighborhood Mediation staff members Eddie Collins (from left) Julien Minard, Emmanuel Paris and David Little ponder the future of their program, now on the city budget chopping block.

Mediation program to go

Neighbor to neighbor service may be privatized, but at what cost?

BY LEE PERLMAN

Will a service which provides individuals and groups a means to resolve differences survive without going to war or hiring lawyers?

Answer: With mediation.

Specifically, Office of Neighborhood Associations director Diane Linn, plans to abolish the agency's neighborhood mediation program by the end of the year.

In its place, she proposes to contract out to a private agency some of the services the program performs.

As one of the cost-cutting measures in the post property tax limits of Measure 47, Linn and the neighborhood association proposed that mediation "transition out" to become, or be linked with, a non-profit corporation after Dec. 31.

The program, whose budget last year was \$336,000, this year received \$200,000 plus a special \$50,000 appropriation "to cover the costs of transition."

Most discussion of the neighborhoods budget concerned the proposed transfer of its crime prevention program to the Police Bureau. The mediation budget received rela-

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