



## East County Courts in Rockwood Nears Completion, Doors Open Late April 2012

After decades of delays and missteps the new courthouse receives the finishing touches as it prepares to open for business.

A long-awaited [East County Courts](#) project in the heart of Gresham's Rockwood neighborhood could be just what's needed to jumpstart the town center's redevelopment.

Completion of the project represents a commitment to an area left behind long ago.

The new \$19.6 million 40,000-square-foot three-floor facility will have three courtrooms, with room for future expansion to six, an office for the district attorney, a sheriff's department security office, court business office, a data center in the basement and a drop-in child care facility for visitors.

The courthouse 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 relations actions - many of which were previously filed at the overcrowded downtown Portland courthouse.

The new courthouse is only for civil matters.



East County Courts Building, 185th & SE Stark St. Opening April 2012

It will not include a detention facility, nor will felony cases be heard.

Funding for the new courthouse includes \$15 million from Recovery Zone Economic Development (stimulus) Bonds. The remaining portion will be funded from the 2008 sale of the South Edgefield property.

Multnomah County [Commissioner Diane McKeel](#)'s office says, "The building will open this spring after a few weather-dependent projects are completed," according to Sean Files, Commissioner McKeel's assistant.

See **COURT**, Page 2

North and Northeast Portland homeowners have the [Great Missoula floods](#) to blame for their radon-rich soil.

The floods from the last ice age 13,000 to 15,000 years ago swept in to the area when ice dams in western Montana burst. [Glacial Lake Missoula](#) immediately released an astounding 520 cubic miles of water swamping Portland and the Willamette Valley to a depth of 300 to 400 feet and leaving behind layers of radon-generating sediments.

Radon levels can vary sharply from one house to the next, so testing is the only sure way to know the amount of radon in your home.

See **RADON**, Page 2



### Got Radon?

The only way to know your home's Radon level is to test.

[Radon](#) gas occurs naturally. It is present in nearly all soil and rock; you can't see, smell or taste it - but it's there.

Radon forms when uranium breaks down to radium, which in turn breaks down to form radon. As radon decays, it releases radioactive byproducts that are inhaled. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer after smoking -- and the number one reason why non-smokers die of lung cancer. It's estimated to be responsible for over 21,000 deaths annually in the United States.

Radon enters a home through cracks in walls, basement floors, foundations and other openings. Once inside, radon can become trapped and build up to unsafe levels, especially in areas below ground-level. Nationwide it's estimated that 1 in every 15 homes has elevated radon levels. [In the Portland / Vancouver area](#) that number can skyrocket to 1 in 4 homes.

wilkeseastna.org

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- East County Courts Open in April
- Is There Radon In Your Home?
- New Police Precinct Coming 2013
- Reynolds Seeks Superintendent
- Rosewood Applies for PDC Grant
- Nadaka Update, SOLV Earth Day
- Earth Day Recycling Event Apr 21

### City to Build West Gresham Police Precinct at Former Kaches Garden Center Site

Site acquisition for Rockwood public safety facility approved - Facility will improve police presence and services in Rockwood / West Gresham area.

On Feb 21, 2012, the [Gresham Redevelopment Commission](#) approved the acquisition of 2.3 acres at [675 NE181st](#) (1-block north of Glisan) for the future site of the Rockwood Public Safety Facility.

Approval of the \$775,000 property acquisition will allow design and construction of the project to proceed on schedule for completion by the end of 2013. At the same meeting an award of business was given to Group Mackenzie, Inc. to provide architectural services for the project.

"This important step in the process demonstrates the City's commitment to improving public safety and enhancing police presence in Rockwood," said Mayor Shane Bemis. "It is very exciting to see work begin towards delivering on this vital urban renewal goal."

The 10,000-12,000 sq. ft. Rockwood Public Safety Facility will create a welcoming and highly visible police presence in Rockwood, improving public safety and encouraging new investment in the area.

Once completed the facility will house a range of police functions, including support for patrol officers serving Rockwood and other special units and programs. The new facility may also include space for public safety-related community uses.

This project is funded by urban renewal funds administered by the Gresham Redevelopment Commission, and satisfies Goal 5 of the Rockwood-West Gresham Renewal Plan, calling for the "Development of Public Safety and Community Services Facilities."

