

METRO Life

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Block Party on the Beech

The Beech Street Neighborhood Community and Friends will be launching its first annual block party entitled "Block Party on the Beech" located at North Beech Street and North Vancouver on August 26 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. This neighborhood festival is for the purpose of reclaiming the streets of Portland from crime; one neighborhood at a time. We will be showcasing local talent and guest speakers as well as holding an expo to provide our neighborhood youth with options other than the crime around them. The party is free to all neighborhood residents. Non-residents will be charged \$2 for single admission, \$5 for family admission.

"Instant Piano" for Busy People

Learning the piano doesn't have to be a tortuous regiment of scales, exercises, note-reading, counting and theory. People want to be able to play the songs they like, be creative and have fun. Traditional piano teachers might not approve, but thousands have learned to play piano without reading music. On Tuesday, August 29, from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at the Oregon Info Courses in the City of Portland, instructor Todd Walker will teach his nationally renowned "Instant Piano Workshop". For more info. Or to register, call 503/224-5959.

The Art of Forgiveness

Oregon Peace Institute (OPI) will present a workshop on "The Art of Forgiveness" with Robert Gould, PhD, the director of the Graduate Program in Conflict Resolution and the chairman of the Philosophy Department at Portland State University, on Thursday, September 7, 2000 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Room 134, 1838 SW Jefferson Street. A donation of \$10 would be appreciated. Call 503/725-8192.

Portland Area Council of Camp Fire

This fall, the Portland Area Council of Camp Fire will provide service and leadership opportunities for co-ed K-12 participants and adult volunteers. These group leaders and their young members design service learning projects, plan special interest workshops, and make lasting relationships with neighbors, mentors, and schoolmates. Call 224-7800.

Mt. Hood Huckleberry Festival & Barlow Trail Days

The 16th Annual Mount Hood Huckleberry Festival & Barlow Trail Days will be held on August 25, 26 and 27 at the Mt. Hood Village (6500 East U.S. Highway 26 in Brightwood, Oregon). The events are free. There will be live entertainment, Salmon Bakes, Campfire concerts, huckleberry pancakes served, Watermelon launch contest, and more. For more information, call 503/998-7813 or information on camping/cabins, call 503/622-4011.

Volunteers Needed at Blind Slough Swamp Preserve

The Nature Conservancy of Oregon invites anyone interested in preserving Blind Slough Swamp, located in Brownsmead 12 miles east of Astoria, to participate in a volunteer work party on Saturday, August 26. Blind Slough Swamp Preserve is the best example of tidal Sitka spruce swamp remaining in Oregon, and provides habitat along the Columbia River for bald eagle, osprey, river otter and beaver. Registration required. Call 230-1221.

City Garden Fair

A City Garden Fair will be held on Saturday, September 9, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Portland Farmers Market at South Park Blocks by Portland State University. There will be produce and flower judging. Bring produce and flowers for judging between 8 to 10 a.m. Judging will begin at 10 a.m. Kids welcome with activities for them. For more information, call Community Gardens at 823-1612.

Vancouver Police kick off free gun lock distribution



Stan Reeves, Interim Vancouver Police Chief discusses the free gun locks during a press conference

On August 18, 2000 Interim Vancouver Police Chief Stan Reeves held a News Conference to announce that the Vancouver Police Services will begin distributing 3500 free gun locks.

Project Home Safe, a nationwide program of the National Shooting and Sports foundation has distributed thousands of gun lock kits to law enforcement agencies across the nation. Vancouver was the first Washington city to apply for the gun locks and recently received the first shipment of 1800, with another 1700 expected in the next few months. The vinyl-covered steel cable locks, which lock much like bicycle locks, are threaded through gun magazines and barrels and prevent the gun's action from closing.

A representative from Project Home Safe was on hand to answer any questions and to present Chief Reeves with a certificate of thanks for participating in the gun lock distribution. The free gun locks were available immediately after the news conference at each of the Vancouver Police precincts.

Vancouver's, Hazel Dell on a streak at World Series

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Last to arrive, first to surprise. It's nothing new for the Little Leaguers from Vancouver, Wash.

