

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## 2009 Subaru Forester

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Subaru Forester gained following among those who appreciated its rare combination of SUV-like cargo space, wagonlike handling and all-weather versatility. The Forester comes with permanent all-wheel-drive and a choice of two engines. The turbocharged engine is part of the new 2009 Subaru Forester 2.5XT Limited.

This Subaru Forester is powered by 2.5L turbocharged Boxer 4-cylinder engine which produces 224 hp. The Forester I was driving came equipped with Subaru's 4-speed automatic transmission with SPORTSHIFT. The 4-speed was smooth and the SPORTSHIFT system allowed me to hold gears longer and get the most out of the turbocharged engine. The rack-and-pinion steering in the XT has been upgraded to provide an even tighter steering radius, always good for parking and maneuvering.

The Forester was dazzling in its sure-footedness and comfortable ride, never once whimpering in the face of abuse. The rack-and-pinion steering in the XT has been upgraded to provide an even tighter steering radius, always good for parking and maneuvering. Driver

Vehicle Specifications: 2.5L DOHC Intercooled Turbo engine; four speed automatic transmission w/SPORTSHIFT; 19 city mpg, 24 highway mpg; MSRP \$27,689.



visibility is excellent in all directions, thanks to careful pillar design.

The interior of the Subaru Forester is clean, comfortable and nicely equipped. Thanks to the tilt and telescopically adjustable steering column, 10-way power adjustable driver's seat, heated front seats

and leather-wrapped steering wheel and shifter, finding a comfortable driving position is quick and easy. A Navigation system is optional on 2.5X Limited and 2.5XT Limited models.

The functional hood scoop on the XT has a smaller bulge than before, but its opening is no less wide, thanks

to a redesign of the turbocharger intercooler opening, and the steeper slope of the hood. The headlights with amber turn signals are shaped like gold-tipped eagles' wings, and the uplifting grille that fills the space between them has lost its boxiness, with corners upturned.

Its style used to be distinctive,

but it's now less so, as its shape has morphed toward the others, while theirs has morphed toward the Forester's. The Forester 2.5XT Limited is an impressive effort, it offers familiar Forester features along with increased comfort and refinement in an endearingly rugged package.

## Input on PCC Plans Missing

continued from Front

be next. "We've had that dark cloud hanging over us for quiet sometime," said Sardo, who sporadically asks her landlord if PCC has come knocking.

Abe Proctor, PCC community relations officer, doesn't know the details of PCC's expansion because he says they have yet to be created.

PCC is currently in the process of soliciting bids from design firms that will come up with plans for the campus' expansion, he said.

Proctor also noted that there will be representatives from the community on the committee overseeing the project, and stressed that the public will be kept in the loop.

He wasn't able to produce

the number of properties PCC has acquired in the past, nor a list of properties it intends to acquire, saying that was best taken up with the PCC board.

Previously the Portland Observer reported that PCC had

*We've had that dark cloud hanging over us for quiet sometime.*

—Jordana Sardo, branch organizer for the Freedom Socialist Party

acquired properties on Killingsworth Street and Albina and Michigan Avenues, including three homes, a community church and the Jockey Club, a local bar that PCC tore down a

few years ago. PCC has yet to respond to how it will use residential property it acquired on Church Street on a block that is outside of the college's Impact Mitigation Plan, the land use document designed to guide expansion.

Brian Murtagh, a local architect and member of the Humboldt Voices Committee, said he's had trouble getting PCC to sit down with them to get a better handle of what the

college's intentions are. "The typical response is 'nothing has been decided,'" said Murtagh of what the reaction has been when he has spoken with PCC.

He also said PCC does some things that make him suspicious. He said that while he keeps hearing from PCC that it doesn't have a plan hashed out he found a surprisingly detailed description of the project in the last budget approved by the college.

Murtagh said he also found it odd that the PCC put out Requests for Proposals for bids, which is typically for projects that have been planned out.

He still hopes that PCC will engage the community in good faith.

"If the plans do work, it's a very good thing," he said.

## Mortgage Help gets Bogged Down

continued from Front

costs are not the way to do this," said Melissa Briggs, counsel for the Oregon Bankers Association.

The committee also heard from proponent of the bill who told horror stories of being put on hold for long periods of time and going through dozens of transfers only to not get a straight answer from their bank.

The bill would require a trained mediator to sit down with the lender and borrower and would

work out a solution using federal guidelines. If the bank refuses the offer, it would have to pay a fee when selling the house.

The financial services lobby has proposed an alternative bill that would merely require banks to give more notice that lenders are in foreclosure.

Last week President Barack Obama signed a bill that expands a \$300 billion program that encourages lenders to help keep people in their homes.

But the law won't have maximum effect, unless lenders ac-

tually sit down and negotiate with borrowers, said Aimee Olin, executive director of Oregon ACRON.

"At this point I think our legislators need to stand up for families that are hurting," said Olin, who added that most of the people who come to her organization looking for help have made responsible decisions and are usually facing foreclosure because of job loss of medical bills. It's common for a homeowner to get in touch with their lender, she said.

Olin also pointed out that foreclosed homes tend to drag down the property values of surrounding homes as they go uncare for and attract unsavory activity.

But while legislators in Salem try to come to some sort of resolution Howard sits nervously in her home in outer southeast, which might not be hers for much longer.

"Where are we going to get a solution to this place," she said. "We've worked hard for this place."



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