

Brooklyn NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

March/April, 2010



SAVE OUR BROOKLYN PARK SUMMER PROGRAM!

Parks and Recreation is making **BIG CUTS** to the summer programs and Brooklyn Park is one of them. Craig Montag, Program Coordinator, has kept thousands of kids busy and involved for over 30 years in our park. In the past, Brooklyn residents have always “stepped up to the plate.” **If we as a neighborhood do not act now, we will lose this program in the summer of 2011. A decision will be made in May, 2010!**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Email, write or call Nick Fish's office and tell him what this program means to this community and to our kids. This may be our only chance, so act now.

Commissioner Nick Fish

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 240 Portland, OR 97204

Email: nick@ci.portland.or.us

Phone: Office Front Desk: 503-823-3589

Office Fax: 503-823-3596

BROOKLYN BUSINESS FAIR set for March General Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, at 7 pm
Sacred Heart Villa Hall

Corner of Milwaukie & Center

In celebration of our neighborhood's vibrant mix of small businesses, the Brooklyn Action Corps is holding an open house at our General Meeting.

The famous Brooklyn 97202 sweatshirts will be raffled off, along with other prizes. Light refreshments will also be available.

Interested in having your Brooklyn based business participate? Contact Crissy Kibbons-Lindahl at crissy@brooklyn-neighborhood.org.

Meet your neighbors and bring your ideas, concerns and vision for the Brooklyn neighborhood.

Check out the Brooklyn website:
www.brooklyn-neighborhood.org

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS YOU!

We're looking for a few good people.

Brooklyn has a “good feel” as a neighborhood. This is a comment heard often. Have you ever wondered how or what makes it “feel good?” There is a small group of people who are passionate about the livability of Brooklyn. It is their dedication to our neighborhood that keeps Brooklyn one of the more desirable areas to live and work.

The Brooklyn Action Corps is looking for people who feel passionate about their surroundings and are willing to work to continue the progress. Currently there are several vacancies on the board. If you have a few hours each month to volunteer and would like to be part of the future of Brooklyn, contact the board via the Helpline 503/241-4540. Experience is not as important as a desire to work on community building and help craft goals as well as work collaboratively with others. Volunteers are needed to help with the newsletter and carry on the events and activities sponsored by the BAC.

If you are interested in volunteering and making a difference in the future of Brooklyn, consider attending a couple of board meetings: March 10 & April 14 and May 12 (2nd Wednesday every month at 6:30) and check it out! New board members will be elected at the May 26 General Meeting.

**For more information, contact the
Brooklyn HelpLine 503/241-4540**

Calendar of Events

BAC Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

6:30 - 9 pm

Sacred Heart Villa Hall
Milwaukie & Center

Neighborhood General Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Sacred Heart Villa Hall
7 pm

BAC Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

6:30 - 9 pm

Sacred Heart Villa Hall
Milwaukie & Center

Brooklyn Plant Swap

Sunday, April 11, 2010

10 am - 2 pm

3522 SE 8th Ave.

LOOKING AHEAD

Neighborhood Clean Up Day

Saturday, May 22, 2010

10 am - 3 pm

SE 16th & Center Sts.



NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP DAY

SATURDAY, May 22, 2010

10 am - 3 pm

Where? 16th & Center

Yard Debris: The city is making changes regarding yard debris since the green dumpsters are available all year.

Watch for the newsletter in May.

Curbside recyclables CANNOT be accepted, as well as motors, large appliances, hazardous waste, and e-waste such as monitors, computers, etc.

Each vehicle will be quoted a price before unloading and we reserve the right to refuse any load.

Contractor loads will not be accepted.

More details in the May newsletter.

Volunteers are needed! Usually 2 hour shifts.

CALL NOW and reserve your time.

If you would like to volunteer

call the Brooklyn Helpline

503/241-4540



Check out the

Brooklyn Neighborhood Website

www.brooklyn-neighborhood.org

Brooklyn Neighborhood News

is published bi-monthly by the BAC. To contact the Brooklyn News, call the helpline or email the newsletter at brooknews@brooklyn-neighborhood.org

Community announcements, local events and press releases are accepted on a space-available basis. Closing date for the newsletter is on the 15th of even-numbered months. This newsletter is edited and designed by Marie Phillippi.

BROOKLYN HELP LINE

503/241-4540

The Help Line is for the Brooklyn neighborhood to voice their concerns or pass on information to the Brooklyn Action Corps.



Spring is upon us and it's time for the
5th Annual Brooklyn Plant Swap

Sunday, April 11th

3522 SE 8th Avenue 10-2pm

In addition to plants, you can bring seeds, pots, books & tools.

We'll have coffee in the morning and hotdogs after 12 noon!

Please call Kathleen if you have questions.

971/212-5702 or email neonkatz@hotmail.com

Wear Your Neighborhood

Brooklyn T-Shirts and Hoodies are available at True Brew Coffee House

3370 SE Milwaukie Ave



Cost is \$15 each with limited quantities of S, M, L, XLG, & 2XLG. Hoodies are also available for \$25.



TRI-MET RELEASES CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REPORT

The planned Portland to Milwaukie Light Rail line took another step forward in February with the release of the Draft Conceptual Design Report. This report provides a preliminary look at the urban design principles that will shape the look and feel of the project as it moves forward to construction.

Brooklyn residents have been very influential in shaping the look and function of the project thus far, but there is much more work to do. Public comment is still being sought and there is still time to be heard.