The Gresham Police Department will retain their existing headquarters near City Hall. The new Rockwood facility will replace the Rockwood Community Office, located at 18709 SE Stark St. ■

PO Box 536 • Fairview, OR 97024

Mark Your Calendar!  
Wilkes East Neighborhood

NEXT MEETING  
Mar 19, 2012 • 7PM

St Aidan's Church  
174th & NE Glisan

By-Laws  
Vote

**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@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org). WENA reserves all rights, and all copy may be edited for clarity and length. PDF of this newsletter with active links online at: [www.wilkeeastna.org/newsletter.htm](http://www.wilkeeastna.org/newsletter.htm).

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- President** ..... **Kris Freiermuth**  
[krisfreiermuth@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:krisfreiermuth@wilkeeastna.org)
- Vice President** ..... **Marc Thornsbury**  
[marcthornsbury@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:marcthornsbury@wilkeeastna.org)
- Secretary** ..... **Greg Hartung**  
[secretary@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:secretary@wilkeeastna.org)
- Treasurer** ..... **Billy Simmons**  
[treasurer@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:treasurer@wilkeeastna.org)
- Land Use Chair** ..... **Curt Duval**  
[landuse@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:landuse@wilkeeastna.org)
- Members-at-Large** ..... **Bob Lundbom**  
[webmaster@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:webmaster@wilkeeastna.org)

**BOARD MEETINGS**

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

**SPECIAL THANKS**

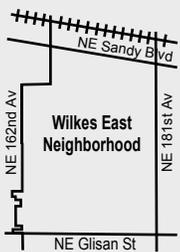
- The Wilkes East Neighborhood Newsletter is funded, in part, through a generous grant from the [City of Gresham](#).
- Printing by [Print Results Inc.](#) 503-287-9566
- Meeting hall: [St Aidan's Episcopal Church](#)

**Got an interesting story to share?**

Email it to: [info@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org)  
or mail to: PO Box 536 • Fairview, OR 97024

**Volunteer Opportunities**

Get involved. Let us know how you'd like to help. Email [info@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org) for details.



*Dear Neighbors • a message from your WENA President*

Metro Council recently announced they won't be making any changes to the Glendoveer Golf Course. The Council unanimously voted to keep Glendoveer's two 18-hole courses, driving range, pro shop, covered tennis courts, jogging path and restaurant.

You probably noticed the street sweepers cleaning at the curbs at the beginning of March. This service is done nine times a year. You can check the sweeping schedule at [greshamoregon.gov/live](http://greshamoregon.gov/live) for maps and dates for your area. It is most important that cars, boats, campers, garbage cans, recycling containers, portable basketball hoops and anything else sitting in the street be removed. If obstructions prevent sweeping, debris will be left behind on the street. The sweepers are not equipped to remove leaves piled at the curb – only leaves naturally fallen from nearby trees.

A Spring Clean-up with dump boxes is planned for Sat., June 23rd. Clean out the garage and clean up the yard with this Wilkes East fundraiser. Watch website for details.

Many activities and events are planned for Nadaka Nature Park. Check the WENA website and the gates at the entrance to the park for announcements.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you have a special interest, please feel free to [contact](#) one of our Board Members and let them know.

Please frequent businesses that support projects for our community; Jazzy Bagel, Starbuck's at 181st, Grower's Outlet and Albertsons.

Happy Spring!

Your Neighbor,  
*Kristen Freiermuth*

**COURTS (Page 1)**

The state ordered the county during the 1960's to have a courthouse in East Multnomah county. This new courthouse will replace the overcrowded run down one-courtroom in the old City Hall building on West Powell in downtown Gresham.

In 2008 an estimated 27,000 defendants went through the old courthouse.

Just over a year ago, on Jan 7, 2011 construction began on the 4.2 area site located at 185th & SE Stark St., formerly the sites of KFC, Rockwood Lanes Bowling and an old laundromat. All were deconstructed in the Fall 2010 to make way for this project.

On July 27th, Howard S Wright Co., the general contractor for the project and local dignitaries hosted a "Topping Off Event" to recognize the completion of the structural steel construction for the new facility. After the fanfare the final signed beam was lifted into place on top the south wall of the southwest stairwell.

