

## Annexation seeks to secure fire services

As City Manager Mike Swanson explains it, the proposal laid out in Measure 3-166 to annex Milwaukie into Fire District No. 1 is really pretty simple.

"Annexing to the Fire District is the best way to secure fire suppression and emergency medical response services not just for today, but well into the future," Swanson said. "And it won't cost taxpayers a single cent."

The City has contracted with the District for these services for the past seven years, but the contract expires in 2008. Through annexation, the City and District will be able to stabilize this relationship.

The way the ballot measure is structured, if annexation were approved through the May 17<sup>th</sup> election and the Fire District began assessing its tax of \$2.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the City would roll back its property taxes by that same exact amount so that in the end the tax is neutral.

Furthermore, the ballot measure's language guards against

Please see **Fire Annexation** on page 2

## Lake Road gets funding

Sometimes when persistence pays off it pays off big. Such was the case when after years and years of trying Milwaukie secured \$5 million in federal transportation funding for long sought after safety improvements to Lake Road between 21st Street and Kuehn Road.

The Lake Road project will include the addition of sidewalks for safer pedestrian use, bike lanes, safe student crossings near schools and other key locations, street lights at key intersections, transit stop improvements, street pavement improvements, and three new lane cross sections with left turn lanes.

"We have been working with Congressman Blumenauer to secure funding for Lake Road to help protect the hundreds of students and citizens that walk, bicycle or ride the bus along this busy street," said Milwaukie Mayor Jim Bernard. "This

Please see **Lake Road** on page 2

### Milwaukie's Local Leaders

## The Lawnmower Man

Every couple weeks Jim Mishler climbs aboard a riding mower and mows the dozen or so properties around his Island Station Neighborhood that otherwise would go neglected.

Jim's cared for these areas for the past five years because others don't, or can't, and because he thinks it makes his Neighborhood look a little bit better. He also thinks it helps raise the level of pride he and his neighbors take in their community.

"I think everyone wants to be proud of their Neighborhood," Jim says.

Jim says he began his voluntary stewardship after mentioning in a Neighborhood Association meeting that he was already caring for a couple out of control yards with his own push-mower, but that he would do even more if he had a riding mower. The chair of the Neighborhood suggested he apply for a Neighborhood Grant for the funding. Jim did just that, and his application was accepted.

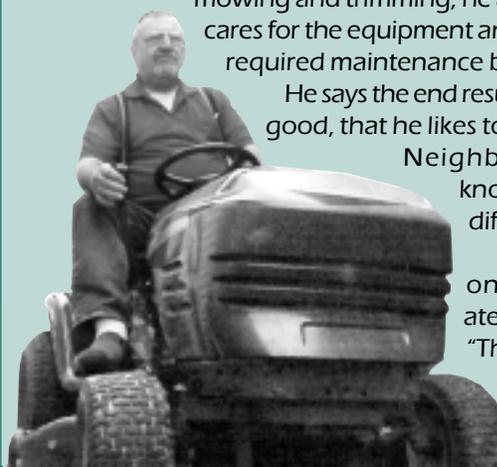
"I've been mowing and weed-eating ever since," Jim says.

In addition to the countless hours he's invested in the mowing and trimming, he also meticulously cares for the equipment and often does the required maintenance by himself.

He says the end result makes him feel good, that he likes to look around his Neighborhood and know he's making a difference.

"I'm sure everyone else appreciates it too," Jim said.

"They don't say anything, but I'm sure they like what they see."



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## Collection Event ready to go

On Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> the City and your local waste haulers will host the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Down to Earth Day.

City residents are welcome to bring the following materials to the collection day event: discarded furniture, unmounted tires, scrap metal, yard debris and general trash. Sites for the collections will be located at Linwood Element-

tary at 11909 SE Linwood, Ardenwald Elementary at 8950 SE 36<sup>th</sup>, and Seth Lewelling School at 5325 SE Logus. Collection sites will be open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cars arriving at the sites after 1:30 p.m. will be turned away.

Hazardous materials, including paint, Please see **Down To Earth Day** on page 2



## A City poised for change

*This month's Councilor Column is written by Councilor Carlotta Collette. To contact Carlotta call (503) 786-7511 or send an email to [collettec@ci.milwaukie.or.us](mailto:collettec@ci.milwaukie.or.us).*



In January, I reported that the two complaints I heard most often during my campaign were that our streets are a mess and our City is dying from lack of progress.

I want to take this opportunity to follow-up on those two very serious concerns.

You told me we have too many cars going too fast on streets that were never meant to handle the load. Without sidewalks, these streets are particularly unsafe.

