

Police News/Vancouver

Multnomah County inmates look to serve community

BY KELLY MOTT
MULTNOMAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Inmates from Multnomah County jails recently revived the appearance of Wood Village City Park as part of an inmate work crew community service program. The inmates, under supervision by sheriff's deputies, cleared five acres of dense, overgrown blackberry bushes and thinned an area of the park that is popular with area residents.

Chuck Rollins, City of Wood Village public works employee, says he has heard from several residents who use the park and say they feel much safer now that visibility is increased.

"They did a fantastic job," said Rollins. "The inmates were proud of their work and were very motivated." In October, inmate work crews from Multnomah County jails performed 1,300 hours of community service. Work Crew Supervisor Sgt. Phil Anderchuk is looking to double that number. Non-profit organizations and local government agencies that have a need for labor are invited to call Sgt. Anderchuk with their request.

Anderchuk oversees 14 crews of eight inmates each, who do everything from laundry to landscaping, litter removal to illegal dumpsite clean up, painting to carpentry. The inmates perform

both contracted work and community service. The work performed by the inmates is usually work that wouldn't otherwise get done due to tight budgets and because no one else wants to do it.

Recent community service projects include cleaning up around a cemetery that was heavily vandalized and cutting firewood for an East county emergency services organization. A partnership is being developed with R&H construction to renovate the Patton House, which provides housing to indigent families.

"The inmates on these crews work very hard and are truly interested in providing community service," Anderchuk says. "They see this as a way to serve the citizens and make small amends for the crimes they committed against the community." Inmates selected for the work crew must meet the same criteria as those who qualify for work release programs. They are expected to be ready for work each morning, take directions, work as a team, have pride in a job well done, and accept responsibility for their actions. For this they learn valuable job skills, are paid one dollar a day, and can reduce their jail sentence.

As with all the programs offered to Multnomah County inmates, the goal is to prepare the inmate for integration



Inmates from Multnomah County Clean up debris at Wood Village City Park

back into the community as a law-abiding citizen. The work they do: landscaping, litter removal, and light maintenance makes Multnomah County safer, cleaner, and generally more livable.

Inmate work crews perform work under government contract for agencies such as ODOT, Housing Authority of Portland, and Metro. While the county is paid for this contracted work, Sgt. Anderchuk wants to see the work crews performing more

community service, much of which is done for free.

The work crews are available to assist non-profit organizations and cities within Multnomah County with light maintenance and landscaping, and provide emergency services where there is an immediate need for labor caused by natural disasters (such as sandbagging during floods, clearing roads after windstorms, etc.)

The public is invited to approach a work crew deputy to find out the type of work being performed. Very soon, all clothing worn by the inmates on work crews will identify them as a Sheriff's Office inmate. Road signs are posted near the work site for public information.

"It was a real pleasure working with the deputies and crews," said Rollins. This was a win-win situation for Wood Village and the inmates. I would recommend them to any organization needing work done."

For more information contact Sgt. Phil Anderchuk at 248-5039. The inmate work crews are looking for work. And you'd better hurry, Chuck Rollins says he has another project out in Wood Village for the inmates next Spring.



Multnomah County Sheriff's Deputy Jose Martínez supervises inmates performing community service at Wood Village City Park

Crime Stoppers

Home Invasion

The Gresham Police Department, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in identifying and apprehending the individual responsible for a home invasion.

On Sunday, November 7, 1999, at about 10:35 in the evening, the suspect entered an apartment in the 3100 block of Northeast 23rd Street in Gresham. Entry into the apartment, which was occupied by a female, was through an unlocked patio door. The suspect was looking into the bathroom when he was surprised by the victim, who



then fled to a neighbor's apartment. The suspect was last seen on the victim's patio.

The suspect is described as a male, with a dark complexion, possibly a Pacific Islander, in his mid 20's 6'0" tall, weighting 220 pounds with long black curly hair that could possibly be a wig. Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case or any unsolved felony crime, and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503)823-HELP.



Counterfeit bills surface in Salem

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A number of counterfeit bills, mainly in one-hundred-dollar denominations are surfacing in the Salem area. Some of the people who have presented the bills are victims themselves.

One man cashed his paycheck at an Independence store and got 100 dollar bills, one of which was counterfeit. The city of Salem has had 22 reports of counterfeit bills since November first. The victims have included restaurants, convenience stores, large discount stores and a bus depot.

Santa from page 1

Immediately, Virgil Wilson, 7, bounced to the front of the plane with headphones on his ears to see Santa for himself. When asked why he was wearing the headphones, he said matter-of-factly, "I'm listening to Santa. I'm listening to Santa!"

As the plane flew over the North Pole, flight attendants directed the children to take their seats and prepare for a landing at the North Pole. As the plane taxied onto the runway of the North Pole Airport, the children commented that the airport looked a lot like the Portland International Airport. "And where's the snow," one said.

Despite the skepticism, all the children were excited as they got off the plane and prepared to meet Santa at his house and once again be chaperoned by the United Airlines volunteers. Santa's house looked a lot like Gate E-5 of the Portland airport. But the children didn't seem to notice as they each grabbed tall clear bags and selected toys and goodies from tables that surrounded Santa. On one table lay mounds of hats and mittens that United Airlines volunteers knitted for nine months.

After collecting presents, each child visited Santa and ran through the airport telling others how great it was to visit the North Pole. And that's what United Way officials want - children to have a great time.

"We hope that this Fantasy Flight will make this holiday season a little more special for these children," said United Airlines City Manager Randy Loveland. "We plan to make this an ongoing event—one that the children and the community can look forward to—and so can we."

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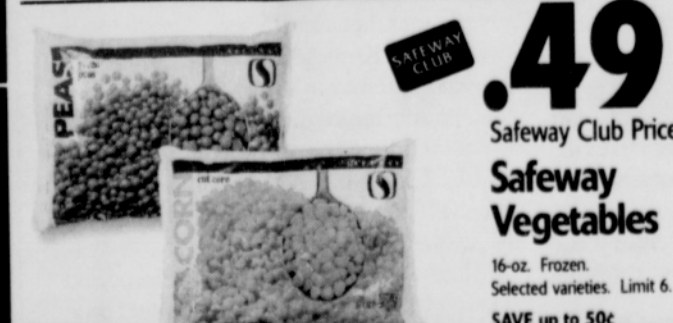
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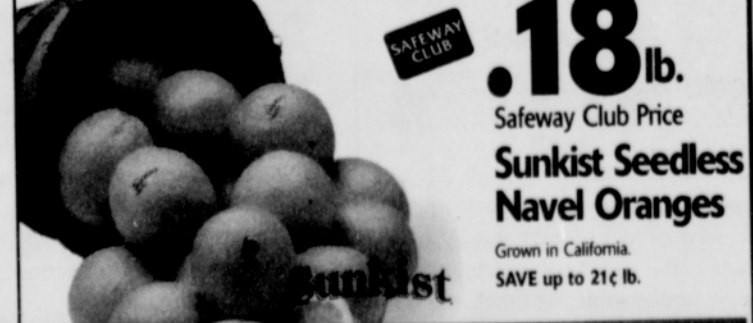
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