



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Judge Honored on New Post

Judge Adrienne Nelson (center) is honored during a reception hosted by Portland Community Reinvestment, Inc., on her appointment to the Multnomah County Circuit Court, the only African American woman on the bench in Oregon. Also pictured during the Friday celebration were (from left) Vicki Guinn, Deena Pierott, Lynn Jackson and Maxine Fitzpatrick.

Fair Weather Bikers Unite

As the sky drips more sunshine than rain, many Portlanders are looking at their bikes for the first time since September. As a year-round bike commuter, I keep a mental list of the reasons well-intentioned people stay off their bikes during cold and wet months. As leaf paste and gritty rain are once again held at bay, I've compiled another list for would-be commuters in need of a final push:

You want fair weather? You've got it. You want safety in numbers? Celebrate National Bike Month and Bike to Work Week (more info at bikeportland.org). On Friday, May 17, Pioneer Courthouse Square is the place to dip your toes into bike culture. Following organized rides from five Portland parks, bikers will meet at the square at 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. for free breakfast, tardy slips and bike entertainment. New com-



muters will be justly rewarded with a drawing for prizes (hint: a new bike).

I've also taken the liberty of anticipating needs you didn't even know you had:

Bike Swap Meet, Sunday, May 14 - Come for the buying, selling and trading just about anything bike-related, stay for the beer drinking and dancing, at Free Geek (1731 S.E. 10th Ave). The swap meet is

from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., followed by a dance party from 8 p.m. to midnight.

On Friday mornings break up your commute across the Willamette, with free breakfast on the Broadway and Hawthorne bridges (for more info visit shift2bikes.org).

Once May's brouhaha dies down, summer biking only gets better, when PedalPalooza kicks off June 9. The exhaustive list of bike fun goes on and on, with pedal potluck picnics, noonday rides, midnight mystery rides, the Multnomah County Bike Fair on June 24...

And one final need: you want a backache from riding lopsided due to your fat wallet? You've got it. Just watch your wallet grow as you pass the gas pumps. Ditching your car this spring couldn't be more fun for you if I gave you a clown nose, and you're likely to pass some clowns on bikes if you ride enough this summer.

Sarah Blount is a reporter for the Portland Observer.

DEMANDS Test TriMet

continued from Front

and cleaner engines, produce fewer emissions, and their battery power make them ideal for a stop-and-go use. TriMet is still in the experimental phase with the buses, with hopes to phase out conventional buses, although Young said they have no immediate plans to do so.

What the transit agency currently prefers is biodiesel, an alternative fuel that advanced beyond the testing stage a few months ago. Last month TriMet converted all 210 door-to-door LIFT buses for disabled and elderly passengers to a blend of 5-percent biodiesel and 95-percent diesel.

Biodiesel's greatest virtue may be its dependency on vegetable oil and used cooking oil from local restaurants and food manufacturers, compared to an unpredictable global petrol supply.

TriMet doesn't have specific plans to convert all of its 611 commuter buses, but is considering fueling the regular fleet with a small blend by the end of the year.

In the meantime, it promises to stick with their supplier, Salem-based SeQuential Biofuels, a biodiesel refiner and the first local biodiesel manufacturer in Oregon.

"Purchasing it locally is most important," said Peggy LaPoint, a TriMet spokeswoman. "We can get it cheaper out of the Midwest, but that benefit is offset by other economic and environmental costs."

As alternative fuels gain momentum, TriMet faces another big agenda in terms of light rail expansion to Clackamas and Washington counties, and an overhaul in the heart of the city - the downtown bus mall.

By now, many southeast residents may feel left out of all the MAX fun, but construction along I-205, with six and half miles of track and eight stations, will soon connect the Gateway Transit Center to Clackamas Town Center. Riders can expect to catch the MAX to or from Clackamas to Pioneer Square in less than 40 minutes, by September 2009.

Another project, the Washington County Commuter Rail, bypasses Portland all together, concentrating on a 14.7-mile Beaverton Transit Center and Wilsonville connection along the I-5 and highway 217 corridor. Construction for one of the nation's few exclusively suburban connections begins this year, with an estimated completion in 2008.

"As for downtown's makeover, called the Portland Mall Light Rail Project, things will get ugly before they improve. The bus service along Southwest Fifth and Sixth Avenues was state-of-the-art in 1978, but looking to the future means revitalizing the avenues, adding MAX service from Union Station to Portland State University and extending auto/bike lanes down the entire length.

The project begins in January and reopens September 2009, but tension is already mounting, with criticism of diverted bus traffic, business accessibility and safety during construction.

TriMet spokeswoman Mary Fetsch alleviates these concerns, promising quick construction that affects three to four blocks for two months at a time, instead of the entire mall all at once.

"We learned from the Interstate MAX," Fetsch said. "Accessibility to business throughout the project is a key focus."

DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE, THEIR IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES, ARE THE RICHES OF A COMMUNITY.

Bring your ideas and experiences to the Port of Portland and participate in the tapestry that makes our community such a special place.

PORT OF PORTLAND

The Port is an equal opportunity employer, committed to affirmative action. Please call the 24-hour Job Hotline at 503.944.7480 or visit www.portofportland.com.

The **Portland Observer** Established 1970
USPS 959-680
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PUBLISHER: Charles H. Washington
EDITOR: Michael Leighton
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mark Washington
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt
OFFICE MANAGER: Kathy Linder
REPORTER: Sarah Blount

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 1996 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

The Portland Observer—Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication—is a member of the National Newspaper Association—Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc. New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to **Portland Observer,**
PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

CALL 503-288-0033 FAX 503-288-0015
news@portlandobserver.com
subscription@portlandobserver.com
ads@portlandobserver.com

NEW SEASONS MARKET

Pharmacy
AT ARBOR LODGE

Meet your Pharmacist, Melinda Butler.

YOUR LOCALLY OWNED, NEIGHBORHOOD PHARMACY AT ARBOR LODGE
N INTERSTATE AVENUE & PORTLAND BLVD • 503.467.4848
www.newseasonsmarket.com • MON-FRI 9am-7pm • SAT 9am-6pm • SUN 10am-4pm

Yes! We are a regular pharmacy!

- ✓ We fill prescriptions - including antibiotics, high blood pressure medications, anti-depressants, birth control, and more.
- ✓ We have knowledgeable, friendly pharmacists who have the time to share information.
- ✓ Our prices are competitive. We accept most insurance plans and are adding others as requested.
- ✓ We specialize in custom compounding.

New pharmacy customers! Transfer a prescription & get a \$10 gift card. (one gift per customer please)