



## The Rockwood Building Will Bring Eight Social Services Under One Roof

**Making Rockwood a better place.**

For years the grassy vacant lot on NE 181st Ave near Burnside served only an occasional traveling carnival or Christmas tree vendor. Now, that lot is being transformed into a Multi-Service Center to serve area families in need.



The Rockwood Building, Multi Service Center, NE 181st & Couch

The new three-story \$17 million Rockwood Building will host eight social service providers plus a community room on the first floor, and 47 apartments on the two floors above. Fifteen of those apartments will be reserved for homeless families. The agencies will provide day care, employment assistance and Head Start classes, among other services.

Human Solutions, a social service agency with offices in Portland and east Multnomah County, is coordinating the project.

The new building is expected to be a hub for residents in and around Gresham's Rockwood neighborhood.

The hope is that the facility will provide one-stop services for area residents who currently must travel to several locations around the Portland area for assistance.

Rockwood has long been one of the poorest neighborhoods in the county, with about one in five people in the school district that serves the area living below the poverty level. Nine out of 10 students at the two elementary schools in the area receive federally subsidized meals.

See **ROCKWOOD BLDG**, page 2

## MultCo Commissioner McKeel to Speak at the March 28th Meeting



Commissioner Diane McKeel

Multnomah County Diane McKeel will be the featured speaker at the Wilkes East Neighborhood public meeting on March 28th at 7PM, St Aidan's Episcopal Church, 174th & NE Glisan, Gresham.

Commissioner McKeel will discuss the recent changes in East Multnomah County including improvements in Rockwood, construction of the East County courthouse and the new Rockwood Building.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to hear and speak first-hand with your County Commissioner.

For over 35 years, Diane McKeel has been an active and engaged citizen of Multnomah County. Over those years her roles have included; healthcare provider, business owner, land developer, parent, volunteer tutor, member of numerous boards,

nonprofit executive director and elected official. Her service to the community has been shaped by her support of public safety, health equity, education and economic development.

McKeel was elected to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners for District 4 in 2008, and represents the Eastern portion of the County through 2012.

She and her husband live in the Sam Barlow area of east Gresham. ■

**Did You Know?** *Gresham is the fourth largest city in Oregon.*

### Mark Your Calendar!

Wilkes East Neighborhood

**NEXT MEETING**

**March 28, 2011 • 7PM**

**St Aidan's Church  
174th & NE Glisan**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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### Reynolds School District Seeks Public Input on 2011-12 Budget

In an effort to increase public input into its proposed 2011-12 budget, the Reynolds School District plans to gather opinions through an online survey.



The survey is part of a program called "Reynolds Tomorrow: Tough Choices – Smart Decisions."

Using the best information the District has available, they anticipate needing to reduce expenses by \$6 to \$8.2 million to cover the state revenue shortfall. If history is a guide, the District may not know for certain what amount needs to be cut until June 2011.

"Oregon's financial woes mean the Reynolds School District will be faced with tough, challenging and uncomfortable decisions early next year as it decides the 2011-12 budget," says Theresa Delaney-Davis, chairwoman of the district's board.

District residents can register to participate in the online surveys through the ReynoldsTomorrow.com website.

Participants will be notified by email when the survey is available. The survey will be open for about two weeks. Survey results and budget information will be posted on the ReynoldsTomorrow website as the Oregon Legislature and Reynolds School Board make decisions.

During the past five years district revenues have fallen more than \$7 million, from \$98.6 million to about \$91.5 million in 2009-10.

Theresa Delaney-Davis, Reynolds School Board Chairwomen, will speak at the Wilkes East Neighborhood public meeting on March 28th at 7PM, St Aidan's Episcopal Church, to discuss the district's budget situation and answer residents' questions. ■



**Stormwater Planters, Beauty Meets Functionality**



**Born in Portland, Stormwater planters are being replicated nationwide.**

With the rainy season upon us it seems appropriate to explore some recent roadside changes in our area.

Q. Have you noticed the new curbside planters popping-up everywhere

and wondered what they are, and what's their purpose?

A. They're stormwater planters. And are being installed to manage street stormwater runoff and improve the water quality of area rivers and streams.

**Managing Stormwater, Naturally**

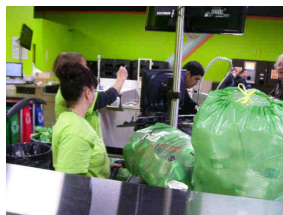
Stormwater planters are a natural stormwater management approach that uses plants and soil to slow, filter, and cleanse stormwater from streets. Traditional stormwater management directs runoff into pipes. Stormwater planters disconnect street stormwater runoff from a storm sewer and manages it at its source, where rain falls, using a landscape approach.

Pioneered in 2005 by the City of Portland's "12th Avenue Green Street Project," stormwater planters are now used extensively throughout Portland neighborhoods and urban areas. In fact, stormwater planters are so effective at managing stormwater runoff that cities all across the nation (including Gresham) are following Portland's footsteps.

