Volunteers

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do — and it just creates a better understanding," Grandjean said.

Not to be confused with Neighborhood Watch, Citizen Volunteers can cover a broader territory.

"In a Neighborhood Watch situation, you are tied geographically," Grandjean said. "The most powerful thing that Neighborhood Watch [volunteers] get to do is get to know their neighbors. You're familiar enough to where, if something is unusual, like someone's garage is open and it's usually not, I have a phone number and can give you a call and ask you, 'Hey did you know your garage was open?'"

> 'We just want them to be good witnesses and report it'

Citizen volunteers can be spotted in grey and navy blue uniforms in neighborhood parks and trails, schools, residential areas and commerce centers.

Citizen Volunteers in Policing are facilitated and sanctioned by the Gresham Police Department.

Of the 26 people who make up the current force, eight are women while the rest are men. Sgt. Mike Amend, who oversees the program, estimates that two-thirds of the program's volunteers are retired.

The department told *The Skanner* it does not keep records on the volunteers' race.

Once added to the force, volunteers remain there until they choose to leave or are found guilty of violating the program's guidelines.

Things that could lead to dismissal include confronting someone directly while on the beat, or carrying a weapon while on force time.

"We don't want them involved in any altercation," Grandjean said. Obviously, they can't do anything if someone assaults them or something like that, but we don't want them to intervene if they were to see something. We just want them to be good witnesses and report it."

When asked if a registered gun owner could carry a firearm while patrolling for the volunteer force, Grandjean said while they would not be in violation of any law, it would lead to immediate dismissal.

To date, no one has been dismissed from the Community Volunteer force.

Applicants must be 21 years of age or older and live or own a business within Gresham's city limits. They must also pass a DMV and criminal background check and be fingerprinted.

To apply to become a Citizen Volunteer in Policing for the Gresham Police Department, visit https://greshamoregon.gov/CVIP/.

Hood to Coast

PHOTO BY BERNIE FOSTER

Thousands showed up from all over the world to participate in the Hood to Coast relay, but extreme weather conditions provided an unexpected challenge for those taking part in the already-grueling 195 mile-long trek. Winds reached speeds of up to 90 miles per hour with heavy rain falling upon the some 19,000 participants along the path, which starts at Timberline Lodge and ends at Seaside. Organizers considered shortening or cancelling the race for the first time in its 34-year history, but ultimately the race went on. Pictured here from is The Skanner's sponsored team, one of the first African American teams to participate in Hood to Coast. From left to right: Versa Lampkin Black; Stacey Triplett; Joyce Brown; Edwina Wasson; Kathy Woods; Sharon Foster; June Clarke; Donneshya ; Gahlena Easterly; Joy Proby; Shenell and Mary Hitt.

Strike

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that's not enough to meet the requirements in the state Constitution that education be the Legislature's "paramount duty."

The Washington Supreme Court decided in 2012 that state funding for education is not adequate. The justices said the state was relying too much on local dollars to make up for a small state budget for education. Overreliance on local dollars worsens inequity between schools because districts with higher property values can raise money more easily.

Seattle isn't the only district facing a teacher strike. Educators in Pasco in southeast Washington have voted not to return to the classroom despite a court order to end the walkout.

> 'We didn't want to strike, and it seems to be the only way to have a dialogue with our senior administration'

They decided Monday to remain on strike, idling 17,000 students in a dispute over pay and curriculum. Classes also were canceled Wednesday.

Rich Wood, a spokesman for the Washington Education Association, said the strikes were mainly about local issues not tied to the larger debate about funding.

"The negotiations are about meeting the needs of students in school districts," Wood said.

He noted that teacher strikes are relatively rare in Washington's 295 school districts, with the last major one in Tacoma in 2011.

Members of the Seattle Education Association, which represents about 5,000 teachers and support staff, said they will picket at all 97 schools Wednesday.

Theo Moriarty, 39, said he plans to pick up his sign and picket in front of Hamilton International Middle School, where he teaches seventh-grade language arts.

"We didn't want to strike, and it seems to be the only way to have a dialogue with our senior administration," Moriarty said.

Documentary

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home built by Habitat for Humanity, felt if more neighbors were homeowners, they would feel more invested in the community.

"Unfortunately I think people did take my message from the first documentary and twist my words," Williams said. "I never said, 'Kick out all the Black folks, get rid of all the poor people.' I said make this a liveable community, period."

Williams said since participating in the filming of the first movie, she's learned more about the social and historical factors that contribute to the makeup of neighborhoods.

"What North Portland was allowed to become should have never happened in the first place. It was allowed to become the 'hood, it was allowed to become a slum," Williams said. Reinvesting in the neighborhood was not, in and of itself, a bad thing, she added, but officials and developers didn't take an inclusive approach. "What shouldn't have happened was the total exclusion of people of color and poor people."

In the trailer for *Priced Out*, she describes her discomfort walking down Mississippi Avenue. It's not just that the street's businesses and patrons are now overwhelmingly White, she said, but that they seem uncomfortable with people of color, parting the sidewalk as she passes.

"Portland has not felt like home to me, I can honestly say since probably the early-to mid-90s," Williams told *The Skanner*. "In the last two to 10 years, it's really felt foreign and alien to me."

> 'What North Portland was allowed to become should never have happened in the first place. It was allowed to become the 'hood.'

In Texas, she's closer to family and has discovered a hub of Black people who used to live in Portland but have returned to Texas or other parts of the south – which makes the area feel like Portland used to feel to her. She's currently caring for her grandson and working to start a culturally specific group for children who are part of the foster care system and the juvenile justice system.

She contacted Swart about a followup to the original movie in part because she sees what's happening in Portland as indicative of a nationwide trend.

Swart told *The Skanner* he started working on the documentary in 1997, while living in Eugene. Spencer Wolf, a former classmate of Swart from New York University, was volunteering at the Sabin Community Development Corporation and witnessing changes to the neighborhood.

"We both from the East Coast, and we both know how this stuff goes down," Swart told *The Skanner*. "There's just a tradition of neighborhoods turning over."

Williams told *The Skanner* the relative size of communities of color in the Pacific Northwest is one of the reasons gentrification has cut so deeply. "I think the reason gentrification in Portland hurt so bad is the Black community is just teeny tiny," Williams said. "Here, I see so many people of color. Brown-skinned, I don't just mean Black, I mean non-White or non-obviously White people."

"Twenty years ago or so when the documentary was made, I was still hopeful. This isn't always about race, but about income level," Williams said. "But I can't sit here and pretend race is not part of it. Historically, we do things based on, 'This is going to benefit White people.'"

Part of her is still hopeful that if more people become aware of issues around displacement, they'll fight it. Another part feels there's too much money to be made from gentrification.

"I still stand behind my stance that a community has to be healthy in order to thrive," Williams said. "Portland and other cities need to have an honest discussion about what 'healthy' means. For me, healthy does not mean exclusive."