After studying our City's responsibilities and its budget, I can tell you, the City alone can't afford to fix these problems. Instead, our City employees write grant proposals and work closely with other jurisdictions to tap into programs that help us fund transportation improvements.

In coming months, you will see evidence of their success on many Milwaukie streets. The most visible will be on McLoughlin Boulevard this summer, where more than \$4 million in state funding will create a beautiful gateway to our downtown and Riverfront Park.

About \$5 million in federal funding has been approved by Congress to add sidewalks and other critical improvements to Lake Road. Metro regional support will help rebuild the streets, sidewalks and bike lanes at Main Street and Harrison Downtown.

We won't be fixing everything this year, but we are working very hard on the problems, and we are bringing in solid funding from outside Milwaukie to help out.

Which leads me to the second issue: the perception that Milwaukie never gets anything done. The projects listed above and about a dozen more will soon put that old impression to rest. You will be seeing huge changes in Milwaukie in the next few years.

New projects are under way in several areas of the City, including the showcase North Main Village, a mixed commercial and residential development across from Ledding Library and City Hall. Instead of feeling like a dying community, Milwaukie is being touted as a regional model. Our rebirth is under way.

So get on board. Tell us what you want to see in Milwaukie. Join City Council members and Neighborhood leaders for an informal conversation on the second Saturday of every month at 8 a.m. in the Public Safety Building on 32<sup>nd</sup> and Harrison.

These are open sessions with everyone at the same table. Join us and help shape your City. 📍

## Hospital cares for its patients, community

Providence Milwaukie Hospital doesn't just care for the thousands of patients it treats every year, it also cares for its community.

For the past several years Providence Milwaukie has been the title sponsor of the City's downtown summer celebration, whether it be the Milwaukie Cherry Festival, Milwaukie Festival Daze, or Riverfest, and it also works closely with the Ardenwald/Johnson Creek Neighborhood Association whenever it's planning new expansion to ensure it's a good neighbor. Hospital employees are also active at Ardenwald Elementary by providing reading volunteers and health education, and the Hospital sponsors summer concerts in Ardenwald Park.



In addition to being an incredible community partner,

Providence Milwaukie is recognized as being one of the greatest hospitals in the nation. In 2003 and 2001, Providence Milwaukie was awarded the national Solucient 100 Top Hospitals Award. In 2001-2002, the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce named the hospital its Large Business of the Year. And in 2002 it earned the Arts & Culture Business of the Year from the Arts Action Alliance of Clackamas County.

The Hospital is one of the City's largest employers with almost 500 employees, and is probably one of the City's busiest businesses. Last year 3,346 patients were admitted to the hospital, preformed 603 births, and treated 24,779 people in its emergency department. 📍

### Down To Earth Day from page 1

will NOT be accepted at the clean up sites. The Household Hazardous Waste Facilities in Northwest Portland and Oregon City will accept your hazardous materials at no cost.

The following fees will be charged at Down to Earth Day to offset disposal costs:

Unmounted Tires, \$ 1.50 • Car load, \$2 • Station Wagon Load, \$2 • Small/Short bed pick up, \$5 • Small Trailer, \$5  
Large Trailer, \$6 • Standard Pickup, \$6 • Large Truck \$8

The program is available to City of Milwaukie residents only and curbside service for seniors and disabled residents is available on a limited basis. For more information, please call JoAnn Herrigel at (503) 786-7508. 📍

### Fire Annexation from page 1

future increases. The explanatory statement of Measure 3-166 states: "Taxes cannot be increased without voter approval."

Under annexation the Fire District can better plan for long-range capital expenses and service requirements and also allows City residents to fully participate

in CFD1 elections for Board members and money measures such as serial levies and bond measures.

For more information regarding Measure 3-166 call (503) 786-7503 or log onto the City's website at [www.cityofmilwaukie.org](http://www.cityofmilwaukie.org) and view the Measure's fact sheet. 📍

### Lake Road from page 1

project will help make the area safe for schoolchildren and citizens."

The City's Engineering department will spend the remainder of this year designing the project and an estimated 18 to 24 months to construct. The long construction time is due to the fact the road will remain open as much as possible. 📍

## Park plan to undergo review

The Planning Commission will likely review North Clackamas Park & Recreation District's proposal for new sports fields at North Clackamas Park at its April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Because a high number of people are expected to provide testimony the Planning Department is searching for a location with ample room. At the time of print the location had yet to be confirmed, but the hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. For the location, please call (503) 786-7503. If additional hearings are required, the Planning Commission will continue its consideration of the application at its May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The application includes plans for constructing four new ballfields, a soccer field, a concession stand, a walking trail and additional parking. The plan also calls for the preservation of the horse arena and the restoration and enhancement of several wetland areas.