The state-of-the-art building will meet LEED Gold Certification standards and the Architecture 2030 Challenge, requiring the use of green and energy reduction technology such as solar, eco roofs and geothermal ground source heating. The new building will use 50% of the energy of a similar type building, and it will be 60% carbon neutral. It will use smart building system controls for lighting, ventilation and access. It will also have a 'green' roof, solar power, a radiant floor slab, on-site stormwater management, rain water re-use and low irrigation need vegetation.

Neighbors in the area have mixed views about the new Rockwood courthouse.

They're hoping to see more police presence, new businesses and an easy-to-find justice facility. They believe the new courthouse could change the Rockwood neighborhood for the good, after years of high crime and broken promises.

This courthouse fills a great need for the growing population of residents East of 122nd Avenue, and it complements the other important projects in the Rockwood / West Gresham area. Projects like the City of Gresham's 'Rockwood in Motion' urban renewal improvements in the Rockwood Town Center, Human Solutions' Rockwood Building at 181st & Burnside, and the recently announced new Gresham Police station (to be completed by the end of 2013) on the 2.3 acre site formerly occupied by Kasch's Garden Center, 181st north of Glisan. ■

**RADON (Page 1)**

When the radon concentration in a living area of a home exceeds 4 pCi/liter (picocuries per liter), it is recommended that measures be taken to lower the concentration.

Accurate [test kits](#) are available at home improvement stores or online for under \$20 each (3 for \$40). Testing is easy. Simply open the test and hang it at normal breathing level for 3-7 days. Then return the test by mail for immediate processing and results.

Fixing a radon problem costs \$800 to \$2,500 and involves sealing cracks in walls, basement floors, foundations and possibly installing additional ventilation.

Radon repairs should be done by a qualified radon repair specialist. ■

**FREE, LOW COST TRANSPORT**



**503.226.0700**

**door-to-door rides for seniors and people with disabilities.**

## Reynolds Seeks Fourth Superintendent in Four Years

### District Begins Search for New Leader, Again

Reynolds School District Superintendent Joyce Henstrand announced Nov 8th that she will retire on June 30, 2012, after 40 years in education. She was named interim superintendent in December 2009 before being named superintendent in May 2010.

Henstrand replaced interim superintendent Dr. Robert Fisher who left in January 2010 six-months before the end of his contract saying the School Board steps beyond its responsibilities and is more comfortable than he is by not following Board Policies and Operating Agreements.

Dr. Fisher became interim superintendent in September 2008 after then Superintendent Terry Kneisler was removed over budget practice concerns.

The next superintendent will be the fourth one in four years.

In January this year the School Board chose McPherson & Jacobson, LLC, Executive Recruitment and Development to assist in selecting superintendent candidates for the board to interview. Several forums were held during January to gather input about the ideal candidate from employees, students and the community.

The sentiment among employees was the next superintendent should respect teachers, be a knowledgeable educator and, most important, not already be working for the district.

The district is recovering from years of financial mismanagement, and has suffered large layoffs and deep program cuts in an effort to stabilize the budget. In addition, the district and its teachers have been locked in a bitter contract battle since May (2011).

The next superintendent "will be walking into a real mess. There is a profound lack of trust and respect," one teacher said.

One thing is clear, whoever the board selects will have a big job repairing relationships with the employees. ■

### GET INVOLVED! Become a Wilkes East Volunteer

Email [info@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org) for details



### Now, This is a Bright Idea!

**Excited about solar? Would you like to join the efforts in increasing solar power in Gresham? Become a volunteer.**

[Solar Gresham](http://www.solar-gresham.org) is an exciting new

program promoted by the City of Gresham. It offers homeowners solar at up to 80% off the cost with ease of installation and financing. In addition to providing solar at a great price, Solar Gresham will be offering free workshops and assistance with incentives. They'll also help residents find resources to make their homes more energy efficient, therefore reducing utility costs.

#### Program Available for a Limited Time – April 1 to July 31

Imagine Energy and City staff will guide you through the entire process, from home assessment to installation to ongoing monitoring of your energy production. They will also assist you with obtaining all available incentives.

- Protect yourself from rising energy rates.
- Increase the property value of your home.
- Support local manufacturing

Solar Gresham is offering solar panels manufactured in Oregon. For more information about the Solar Gresham programs or to volunteer, contact Nicole Cousino by phone 503-618-2485 or email [Nicole.Cousino@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:Nicole.Cousino@GreshamOregon.gov), or visit the City's website at: <http://www.greshamoregon.gov/solargresham/> ■

**Did You Know?** Each person uses about 12,000 gallons of water every year. 1/3 of that water is used to flush the toilet.

