

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Unemployment Payments Rise

As of July 3, the amount paid to Oregonians filing for unemployment insurance benefits will increase slightly. The maximum weekly benefit amount an individual can receive will increase to \$507, while the minimum amount will be \$118.

Under Oregon law, each year the Employment Department recalculates the maximum and minimum amounts paid weekly to those filing for unemployment benefits. The amounts are set as percentages of the average weekly wage earned by Oregonians. The minimum unemployment figure is 15 percent of average weekly wage, and the maximum amount is 64 percent. Both dollar amounts are rounded down to the nearest dollar as required by law.

The new payment amounts are up slightly from those paid over the past year. The maximum payment over the past 12 months has been \$496, with a \$116 minimum payment. The change affects new unemployment insurance claims filed with an effective date on or after July 3, 2011. Those with existing unemployment claims will continue to receive the same weekly amount.

Gardening Workshop

Want to grow organic food but not sure how? Boost your garden IQ with simple steps to success at a free workshop Saturday, July 16, 1 to 2:30 p.m. From picking edibles for the right spot and season to prepping the soil and watering waste-free, get the skinny on weeding, managing pests and growing a bountiful garden without toxic chemicals. Plus, learn where to find plants, seeds and more tips for easy organic gardening.

Free event includes complimentary coupons and publications. Advance registration required; call THPRD at 503-629-6350. Hosted by Metro, Oregon State University Extension Service and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District. Learn more at

www.oregonmetro.gov/gardenworkshops.

Splash Pads Open for Summer Fun in Parks



Portland Parks & Recreation has opened its newest water splash pad at Farragut Park, at North Kerby and Farragut Streets in North Portland. The project has been in the works for about a year and a half, and includes a renovation of the Farragut Park restrooms and an improved walking trail system. Splash pads are also currently open at:

Columbia Park, N. Lombard Street and Woolsey Ave.
Essex Park, SE 79th Avenue & Center Street
Earl Boyles Park, SE 112th Avenue & Boise Street
Grant Park, NE 33rd Avenue & US Grant Place.
Kenton Park, 8417 N. Brandon Avenue

McCoy Park, N Trenton Street & Newman Avenue
Northgate Park, N Geneva Avenue & Fessenden Street
Peninsula Park, N. 700 Rosa Parks Way
Raymond Park, SE 118th Avenue & Raymond Street
Woodlawn Park, NE 13th Avenue & Dekum Street

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PORTLAND JULY 2011

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If you have an event you want to share with the community, email it two weeks in advance to *The Skanner* at info@theskanner.com

Thursday July 7

EAT KALE AND PLAN FOR THE EMERSON GARDEN. You're invited! Now that so many veggies have been planted and a fence and learning center constructed, community members of all ages have a chance to come up with maintaining, harvesting & educational strategies. Please bring a chair and a snack to share with everyone. RSVP to cassie@groundworkportland.org or call 503-662-2590. 6 - 7:30 p.m. 822 NE Emerson St.

Friday July 8

2011 ICE CREAM CHURN-A-MENT: Free ice cream. Local chefs will compete to see who will be the first to freeze their ice cream using old fashioned ice cream churns. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Friday thru Sunday July 8 - 10

HELVETIA LAVENDER FESTIVAL! U-Cut lavender, live music, food, artisan crafts & much more. Friday Noon - 5p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Helvetia Lavender Farm is located at 12814 NW Bishop Rd in Hillsboro.

Saturday July 9

18TH ANNUAL LYLE'S MYLES RUN/WALK FOR HIV AIDS PROGRAMS IN VANCOUVER: The run/walk is open to anyone and their dogs who are willing to make a donation of \$10 per person, \$5 youth ages 15 and under and \$2 per leashed dog. 8:30 a.m. in Esther Short Park in Vancouver, WA

MISSISSIPPI STREET FAIR CELEBRATES THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY. Free music all day. The festival spans from N. Mississippi Ave. from Fremont to Skidmore and is now Portland's largest street fair. For times go to www.mississippiave.com

FOURTH PLAIN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. Food, live music, dancing and a whole lot of fun. There is something for everyone. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. at Warrior Field 4th Plain & Norris, 2000 Norris Rd.

Friday - Sunday July 15 - 17

SAND IN THE CITY: The greatest beach party in the country is coming to Portland' living room. Fun for all ages with majestic sand sculptures, interactive youth exhibits and much more. \$3 per person before 6:30 p.m., \$5 per person after 6:30 p.m. \$10 per family at all times. Pioneer Courthouse Square.

62ND ANNUAL SALEM ART FAIR & FESTIVAL: Ranked 20th in the nation, the Salem Art Fair & Festival offers something for everyone. Friday and Saturday hours are 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. admission to get in. Bush Pasture Park, 600 Mission St SE, Salem