

Family Living

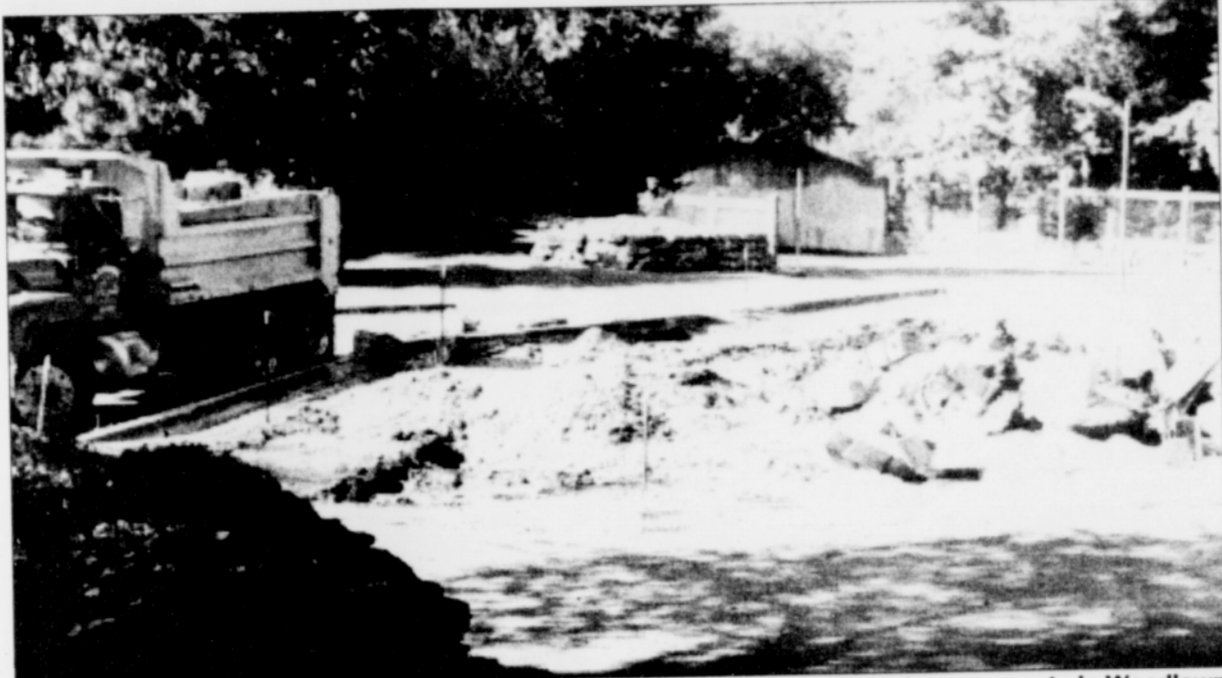
Alberta Street Youth Mural

Youth Express Cultural Identity through Public Art

The five-year community driven plan to revitalize NE Alberta Street includes projects to involve neighborhood youth in creating public art. Currently two neighborhood youth, Adrian and Sheree, are working with an artist to paint a travelling mural for display on Alberta. The kids benefit from having a one-on-one learning experience with professional artist Suzy Kitman, and from acquiring a sense of community pride and responsibility. The youth are working outdoors on Alberta between 14th and 15th Avenues throughout August.

Public art has been a focus for cultural identity in the community revitalization of diverse neighborhoods of NE Portland while at the same time we are seeing a decline in art programs in public schools. This project will benefit kids who have an interest in art and want to learn more. Also, Alberta art gallery owners expressed an interest for Alberta Street to become a "mural district" (there are already close to ten visible murals within 16 blocks) as this is an opportunity to enhance the street's cultural identity.

Park Bureau Bond Measure Goes to Work



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Planning for Woodlawn Park improvements began in May, 1998 when a project newsletter and survey was

sent throughout the neighborhood. Information gathered from that initial survey and subsequent public meetings through the summer and fall helped shape the final plan. Construction, originally scheduled to begin in the fall of '98, was rescheduled to accommodate a more extended community planning process. The project is now underway and improvements will be complete by late fall '99.

- The Woodlawn Park improvement plan, includes the following:
- Picnic Area Improvements.
 - Play Areas.
 - Spray Fountain.
 - Basketball Court.
 - Volleyball Court.
 - Baseball Diamond and Field.
 - Park Landscape.

And that's not all! The park sign will be relocated to a new planting bed, the dumpster enclosure will be removed to increase visibility into the park, and the chess tables will be moved to the open lawn.

Youth Festival

Housing Our Families, Inc., along with Self Enhancement, Inc. and Boise Neighborhood Association is announcing its 4th Annual Youth Festival. Kids and adults of all ages are invited to attend this celebration of our community's youth. The Festival will be held Saturday, August 14, 1999 at Unthank Park. The festival will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will run until 6:00 p.m.

