

METRO

The Portland Observer

Community Calendar

Mexico Community Celebration

Celebrate the colorful heritage of Mexico at the free Spring in Mexico Community Celebration, Friday, June 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holladay Park Plaza Retirement Community, 1300 N.E. 16th Ave. RSVPs are appreciated by calling 503-280-2216.

Restoring Wood Workshop

Learn about the Four R's of Vintage Woodwork: Restore, Repair, Replace or Renovate? Saturday, June 3 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Architectural Heritage Center, 701 S.E. Grand Ave. Admission is \$10 for AHC members and \$15 for the general public.

Hawthorne Second Thursday

Hawthorne Avenue will stay open a little longer on Thursday, June 8, with participating businesses hosting open houses, local artists and other special events for Second Thursday. For more information visit www.thinkhawthorne.com.

Business Association Meeting

North/Northeast Business Association Board meets the first Monday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Albina Community Bank, 2002 N.E. MLK Blvd. Food and refreshments provided by Pizza-A-GoGo; RSVP at 503-284-9013.

Cycle the Well Field

Join the Portland Water Bureau and Columbia Slough Watershed Council for a bike tour through Portland's Groundwater Protection Area, Saturday, June 10 from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Parkrose Transit Center, Northeast Sandy Boulevard and 95th Avenue. To register call Jill Wall at 503-281-1132 or email jill.wall@columbia.slough.org.

Run/Walk for Arthritis Help

The first annual 5K run/walk for the Child Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance will kick off on Sunday, June 11 at 8:30 a.m. at the Main Street Plaza on the Eastbank Esplanade in Portland. To pre-register visit www.signmeupsports.com and for more information visit www.CARRAgroup.org.

'How's Your Memory?'

A free community forum hosted by the Providence Center on Aging addresses the topic of aging and forgetfulness, 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 15 at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, Souther Auditorium, 9205 S.W. Barnes Road. For more information call Renee King at 503-513-8404.

Vancouver Junior Symphony

Support the future of music in southwest Washington at a fundraising concert for the Junior Symphony of Vancouver, featuring Bach, Handel and others, Saturday, June 17. Early auction begins at 7 p.m. and concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20, available at the door or by calling 360-696-4084, extension 5.

Loaves and Fishes Lunch

Seniors, join the Cherry Blossom Center Loaves and Fishes for lunch, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Each meal includes salad, bread, beverages, your choice of two entrees and dessert, for the suggested donation of \$2.75. Cherry Blossom Center is in the East Portland Community Center, 740 S.E. 106th.

36
years of
community service

Advocating for Minority Business

Sam Brooks honored for lifetime dedication

A strong advocate for minority, women and emerging small business in Oregon and the region has been recognized for his lifetime dedication to advancing business and individual success.

Portland State University President Daniel Bernstine presented the 2006 Vanport Legacy Award to Samuel Brooks in front of a crowd that included Brooks' friends, colleagues and co-workers attending the recent Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs Annual Luncheon.

The second annual award sponsored by the PSU School of Extended Studies honors outstanding contributions to community success.



Sam Brooks of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs is bestowed the Vanport Legacy Award from Portland State University.

"We are recognizing individuals, programs and organizations that reflect our commitment to the community, and Sam truly reflects that commitment," said Bernstine. "By engaging with the community we ensure Portland State University is a great place not only for learning and research, but is supportive of our community's economic growth and livability."

After four years in the Navy, Brooks has spent the rest of his life advocating for small, women, minority and emerging small businesses. He founded and operated S. Brooks and Associates, a northeast Portland employment agency, and in 1987 formed the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, which has grown to become the largest minority and most diverse business association in the Pacific Northwest.

Under Brooks' direction, OAME now provides technical assistance and access to capital, matching

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Housing Site to Face Park, Light Rail

TriMet picks design team

Plans are set for redevelopment of a large parcel of land just south of the Killingsworth MAX station, Patton Square Park and the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.

TriMet, the metro area's transit agency, announced that REACH Community Development will lead a team to design new housing on the property in the 5200 block of North Interstate Avenue, currently home to the Crown Motel.

"REACH shares TriMet's commitment to creating new housing in the Killingsworth MAX station area that will be an asset to the neighborhood and provide housing options for households affected by rising housing prices in north and northeast Portland," said TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen. "We want all the exciting things happening around light rail to be accessible to everyone in our community."

Since 1982, REACH has developed more than 1,000 units of affordable housing in Portland, most recently completing Station Place Tower in the Pearl District, a 14-story building providing 176 units of mixed-income housing for elderly people.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Crown Motel on Interstate Avenue will give way to new housing just across the street from Patton Square Park and steps away from both the Max Killingsworth Light Rail Station and Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.

"We are excited to have this opportunity to be part of the renaissance on Interstate Avenue," said Dee Walsh, REACH executive director. "The potential is enormous, so it's critical to do the first projects well and set a high standard."

The redevelopment site is across the street from Patton Square Park.

The Crown Motel currently occupies half the site. The remainder of the property is vacant. TriMet purchased the site with federal funds designated to stimulate station area development. The money was made available when the Interstate MAX light rail project was completed under budget and ahead of sched-

ule in May 2004.

SERA Architects and Walsh Construction Co. will be part of the REACH team. The architectural firm designed a 14-story residential building on the North Park Blocks in 2004, and the current Civic redevelopment project at Southwest 19th and Burnside.

The new North Interstate project program and design, including the number of units and sizes, commercial components, height and style, will be developed in consultation with the surrounding community and in response to available resources. The team hopes to complete the project by September 2008.

Distinguished Service Award

Sixth Grader leads by example

Eleven-year-old Erin Chamberlain proved that with a little spiritual guidance and a lot of kindness, anything is possible.

Chamberlain, a 6th Grader at Dexter McCarty Middle School in Gresham, led an effort that brought \$30,000 in gifts and donations to children of first responders in the Hurricane Katrina-ravaged areas of Gulfport and Biloxi, Miss.

Her tremendous work in bringing smiles to these devastated families, and, in demonstrating true community spirit, earned her the Portland Police Bureau's Distinguished Service Medal.

"I felt God wanted me to help the children who suffered through the hurricane," said Chamberlain, whose

father Scott Chamberlain is a detective for the Portland Police Bureau. "I felt he wanted me to take care of the children of the rescuers."

During Hurricane Katrina, the shock felt among Gulf Coast police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, dispatchers and other first responders doubled. Many saw their own homes damaged, families displaced, or lives disrupted just like the people they were trying to help. Their dual status of victims and responders made "Erin's Project" much more than an emergency supply mission.

With the additional sponsorship from Alaska Airlines, which do-

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Erin Chamberlain (left) who led an effort that brought \$30,000 worth of gifts and money to Hurricane Katrina first responder families in Mississippi, receives the Portland Police Bureau's Distinguished Service Medal from Chief Rosie Sizer.