Funding for the park plan was made available last year when the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners dedicated \$ 1.9 million in state lottery funds for the project.

Those interested in looking at the concept plan can view it on-line at <http://www.co.clackamas.or.us/ncprd/packets/proposal.pdf>.

## Celebrate Library week!

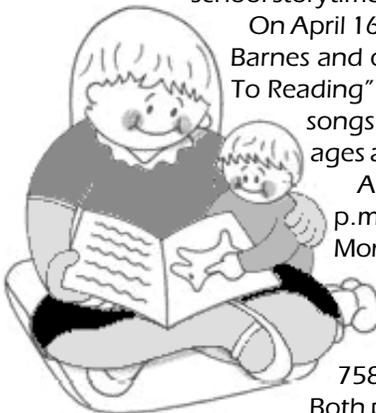
Come celebrate National Library Week at the Ledding Library by joining City Councilors and the City Manager for some special story time, by reading your favorite poem or by making and then wearing a ridiculous hat!

City Manager Mike Swanson will read a story at the preschool storytime on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

On April 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Councilor Deborah Barnes and others will take their "Hats Off To Reading" by enjoying some stories and songs and by making a crazy hat. All ages are welcome.

And on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. celebrate National Poetry Month by reading aloud your most favorite poem. This program is for kids in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Please call (503) 786-7580 to sign up for a 5 minute slot.

Both programs are FREE!



## Three Bridges ready to begin

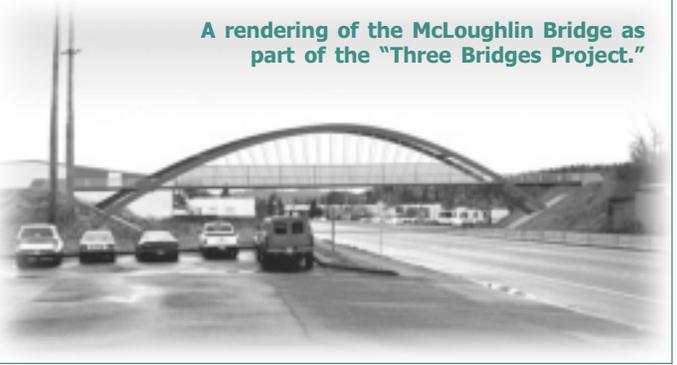
You can't see them but the three bridges that will connect the gaps of the Springwater Trail are being built as we speak. Site preparation will begin this spring and come fall, the bridges will be hauled in and put in place to span the Union Pacific Railroad, Johnson Creek, and McLoughlin Boulevard.

Also connected with the project are trail improvements. This project will help create a 19-mile trail that starts at OMSI, extends through Oaks Bottom and then crosses these three gaps to connect with a former rail corridor turned trail that runs all the way to Gresham.

Once construction begins the hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. A small amount of nighttime work will be critical in order to maintain traffic flow on Hwy. 99E as the signature bridge over McLoughlin Blvd. is being raised.

Check future editions of *The Pilot* for more information as the project evolves.

A rendering of the McLoughlin Bridge as part of the "Three Bridges Project."



## Parade back by popular demand

After it was announced the annual parade would not be a part of Milwaukie's Riverfest celebration, more than just a couple residents let organizers know it would be sorely missed.

With public reaction ringing in their ears, the board members of Celebrate Milwaukie Inc., the nonprofit organization that runs Riverfest, decided to re-

verse course and plan the Riverfest Parade for July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Because of budgetary constraints, Riverfest will be scaled back to a one-day event rather than the three-day event it has been in the past, but now the parade is back in the mix. Also remaining is the live musical entertainment, the Dragon Boat exhibition and the stunning fireworks display.

## The City Code Corner

While many of us start getting busy cleaning out the old items we have accumulated during the dark days of winter, we may forget that this time of year is also when the vegetation on our property starts growing.

Milwaukie's Ordinance states that grass, thistles cockleburs, brambles, wild blackberry bushes, weeds or other noxious vegetation may not exceed eight inches in height.

Additionally you may want to take a look at the trees and shrubs on your property. The Ordinance states that it is the "duty and routine obligation of all owners or occupants of land adjoining any street or sidewalk in the city to trim overhanging shrubs or trees and to remove any growth or fixed object which creates an unreasonable risk of harm to any person or property."