This year's Festival will include an array of fun-filled activities for old and young alike. There'll be games for smaller kids, a 3 on 3 basketball tournament, and live music for kids and parents to enjoy. A food court will be available as well.

For more information, please contact Renee Johnson at Housing Our Families, 335-0947.

Some Youth Violence Declines

REUTERS

CHICAGO - Some types of violent behavior are declining among teen-agers but conditions that threaten youth safety remain unacceptably high overall, according to a survey released Tuesday.

The information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was gathered over a number of years ending in 1997, before the highly publicized school shootings of the past two years including the Columbine school massacre in April where 13 people were killed by two students who apparently committed suicide.

The report found that the number of high school students who reported carrying a weapon of any type during the previous month declined from 26.1 percent in 1991 to 18.3 percent in 1997. The number of youngsters who said they were in a physical fight in the previous year declined by 14 percent over the same period.

In addition the survey found decreases in the number of students

who said they had carried a weapon on school property or were involved in a fight there.

"Despite these recent reductions rates of youth homicide, nonfatal victimization and perpetration of violence remain at historically high levels," said the report published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association.

"In addition, this study did not find significant decreases in the percentage of students feeling too unsafe to go to

school, being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property, or having property stolen or deliberately damaged at school," it added.

It also said there had been no decrease in the percentage of students carrying weapons other than guns "and in 1997 this behavior was twice as prevalent as gun carrying ..."

"Therefore, although the reductions in gun carrying and fighting are encouraging, the prevalence of youth

violence and school violence is still unacceptably high," it concluded.

It remains to be seen, the report said, whether the more recent acts of school violence will result in more students carrying weapons to school.

The data came from the federal government's Youth Behavior Risk Surveys which have been conducted periodically since 1990 and involve a representative sample of U.S. teen-agers. The sample size was not listed.

Child-Abuse Deaths Underreported

By BRENDA C. COLEMAN
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CHICAGO - The number of young children killed by their parents or caregivers is underreported by nearly 60 percent, researchers reported today in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The study was based on an analysis of North Carolina records, but researchers said the results reflect the situation nationwide because all states use the same system to classify deaths.

Caregivers commit 85 percent of the homicides of children 10 and under, and strangers are the killers only 3 percent of the time, said Dr. Marcia Herman-Giddens, lead author of the study.

"So far, we as a society have not cared enough to do what we need to do to get accurate data on child abuse homicides," she said. "If you don't have good data about the problem, good numbers, you can't possibly begin to do anything about it."

Herman-Giddens, who teaches maternal and child health at the University of North Carolina, said the problem is that all states use the International Classification of Diseases to record deaths, and the system's specifications are flawed.

For example, three children who are stabbed to death would not be listed as abuse victims because the classification system says abuse deaths result from a string of events, not an isolated episode, she said.

Her study counted child abuse deaths if they resulted from a single episode such as a shooting or from a string of events, and came at the hands of caregivers - including babysitters and boyfriends of mothers.

With that system in mind, the researchers analyzed records from medical examiners, police and other sources on the 259 homicides of children 10 and younger in North Carolina from 1985 through 1996.

Of those, the state's system underreported the number of deaths from battering or abuse by 58.7 percent, the researchers said. Biological parents committed 64 percent of the killings.

Translated to a national scale, the study suggests that 6,500 more children than national statistics reflect were victims of homicide due

to abuse from 1985 through 1996. The researchers estimated that in 1996, 835 children died at the hands of caregivers nationwide.

Sidney Johnson, president of Prevent Child Abuse America, which was not involved in the study, said it gives credibility to what some experts have been saying for years - that twice as many children are abused as reports indicate.

Herman-Giddens said death certificates need to be redesigned to accommodate information related to abuse, and medical examiners and coroners need better training to recognize such deaths.

Cannon's

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- Sandwiches
- Salads
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- Catering

- Chicken • Pork Ribs •
- Beef Ribs •

- SUMMER HOURS -

- MONDAY: 11:00AM - 9:00PM
- TUESDAY: 11:00AM - 9:00PM
- WEDNESDAY: 11:00AM-1PM & 4PM-9PM
- THURSDAY: 11:00AM - 9:00PM
- FRIDAY: 11:00AM - 10:00PM
- SATURDAY: 11:00AM - 10:00PM
- SUNDAY: 1:00PM - 8PM

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Event sponsorships and Booth space limited. CALL TODAY! 331-9554

Saturday, August 28
10:00 am - 10:00 pm
in the Emanuel Legacy Lot
(corner of Williams and Russell
in NE Portland)
Admission is FREE!

View the premiere issue of *Imagine That!* magazine—a vehicle of support, saying "NO" to drugs, domestic and gang violence.

Our thanks to Volunteers of America Oregon for the donation of graphic services and event volunteers.