[wilkeeastna.org](http://wilkeeastna.org)

## General Meeting • Mar 19, 7pm

St Aidan's Episcopal Church • 174th & NE Glisan St, Gresham

### March 19th Meeting Agenda

- **Neighborhood Report**
- **By-Laws Approval**  
*Purpose: Insure conformity with the Gresham Municipal Code, provide necessary legal provisions to become a non-profit.*
- **Guest Speakers**
  - **Valerie Beck**, MedCure Inc
  - **Steve Messinetti**, Habitat for Humanity
  - **Mike Bowling**, Owens Corning
  - **Dan Blue**, Dept of Environmental Services, City of Gresham
  - **Dick Strathern**, former Gresham City Councilor



### Rosewood Initiative Applies For Improvement Grant

#### A Dream Three Years Ago Now Anchors A Neighborhood

The [Rosewood Initiative](#) is one step closer to full participation in the City of Portland Neighborhood Prosperity

Initiative (NPI). In a show of good faith, as well as to assist in their initial planning efforts, the Portland Development Commission awarded the Rosewood Initiative \$10,000 in early December as seed money to continue business district organizing and visioning through February. This will further help the Rosewood group meet requirements for recognition as an NPI district.

Rosewood is defined as the area between 157th/165th Av and NE Pacific/SE Morrison St and overlaps the boundary between Portland and Gresham -- including the southwest corner of Wilkes East.

Six east Portland districts including Rosewood have been selected to participate in the project which is part of a larger effort. The Neighborhood Economic Development Strategy is a five-year plan to boost business districts in all of Portland's 95 neighborhoods and will bring much needed improvements to the business district around 162nd & SE Stark St.

The Rosewood Initiative must meet certain benchmarks by the end of February for full participation in the program.

Ultimately, the grant could bring up to \$750,000 to the business district in the next seven years. The money could be used for everything from adding bike racks, improved lighting and storefront facade work.

Visit [rosewoodinitiative.org](http://rosewoodinitiative.org), or Facebook "Rosewood Initiative". ■



### MedCure Prepares To Open New Headquarters

[MedCure Inc.](#), a 6-year old Portland company that arranges body donations for medical training and research will soon move into their new headquarters at

181st & NE Sandy Blvd., in Gresham.

The 20,000 square foot facility with administrative offices features a 1,300 square foot surgical training center with six stations, classrooms and a small auditorium. Construction of the new building began in early October 2011.

MedCure is a clearinghouse for families focused on donating a body to science - and medical researchers needing a body for their work.

The company also has facilities in Nevada and Rhode Island, a donor center in Florida, and has 70 employees in four cities. ■

PO Box 536 • Fairview, OR 97024



## NADAKA NATURE PARK

**Where we nurture nature, food & families.**

*By Lee Dayfield, Friends of Nadaka*

Been wondering what is happening at Nadaka these days? There were no cleanups held over the winter months but there was plenty of activity in the park.

### Students Learn About Nature

Students in the [SUN program](#) at HB Lee Middle School walked over to Nadaka almost every other week. They learned about invasive's and native plants and played games in the forest. Also they removed invasive's like ivy and Stinky Bob and planted some new plants and trees on the north end of the park. One of their projects involved making bird feeders from pine cones and hanging them in the forest. In February they hung 4 new brightly painted bird houses around the south meadow area.

### Improvement Grants Submitted

The full application for the [Metro Nature in Neighborhoods](#) (NIN) capital grant in the amount of \$238,000 was submitted January 8, 2012, for the development of the Nelson Property Neighborhood Park Master Plan. The [Columbia Slough Watershed Council](#) was the submitting organization for this grant. A site visit was done by the Metro NIN grant committee on February 13th with approximately 33 individuals attending. They included representatives from [Audubon Society of Portland](#), Wilkes East and Rockwood neighborhood associations, [Grow Portland](#), [Pacific Gardens Alzheimer's Care Center](#), [St. Aidan's Episcopal Church](#), [East-rose Unitarian Church](#), [SnowCap](#), [Human Solutions](#), [Metro Councilor Shirley Craddick](#), [Gresham City Councilors Paul Warr-King and John Kilian](#) as well as Gresham Park staff, [East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District](#) Board Member, Rick Till and Owen Wozniak from [Trust for Public Land](#).