For more info including facts, designs and local photos visit [wilkeseastna.org/node/628](http://wilkeseastna.org/node/628) ■

**Have You Tried the Wood Village BottleDrop Yet?**

**Returning Oregon redeemable's just got a lot easier.**



BottleDrop Center, Wood Village

If you haven't tried the new Wood Village BottleDrop Redemption Center - what are you waiting for?

Simply stop by the Wood Village BottleDrop Center at 233rd & NE Halsey to sign-up (it only takes a minute). You'll get a nifty hard plastic ID card and 2 convenient ID key fobs, 2 BottleDrop bar coded bag tags and 2 EZ Drop bags (made from 100% recycled materials, and deducted from your first refund) to get you started.

Take the bags home and fill them with your refundable bottles and cans. When the green bag is full stick on your barcode bag tag (which identifies you) and return it to the BottleDrop Center, 7 days a week from 9AM to 6PM. For after hours drop-off, simply scan your ID card

and toss the bag through the convenient EZ Drop door at the front of the building.

Redeemable's must be returned in an EZ Drop bag with your barcode ID tag attached. Additional EZ Drop bags with barcode tags are available at the BottleDrop Center for \$.20 each.

At BottleDrop you can return up to 200 redeemable's (or two bags) each day. If you have less than 50 items an employee will gladly hand count them and issue you a refund on the spot.

We found that each EZ Drop bag, stuffed full (but still closable), will hold: 100- 12 oz pop cans; 80- 16.9 oz water bottles; 70- 20 oz (or 1-liter) bottles; or 25- 2-liter jugs. So, plan accordingly (your mileage may vary).

Within 24 hours your refund will be credited to your account. You can collect your refund at the BottleDrop Center, or stop by the BottleDrop kiosk located inside the Wood Village Fred Meyer or Cherry Park Safeway stores - print a voucher for the desired refund amount and collect your money at customer service.

For more info visit: [bottledropcenters.com](http://bottledropcenters.com)  
See you at the BottleDrop! ■



**School Board Seeks Three Candidates**

**Candidates filing deadline is March 17, 2011.**

School Board positions 5, 6 and 7 will be filled in the Special Election on May 17, 2011. Candidates are needed to serve a four-year term from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2015.

Interested candidates must complete and file an application with the Multnomah County Elections Office no later than Thursday, March 17, 2011. To be eligible, candidates must be a registered voter of the district and have been a resident for one year preceding the election.

The Reynolds School Board consists of seven members. The board's primary duties include: create and maintain district policies; appoint and evaluate the superintendent; authorize, appropriate and adopt budgets; propose local option or bond elections; negotiate with employee groups; and establish the school calendar.

Filing forms are online at:  
[www.co.multnomah.or.us/dbcs/elections](http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/dbcs/elections).

**Coyotes Sighted in Capri Terrace and Clairmont Areas**

Several times during the past month coyotes have been spotted before dawn roaming the Capri Terrace and Clairmont areas in the Wilkes East neighborhood; NE 162nd to 165th, NE Oregon to Multnomah. Residents should be careful to keep small pets indoors at night and keep a watchful eye on them when they're outside.

Urban coyote sightings are not unusual in the Portland area, especially between the hours of dusk and dawn when they are most active.

For more information and interesting facts visit: [wilkeseastna.org/node/664](http://wilkeseastna.org/node/664) ■

**Volunteer.**  
Help restore our urban habitat.

**SOLV -IT**  
**Earth Day Cleanup**  
**April 16, 2011**  
**9AM - 1PM**

Join your neighbors

**Nadaka Nature Park**  
17500 NE Pacific St

**1874 Victorian Farmhouse**

• TOURS 10-3, THIRD SATURDAY •

A lasting vestige of East Multnomah County's agricultural roots

Zimmerman Park  
17111 NE Sandy Blvd

Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society. [frwhs.org](http://frwhs.org)

**Advertise Here**

Your message seen by more than **1500 neighbors!**

[info@wilkeseastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeseastna.org)

**Leaders Gather for East Couty Courts Groundbreaking**



Local leaders gathered on Friday morning, January 7, 2011, for a groundbreaking ceremony on the site of the new \$19.6 million East County courthouse at 185th & SE Stark.

Speakers included Oregon State District 25 Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Multnomah County Presiding Judge Jean Maurer; Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen; Multnomah County Commissioners Diane McKeel and Judy Shiprack; and project manager Doug Oblatz with Shiels Oblatz Johnsen.

The expanded court facilities will serve people being adjudicated for misdemeanors, violations, small claims, landlord and tenant actions, ex parte hearings and document filing for all civil and domestic relation actions. Many of these functions historically have been filed at the downtown courthouse.

Deconstruction and site preparation for the project began in late October 2010.

