

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2007 Volvo S80
AWD Sedan

Scandinavian Luxury = Sex Appeal

BY KATHLEEN CARR

To keep pace in the ultra-competitive mid-size luxury car segment, Volvo has introduced the revamped S80. Volvo is trying to capture "Scandinavian luxury," which translates into sex appeal. It may not cause gossip and commotion among valet parkers, but its much sleeker design captures the eye. The 2007 S80 is kind of like Cinderella and her homely stepsister (the boxy old Volvo 240's), at the ball. It's hard to believe the same company produced both cars.

The second generation S80 represents Volvo with understated suave-style, beginning with the compact and sophisticated front grille, turn signals integrated into the side mirrors and prominent "power bulge" in the hood, which looks good and helps to absorb the impact during an accident.

Hop inside the new S80, and you'll think Volvo should win the Nobel Prize for understated elegance with wood trim, leather upholstery and upgraded instrumentation. Everything is so cleanly and smartly laid with the controls being intuitive, that sitting behind the wheel has an overall calming effect. The interior exudes the essence of



Specifications: 4.4-Liter, 8-Cylinder, 311-Hp @ 5950 RPM & 325 lbs.-ft. Torque @ 3950 RPM Engine; AWD, Geartronic 6-Speed Automatic Transmission w/Adaptive Shift Logic; 17-City 25-Highway MPG; \$56,025 MSRP

Scandinavian luxury.

The 2007 S80 is loaded with luxury features such as eight-way power front seats, dual-zone automatic climate control, eight-speaker stereo with an in-dash CD changer and I-pod player jack, Bluetooth and one-touch power windows.

The S80 V8 has the wider 17-inch wheels and tires, an electronic parking brake and an air quality control system (which monitors incoming air for contaminants and switches to recirculation if necessary).

The Volvo S80 V8 offers up more power in the form of a 4.4-liter V8

rated for 311-hp and 325 lb-ft of torque. Because of the car's overall understated vibe, we were shocked at its growling engine when throttling up to the impressive power provided by the vibrant V8 engine. The V8 will do 0-60 in 6 seconds, not a small feat to accomplish.

The S80 V8 uses a 6-speed automatic, which allows the power to go to all four wheels via the electronically controlled all-wheel-drive. Grip and handling were outstanding in the 2007 Volvo S80 AWD, providing the luxury of a smooth quiet ride.

For 2007, Volvo has upped the safety ante. Such features as radar-enhanced adaptive cruise control system, which sounds a collision warning alerting drivers when they are following too close to the vehicle in front of them, has been added to the Volvo safety lineup. Other safety features include front-seat side airbags, full-length side curtain airbags, anti-whiplash front head restraints and tire-pressure monitoring. Run-flat tires are optional, along with the Blind Spot Information System, which uses cameras to monitor traffic to either side for problems, then warns drivers of the peril with illuminated warning lamps mounted near the side mirrors.

Volvo takes great effort and pride in being a safety leader in the industry, even providing exceptional and extremely cool (if not a bit paranoid) personal safety features such as the Personal Communicator System. When activated, it will inform owners of the current status of the S80 from up to a 300 foot distance, and is equipped with a heartbeat sensor alerting owners if someone is hiding in the car.

The 2007 Volvo S80 is not all flash and show; the extreme safety features probably won't make your heart race, but the \$56k sticker may make it skip a short beat. Yet it is a Volvo, which in Scandinavian, must translate as dependable, durable, safe and sexy!

Gift to Preserve Peninsula Rose Garden

Historic park gets help from Neil Kelly, Rejuvenation

This August, Portland Parks & Recreation will start a major preservation project at the 94-year old Peninsula Park Rose Garden in north Portland, funded in part by a \$50,000 joint gift from Neil Kelly Company and Rejuvenation, Inc., two long-time Portland companies.

This much needed project will restore broken and aging masonry in the park's garden, known for its 100-year-old fountain, collection of nearly 9,000 roses and for its celebrated bandstand once used for World War I patriotic demonstrations.

The gift to the Portland Parks Foundation will support the construction of two ramps leading up from the garden to the historically designated bandstand. The new construction will carefully



The historic Rose Garden at Peninsula Park in north Portland.

preserve the historic integrity of the original brick and stonework of the park.

One part of a multi-phase project, the ramps are anticipated to be completed by this October.