A Federal CDBG grant has also been submitted in the amount of \$75,000 through the Columbia Slough Watershed Council in partnership with the City of Gresham. This grant would be primarily for site work and street improvements along NE Glisan that can be completed within one year from June.

The entire Nadaka Nature Park & Garden Project is estimated at over \$1 million. A requirement of this project are improvements along NE Pacific which include removal of the fence, a sidewalk, planting street trees, lighting and rain gardens. These improvements will make Nadaka more inviting as a public park should be and will be a big improvement from the 8 foot chain link fence there now.

### SOLV Earth Day At Nadaka, Apr 21st

A cleanup has been organized with [SOLV](#) for Saturday, April 21st from 9AM-1PM. You can [pre-register on the SOLV website](#) at [www.solv.org](http://www.solv.org). Find the Nadaka cleanup project to pre-register yourself or a group. We need volunteers to handle the registration table or assist around the park and you can volunteer for 1 or 2 hour shifts. If you can volunteer or would like to donate food or drinks for this cleanup please call Lee at 503.998.1044 or email [leedayfield@hotmail.com](mailto:leedayfield@hotmail.com). It is your neighborhood and this is a good opportunity to meet your neighbors and take part in making it more livable.

### Nadaka Community Festival, Aug 11th

The 2nd Annual Nadaka Community Festival will be on Saturday, August 11th. It will again begin at 9AM with a cleanup until Noon and food and fun from Noon until 3PM. The [Audubon Society of Portland](#) will have their live birds on display which are really a treat if you have never seen them. A Festival Committee is being formed and will have its first meeting at Eastrose Unitarian Church on NE 181st on Wed., March 21st at 7PM. If you are interested in being on the Committee please be there or call Lee at 503.998.1044 for more information. We are looking for groups that want to organize children's games, face painters or musicians. Other fun ideas are welcome. If you can't volunteer but would like to donate money to pay for tents, supplies, etc. please call Lee. ■

**GARAGE SALE: April 13-14, 2012.** Friday 9AM-4PM, Saturday 9AM-1PM. 16336 NE Oregon St



### Earth Day 2012 Recycling

#### Free Recycling Event for Gresham Residents & Businesses.

Gresham City Hall, [1333 NW Eastman](#)  
Sat, April 21, 2012 9AM-2PM

The City will be collecting these recyclables free of charge: Styrofoam®, paper for shredding, rigid plastic & clean plastic bags, cell phones, fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs.

**Sorry, No Electronics Accepted.** TVs, computers and monitors can be recycled **free** year-round at area [Goodwill](#) or Salvation Army stores. To dispose of hazardous materials or other recyclables call [Metro Recycling](#) at 503-234-3000 for details and locations.

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



### Clean out the garage, Clean up the yard! The Dumpster's Are Coming Saturday, June 23rd!

Spring cleaning means lots of things to take to the dump. Gather it up, because the dumpster's are coming! Open to all Wilkes East residents. A Wilkes East fundraiser. Watch [website](#) for details! ■

### STREET SWEEPING APRIL 3, 2012

Wilkes East is swept the 1st Tuesday each month  
**PLEASE KEEP CURBSIDE CLEAR**

*Did You Know? Crews sweep 474 miles of streets every month.*

### GOT A STORY TO SHARE?

If you've got an interesting story you'd like to share email it to: [info@wilkeaseastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeaseastna.org) ■

*Thank you!*

Wilkes East Neighborhood Association would like to express its gratitude to the following organizations for their generous contributions & continued support:

- Jazzy Bagels, Main St & Powell
- Parkrose Hardware, 106th & Sandy
- Third Place Coffeehouse, 172nd & Halsey
- Starbucks Coffee, 181st & Glisan
- Growers Outlet, 162nd & Glisan
- Albertsons, 181st & Glisan
- SOLV, Bringing Oregon together
- And, all the many volunteers!



Follow our progress!  
"Friends of Nadaka"  
on Facebook

### Advertise With Us

Your message seen by over 1500 neighbors  
Email: [info@wilkeaseastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeaseastna.org)