The new Courthouse is expected to open Spring 2012. ■

**188th/187th Ave Realign Underway**



**As work on the Stark Street Boulevard project (between 190th and 199th) wraps up, the 187th Avenue realignment project is now in full swing.**

Demolition of the north portion of the Rockwood Community Office building leads off the work that will build a new street connection from 187th and Stark to 188th and Burnside across the east end of

the former Fred Meyer site. The southern portion of the Rockwood Community Office building used by Gresham Police will remain.

When the project is complete, this new street will provide a much safer direct connection between the Rockwood MAX station and the neighborhood to the south of Stark, including a new signal at 187th and Stark, which should reduce much of the current conflict between vehicles and pedestrians in that area.

Visit [GreshamOregon.gov/rockwoodinmotion](http://GreshamOregon.gov/rockwoodinmotion). ■

**\$200 Rain Garden Grants Available**

Homeowners are catching on to rain gardens, a shallow depression in a yard that collects rainwater from your roof or driveway, and sports a variety of flowers, shrubs and grasses.

By installing a rain garden to manage stormwater from your home, you could be eligible for up to \$200 from the City and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.

- April 15 = Deadline to pre-qualify for a grant.
- May 16 = Deadline to submit application for reimbursement.

Visit [wilkeseastna.org/node/672](http://wilkeseastna.org/node/672) for a link to City website. ■

**Earth Day 2011 Events**



**SOLV / Earth Day Clean-up**

Nadaka Nature Park  
Sat, April 16, 2011, 9:00AM-1:00PM

Come join SOLV, your neighbors, and the many volunteers as we celebrate Earth Day 2011, Saturday, April 16th at Nadaka Nature Park, 175th & NE Pacific St, Gresham.

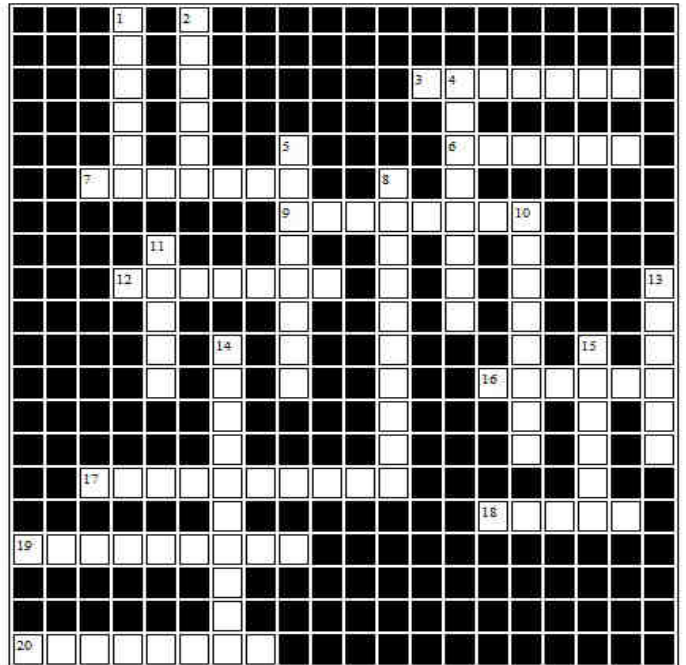
Visit [wilkeseastna.org](http://wilkeseastna.org) for details.

**Recycling Collection**

Gresham City Hall, 1333 NW Eastman Pky  
Sat, April 23, 2011, 9:00AM-2:00PM

The City will be collecting these recyclables free of charge: Styrofoam®, paper for shredding, fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent light bulbs, and possibly other hard to recycle items.

Contact Shaunna Sutcliffe, City of Gresham at 503-618-2694 or email [Shaunna.Sutcliffe@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:Shaunna.Sutcliffe@GreshamOregon.gov)



**Across**

3. Online survey for
6. Human solutions
7. Kiosk location
9. Executive director
12. Fourth largest city
16. Sighted in Capri Terrace
17. 47
18. Recyclable
19. Tough choices - smart...
20. \$ -7 million

**Down**

1. Earth Day event location
2. Refundable container
4. Rainwater solutions
5. 1635
8. School board seeks
10. Poor neighborhood
11. Bag color
13. County commissioner
14. Expected spring 2012
15. Community office tenant

1-nadaka 2-hotels 3-opinion 4-papers 5-hydrants 6-agency  
7-survey 8-consultant 9-director 10-Portland 11-Portland  
12-gresham 13-mckeel 14-courthouse 15-police 16-coyoire  
17-apartments 18-paper 19-decisions 20-revenues

*Save the Date!*  
**Wilkes East Neighborhood Public Meeting**  
Monday, March 28, 2011 7PM  
Guest Speakers:  
• Commissioner Diane McKeel  
• Theresa Delaney-Davis  
Reynolds School Board Chair  
*See you there!*