

# YouthPass for All Sought

## Justice groups point to unequal treatment

BY CERVANTE POPE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Not all school districts in Portland are treated equally. That has become more apparent as the Youth Environmental Justice Alliance and OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon struggle to get a YouthPass program expanded that provides free TriMet transportation services to students in Portland high schools who do not live within walking distance of their school.

The biggest problem is that YouthPass doesn't reach past the attendance areas of the Portland School District, leaving the predominately minority Parkrose and David Douglas High Schools stranded if the students live outside walking parameters or have

missed the school bus.

Activists with the two nonprofit groups want Multnomah County to live up to the standards established by the Multnomah Youth Commission's official Bill of Rights and to fund transportation services for all high school students, insuring that all local youth have a successful educational experience.

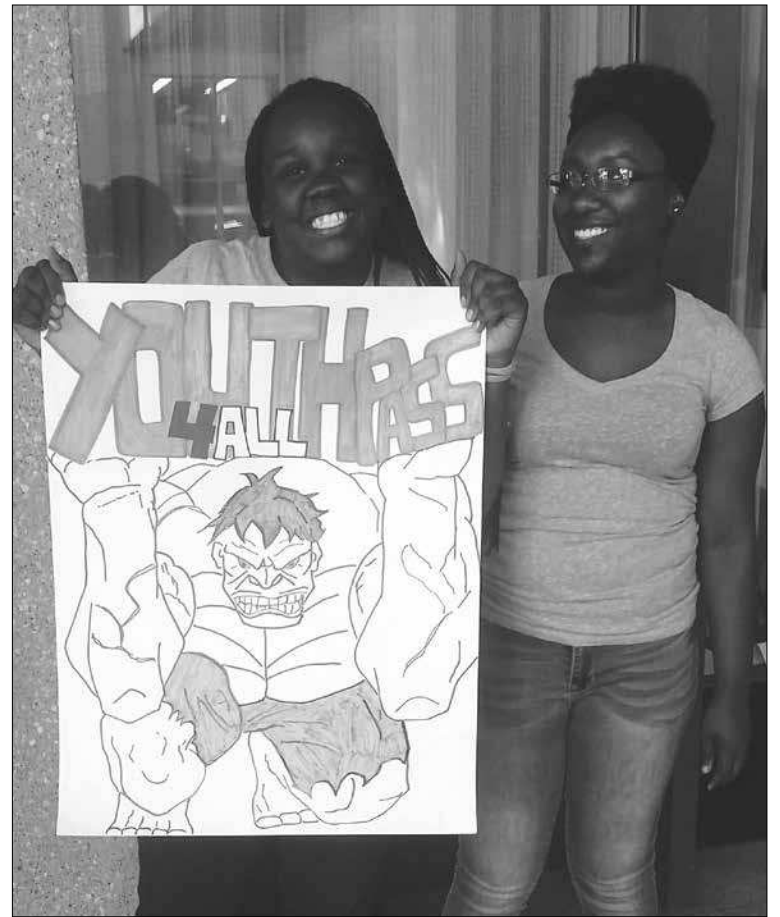
A youth transit report issued last month surveyed 2,500 East Portland students detailing their transportation needs. It found that with 54 percent of David Douglas students being minority, and 76 percent classifying as low income, many students' parents either cannot afford daily transit passes or are in positions where they cannot provide an alternate means of

transportation to school.

The report also shows that over half of students at Portland's Franklin High say the program has made them less likely to miss class and nearly half utilize the program to participate in after school activities and internships.

YEJA and OPAL held a recent rally at Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury's office to present their need.

"As a student who currently has YouthPass, since I go to Franklin High School, I'm extremely disappointed to hear that the county doesn't find the program important enough to fund it. I believe that without YouthPass, I wouldn't be the successful student that I am today," says student and YEJA member Mayleena Robinson.



Students Mayleena Robinson and Yvette Dumer proudly support expanding free TriMet services to young people living in Parkrose and other parts of Multnomah County which are not covered as part of an agreement with the city of Portland.



