

Wilkes East Neighborhood

Gresham, Oregon USA

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

PO Box 536 • Fairview, OR 97024

Winter 2009

TRAFFIC CHANGES SLATED FOR NE181ST AVE: SPRING 2009



Traffic Near Capacity. City 'Signals' Relief On The Way!

Ask any rush hour commuter traveling NE 181st Ave in Gresham and they'll tell you, traffic congestion between Interstate 84 and NE Halsey St is miserable. In fact at times, it's downright unbearable!

Frustrated commuters rejoice, change is coming! The City of Gresham Dept of Public Affairs has announced a plan to reduce traffic congestion on NE 181st Ave between NE Sandy Blvd and NE Halsey St.

The proposed changes are scheduled to begin spring 2009, and be completed before summer. Changes include installing new state-of-the-art computer-controlled traffic signals, improving the westbound right turn at NE San Rafael St, eliminating a crosswalk across NE 181st Ave, plus several other changes in hope of improving the flow of traffic along this particularly busy section of the NE 181st Ave corridor.

Read more at www.wilkeseastna.org or greshamoregon.gov keyword: 181st ;

ROCKWOOD BUSINESSES URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN SURVEY

Rockwood Business Coalition Rockwood businesses urged to use their voice for change. Rockwood businesses are being asked to speak out about their interests and concerns through a survey specifically targeted at doing business in Rockwood.

The information from Rockwood businesses will be used to develop strategies to advocate for action on issues within the community, and to capitalize on the assets of being located within these boundaries. The Rockwood Business Coalition (RBC) is heading this effort.

"This is the first time anyone has aggressively sought information from ALL businesses in Rockwood on ALL issues that they may want to address. It is important that every business gives a few minutes of their time to responding if they really want policymakers and the community to understand and start working on their concerns," stated Dina DiNucci, Chair of the Rockwood Business Coalition. The Gresham Redevelopment Commission is interested in reviewing the results.

The survey is available at: www.rockwoodbusinesscoalition.org, by emailing dina@parkplacecoffee.com or calling 503.740.0578. ;



NADAKA CLEANUP MEETS GOAL, Receives Matching Grant For Park Improvements

This past July, the Wilkes East Neighborhood Association (WENA) held a clean-up at Nadaka Park clearing underbrush, lifting the canopy, and improving visibility and visitor safety.

The clean-up, part of a matching grant from the City of Gresham, provided funds to repair a portion of fence along NE Pacific St, remove the barbed wire fence top, and purchase a name sign for the park. (see **NADAKA**, page 2)

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Monday Feb 16, 2009 7PM, HB Lee Middle School, 1121 NE 172nd Ave

See www.wilkeseastna.org for details

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Help Fight Crime!

JOIN YOUR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



*Taking A Bite Out Of Crime,
One Block At A Time*

For more information visit our website or email info@wilkeseastna.org

Next General Meeting

Monday Feb 16, 2009 7PM

HB Lee Middle School

1121 NE 172nd Ave

See website for details

Board Meetings

6:30PM. See website for details

December 22, 2008 (Board)

January 26, 2009 (Board)

February 16, 2009 (General)

WENA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:

Kris Freiermuth

krisfreiermuth@wilkeseastna.org

Vice President:

Marc Thornsbury

marct@teleport.com

Land Use Chair:

Lee Dayfield

leedayfield@wilkeseastna.org

Secretary:

Laurie Simmons

secretary@wilkeseastna.org

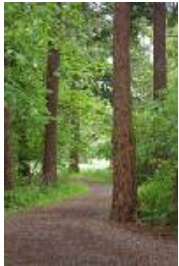
Treasurer

Billy Simmons

treasurer@wilkeseastna.org

(NADAKA, page 1)

The new large wood sign should be installed later this winter. Gresham Parks Dept worked with WENA to put on the three-hour event which attracted 35 volunteers who performed over 90 hours of work - more than doubling the original goal. ;



MORE NADAKA PARK CLEANUPS THIS WINTER - AND EARTH DAY TOO! Volunteers Needed

The Friends of Nadaka group participated in the INTEL-SOLV 'Clean & Green Project' in October with another cleanup at Nadaka Park. A large dumpster provided by SOLV, and an eager 27 adults and 8 youth volunteers continued the clearing project along NE Pacific St donating a total of 110 hours.

With awareness building to improve Nadaka Park three more cleanups are scheduled this winter: Sundays, December 7th, January 4th, and February 1st from 8:30AM to 3:00PM. Volunteers are needed and participants should bring their gloves and clippers, and dress for the weather.

For Earth Day, April 18th, Friends of Nadaka will again partner with SOLV for what will be one of the largest Earth Day projects in the nation. Many volunteers are needed for this event so sign up early to participate!

In addition Friends of Nadaka is applying to Metro for a 'Nature in the Neighborhood' matching grant. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$25,000 and applications must be submitted by early January. This project is in the planning stages and your help and ideas are welcome. Friends of Nadaka is seeking partners for this grant and the City of Gresham, Audubon, People for Parks, and St Aidan's Church have all agreed to participate.

To volunteer for Nadaka projects contact Lee Dayfield (503) 998-1044 or email leedayfield@wilkeseastna.org ;



2008 NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP HUGE SUCCESS! Beds, BBQ's, Even an Old Boat: Neighbors Dump their Junk!

With the peak of summer this year came the Wilkes East Neighborhood Clean-Up. For the past 3 years, Wilkes East residents have enjoyed the convenient disposal of unwanted trash and yard debris at the annual July fund-raiser.