In a nutshell, residents need to keep all overhanging limbs or shrubs trimmed to at least eight feet above any sidewalk and 12 feet above any street.

# AROUND TOWN

The Around Town section gives elected Neighborhood Leaders an opportunity to interpret issues facing their community as well as promote greater neighborhood involvement. As a result of this open forum the opinions presented may not always represent the attitudes of the City or of the author's entire Neighborhood. The Pilot and its participating Neighborhood Officers welcome your feedback. Please see page six for contact information.

## LEWELLING

Written by **Jeff Klein, Chair**

### NEXT MEETING'S INFO:

When: **April 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.** • Where: **Lewelling Elementary**

Last meeting was a busy one if you missed it. We had a representative from our Parks District show us the proposal for the ball fields. Lots of questions were asked and answered.

This month we have two groups speaking about their opinions of what should and should not be done there. It will be a great way to stay informed and make sure that the best solution for all of Milwaukie is made.

We also had several members of the Fire Department talk about the proposed annexation. They were very informative and clearly outlined what the ramifications are either way. I encourage anyone who has questions about this topic to give me a call or ask someone at the department.

Our Code Enforcement officers were also there to answer

some tough questions. As we all see there are some real changes going on in Our Neighborhood. Houses are for sale and being purchased at an alarming rate. We have lots of new young people moving into the area and the face of Our Neighborhood is starting to change. For those who don't know our long time neighbors have been doing all the work in keeping our Neighborhood clean, safe and active. It is time that we get some new people in to help out. The Meetings are only a little longer than an hour and we have childcare on site to watch your children. Stay active, stay informed.

Remember our rummage sale at Lewelling Elementary is coming up May 21<sup>st</sup> and we need volunteers and donations call me at (503) 341-3702. July 30<sup>th</sup> we will have our Picnic in the Park. Everyone is welcome and we supply the food.

## LAKE ROAD

Written by **Bob Moore, Chair**

### NEXT MEETING'S INFO:

When: **April 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

Where: **Clackamas ESD**

The March meeting had a full spectrum of presentations – so many that there just wasn't enough time to discuss everything we had hoped to. However we managed to cover the most important bases and eat our delicious cookies.

One of our presentations was made by the Clackamas County Fire District. They discussed the principles behind Measure 3-166 and described the advantages of annexing to their district.

We also discussed the adoption of Century Park. Now's the time to broaden

our shoulders to pick up a load outside our own yards to better our community.

The item on the agenda that drew the most interest was the proposed changes for North Clackamas Park. We voted to approve the idea for the ballfields and soccer field but with reservations regarding traffic management and walkways at the entrance road. A letter was sent to North Clackamas Parks & Recreation voicing support of the concept.

Did I mention that with the help of our Mayor and friends back in Washington D.C., Lake Road will be getting money



Bob Moore (from left), Ron Silverman and Forris Frick helped install Lake Road's Neighborhood sign near Lake Road and Highway 224. A Neighborhood Grant was used for the funding.

within this lifetime for an upgrade to our Neighborhood's sidewalks, curbs, and bike lanes?

## LINWOOD

Written by **Dolly Macken Hambright, Chair**

### NEXT MEETING'S INFO:

When: **April 14<sup>th</sup>** • Where: **Linwood Elementary**

Clackamas Fire District #1 Assistant Chief, Ed Kirchofer, and other folks gave a presentation regarding the proposed annexation of Milwaukie to the Fire District.

Among the points mentioned were the ability for Milwaukie to have representation on the District Board in order to make decisions regarding fire district matters and policy and the ability to vote regarding issues that affect fire protection for the City. Emphasis was put on the District not being an actual entity

of the County and that if this measure is not passed, we could be in a poor monetary position when our existing contract is up for renewal in 2008.

A calendar of upcoming events was reviewed and there was some discussion about Neighbor Night Out in August, and the possibility that Linwood may ask to join the Overland group at Mill Park for this event.

Among the items discussed was the Riverfest Celebration for 2005, which will be a one-day event for the next two years due to construction in downtown Milwaukie.

It was voted that Linwood will contribute by grant to the Riverfest fireworks and once again to Milwaukie Center Meals on Wheels.



# AROUND TOWN

## HISTORIC MILWAUKIE

Written by **Ed Zumwalt**, Chair

### NEXT MEETING'S INFO:

When: **April 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

Where: **Milwaukie Elementary**

At our March meeting both Clackamas Fire District #1 and Gramor Development made presentations regarding major decisions facing our City.