"Thanks to this generous gift," said Zari Santner, parks bureau director, "people with disabilities will be able to have, for the very first time, easy access up from the garden to the bandstand by means of

these new ramps.

The gift was given in recognition of the 60th anniversary of Neil Kelly Co., a regional design/build remodeler, custom homes builder and home repair firm, and the 30th

anniversary of Rejuvenation, Inc., a manufacturer and national direct marketer of authentic reproduction lighting and house parts.

It also honors Neil Kelly, who taught his eight children, including sons Tom and Jim, the importance of community service as they grew up and entered the business world. Tom Kelly is president of Neil Kelly Company; Jim Kelly is founder and CEO of Rejuvenation, Inc.

Rejuvenation and Neil Kelly employees will also donate their time and labor to the project through the companies' Day of Service programs.

"The Kelly family has long been involved in Portland's community life, especially in the north Portland neighborhoods. Our father Neil was passionate about seeing the Albina area revitalized," noted Tom Kelly.

Jim Kelly added: "Rejuvenation's first store was on Albina Avenue, and I lived upstairs. And our first company picnic was at Peninsula Park. So this project excited both Tom and me -

a gift that is an investment in the community's future, provides access to all and honors our architectural heritage."

The Peninsula Park Rose Garden is Portland's oldest public formal rose garden. Completed in 1913, much remains of the original features, including the lantern-style streetlights, the stone pillars, vast brickwork and the nearly 100-year-old fountain in the center of the garden.

Upon entering the park from Ainsworth Street and Albina Avenue, visitors are greeted by magnificent plantings of 65 rose varieties which border the steps leading to the sunken rose garden, the only one in Oregon. The octagonal bandstand overlooking the rose garden was constructed in 1913 and is now the site for many summer weddings and concerts. This wonderful gazebo-like structure is a National Heritage historical structure and was designated a Portland Historic Landmark in 1973. It is the last of its kind in Portland.

St. Johns Parade, Bazaar on Saturday

On Saturday, May 12, St. Johns will be the place to be on Saturday, May 12 as the north Portland community hosts its annual parade and throws in a festival of arts, crafts, live music and food.

The parade will take over

Lombard Street in honor of community volunteers, beginning at noon at Roosevelt High School and ending at St. Johns Plaza on the corner of Lombard and Philadelphia. The festival takes place at the plaza from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Harris' New Vision for Jefferson

continued ▲ from Metro

community," Harris says.

With Dudley gone, she wants to change the tone from earlier this year when she sent a note to Jefferson staff saying, "There are NOT to be any reporters in the building or any interviews unless they are approved by Mr. Dudley or Mrs. Harris. It will be documented if you do not follow this directive."

Optimism about a sustainable educational program at Jefferson is returning for Andrew Kulak, who has taught English at the school for seven years.

"We will not have to spend so much time scrambling with each reinvention if students are able to collaborate," he says.

Students like Akela Auer think that school administrators need to address Jefferson's "lab rat" status in the district.

"Jefferson is one of the best-funded Portland Public Schools, but it's not evident in what we need," she says. "Dudley dug our hole a little deeper instead of just leaving when no one liked him."

Harris now occupies the principal's office that contained Dudley, and his materials, just one month ago.

Officially leaving for medical reasons, Dudley may return; Harris wouldn't comment further on



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Jefferson High School Interim Principal Cynthia Harris chats with student LaQuana Price in a science class taught by Russ Steinbach (in background).

Dudley's "personnel matter," but she looks elsewhere for leadership inspiration.

"When I came in, and [departing superintendent] Vicki [Phillips] was here, I was totally impressed with her, so we'll continue her good work," she says.

Phillips' decision to leave before fully implementing academies at Jefferson has been intensely criticized, but Harris will try to carry forward the current plan.

She is not worried by the fact that the Young Men's Academy has so far only attracted 50 of the 250 expected applications.

"We're willing to start out with a small group," she says. Young Women's Academy administrator Aurora Lora "had a little more time for her plan," which has attracted 180 applications.

A large percentage of Jefferson's 560 students have learning disabilities and come from low-income or foster homes. But people involved with Jefferson consistently see their number 1 problem as perception. Young Men's Academy administrator Willie Holmes says, "We have to stick together to protect ourselves from the inaccuracies."

Harris thinks that a better reputation will begin with the "spiritual freedom of the Jefferson community" arising through dialogue. "I've learned you have to utilize the community brain," she says.

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