

neighborhood activist

June 2010



Neighbors West-Northwest
Serving twelve westside neighborhood associations

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ARLINGTON HEIGHTS HILLSIDE NORTHWEST HEIGHTS PEARL DISTRICT
FOREST PARK LINNONTON NORTHWEST DISTRICT PORTLAND DOWNTOWN
GOOSE HOLLOW NINA OLD TOWN CHINATOWN SYLVAIN-HIGHLANDS

To submit an article, please email Angela Southwick at angela@nwnw.org.

Water Bureau Sets Record Rates

By Jeff Boly, President, Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association

In May, the Oregonian announced Portland's City Council approval of a 16% annual increase in already record-high residential water rates. The rates are climbing yearly as the city complies with federal orders to treat drinking water and cap reservoirs.

However, the public is not being told that the city's Water Bureau was complicit in drafting the federal mandate, that new scientific information proves that the federal rule is absolutely unjustified and Portland could vigorously fight the federal regulation like New York is doing.

In not following New York's lead, Portland is using the federal rule, which it helped establish, as cover for implementation of the Water Bureau's 10 year old campaign to destroy what for over 100 years has proven to be the best drinking water delivery system in the world. For more information, visit www.friendsofreservoirs.org.



Voter-Owned Elections

By Brian Hoop, President, Linnnton Neighborhood Association

Portland's Voter-Owned Elections program, enacted in 2005, gives everyday Portlanders a genuine role in choosing their leaders in City Hall. Under this program, candidates for Mayor and City Council can qualify for enough public funding to run viable campaigns by showing that they have broad-based community support.

Qualified candidates can focus exclusively on the issues facing the city and talking to the voters, rather than raising big dollar checks from special interests. Since 2005, Voter-Owned Elections has dramatically limited total spending in local campaigns.

Amanda Fritz, a neighborhood activist, was a Voter-Owned Elections candidate. Now in City Hall, Amanda's primary focus is on voters, without the distraction of worrying whether somebody was a big campaign donor.

If we want to continue to lead the way and keep elections in Portland fair, accountable, and voter-owned, we must vote to protect our reform program in November. The Linnnton Neighborhood Association endorsed the campaign to keep the city's campaign public financing program. We urge neighborhood groups to join us. For information visit www.commoncause.org/oregon or call 503 283-1922.

Traveling on Cornell Road

The Cornell Road Sustainability Coalition (CRSC) is a community formed alliance to address the impact of Cornell Road as it passes through Forest Park. The coalition includes board members representing the Portland Audubon Society, Bicycle Transportation Alliance, Forest Park Conservancy, and four neighborhood associations – Forest Park, Hillside, Northwest District, and Northwest Heights.

Our coalition believes that rebalancing the use of the Cornell Corridor is vital to prevent continued decline of this portion of Forest Park and neighborhoods adjacent to the corridor. Our advocates strive to find an inclusive solution that benefits all stakeholders and can be used as a model for future sustainable planning methods. We support a balanced strategy in conjunction with the City of Portland's eco-friendly "green" policies that encourage low carbon footprint initiatives and improved access for automobile-alternative transportation.

Visit www.nwnw.org/projects/crsc/ for more information.



The Pearl Talks

The Pearl District Neighborhood Association (PDNA), formed in 1991, is one of the youngest neighborhood associations in the city. Since its formation, residents, workers, and property owners have given countless volunteer hours to make the neighborhood the best it can be. To that end, PDNA board members must vote with the entire neighborhood in mind.

Through the years the PDNA Board has:

- Advocated for active ground level uses by resisting the development of "telecom hotels" on the ground level & pushed to rewrite the code for active uses
- Advocated for economic and age diversity in neighborhood housing
- Advocated for park space
- Pushed for height limits to be changed around parks for sun access
- Pushed for solutions to traffic issues - including traffic lights
- Supported historic 13th Avenue
- Supported First Thursday
- Supported the Mounted Police Patrol
- Advocated for trash cans throughout the neighborhood
- Created Good Neighbor Agreements with area businesses
- Planted countless trees in the neighborhood with Friends of Trees

The neighborhood is still facing issues concerning neighbors. Placement of a restroom in Jamison Square will fulfill a long needed and asked-for amenity to this popular city attraction. The Couch/Burnside couplet will slow traffic, create safer pedestrian crossings, and allow people to turn into the neighborhood from all directions.

Input on these issues will be taken as they develop. The restroom will be discussed at the Planning and Transportation meeting on July 6th, 6:00 PM. The vote on the issue will be taken at the July 8th PDNA Board meeting, 6:00 PM. Both meetings will be at the Prem Group at NW 12th & Flanders.