The Fire District, represented by Kyle Gorman and Mark Cavthorn and backed up by Councilor Carlotta Collette, presented the advantages of ballot measure

3-166, the City annexation to CFD1 and reduction of City tax certification. The measure will be on the May 17<sup>th</sup> ballot.

Nick Diamond and Matt Grady of Gramor presented conceptual plans and answered questions regarding their proposed development on Oak Street across from Milwaukie Marketplace. Traffic problems and solutions were discussed as were possible business makeup of the new center.

We convened a second time this month on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Annie Ross House to settle some housekeeping issues, in-

cluding future grants. Also, Terrie Darling of the Riverfront Board developed a survey to acquire citizens' input on features for the park, and it was a major part of our agenda.

Extra meetings will be increasingly necessary due to time constraints forced by School District Budget issues. We are considering a move to a different venue.

We strongly urge our City leaders to work with Tri-Met to open the Southgate Park and Ride to accommodate cars on the North Main site and the retail soon to come.

## ARDENWALD/J.C.

Written by **Carlotta Collette**, Chair

### NEXT MEETING'S INFO:

When: **April 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.** • Where: **Ardenwald Elem.**

Our neighborhood association continues to grow with new residents bringing their ideas and concerns each month. Visitors are usually surprised to see so many people so engaged in local issues.

At the March meeting, we heard from neighbors of North Clackamas Park. Since many Ardenwald residents use the park's facilities on a regular basis, we were happy to weigh in on plans to add tournament fields for youth baseball and a permanent soccer field. We also heard from our local fire officials about Milwaukie's proposed annexation to Clackamas County Fire District 1. Once it was clear

that property taxes would not go up and the quality of our fire and emergency services would not go down there was no opposition to the plan.

The pace of planning for our May 14<sup>th</sup> garden tour is picking up. You can read more about it in the next issue of the Pilot. Join us in April for more local news and community building.



Otters have made a recent return to Johnson Creek

the public and there is time allowed for citizen comments. Call Pat DuVal (503)786-7502 for meeting times.

The community cleanup day has been set for May 7<sup>th</sup> this year. This is the time to get rid of all that stuff that has been hanging around. If you want to volunteer to lend a hand please call JoAnn Herrigel at (503) 786-7508.

## HECTOR CAMPBELL

Written by **David Aschenbrenner**, Chair

### NEXT MEETING'S INFO:

When: **April 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.** • Where: **Public Safety Building**

Last month we had a good set of presentations from several people. Those involved in the N. Clackamas Park Ball fields' issues, the Fire chief from Clackamas Fire District #1 and the City Manager Mike Swanson. The information was good but our Neighborhood turnout was small.

So once again I have to ask why? Is it that all is well in the Neighborhood and people are busy with other things? Is it that people don't know the meeting location or time? Or is it something else? We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 7 p.m. at the Public Safety Building 32<sup>nd</sup> and Harrison.

On to other things, the City budget season has started. If you want a say in the City budget or want to see how your money is spent, the budget meetings are open to

the public and there is time allowed for citizen comments. Call Pat DuVal (503)786-7502 for meeting times.

The community cleanup day has been set for May 7<sup>th</sup> this year. This is the time to get rid of all that stuff that has been hanging around. If you want to volunteer to lend a hand please call JoAnn Herrigel at (503) 786-7508.

## ISLAND STATION

Written by **Lisa Batey**, Chair

### NEXT MEETING'S INFO:

When: **April 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

Where: **Milwaukie Grange**

A lot of hard work has gone into improvements in Spring Park and on Elk Rock Island over the past few years. You can see the benefit on the island this time of year, when trillium and lillies come up through what used to be referred to as

the "ivy desert". The latest news is that a pair of eagles seem to be setting up a nest on the east side of the island.

Unfortunately, some visitors still abuse the parks, from paintballers to drinkers to those who leave behind their garbage after fishing or picnicking.

So come join us in cleaning up the garbage and doing more work on removing ivy, blackberry and other invaders, as we join SOLV's Earth Day cleanup on Saturday, April 23. Park at Amadeus Restau-

rant (21<sup>st</sup> and Sparrow) and join us at 19<sup>th</sup> and Sparrow at 9 a.m. with your gloves (and pruners, if you have them).

For more details, see [http://www.solv.org/programs/solv\\_it.asp](http://www.solv.org/programs/solv_it.asp) or call (503) 353-1825. And bring your ideas for other cleanup projects in the Neighborhood to the next meeting. We'll also hear about the fire district annexation ballot measure at that meeting, and continue our discussion of ways to foster safer driving in the Neighborhood.

