

# Wattles Club to be renamed the Lionel Clegg Boys & Girls Club

Honoring years of service and dedication to the community

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro Area and PCC Structural, a division of Precision Castparts Corp., ("PCC") announced the honoree for the Wattles Club located in the Lents neighborhood in SE Portland, which will be renamed in January 2024. PCC Structural has made a transformative investment in the mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro Area through a 10-year partnership and is using this as an opportunity to honor a leader of color from the community to rename the Club facility. The Wattles Boys & Girls Club will now become the Lionel Clegg Boys & Girls Club – powered by PCC Structural.

"After an extensive community-wide nomination process that included voting by youth Club



Lionel Clegg, OnPoint Credit Union's 2021 Educator of the Year to have the wattles club renamed. Photo credit Whitney Lyons.

members, Mr. Lionel Clegg was selected as the honoree for renaming the Wattles Club", said Terry Johnson, CEO for Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro. Mr. Clegg is a first-grade teacher

at Woodlawn Elementary where he has taught for 24 years, which is the same school he attended as an elementary student growing up in NE Portland. He was named OnPoint Credit Union's 2021 Ed-

ucator of the Year and was featured on the Today show for his inspiring work as an educator that same year. The significance of honoring Mr. Clegg as an educator as the building honoree for this

Club is that the Wattles Club was first an elementary school (Lents Elementary) prior to when it was converted to the first Boys Club in Portland back in 1954.

"We are extremely excited to honor Mr. Clegg by renaming the Wattles Club for him. He is truly a dynamic community leader here in Portland and deserves to be celebrated because of his commitment and dedication to educating students in the classroom. This is a significant moment for us because the Wattles Club is our flagship location where we established our very first stand-alone club in 1954 by converting the old Lents Elementary school into a Club after we were initially founded in 1946. We've been serving the Portland Metro Area for 77 years, but directly serving the Lents neighborhood for 70 years at this particular location. We really appreciate PCC Structural for partnering with us and creating the opportunity for us to take such a unique approach to renaming this particular Club", said Johnson.

play it forward

## for Oregon Heritage

Maybe you buy a Scratch-it now and then. Maybe you're a big fan of Keno. Or maybe you get together with a friend or two for an evening of Video Lottery. Lots of people play a little lottery now and then. And when they do, funds build up to help support the places and programs Oregonians care about.

The Letitia Carson Legacy Project is a perfect example. In 1868, Letitia became the first Black woman to successfully file a Homestead Act claim in Oregon. But there is so much more to her story. Born into slavery in Kentucky, Letitia came to Oregon in 1845 on the Oregon Trail. Upon the death of her partner (a white man), she was unacknowledged as his heir under the law, losing everything before fighting for her rights in court. Her story is one of remarkable persistence and triumph over a system designed to exclude her.

The Letitia Carson Legacy Project preserves Letitia's heritage online, making her story available to all. Through Oregon State Parks, Lottery dollars were granted to the project to help fund the effort to preserve her memory.

When you are keen on Keno or get an itch for a Scratch-it, remember, your lottery play is working hard to make Oregon a better place and preserve our important stories. For all of us. No matter how you play, you play it forward.

Site of former Carson homestead, 2022  
Soap Creek Valley, Benton County  
**Photo by Barbara Forrest-Ball,**  
Oregon State University

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