



The New Columbia Neighbor

December 2009

New Writers Join the Newsletter Team!

We are proud to announce that we have a guest writer this month! Alexis King is a youth who enjoys going to the Regence Boys & Girls Club and participating in art classes and activities. Alexis' article was selected because she is a motivated writer in the "Media Monday" program at the Boys & Girls Club. This program allows youth to draw, sketch and write creatively by compiling a "zine" (an artistic magazine) that people can read.

Next month we will feature another youth writer who will learn interview skills, write an article about his/her community and show off their final product in the newsletter!

The New Columbia Neighbor Newsletter encourages youth to write, express themselves and get involved in their community. If you are a New Columbia youth and would like to write an article for the newsletter, contact Molly Gray at 503-793-6335 or email MollyG@hapdx.org

Rosa Parks Students Read Poetry to Seniors

Many students from Rosa Parks School have recently learned how to write poetry. On December 10th at 12:30, two teachers and ten students walked down the street to the senior housing apartment building, Trenton Terrace (4720 N Trenton). While seniors gathered in the Trenton Terrace community room, one by one, the students stood up and performed their poetry.

This performance encouraged youth to keep writing and expressing themselves. This intergenerational event helped boost self-confidence by learning to get over those public speaking jitters and by having the attention of a supportive audience. On top of it all, the youth also had a chance to meet some older adults in their community.

If you would like to listen to more poetry and support our Rosa Parks School students contact Molly to organize another reading or performance. For more information call Molly Gray at 503-285-0333 or email MollyG@hapdx.org

Quick News!

- Store Meeting: Connect with residents and help plan a new store for the community – Thursday, December 17th, 6pm, 4632 N Trenton.
- Soul Santa arrives on Saturday, December 19th, 11am – 1pm at the Regence Boys & Girls Club. Toy giveaway, photo opportunities.

Thank you, Portland State University Bookstore!

The PSU Bookstore is supporting the New Columbia community campus by setting up a "giving tree" in their store. Customers have the opportunity to pick an ornament off of the giving tree, purchase school supplies, books, art supplies and more to donate it to the New Columbia community campus. Stay tuned in the next issue to find out how else they support New Columbia!

Important Numbers to Know

New Columbia Property Management Office at 503.286.1500

Non Emergency Police: 503.823.3333
Traffic Safety Concerns: 503.823.7233
Community Services Information: 211

Emergency: 911
New Columbia Opportunity Center: 503.943.5600
www.newcolumbia.org

What's Up at New Columbia?

Corner Store Update: Conversations and Collaboration with Village Gardens

While the corner store space on Newman and Trenton is empty, neighbors have come together to discuss what their ideal store would be. New Columbia residents who belong to Village Gardens are interested in working with New Columbia staff and Housing Authority of Portland to open up a community store. Village Gardens is a program managed by Janus Youth Programs. Janus has a wide variety of activities and programs offered for New Columbia residents, but one of the most popular is the operation of youth employment programs with Food Works and the Seeds of Harmony community garden.

Members of Village Gardens met a few times to discuss the idea of opening a convenient store for both residents of New Columbia and their neighbors who live in North Portland. During the most recent meeting, the group gathered in the store space, taped white sheets of paper to the wall and listed both the kinds of produce and staples that they would want in a neighborhood store as well as listing what they would want the store to be and what they would not want the store to become. A general consensus is that they would like to offer healthy foods that are affordable to the community.

The group scheduled tours to visit Proper Eats (located on Lombard in St. Johns), People's Co-Op in SE, and New Seasons in the Arbor Lodge neighborhood. They hope to discuss various business models, ways of operating stores and finding the right model for running a business in New Columbia.

While this brainstorm and work group is comprised of mostly Village Gardens participants, they are extending an invitation to anyone who has an interest in bringing a healthy and positive store to New Columbia. Some participants shared an excitement about selling the produce that they grow in the Seeds of Harmony garden. Others voiced an interest in entrepreneurship ideas and marketing strategies to bring outside business to the area. The group ranges from teens to older adults with a wide array of interests. Everyone is welcome to join.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17th, 6 – 8pm in the store space located at 4632 N Trenton (on the corner of N. Newman and N. Trenton). If you would like to come to the meeting contact Community Builder, Molly Gray at 503-793-6335 or email MollyG@hapdx.org

Property Management Office Hours and Closures

The New Columbia property management and leasing office will close at 1pm on both Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. The office will be closed on December 25th and January 1st. For more information call the management office at 503-286-1600.

