

On NE ALBERTA ST Street

Earth Day Clean-Up

Allberta Main Street will host a neighborhood cleanup event for Earth Day, Saturday, April 23.

The organization, one of the three Portland Main Street Projects, is working to help Alberta Street achieve its full potential as a vibrant neighborhood and destination—both for members of the immediate community and Portland as a whole.

One of the main goals has been to implement a new waste pickup and graffiti-removal program, to help keep the street sparkling. To kickoff weekly street cleanings, the group is hosting a neighborhood "Deep Clean", encouraging community members to come out for a morning of trash pickup and good "clean" fun.

Prizes will be awarded for the most recyclables collected and for the strangest item found. Volunteers are encouraged to participate as teams or come out and join our team-less team; come in costume, if desired, with

additional prizes for best team spirit.

Trash bags will be provided. Volunteers will be assigned areas of the Alberta Street neighborhood when they register the morning of the event at Alberta Central at Northeast 18th Avenue and Alberta Street.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own gloves or any tools they have that will aid in clean up. Some tools will be provided. All participants will receive a special thank you gift from Alberta Main Street and an After Party—including refreshments and merriment—is planned to celebrate the day's hard work.

Sign up in advance at albertamainst.org or simply show up and register at Alberta Central. Additional volunteers are sought to aid in setup and breakdown of the day's events or to act as quadrant leaders. Contact info@albertamainst.org for more information.

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SUSTAINABILITY



Plastic garbage recovered from Oregon beaches are formed into a likeness of a whale's skeleton in the 'Washed Ashore' exhibit coming to Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus in southwest Portland.

Plastics Threaten Life in the Ocean

Art exhibit exposes dangers

An art exhibit exposing the dangers of plastics pollution in the world's oceans is coming to Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus.

"Washed Ashore," is a community effort to build giant sculptures of sea creatures most threatened by discarded plastics in the ocean. Sponsored by the Artula Institute, hundreds of volunteers and school children have helped create these sculptures, including a sea turtle, giant fish, jellyfish, coral, squid and even a whale skeleton.

The exhibit will be open to the public from 3 to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday, April 20 through June 10 at the Sylvania Campus, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave.

All of the plastic that make up the

pieces have been picked up from Oregon beaches.

Community members of all ages have been working together to gather the beach plastics and construct giant sculptures of the marine animals most affected by the plastic pollution. Since the inception of the project, thousands of pounds of plastic pollution have been processed into art supplies by the "Washed Ashore" effort.

"Pelicans eat lids and lighters and are dying of starvation," said the project's director and lead artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi of Bandon. "Fish eat plastic pieces and are getting poisoned. Sea turtles devour plastic bags thinking they are jellyfish. Seals are being choked by plastic rings. Our beaches are being littered by garbage."

Pozzi said she wants to call attention to the voluminous presence of plastics in the marine environment as

one of the biggest threats to the survival of life in the ocean. In some places small bits of plastic outweigh plankton by six to one, she reports, and estimates that entanglement kills 50,000 to 90,000 fur seals alone.

For 30 years she has been an active arts educator with work centered on the ocean.

"The 'Washed Ashore' project has taken my artwork in a new direction," Pozzi said. "I have always used various types of discarded and recycled materials, as well as new materials, to represent the strange and undiscovered creatures that dwell in the underwater world. Now, I have challenged myself to buy nothing except wire and metal framework materials, gathering every other bit of material I use from local beaches - my sculptures are now 98 percent discarded plastic. This way of working is the biggest creative challenge of my life."