Residents lined-up early for the three hour event held Saturday July 26th at HB Lee Middle School. Staffed by a dozen volunteers this year's event filled two industrial sized (40 cubic yard) dumpsters to capacity! One dumpster for Yard Debris and Wood Waste, the other dumpster dedicated to Bulky Waste (trash).

Disposed items included yard debris, furniture, beds, bbqs, carpet, garage trash, remodeling debris, lots of junk, windows and doors, even an old wooden boat!

Volunteer coordinator Brian Heerwagon said he was very impressed with the number of participants, as well as the quantity of debris. Heerwagon says he'd like to add more dumpsters and recycling to next year's event. ;

FRIENDS OF TREES COMES TO GRESHAM! First Neighborhood Planting: Mar 22

On March 22nd 2009 Friends of Trees will be hosting their 1st Neighborhood Planting event in Gresham. Friends of Trees is a non-profit organization that brings communities together to help expand tree cover in their neighborhoods and improve their environment.



Planting a tree in your yard or parking strip creates long lasting benefits enjoyed by everyone! A typical tree absorbs 10 pounds of pollutants, cleans 330 pounds of carbon dioxide, and creates 260 pounds of oxygen each year!

This winter, neighbors of Wilkes East are invited to team up with Friends of Trees to plant trees in their parking strip for \$19.99 or yard for \$39.99. The cost includes a site inspection by the Urban Forestry Department, hole digging, help planting your tree, and information on proper tree care. Visit www.friendsoftrees.org for more info.

Planning has begun for the Gresham Tree Planting Event, so contact Elizabeth Elbel at (503) 282-8846 ext 27 or email Elizabeth.Elbel@ci.gresham.or.us to get involved with this great event! ;

CHECK OUT www.CrimeReports.com for the latest on criminal activity in your neighborhood ;

GET INVOLVED - Start your own Neighborhood Watch
See www.wilkeseastna.org/node/180 for details! ;

ONLY GOT THE FIRST PAGE?

Read this entire issue online at www.wilkeseastna.org keyword: newsletter. Print a copy for your neighbors!

GRESHAM URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE SEEKING NEW ADVISORY MEMBERS



This seven-member citizen advisory committee is appointed by the Gresham City Council. The committee advises Council and staff about tree preservation and recommends

tree species for the City's street tree list. To request an application, or for additional information please contact Connie Otto, City of Gresham, at (503) 618-2360. j

CURBSIDE RECYCLING CAMPAIGN

Gresham and local haulers are participating in a Residential Recycling Campaign to educate residents about recycling set-out practices for glass items and plastic bags.

The campaign involves teams of field staff from Portland State University's Community Environmental Services monitoring roll carts throughout Gresham just prior to collection on two consecutive weeks. The teams are checking for plastic bags, major contamination and miss-sorted glass. If contamination or miss-sorted glass is found, the monitors will leave an instructional flyer to remind residents on proper recycling preparation. Residents doing a great job with recycling may receive a "Way to Go" flyer in recognition for their efforts.

Campaign goals

- reduce the presence of plastic bags set out at the curb
- educate residents about recycling glass in a separate bin – and not in the blue roll cart
- provide positive feedback to resident's who do a good job with their curbside recycling

Why glass and plastic don't go in the blue carts

Glass needs to be kept separate from other recyclables because if it breaks, it can contaminate whole loads of recyclable paper. While recyclable, plastic bags should not be recycled in the roll carts because they cause severe problems for automated recycling sorting equipment. Residents can take plastic bags to most major grocery stores for recycling.

The field team monitors in Gresham wear vests to alert residents they are part of the research team and are available to answer citizen questions on-site. Community Environmental Services will work first with Waste Connections and Gresham Sanitary customers and then move on to work with other garbage haulers over the next few months. j

Did you know... About 80% of what Americans throw away is recyclable, yet our recycling rate is just 28%. (source Environmental Protection Agency)



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* Color * Wax



Estilista: Lotty

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Gresham, OR 97230

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Portland, OR 97230

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NE 181st & I-84
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Mention you saw it in the Wilkes East newsletter!

CELEBRATE THE SEASON - Zimmerman House tours



Deck the Halls this Holiday!
Open House
Sunday Dec 20th
10:00AM-3:00PM

Zimmerman Park
17111 NE Sandy Blvd

Take a step back into history at the Zimmermann House, a Victorian era farmhouse, built in 1874 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This beautiful farmhouse is a perfect reflection of typical Columbia River dairy farm life in the late 1800s. The Zimmerman Heritage Farm is a unique cultural education and recreational resource that is being created for the benefit of the public on a 5.98-acre historic site in Gresham. Open house and tours are available every third Saturday. *Don't miss this unique opportunity to step back in time!*

For more information contact Dodi Davies, frwinfo@frwhs.org, (503) 261-8078, or visit the Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society at www.frwhs.org.

RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT REVIEW proposed map and code changes nearing approval.
Public hearing: Dec 16, 2008



Proposed changes close to approval The Planning Commission on November 10, 2008 recommended that the City Council approve the map and code changes proposed as part of the Residential Districts Review project.

The proposed changes are described at www.tinyurl.com/GreshamCode.

The City Council is scheduled to conduct a public hearing at 3:00PM Dec 16, 2008. The Planning Commission suggested staff take another look at the proposed map changes for a few locations. Staff will describe those suggestions and its recommendation to the City Council.

For more information contact Brian Martin, City of Gresham Associate Planner, at (503) 618-2266, or email askgresham@ci.gresham.or.us.

GOT A STORY TO SHARE?
If you've got an interesting story you'd like to share email it to: newsletter@wilkeseastna.org