Impact Northwest Holiday Hours

The senior services office across the street from Trenton Terrace will be closed for the holiday on December 24, 25th and then from December 28th to January 3rd. Impact Northwest will reopen on January 4th. More information on activities call Gina at 503-289-1864.

University Park Community Center Hours and Closures

On December 24th the UPCC will be open from 6:30am – 3pm. UPCC will be closed on December 25th. New Years Eve UPCC will be open from 6:30am – 3pm and closed on New Years Day. For more information on hours of operation call 503-823-3631.

Energy Assistance Appointments Continue

Call 503-721-6774 to make an appointment with the YWCA of Greater Portland energy assistance staff. They are at New Columbia every Wednesday, but you cannot see them without an appointment. After you get an appointment confirmed, make two photocopies of your: utility bill, photo ID, social security cards and proof of income. Appointments are located in the Community Education Center at 4625 N Trenton.

Boys & Girls Club is Ready for Holidays

Thank you to all of the volunteers and families who came out to help make the Boys & Girls Club's Thanksgiving Dinner a huge success! The club truly appreciate your involvement and hope to see you all at the family dinner on December 22nd.

The Boys & Girls Club is in the middle of its Winter Fundraiser. Our goal is to raise \$500 by the end of the year to ensure that we can continue to offer low-cost, quality programming. As of Thanksgiving, we had reached the halfway point to our goal. Keep bringing in your pennies and dimes and we should be able to reach our goal in no time. Any donations can be made at the Boys & Girls Club and are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support!

Come to the family dinner on December 22nd from 5:30-7:30pm. Expect lots of delicious food, games, prizes, gifts, and craft activities. Open to all current members and their families. Note: a parent or guardian must be present for members to attend.

The Art Room is the Place to Be at The Regence Boys & Girls Club!

By: Alexis King, New Columbia Youth



Hi, my name is Alexis and I'm going to tell you about Mr. Colin and the art room at the Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Colin is a staff at the Boys & Girls Club. He works in the art room and he does fun stuff like painting and poster contests. He also does drawing and water paint. He is a nice person. He loves art and kids. He also goes and makes music in the studio room, like spooky stuff for the Haunted House during October. Mr. Colin is also doing the National Fine Arts. He draws a big man and he has kids draw stuff on the man. He is a very, very good artist and some of the kids make turkeys, bats, owls and also paper pumpkins.

There is also a staff named Ms. Kelly. She also works in the art room with Mr. Colin. She does crafts like the owls and stuff. She also helps kids with the writing their stories. She's also doing Media Mondays. That is where you write a poem or a story and a picture to go with it. Then she publishes it in our magazine. Ms. Kelly has also been working at the Boys & Girls Club for seven years. That is a long time. Ms. Kelly also goes to school at University of Portland. I like the art room because of the activities like gimp and also all the cutting and gluing activities. The art room is my favorite activity because I love art and the Boys & Girls Club because it is very fun. I want to encourage your children to come to the Boys & Girls Club and make new friends.

For more information call the Boys & Girls Club at 503-875-8678.

Red Cross Event: Together We Prepare

Join the Red Cross on December 22nd for an event called, Together We Prepare. This is a presentation that is focused on individual preparedness. This event is free for residents who live in New Columbia and Tamarack Apartments. This will be from 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm during the Winter Family Night at the Boys and Girls Club at 8960 N Woolsey Ave, Portland, OR 97203.

Keep your eyes peeled for future events like babysitting certification classes, "When I'm in Charge" workshops and First Aid and CPR classes in the upcoming months.

For more information call the Boys & Girls Club, 503-875-8678 or Red Cross Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Nate Warren at 503-528-5767.

