

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Harvest Auction

Leach Botanical Garden will hold its annual Harvest Auction at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26 in the Manor House, 6704 SE 122 Ave. Garden reporter Amy Jaeger will host this event, and all proceeds will benefit the garden. Tickets are \$50 per person. For more information, call 503-823-1673.

### High Energy

The Community Energy Project holds a series of free workshops to help make consumers energy conscious. Workshops on water conservation are at 12:30 p.m. Oct. 3 and 10 a.m. Oct. 6 at OHSU, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd., and at 6:30 p.m. at Peninsula Park Community Center, 700 N. Portland Blvd. The project also includes weatherizing workshops throughout September and October. For more information, call 503-284-6827.

### Cultured Kingdoms

The Oregon Zoo is throwing a multicultural celebration to showcase how various cultures around the world revere animals from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 27 and 28. Local groups will present folklore through performances and exhibits. For more information, call 503-226-1561.

### Green Walks

Discover Portland's green space from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturdays with guided tours by park volunteers. Meet at Mt. Tabor Park's volcano parking lot on Sept. 27. On Oct. 4, meet at the Global Garden at Harold Oliver School's parking lot. On Oct. 11, meet at Peninsula Park, next to sunken rose garden. On Nov. 1, meet at Whitaker Ponds visitor center.

### Pounding Pavement

Fitness fanatics will lace up their tennies for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Portland Marathon on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 7 a.m. The event starts in front of City Hall, 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. and finishes at the Justice Center, 1120 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Registration is \$125. For more information, call 503-226-1111 or visit [www.portlandmarathon.org](http://www.portlandmarathon.org).

### Moving Moments

The IFCC offers Life Movement dance classes and workshops. Our Breathing Body is on Oct. 11 and Touch Stones is on Nov. 1 and 8. All workshops are between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the dance studio, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Workshops prices range between \$45 and \$60. To register, call 503-284-1908.

### Salmon Fest Northwest

The Salmon Festival at Oxbow Regional Park is on Oct. 11 and 12. The festival features a Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum village, the Salmon Nation Welcome Center, guided salmon viewings, crafts, music and more. For more information, call 503-979-1850.

### Taking Out Alzheimer's

You can help the Alzheimer's Association create a world without the disease by participating in the 12th Annual Portland Memorial Walk at Pioneer Courthouse Square on Sunday, Sept. 28. The 5K walk raises money for national research. For more information or registration, call 503-413-6850 or visit [www.alz.org/oregon](http://www.alz.org/oregon).

### Job Skills Workshop

Multnomah County Libraries will host a free Job Seekers Workshop to help develop job skills. The workshop is from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23 at the North Portland Library, 512 N. Killingsworth St. To register, call 503-988-5234.

## Uncloaking the Arts



Bill Rutherford is an African-American artist who works in a diverse media, including wire and wood.



Local artists open studios for behind-the-scene views

Theresa Johnson paints personal, intimate moments.



Carolyn Crawford paints portraits of familiar leisure scenes, but she also is one of just 100 police sketch artists in the country.

One hundred Portland artists, including three artists with African-American roots, are opening their doors to the public for a behind-the-scenes view of the creative process.

Step into Our Studios, a Portland open studios event, opens studios east of the Willamette River on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 11 and 12 and west-side

studios on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 18 and 19.

This self-directed studio tour grants access to printmakers, sculptors, photographers, ceramic artists, fiber artists, metal smiths, glass blowers and painters of many styles and media. Whether you're an art snob or enthusiast, studio touring is a rare opportunity.

A \$12 ticket pays for two adults for both weekends. Kids are free. Tickets include a map of open galleries and a 16-month calendar.

Tickets can be purchased at Onda and Brian Marki Gallery and Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. For more information, visit [www.portlandopenstudios.com](http://www.portlandopenstudios.com).



## Historic Road Trip

The founding fathers are taking a rare road trip through the Oregon Historical Society in Portland. An original copy of the Declaration of Independence will be on display at the downtown history center through Saturday, Sept. 27, before hitting the road for the next leg of the tour. Admission is free. For more information about the viewing, call 503-306-5222 or visit [www.IndependenceRoadTrip.org](http://www.IndependenceRoadTrip.org).

## Minimum Wage Hike Due on New Year

Rate moves to \$7.05 an hour on Jan. 1

(AP)—Inflation will boost the state minimum wage to \$7.05 an hour on Jan. 1.

The state Bureau of Labor and Industries said the increase from the current rate of \$6.90 an hour is based on an inflation rate of 2.2 percent.

The increase is required under Measure 25, which boosted the minimum wage of \$6.50 per hour to \$6.90 per hour last January.

The commissioner of the bureau must

adjust the minimum wage for inflation every year based on the Consumer Price Index. The annual adjustment is calculated every September, rounded to the nearest 5 cents and becomes effective the following January.

"Indexing provides small and predictable increases for businesses," said Bureau of Labor and Industries Commissioner Dan Gardner. "Use of the CPI adjustment offers businesses the ability to budget more effectively and accurately for increased costs."

The state of Washington also adjusts its minimum wage annually based on the CPI, which is compiled by the

U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics to measure the average change in prices over time in a fixed "market basket" of goods and services, such as food, shelter, medical care and transportation.

Before voters approved Measure 25, Oregon's minimum wage had not increased since 1999.

The federal minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour and has not increased since 1997.

In January, Oregon's minimum wage will be the fourth-highest in the nation behind Alaska and Washington at \$7.15 per hour and Connecticut at \$7.10 per hour.

## Officers on the Front Lines

Community policing starts with Neighborhood Officer program

BY SEAN P. NELSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Five Senior Neighborhood Officers in the Northeast Precinct specialize in long term crime problems by working with citizens and neighborhood associations.

The SNO program began in April 2001 to boost the image and effectiveness of community policing in the Portland Police Bureau.

"From my perspective, the Senior Neighborhood Program is really a front line in solving crime related problems in the neighborhoods," said Bruce Prunk, the former commander of the precinct who now serves as an assistant chief for the bureau.

While patrol officers respond to 911 and other radio calls in their neighborhoods, the SNOs relieve some of that pressure by handling longer term problems affecting livability such as street drug dealing and drug houses.

"They've been very effective. It's a good program and they do a really great job," Prunk said.

Officers Roger Axhelm, John Blair, Jeff Morris, Wayne Alderman, and Chris Traynor are led by Sgt. Scott Johnson in northeast.

According to Johnson, drug houses are tops on the list of citizen complaints.

Axhelm, who works in the Eliot, Boise, Humboldt and Piedmont neighborhoods, sees firsthand how his efforts provide time consuming relief to patrol officers.

"We as SNOs have the time and skills to look at drug houses individually and network with agencies and people," he said.

"The more we can make patrol officers proactive, the safer the patrol officers will be," Axhelm said. For example, if drug dealers are caught in an apartment complex, SNOs will work with patrol officers and the landlord to evict the problem person.

"Being a crackhead is not a protected class," Johnson said.

Johnson and Axhelm both recommend that landlords who have problems with drugs screen tenants better by asking questions such as, "Have you ever

continued ▼ on page B5