They stunned the California powerhouses to win the Western Region tournament last week, and they carried it over in being the last of the eight teams to play their Little League World Series opener on Monday night.

Vancouver, only the third team from Washington State and first since Kirkland National won the title in 1982, got big hits, strong defense and a dominating pitching performance to beat Bellaire, Texas, 5-0.

"We're trying to make a statement for the

community," said manager Tom Peavey, who's making it a habit of explaining exactly where Vancouver — on the Oregon border — is located. "The people from Hazel Dell (Little League) have said we put them on the map. I think they put us on the map because of their support." Jay Ponciano pitched a two-hitter, and didn't allow a runner past second. Catcher Dustin Corl's two-run homer in the third opened the scoring to spark the victory.

Pressure? What pressure, said Ponciano, who said he bore down after getting the lead because he didn't want "to blow it."

"Playing in the Western Regional championship game, I got used to (the pressure)," he said. "It's my job, and I've got

to get it done."

The loss surprised Bellaire. Coming off Sunday's 3-0 victory over Goffstown, N.H., the Texans were expecting to face a potentially nervous Vancouver squad.

It didn't turn out that way, Bellaire manager Terry McConn said. "They're a really good team and I'm not going to sit here and try to take anything away from them," McConn said.

Bellaire's loss left only one team — Tokyo — with a 2-0 record two days into the Series. Both Vancouver and Davenport, Iowa — which beat Goffstown 5-0 in its Series opener earlier in the day — are 1-0.

In other games Monday, Tokyo survived a

six-run, sixth-inning rally to hang on for a 9-8 victory over Toronto (0-1), and Maracaibo, Venezuela, evened its record at 1-1 with a 3-0 win over Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (0-1).

Goffstown is 0-2. With all eight teams playing Tuesday, that leaves a wide open field of teams contending to reach Thursday's pool championship games. Bellaire is aware the pressure is on them to bounce back, considering they face Davenport in their final pool-round game.

"We feel we can win," Bellaire shortstop Zach Jamail said.

"We've done it in state, we've done it in sectionals, and we've always come back," catcher Terry McConn said.

Public voices opinions on urban renewal

BY LEE PERLEMAN
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Speakers from many, and conflicting, viewpoints came together to urge creation of the controversial Interstate Urban Renewal District at a City Council hearing last week. Council is expected to approve creation of the proposed district at a hearing August 30.

There is still some uncertainty as to what provisions will guide the allocation of the \$300 million the district is expected to generate, and what projects it should fund. There was considerable disagreement about this among the 200 people who showed up for the evening session at Kaiser Town Hall, nearly half of whom testified.

The light rail project created much dissension. About 50 people opposed to the project picketed in front of the hall before the meeting. However, even some of these people later testified that they supported the district, at least in concept.

Another issue was the funds that an urban renewal district would divert from county social service support.

County commission chair Beverly Stein, who had originally raised the concern, said she was not opposed to creation of this district — provided that the city was willing to dedicate \$2 million a year to restoration of the lost revenue.

Stein added, "This is an unusual situation in which I'm at odds with the mayor." Stein and mayor Vera Katz sparred briefly at the hearing as well. "Will you come to us every time we have a new urban renewal district?" Katz asked.

"I hope we'll collaborate and come to an agreement on funding," Stein replied. "If not, you probably will hear from us again." County commissioners Serena Cruz and Lisa Naito also testified in favor of the new district.

