

Oregon Historic District Society News

Volume 38, Issue 3

Let your light shine edition

Be a good neighbor—it may be time for a trim



An anonymous neighbor being walked by his deaf guide dog.

Who is this poor, obscured neighbor pictured at the left. Thank goodness he has a trusty guide dog to lead him through the Oregon forest. Yes, this is a light-hearted way of reminding you that the trees on your property (including your tree lawn) are your responsibility.

Though the ideal time to trim trees is in the late fall or early winter, think safety first!

Overgrown trees:

- Hide not just the beauty of our decorative and historic streetlights that our volunteer lighting crew works so hard to maintain, but more importantly, they reduce the effectiveness of the light itself.
- Make it extremely difficult to take a walk or a jog throughout the neighborhood without the added exercise of the “duck and weave.”
- Create a sense of insecurity by reducing visibility for pedestrians, as well as people parking their cars.

We can all do our part by following this easy safety check-list!



Green Street neighbors Graham and Sarah (a couple of “average height”) enjoy a stroll with plenty of clearance for their umbrella

1. Trees on your property that hang over the sidewalk should be trimmed to a height of at least 13 feet above the sidewalk. This is actually the law, but it’s not hard to follow or remember, without a tape measure! Just think of Graham and Sarah to the left—This is a height that allows a “man of average height” to walk, carrying an umbrella, leaving plenty of clearance.
2. Do you have a historic streetlight in your tree-lawn? Make sure that foliage is trimmed giving your streetlight plenty of room to shine—the street lights are 12 feet tall, so it’s easy to know how much to trim.
3. Call a local arborist. If you’re not confident in your tree trimming abilities, they are there to help. Brown St. neighbor Sara Vice has used Arbor Experts . Call 233-4118 or visit www.arbor-experts.com for more info. Van Buren St. neighbor Ann Heller has been pleased with Marlow Tree Service. You can give Dave Marlow a call at 236-9962 to arrange for an estimate.
4. Be like Motel 6...leave a light on! If everyone puts on their porch light each evening, this also increases visibility in the neighborhood.

4th of July Fun! This year's award recipients

Every year, neighbors come out to Newcom Park on 4th of July for our 4th of July parade. This year's grand marshals were city commissioners Nan Whaley and Joey Williams. City commissioner Matt Joseph came out to cheer them on, and ended up marching along!

Thanks to Green St. neighbor Mike Martin for being the chief organizer and Jones St. neighbor Tina Devaney for coordinating the post-parade games for the children. Red, white, and blue abound, and each year, prizes are awarded in a number of fun categories.

Here are your 2011 award winners:

Best Decorated Couple

Brian Eastman and Amelia O'Dowd of
236 Green St.

Best Decorated Child

Jack Devaney of Jones St.

Best Decorated Dogs (there were 2!)

Fritz, resident of 240 Green St. (with his humans Sandy and Lance Miller)

Stuart, resident of 231 Green St. (with his human, Brandi Salter)

Best Decorated Bike

Gavin Steele of Jackson St.

Most Patriotic Costume

Maureen Moloney of 239 Green St.

Most Original Costume

Gayle of 214 Green Street.

Best Decorated Family

The Koproski Family: Steve, Elizabeth, Olivia, Turner and Quinn of Green St.



Little Miss 4th of July
Madison Fish of Jones St



Best Float

Jeff and Leslie Gonya of 137 Brown St.

Thank you, Andrea Raizen (one of our Sixth St. neighbor) for sharing your photos!

Picnic Hosts Still Needed

Jeanine and Burgess Gow need your help! Picnic hosts are still needed for our Labor Day Picnic in the park. Hosts arrange for the main dish and assist with set-up and tear-down. Contact Jeanine at 414-526-0592 or jkoschma@hotmail.com or Burgess at 253-304-0577 or gow867@gmail.com to help.

Oregon District Business Association Update

Submitted by Mike Martin, ODBA President

We in the ODBA are working on increased lighting and security in the business district. Two additional private security detail are being added to our busy weekend days. I have asked Goodwill Industries to turn on the sidelights of their building at night and they are doing so; this lights the north end of Jackson Street. We are investigating additional lighting where it may be needed. In an online survey conducted recently, an overwhelming majority of folks believed the Oregon Business District to be considered safe, clean and well-lit. The good news about this survey is that it was primarily taken by customers; however, we will work to continually improve lighting and safety as well as to work with the residential district to help improve dark spots in the neighborhood. I know many of us in the residential district love our trees, but many times some of the limbs block light from the ornamental lights and the DP&L pole lights. The ODBA trimmed many branched in the business district in the spring and lighting was improved as a result. If you need help with trimming away branches, we would be glad to help you, so just let me know.

The ODBA just presented a Grand Opening of three new businesses in the District this month: District Antiques, Deaf Monty's and Envision

Works. There was an excellent turnout of folks to meet the owners of these new ventures and to explore their venues. We welcome these new businesses to the District as it shows the diverse nature of Oregon's business offerings as well as continued investor interest.

The Oregon District Business Association is hosting the Greater United Way of Dayton's annual kickoff for their fundraising campaign right here in the Oregon District this year. On Tuesday, September 6, many of the agencies of the United Way will have information in the District as well as hosting some fun activities. Many taverns and restaurants are donating percentages of their day's profits to the campaign. Other businesses are hosting different types of fun to raise funds. This year, more than ever, the United Way needs everyone's support to help others in our community, so we hope to see you and your friends on the first Tuesday in September!

And, speaking of fun, the ODBA is at work on our Haunfest on Fifth 2011 event. It will be presented on Saturday night, October 29 this year. We look forward to another fun and safe fund-raising event. We'll have more on this event later, so stay tuned!

The Oregon Business District thanks you for your support and patronage - together, we make an awesome neighborhood!

Jeepers, creepers! (A note from the Housing Committee)

Submitted by Kathy Coley

Your neighborhood housing committee is busy trying to encourage all to keep their properties in good condition. One of the issues we have noticed is that there are a number of properties with Virginia creeper or ivy not only on the brick, but also going over windows and doors, over gutters and chimneys, and on to the roof. When the growth gets out of control like this, the creeper and /or ivy, will damage the brick, doors, windows, gutter, and roof. Its tendrils will latch to all these things, and damage the mortar, chalk and sealants. According to agricultural websites, Virginia creeper is very hard to kill, especially when it over-takes the house, and the only sure product that works is undiluted, concentrated "Round-Up". Cutting the base of the stems, and letting it die some before pulling it down may also help in limiting the destruction to your property. This website has some helpful information: <http://www.beginner-gardening.com/virginiacreeper.html>

OHDS INC. NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter: To submit an item for the newsletter, call Leslie Gonya at 224-7678 or e-mail LJGonya@sbcglobal.net.

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