All meetings are open to the public. As the PDNA wrestles with issues, we implore neighbors to become involved, not only when their corner of the neighborhood is affected, but when the entire neighborhood is affected.

Rural Reserves

By Jerry Grossnickle, FPNA President

Multnomah County's Board of Commissioners has designated most of the remaining rural lands in the West Hills as Rural Reserves, protecting these natural resource areas from urban development for the next 50 years.

The Board recognized that these lands contain important resources such as healthy headwater streams, elk habitat, and habitat for sensitive birds, as well as farm and forest resources.

Commissioner Deborah Kafoury said that a strong majority of the emails, letters, and phone calls received by her office urged Rural Reserve designation for this area, and this influenced her decision to protect these lands.

View the County's Reserves map at www.nwnw.org/neighborhoods/forest-park

Join us at the FPNA Board Meeting on:

Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Willis Bldg, 360 NW Greenleaf

1. Proposed demolition of the Willis Bldg, our meeting site
2. Forest Park trail bike issues
3. Urban/Rural Reserves update
4. Land-Use Committee report
5. Planning for a summer social event

Local Activities

SYLVAN YOUTH BIKE FAIR

Date: Saturday, June 19, 2010

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: East Sylvan Middle School,
1849 SW 58th Avenue

Open to youth of all ages from all over Portland. Traffic and helmet safety information for kids and adults provided by Bicycle Transportation Alliance and Trauma Nurses Talk Tough. A local bike retailer will give maintenance advice for your bike. Prizes included!

To RSVP (required) visit "events" at www.sylvanhighlands.org or email info@sylvanhighlands.org.

Thanks to our event sponsors including Neighbors West - Northwest, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Starbucks, Pizzicato, QFC, Bark Market, and Sandoval's Restaurant.

WHAT'S IN OUR AIR?

Date: Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: NW Library,
2300 NW Thurman Ave

Join your neighbors to view a local air quality documentary, *What's In Our Air?* which won a Gold at the Houston International Film Festival. NWDA volunteer Sharon Genasci produced and directed the film. Paul Koberstein is featured talking about air pollution from oil companies in NW Portland. Both Genasci and Koberstein will answer questions about air pollution and the film.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! NWDA PARKING COMMITTEE

The Portland Bureau of Transportation is accepting applications for two at-large positions on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee advising the NW District Parking Plan. This Committee will advise Mayor Sam Adams and Bureau of Transportation staff on the parking plan development.

The Northwest District Parking Plan was initiated by a City Council resolution to better manage the on-street parking supply. Volunteers must live and/or work within the area bounded by West Burnside, NW Thurman, I-405 & NW 25th Ave.

The committee will meet once or twice a month from June - Dec. 2010.

To apply, contact Bill Hoffman at bill.hoffman@portlandoregon.gov or 503 823-7219.

NWDA Annual Meeting: Elections & Bylaws Review

Date: Monday, June 14, 2010

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Location: Legacy Good Sam, Wistar Morris Room, 1015 NW 22nd Ave

Please plan to attend our annual meeting, hear what the candidates have to say about why they are running for election, and make your voice count as one of the many diverse voices that make up our great Northwest neighborhood.

There are ten candidates declared for the nine positions open for the Board of Directors. Those candidates are: Greg Aldrich, Tony Cadena, Karl Doppelfeld, Juliet Hyams, Josh Olsen, Mary Ann Pastene, Brian Peebles, Steve Pinger, Phil Selinger, and Joel Weishaus. There is one candidate for President: Ron Walters

Balloting will close at 7:15 PM. The NWDA June Board meeting will immediately follow the Annual Meeting.

To vote at the meeting, you must be a member of NWDA as a resident, a property owner, or a representative of a business or non-profit organization. Deadline for



membership application is Noon, Wednesday June 9, 2010. Membership forms are available online at: www.northwestdistrictassociation.org/?page_id=354 or at Neighbors West-Northwest, 2257 NW Raleigh, Portland, 97210

Absentee ballots are available at Neighbors West-Northwest between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM weekdays from Monday, June 7 to Friday, June 11, and Monday, June 14. Absentee voting is permitted but proxies are not allowed. To vote absentee, you must register as a member three business days in advance.

Bylaws Vote: Please find the proposed revised NWDA bylaws to be voted on by NWDA members at the Annual Meeting at www.northwestdistrictassociation.org/?cat=1. Please review these documents prior to the meeting. Members will have the opportunity to ask for changes or bring new items for consideration prior to a vote by the membership. To submit amendments in advance, send an email to mark@nwnw.org and gustavocruz@nobhilllaw.com.

For more information contact Mark Sieber, mark@nwnw.org, 503 823-4212.