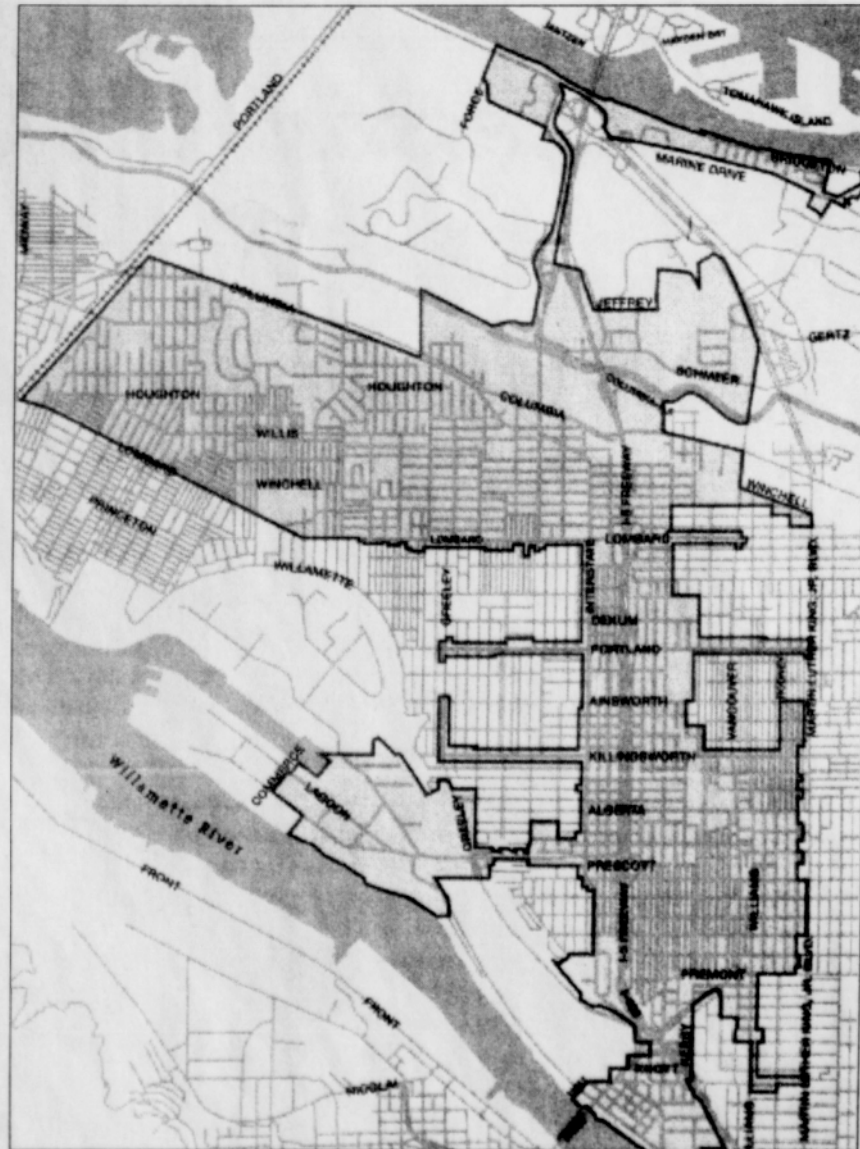
Another issue was condemnation. In deference to demands by many residents, especially representatives of the African-American community, Interstate will be the first urban renewal district in Portland in which the Portland Development Commission will not have the right to acquire property against the will of owners.

Yet another issue was gentrification, and measures to combat it. Some feared the district will raise land values, and thus force existing residents and businesses out. Alan Hipolito and PDC's John Southgate proposed a "racial-economic impact statement," such as recently proposed by Dr. John Powell of Minneapolis, to monitor such effects.

Hipolito noted, "We know people near (the new) Billy Reed's (restaurant) have already seen their rents go up quite a bit." Commissioner Dan Saltzman retorted, "We don't need to hire a consultant to tell us that... If we're to spend money on a racial impact study on the magnitude of the disparity study — half a million dollars — I will be raising a ruckus to get that money into the hands of early childhood providers." He said he didn't want to "get caught up in a racially correct mantra."

Several members of the project advisory committee spoke in favor of the district as proposed, and lashed out at critics. Paul Mortimer declared, "If anyone didn't hear of this plan, and have an opportunity to contribute to it, they just weren't paying attention." Regarding the attacks on the proposed MAX line he said, "What you didn't hear is any credible alternative."

Lenny Anderson attacked Stein directly. "Not at our meetings was anyone representing commissioner Stein, a shortcoming she should regret," he said. To hear her concerns now was "disconcerting," he said. Several Overlook residents said they



The outlined shaded area represents the far-reaching size of the designated renewal area.

welcomed the chance to improve North Interstate Avenue, which they said was a blight on an otherwise attractive neighborhood.

One, Cynthia Silaski, said that to her the district designation "means that for the first time the city will significantly acknowledge us."