

## Audits cont'd from pg 1

such as demographics, reasons, and results," reads a Tuesday-night press release accompanying the reports. Auditors also recommend the team set goals to measure the success of such stops in order to demon-

document was updated every month," the audit report reads.

Both audit reports close with correspondence between the auditor's office and the police bureau outlining a list of recommendations, all

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strate whether they'll be effective.

The bureau's decision last fall to discontinue its gang affiliate designation was both celebrated and met with skepticism. Shortly after the announcement, *The Skanner* spoke with individuals who'd been on the gang member list who said they suspected police would find more covert ways to surveil communities of color.

The city's audit appears to support that prediction.

“While the Bureau has discontinued gang designations, it continues to create most active lists, which includes a notation of people's gang affiliations. At the time of our audit, the Gang Enforcement Team used informal conversations among employees, police reports, and gang designations to compile a list of some 1,000 people who were associated with gang incidents. The team then assigned scores to each person based on the number and type of contacts the person had with police and created a list of the people with the top scores – usually about 30 people. The types of contact included shootings and gun seizures, but also non-criminal events and being victims of crime. The

of which the bureau has agreed to and either says are in place or in process. The recommendations are:

- The bureau should regularly analyze and publish demographic data regarding Gang Enforcement Team traffic stops;
- The Gang Enforcement Team should monitor stops data and the percentage of encounters recorded as “mere conversations”;
- The Gang Enforcement Team should require officers to document the investigative reason for traffic stops;
- The Gang Enforcement Team should set goals to measure the effectiveness of traffic stops;
- The bureau should evaluate the effectiveness of the Gang Enforcement Team by reviewing crime trends and arrest outcomes;
- The bureau should adopt detailed official policies and procedures for documenting gang relationships;
- The bureau should review the legality of current practices for creating the “most active” gang list;
- The bureau should track clearance rate and caseload and main-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROYAL ROSARIANS

## Royal Rosarians Recognize Patricia Welch as a Newsmaker of the Year

The Royal Rosarian Foundation last week recognized its 2017 Newsmakers of the Year at a March 21 dinner and ceremony. Newsmakers were nominated and presented with awards by their nominating organizations. The Skanner's Newsmaker of the Year, Patricia Welch, is a Flemming Award recipient and served for more than 20 years as administrator at the North Portland branch of the Multnomah County Library. Her award was presented by Jerry Foster, sales and advertising manager for *The Skanner News*. Pictured here are: friend Johnette Easter (left), friend Sallie Stevens, Jerry Foster, Royal Rosarian Susan Simpson, Patricia Welch and granddaughter Aleshia King.

## Tobacco cont'd from pg 1

panies are required to run verbatim: “More people die every year from smoking than from murder, AIDS, suicide, drugs, car crashes, and alcohol, combined.”

- **The addictiveness of smoking and nicotine.** Example: “Cigarette companies intentionally designed cigarettes with enough nicotine to create and sustain addiction.”
- **The lack of significant health benefit from smoking “low tar,” “light,” “ultra light,” “mild” and “natural” cigarettes** (which have been marketed as less harmful than regular cigarettes). Example: “All cigarettes cause cancer, lung disease, heart attacks, and premature death – lights, low tar, ultra lights, and naturals. There is no safe cigarette.”
- **The manipulation of cigarette design and composition to ensure optimum nicotine delivery.** Example: “Cigarette companies control the impact and

delivery of nicotine in many ways, including designing filters and selecting cigarette paper to maximize the ingestion of nicotine, adding ammonia to make the cigarette taste less harsh, and controlling the physical and chemical make-up of the tobacco blend.”

- **The adverse health effects of exposure to secondhand smoke.** Example: “Secondhand smoke kills over 38,000 Americans each year.”

“This move dates back to 2006, when a U.S. judge found that tobacco companies violated civil racketeering laws and defrauded people in America for decades,” said Jonathan Modie, a spokesperson for the Oregon Health Authority.

*The Skanner* was one of 50 newspapers in the country to receive the ads, and the only one in the state of Oregon; the new campaign includes a rollout of television ads as well.

While the push to correct the

record about the effects of tobacco use and to offset the long-term public health effects of smoking dates back decades, public health officials say the industry's tactics haven't stopped.

“These tactics of the tobacco industry haven't stopped. These products are sweet, cheap and easy to get here in Oregon and across the country and world,” said Luci Longoria, manager for community mobilization for policy, systems and environmental change, Oregon Health Authority's public health division.

And tobacco's effects are disproportionate, in part because tobacco marketing has targeted communities of color and Black Oregonians are more likely to smoke than White Oregonians. Longoria said in Oregon 80,000 people died last year from causes linked to tobacco use, and 1,100 of those deaths – more than one-eighth – are African American.

Read more at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)

## Cully cont'd from pg 1

color are continuing to struggle with high energy costs and the inability to live in an energy-retrofitted environment.”

The NAACP has since been making strides to educate lawmakers on how low-income people and communities of color are disproportionately exposed to industrial pollution from sources like power plants, toxic sites and roadways. Because of this, these populations are the first to experience the negative impacts of climate change, such as natural disasters and extreme weather, as well as having less access to clean water due to drought.

Evidence also suggests a strong link between climate change and displacement, as gentrification tends to displace communities from walkable, energy-efficient neighborhoods with stronger job prospects and reliable transit and into marginalized, disinvested areas with poor transit infrastructure.

“We definitely believe that climate change is here and is already beginning to impact residents in Portland,” Carolina Iraheta Gonzalez, community ener-

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gy advocate at Verde, told *The Skanner*. “A really good example of that is the colder winters we're experiencing and the hotter summers. People are having to use more electricity during the winters to heat their homes and we're also seeing electricity peaks in the summer due to AC, so their monthly income is being stretched even further.”

In Cully, the median electricity bur-

den – meaning the percentage of annual household income spent on electricity – for all households is higher, at 2.25 percent, when compared to all Portland households, which averages 1.67 percent.

“We worry that people won't be able to stay in the neighborhood as we see climate changes happening,” continued Gonzalez. “Renewable energy and energy efficiency is definitely a tool to address climate change, but it's not always accessible to low income families. So we want to make sure that families in Cully have access to these tools.”

And the desire is there. Community surveys in Cully found that 94 percent of people said they were interested in getting solar energy.



COURTESY OF SUNBRIDGE SOLAR

Solar panels on top of Hacienda Community Development Corporation.

After intensive rounds with community partners, utility experts and clean energy professionals, alongside surveys and focus groups, Living Cully has come up with six pilot projects. Together, the projects aim to conserve energy, make use of renewable sources, allow low income families to bring down their utility costs, and prevent further displacement from the neighborhood.

Read the full story at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)