

New Land Means Learning New Laws

Immigrant group helps new arrivals adjust

Approximately 60 refugees from countries including Nepal, Ethiopia, Myanmar (formerly called Burma), Barundi and Cuba recently attended a workshop at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization on public safety, basic

laws, and emergency services. In the countries in which many of the attendees formerly lived, people in uniform were not seen as friends or advocates. In fact, many knew of police officers as figures of fear, if not terror.

The workshop was designed to begin changing those perceptions, as well as informing the new Americans about how to avoid trouble with the law, how to respond if stopped by police and when to call police for protection.



During an Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization event to learn about public safety, basic laws and emergency services, retired Oregon State Police supervisor Aaron Olson gives a bicycle helmet to Akalu Mamo from Ethiopia while IRCO's Brett Bolstad signs up others to receive the helmets.

Specific workshop topics include traffic and criminal laws, domestic violence laws, identity theft, using 9-1-1 for emergencies, making non-emergency calls to police and what to do if stopped by a police officer. It also includes a section on bicycle safety.

The facilitator of the workshop was Aaron T. Olson, a retired supervisor with the Oregon State

Police. Most participants heard his words through an interpreter, as most had been in the United States for just one to three months.

Following the completion of the workshop, 11 bicycle helmets were given to participants. The helmet program was organized by Olson when he recognized the participants could not afford to buy helmets but they and their children were using

bicycles on the streets. He purchases the helmets from manufacturers at a special non-profit price of just \$2.50 each and he solicits donations for the purchases from various groups.

The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization and Olson have partnered to present this workshop once a quarter to newly arrived refugees since 2002.

The NE COALITION OF NEIGHBORHOODS WELCOMES

Mayor Tom Potter to Jefferson High School
January 14-18, 2008

Thank you for your support in building livable communities for a better quality of life.

VOLUNTEERS Needed!

January 11, 2008 - 9 am to 11 am
Outreach to Businesses

Be part of this great event at Jefferson High!
Help spread the word and sign up today!

January 12, 2008 - 10 am to 2 pm
Door to Door Outreach

Contact: Sylvia Evans, Cross-Cultural Neighborhood Organizer, 503-823-4113 or sylvia@necoalition.org
Shannon Olive, Office Manager, 503-823-4575 or shannon@necoalition.org

Want to be involved in your neighborhood? Since 1974, the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods has organized and advocated for community involvement.

Fill out the form below and mail or fax to: NE Coalition of Neighborhood Office
4815 NE 7th Ave, Portland, OR 97211 / fax: 503-823-3150
Contact: Robin Denburg 503-823-4135 or robin@necoalition.org
For more information about the NE Coalition, go to www.necoalition.org

WHAT A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR YOUTH AND OUR CITY!

BUILDING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Your Name: _____

Check next to the way you'd prefer to be contacted about activities in your neighborhood.

- phone: (circle one) home/cell/work (____) _____
- e-mail: _____

Please do not send monthly e-newsletter

Neighborhood/or address if unknown: _____

I want to get involved! What are your interests?

- Land Use/Transportation Issues (Planning, Zoning of Property in Neighborhood)
- Public Safety in Neighborhood (Community Policing, Graffiti, Violence Prevention)
- Volunteer (Door to Door Outreach, Graphic Design, Phone Bank)
- Restorative Listening Circle on Gentrification
- Neighborhood Events (Block Party, Clean-Up, Concert in the Park, etc.)
- Yes! I'm interested in getting involved in my Neighborhood Association.

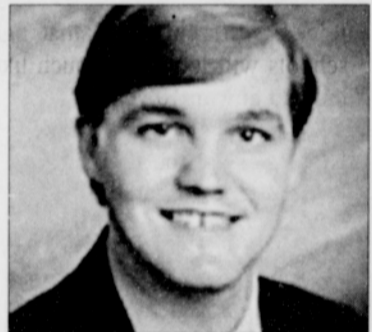
THANK YOU!

Political Leaders to Step Aside

Eric Sten and Maria Rojo de Steffey, two progressive political leaders in Portland, announced last week that they would be leaving their elected offices.

Rojo de Steffey will not seek reelection to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners after her term ends in December. Sten said he will resign from the Portland City Council in April, opening up the post almost two years before his term expires.

Rojo de Steffey said she made the decision some time ago, but temporarily lost sight of the reasons during the controversy over naming North Interstate Avenue



Eric Sten



Maria Rojo de Steffey

after Hispanic labor leader Cesar Chavez.

Declaring she will not run again for any public office, she has been in public service 20 years, seven of them in elected office.

First elected in 1996, Sten conceived the 10-year plan to end homelessness and pushed the Portland Development Commission to include affordable housing in the Pearl District and South Waterfront.

Arrest Made in Shooting Spree

Police have arrested a man in the deaths of two people killed during a weekend last November that saw a brother and sister killed and a man killed when he interrupted a burglary at his home.

Lovene Sterling Gates, 24, is charged in the deaths of Charles Callaway, 32, who was shot in his North Montana Avenue home, and Patricia Andrews, 47, who was found dead within a few hours of the killing and just a couple of blocks away along Minnesota Avenue next to the I-5 freeway wall at Killingsworth Street.

Gates was not charged in the death of Andrews' brother, Rickey



Lovene Gates

Janell Andrews, 48, who was shot and killed on North Williams Street later the same weekend. Police said physical and forensic evidence connects Gates to Callaway and Patricia Andrews' murder.

A key break in the case came when detectives learned that a jar of coins had been stolen from Callaway's house and that the Interstate Fred Meyer had surveillance images of a person cashing in loose change from that jar the night of Callaway's death.

Gates has a lengthy criminal record of property, drug and weapons offenses.

Gay Rights Law on Hold

Candlelight vigils were held last week by supporters of gay rights after a state domestic partnership law was put on hold just before it was to go into effect on Jan. 1, pending a February hearing.

Opponents asked U.S. District Judge Michael W. Mosman, a Bush appointee, to intercede after the Oregon Secretary of State's office ruled that they had failed to collect enough valid signatures on a referendum to block the law.

The Oregon measure covers benefits related to inheritance rights, child-rearing and custody,

joint state tax filings, joint health, auto and homeowners insurance policies, visitation rights at hospitals and others. It does not affect federal benefits for married couples, including Social Security and joint filing of federal tax returns.

Opponents of the measure said the state's review process was flawed, disenfranchising citizens who had signed petitions.

The state's largest gay rights group, Basic Rights Oregon, said the judge's decision was unfair to for committed, caring couples and families.

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you click. we deliver. (or pull up for pick up)