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LOCAL NEWS

Its Sickle Cell Awareness Month

One in 3 African American Blood Donors is a Match

During Sickle Cell Awareness Month in September, the American Red Cross is called on African American and Latino blood donors to help ensure a diverse blood supply to help meet the transfusion needs of those battling sickle cell disease – the most common inherited blood disorder in the U.S.

In the U.S. sickle cell disease impacts more than 100,000 people, most of whom are of African descent or Latino descent. Blood and platelet donations are vital in supporting patients with sickle disease undergoing gene therapies and stem cell transplants, as well as those who need regular blood transfusions to alleviate pain and help manage their disease.

New cell-based gene therapies provide groundbreaking treatment options for people battling sickle cell disease in the U.S., but blood donations remain critical to helping ensure these medical procedures can be completed. During



Sickle Cell Awareness Walk 2024 Pastor Taylor and Charletta Malone

Sickle Cell Awareness Month in September, the American Red Cross is hosting over 500 blood drives nationwide and highlighting the vital role of blood donors to support these and other life-changing treatments for patients with this inherited blood disorder. As many as 50 units of blood and up to 25 units of platelets may be needed for a single patient

undergoing gene therapy for sickle cell disease.

Seasonal changes can trigger pain crises for those battling sickle cell – possibly increasing the need for lifesaving blood transfusions. As summer ends, book a time to give blood by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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PP&R Presents Portland Arbor Day 2024 Bringing Communities Together

Portland Parks & Recreation's (PP&R) Urban Forestry team presents Portland Arbor Day 2024 at East Portland's Glenfair Park on Saturday, October 12. The event will provide a chance to celebrate Portland's trees, plant new ones, and learn about the value and services trees provide through family-friendly, fun activities. Portland has celebrated Arbor Day since 1889 — bringing communities together to recognize the importance and value of trees. Trees provide essential services, including making Portland a healthier and safer place to live.

"Trees are part of the very fabric of our city," notes Portland City Forester Jenn Cairo. "They help keep Portland green and healthy. Trees offer shade; lower temperatures in homes and neighborhoods; provide wildlife habitat, beauty, and cleaner air; and help mitigate the effects of climate



Prior Portland Arbor Day (Photo Courtesy of Portland Parks & Recreation)

change. Arbor Day is a wonderful chance to celebrate all the value which trees offer to people and nature!"

Due to our changing climate, Portland's hot dry summers have made it more difficult for trees planted in April to succeed. By moving Arbor Day to

October, planted new trees can take advantage of the nice wet winter months to help them get established. PP&R is excited about this change and to provide an opportunity to work with Portlanders to plant new trees and give them the best opportunity to thrive.