### Wells Fargo Presents the 2016 Good in the Hood Music and Food Festival

June 24, 25, 26

Lillis Albina Park adjustment to Harriet Tubman

North Flint St and North Russell St

LIVE MUSIC: Jazz • Blues • R&B • Latin • Pop Conscious Hip/  
Hop • NEO-Soul • DJ intermission Multicultural Food • Market-  
place • Information Village • Legacy Health Pavilion



Come meet the Oregon DUCK at the  
Good in the Hood Parade

WELLS  
FARGO

Saturday June 25th, at 11 AM, starting at King School

East on 6th Prescott St—South on MLK—West on Russell St

Web—[www.goodinthehood.org](http://www.goodinthehood.org); GITH hotline 971.302.6380

Volunteers needed—[volunteers@goodinthehood.org](mailto:volunteers@goodinthehood.org)

Want to be a sponsor—[shawnpenney@goodinthehood.org](mailto:shawnpenney@goodinthehood.org)

Festival Participation—[feedback@goodinthehood.org](mailto:feedback@goodinthehood.org)

The Portland Observer

Established 1970 ———— USPS 959 680 ————  
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 2008 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. The Portland Observer—Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication—is a member of the National Newspaper Association—Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association



PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr.

EDITOR: Michael Leighton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Rakeem Washington

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Leonard Latin

Office Manager/Classifieds:

Lucinda Baldwin

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt

CALL 503-288-0033

FAX 503-288-0015

[news@portlandobserver.com](mailto:news@portlandobserver.com)

[ads@portlandobserver.com](mailto:ads@portlandobserver.com)

[subscription@portlandobserver.com](mailto:subscription@portlandobserver.com)

Postmaster: Send address changes to  
Portland Observer, PO Box 3137,  
Portland, OR 97208



## The Week in Review

### Lead Found in Schools

Test results showing elevated levels of lead in drinking fountains at Rose City Park and Creston Elementary schools have prompted the school district to turn off the fountains for all Portland public schools until testing is completed this summer. The tests were conducted earlier this spring, but just released on Friday, causing a public outcry.

### PSU Protesters Meet Board

After shutting down the Portland State University Board of Trustees' last two meetings with protests, the board decided to invite and sit with over 30 PSU students to discuss campus issues in a special meeting last week. Student-led panels spoke out on rising tuition and health insurance costs, campus diversity issues, and opposition to armed police officers on campus. A future discussion is planned on the subjects of student life, academic programs and curriculum.

### Boys' Joyride Ends in Crash

Two boys, ages 13 and 11, were arrested for stealing and subsequently crashing a vehicle in north Portland last week. The 11-year-old was driving and crashed the car into two parked vehicles along North Juneau Street and ditched the vehicle on North Farragat Street. No one was harmed during the crash.

### Greener Pastures at Grant

An award-winning Franklin High School teacher has decided to leave the school for Grant High

for unidentified reasons. Susan Anglada Bartley's Advanced Scholar Program raised Franklin's graduation rates, especially among its black students. PPS spokeswoman Christine Miles says Franklin will continue on with the rewarding program and are seeking a replacement for Bartley.

### Adopting 'Blue Lives Matter'

Louisiana Gov. John Bell Edwards has expanded hate-crime laws to include protection of police, emergency medical crews and firefighters, an effort the state's Republican ran Legislature has called "Blue Lives Matter," in response to the murder of a Texas sheriff who was shot at a gas station for "wearing a uniform."

### Booze Tied to Shooting

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife released a police report last week detailing three factors that contributed to Portland Police Chief Larry O'Dea accidentally shooting a friend during a hunting accident in Harney County in April. Listed was an apparent use of intoxicants by all parties present, the careless handling of a firearm and faulty equipment.

### Strip Club Tax Scam

The owners of two local strip clubs have been found guilty of filing false tax returns to defraud the government. Brothers David and Daniel Kiraz and their father George Kiraz, owners of Cabaret Lounge I and II, each face up to eight years in prison.