Ho! Ho! Ho! Soul Santa Comes to New Columbia

Head on over to the Regence Boys & Girls Club on Saturday, December 19th from 11am – 1pm to meet Soul Santa! He will be at the Club for youth to meet him, sit on his lap and ask for a Christmas wish. This event is free for families to come and enjoy some good old fashioned holiday fun. Get ready to flash your pearly whites because there will be photo opportunities! Soul Santa will give toys to youth until he runs out of presents!

For more information on this event please call the Regence Boys & Girls Club at 503-875-8678.

Warm Up Your Vocal Chords, We're Going Singing!

New Columbia residents have organized an event for all of those folks who have wanted to show off their vocal chords! Come one, come all to this holiday event! Meet up on Friday, December 19th at 6pm in the Community Education Center, 4625 N Trenton. The group will enjoy cider, hot chocolate and light refreshments. Then the group will head outside to sing!

For more information contact New Columbia Community Builder, Leslie Esinga at 503-285-5060 or email LeslieE@hapdx.org

Town Hall Comes to a Close, New Columbia Block Councils Begin

Because New Columbia is an 82 acre community, there are many people with a wide variety of interests and concerns. While community town hall meetings were a good forum to address concerns and think of solutions, residents have shared an alternative idea to this forum.

While one issue may be of importance to one pocket of New Columbia, a different issue may be of interest to another. If you are interested in starting a block council in your immediate area contact New Columbia Community Builder, Molly Gray at MollyG@hapdx.org or 503-793-6335.

News & Notes from Property Management

- When you're out in your yard you might notice that the "sucker" trees are growing through fences. These trees may start growing in your yard and their branches might start to grow on the opposite side of the fence. This growth can damage the fence so management is walking the property to remove these trees if they are at risk of damaging property. So this is just an announcement that ProGrass might be trimming these trees if they are at risk of damaging property. So this is just an announcement that ProGrass might be trimming these trees in your area.
- To ensure safety during the holidays, security patrol will begin from December 21st to January 4th.
- If you have a big tree in your yard, or an abundance of leaves, if you rake them and put them in a pile in your yard, management will come by and pick them up.
- Thank you for your compliance with the Preventive Maintenance Inspection. This was successful and we thank you for your work!

For more information relating to property management please call their office at 503-285-1600 or email Community Director Darcy Vincent at Darcy.Vincent@gres.com

GEMS Orientation: Mentoring Young African American Women

The Delta GEMS Program helps young African American women realize their dreams. The GEMS meets on the first and third Saturday of each month from 2 – 4pm in the New Columbia Community Education Center at 4625 N Trenton. If you are aware of young ladies between the ages of 12 and 18 who are students who would benefit from this mentoring program, please encourage them to attend the orientation session on Saturday, January 9th at 3pm in the New Columbia Community Education Center (4625 N Trenton). The GEMS will have the program information available at the orientation. For more information contact Darcell Dance at dldance@msn.com

December 2009

For an extensive list of events and happenings, check out the brand new online calendar on the New Columbia! The calendar is viewable at www.newcolumbia.org under the Residents tab in the Events section. For more information contact Molly at MollyG@hapdx.org or call her at 503-793-6335. Think there's something she should add? Call her up and let her know.

www.newcolumbia.org – Your Source for Current Events

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Boys & Girls Club Parent Committee Meeting: 6:30- 7:30pm	17 Store Meeting, 6 – 8pm, 4632 N Trenton	18	19 Soul Santa @ Boys & Girls Club 11am – 1pm
20	21 No School, Boys & Girls Club Open 8am-6pm	22 No School, Boys & Girls Club Open 8am-6pm. Family Dinner, 5:30 – 7:30pm,	23 No School, Boys & Girls Club Open 8am-6pm	24 Boys & Girls Club Closed	25 Boys & Girls Club Closed	26
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1 Offices Closed	

Online & Print Newsletter Community Calendar Submission Dates

If you would like something included in the community calendar for the January issue of the New Columbia Neighbor or the online calendar featured on the website, please contact Molly Gray at 503-285-0333, MollyG@hapdx.org or swing by the Community Building Office at 4625 N Trenton, by December 18th.

Surfs Up! Check Out the Website at the Opportunity Center

For the latest news in what's happening in your community, visit www.newcolumbia.org . Visit the Opportunity Center at 4610 N Trenton to use a computer to look through photos, watch videos, and check the community calendar.