The region's next light rail line will better connect Brooklyn to Downtown Portland, South Waterfront, Downtown Milwaukie, and the Oak Grove neighborhood. Construction will begin in 2011, and property acquisition for the project will begin this summer. Rail service will begin in the fall of 2015.

The draft report can be accessed online at www.trimet.org/pm.



**THANKS TO ALL THE
BROOKLYN BUSINESSES
THAT SUPPORT
THIS NEWSLETTER.
WE APPRECIATE IT
AND URGE OUR
BROOKLYN NEIGHBORS
TO SUPPORT YOU!**

The Brooklyn Action Corps

RIDE CONNECTION: Transportation for Those Who Need it Most

Transportation is a vital component in helping older adults and people with disabilities, maintain their independence and remain active in their communities. Not having access to transportation leaves people vulnerable.

Ride Connection provides essential transportation for all trip purposes, including errands like grocery shopping and banking. In addition, Ride Connection and its partners offer a way to combat social isolation by providing trips to places like local senior centers.

Volunteers are at the center of these efforts as they serve both as concierge-escorts and drivers. Many Ride Connection customers live right here in the Brooklyn neighborhood. Thus, with the ever increasing numbers of people requiring services, the need for volunteers is dramatic! Please call 503/528-1738 or email teasterday@rideconnection.org today!

Volunteers help in many ways like driving one-way, driving ½ a day a week or on-call. There is a choice to either drive one's own vehicle or a Ride Connection mini-bus.

Ride Connection, a private non-profit organization, provides transportation options, services and resources for older adults and people with disabilities by coordinating services of over 30 different community partners. Last fiscal year, Ride Connection provided over 370,000 rides to over 10,200 individuals. The services provided are largely volunteer-based and no cost to the customer, but donations are gladly accepted.

Ride Connection serves individuals over 60 and people with disabilities. Services are offered between the hours of 8am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.



If you or someone you know would like to use the service, the best course of action is to call Ride Connection's service center at 503/226-0700. Once connected, one can register to ride, schedule trips and find out more about services specific to the Brooklyn Neighborhood.

FOCUS ON BROOKLYN BUSINESSES

Katie Light, Real Estate Broker

Volunteer at Loaves and Fishes

(See Katie's card in our business section)

Kirsten: What do people look for in our neighborhood?

Katie: People are drawn to Brooklyn for its close proximity to the core of Portland, historical character, convenient public transportation and the 'small neighborhood' charm of our friendly Brooklyn neighbors. I've lived in Brooklyn since 1993, and believe its Portland's 'Best kept secret'! While other close-in neighborhoods have reached their peak, Brooklyn is still relatively affordable and has many opportunities for business growth. The MAX Light Rail will also be a positive addition to the neighborhood, by adding transportation options, stimulating the neighborhood economy, and adding value to our homes. It's all very exciting!



Not only is the price a consideration, but an investor needs to consider all operating costs when calculating cash flow. Costs include maintenance, taxes, property management fees, and many other costs affecting your bottom line.

Also, as a landlord you will be dealing with possible tenant issues, repair issues and landlord regulations. Be informed, do your research and contact your real estate broker if you are considering investing.

Kirsten: What advice would you give someone looking for a starter home?

Katie: Brooklyn is still affordable compared to other close-in neighborhoods. In Brooklyn, houses can still be found in the low-mid 200 K's, but there are other close-in areas new buyers might consider if they are in the same or lower price range (Creston, S Tabor, and more) First time buyers should find a real estate broker that is familiar with Brooklyn and the neighboring communities, and able to consult on available options in their price range. We will do our best to keep you in Brooklyn!

In general, purchasing a home close-in is a smart move. Real estate prices are higher, however, but the benefits outweigh the higher costs. Any property close to city amenities will normally hold their value better than outer lying areas, and your commuting life will be much easier! Don't forget about the first time buyer/existing homeowner tax credits. Time is running out!

This interview was conducted by
Kirsten Lampi, BAC Board Member.

Kirsten: What advice would you give someone living in our neighborhood looking for investment/rental property?

Katie: Brooklyn and other close-in neighborhoods are always a good bet for investments/rentals . . . if the price is right. Close proximity to downtown, public transportation, and work are always a plus for renters. In addition, anything close-in will have lower vacancy rates and demand higher rent. The most difficult task is finding investment properties that pencil out for a positive cash flow. Single family dwellings are increasingly difficult to cash flow, and many investors are now looking to multiplexes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Officer Eric Weber is our precinct officer. His work schedule is Sunday through Thursday, 4pm - 2am. His direct line is 503/545-3392. **DO NOT CALL OFFICER WEBER IF YOU NEED IMMEDIATE HELP OR TO REPORT A CRIME IN PROCESS. CALL 911.**

Officer Mitchell Orellana is the new Neighborhood Response Team member. His number is 503/823-0076. His schedule is Tuesday-Friday, 7am - 5 pm. **For Police Non-Emergency, call 503/823-3333.**

Going Green / Saving Resources

Looking for effective ways to save money on utility bills? Where are jobs and training in sustainability posted? How to go about hiring an eco-friendly contractor or where to donate used building materials for a tax-donation? How about making your home elderly-friendly and wheelchair accessible?

To find the answers, try this FREE service from Metro.

Valerie Garrett
Regional Green Building Hotline 503/823-5431
<http://www.buildgreen411.com>
greenhotline@ci.portland.or.us