

# Wilkes East Neighborhood Newsletter

"Diversity, Harmony, Community - Together we can make a difference!"

Gresham, Oregon USA

PO Box 536 • Fairview, OR 97024

Winter 2011

# 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**

- Eight Services Under One Roof
- Commissioner McKeel to Speak
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- Redeemable Returns Get Easier
- RSD Seeks Board Candidates
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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. ■

# Wilkes East Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Published quarterly. Over 1500 copies distributed throughout Wilkes East.

The Wilkes East Neighborhood Association (WENA) is a non-profit organization in Gresham, Oregon. Deadline for submission is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Submit material to info@wilkeseastna.org. WENA reserves all rights, and all copy will be edited for clarity and length. PDF version of this newsletter is available online at: www.wilkeseastna.org.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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# **BOARD MEETINGS**

Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30PM. See website for details.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

- Funding for the Wilkes East Neighborhood Newsletter was paid in part by a generous grant from the City of Gresham.
- Printing by Print Results Inc. 503-287-9566
- · Meeting hall: St Aidan's Episcopal Church





# FREE, LOW COST TRANSPORT 503.226.0700 door-to-door rides for seniors and people with disabilities.

# Dear Neighbors • a message from your WENA President

Winter has been relatively quiet for WEna. It was decided to delay any Nadaka/Nelson clean ups until early Spring.

We all have been reading about the Court House project as well as the progress of the Big-Box code and Development Code Improvement Project discussions. Full information is available on the website: www.wilkeseastna.org.

We hope to have our Annual Clean-Up in July, but much will depend on our ability to connect with Metro and of course our opportunity to use HB Lee Middle School's east parking lot.

As a reminder, the Clean-Ups have been in partnership with Metro and are the only fund raising project WEna has to help pay for newsletters, flyers, stationary and office supplies. Please send up a prayer that we can pull everything together and make this happen this summer.

We are always looking for volunteers for flyer and newsletter distribution and article writing. In particular, we are looking for some human interest stories for the website as well as the newsletter. If any of these topics piqué your interest or you have a suggested idea for getting active with your neighborhood association, please let any one of us know. We are always looking for new ideas to promote our community and meet our neighbors.

We continue to follow the Big-Box issue along with several Land-Use items. Most of the Land-Use issues at this time involve the industrial area north of our community, but within our boundaries. There has been some criminal activity at NE 162nd and Glisan, however the police have been right on top of the problem.

Again we remind you to keep a watchful eye on transients moving into vacant properties. If you see anything strange or out of the ordinary, such as broken windows or transients loitering near vacant properties, call the police or Code Enforcement at 503-618-2463.

May your Winter months be Snow less and Safe!

Your neighbor,
Kristen Freiermuth

# **ROCKWOOD BLDG** (Page 1)

The need for services is far greater than the assistance that's available, said Jean DeMaster, Human Solutions executive director. Her agency turns down thousands of requests each year for help with rent, utility bills and shelter because funding can't keep up with the demand.

Funding has come from about 40 sources, DeMaster said. A fundraising campaign provided \$1.5 million, and a loan from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development totaled \$1.3 million.

Construction, which began in early Fall 2010 after an August 24th groundbreaking ceremony, is expected to be completed by Fall 2011.

In addition to housing and anti-poverty assistance, advocates also hope the building will provide a boost for development in Rockwood. Already, a new courthouse is being built at 185th & SE Stark. The City of Gresham has made several infrastructure improvements in Rockwood's Town Center including the new 188th Avenue realignment, and intends to develop the vacant parcel formerly occupied by a Fred Meyer store.

The Rockwood Building apartment residents and about 60 people who will work in the offices below are expected to increase

the demand for nearby restaurants and retail services.

"We hope that will stimulate a lot more

building in that area," DeMaster said.
Read more at humansolutions.org ■

# Graffiti Crimes On The Rise, Again. Report Tagging Immediately.

# Don't let vandals control your neighborhood!

Graffiti damages property and casts a bad light on our community.



Within 24 hours of graffiti appearing:

- Take a picture of the graffiti
- · Report graffiti to the police
- Clean it off or paint over it

Call the Graffiti Information and Reporting Line at 503-618-2463 to report graffiti.

Free Graffiti Removal Kits are available. Call 503-618-2582 for details.

Remember, graffiti affects everyone.

**Did You Know?** There are 1,635 fire hydrants in Gresham

**Check Out** "Neighborhood Connections" on our website for local events and workshops.

# 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 ■

# 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 BottleDrop Center, Wood Village 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 See you at the BottleDrop! ■



Schoool 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.

# 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 ■







Your message seen by more than 1500 neighbors!

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 Ore-

gon State District 25 Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Multnomah County Presiding Judge Jean Maurer; Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen; Multnomah County Commissioners Diane Mc-Keel and Judy Shiprack; and project manager Doug Obletz with Shiels Obletz 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



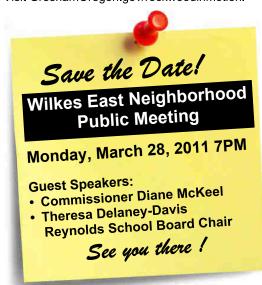
As work on the Stark Street Boulevard project (between 190th and 199th) wraps up, the 187th Avenue realignment project is now in full swing.

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. ■



# \$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.

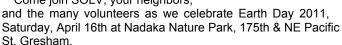
- April 15 = Deadline to pre-qualify for a grant.
- May 16 = Deadline to submit application for reimbursement. Visit wilkeseastna.org/node/672 for a link to City website. ■

# 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,



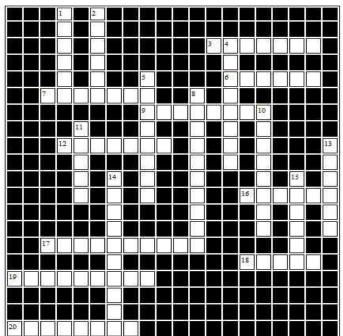
Visit wilkeseastna.org for details.

# **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



# Across

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

- 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