

October 2011



SOUTH GATEWAY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

555 LIBERTY ST. SE ROOM 305 SALEM OREGON 97301 ♦ TELEPHONE 503-588-6207

The South Gateway Newsletter is the official publication of the South Gateway Neighborhood Association. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform and involve citizens in local government planning and decision making that affects development of their neighborhood. Other purposes of the newsletter are to communicate information about the neighborhood, and to invite participation from all residents, businesses, and property owners. Publication occurs once a year, at the time of the neighborhood annual meeting. For more information, call 503-588-6207.

SOUTH GATEWAY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 13, 6:30 p.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1770 Baxter Road SE

- Introductions and approval of minutes
- Committee Reports: Neighborhood Development, Neighborhood Watch, Parks, Outreach, and Transportation
- City Councilor report, Rich Clausen, Ward 4
- Marion County Parole and Probation Report
- Comments or concerns of General Members
- Election of Board Members
- Adjourn

This is an open meeting; the public is invited.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*By TJ Sullivan, South Gateway Neighborhood Association
Chairperson*

You are receiving this because you are part of the South Gateway Neighborhood Association. As an organization we are not an official division of the City of Salem, rather we provide input on the formulation of plans and on the plans themselves. Whether it is a development, a park, street widening, etc. we review site plans, read planning documents, talk to experts and come to conclusions on what is best for our area and communicate our recommendations to the City of Salem.



As a group we consider the viewpoints of all property holders as we evaluate the plans. Often the best input that we get is from residents who live here and experience changes on a daily basis. By working together in this fashion we are able to influence the process to the benefit of our area.

Livability means different things to different people. Change does too. When Kuebler was constructed it meant the loss of the playground at the old Pringle School. I did some of my best work there and was saddened by the change. Now, the boulevard can't be widened fast enough as the road in its previous single lane state detracted from the livability for many (including myself).

I would encourage you to join us. We meet for 60-90 fun-filled minutes on the second Thursday of every month at Our Savior's Lutheran Church starting at 6:30 p.m. Do not wait for the plans we are reviewing to be about something in your backyard.



Children playing at Wes Bennett Park

WHERE THERE WAS ONE. . .

By TJ Sullivan, SGNA Chairperson

...Now there are three! If you include Sumpter, four, and the Community Garden on Sunnyside, five! Just what is being counted here? Parks, of course! Earlier this year Bryan Johnston Park opened and we had a great turnout. Every morning there are runners and walkers taking advantage of the trails and throughout the day families are taking advantage of the amenities.

Bryan Johnston Park has helped alleviate some of the over-crowding at Wes Bennett Park. Many don't know that there is ample parking for Wes Bennett Park at Pringle Elementary. The parking lot is a straight shot into the park and provides a much safer entrance into the park. As a parent with two small kids I frequent Wes Bennett Park a lot and have found this parking lot empty on even the busiest of days. I hope out of respect for neighbors and in consideration of kids safety, more park users will utilize the parking lot at Pringle.

Rees Hill Park is a great little park and one that I hope we can focus some community attention on. This pocket park needs a little TLC to boost its utilization. This would be a good goal for us to take on as a community just as we did with Sumpter Park.



Neighbors celebrate at the rainy June 18 Grand Opening of Bryan Johnston Park (400 Mildred Lane SE)

Sumpter Park is where all the locals go! The new play equipment is great and an easy night out is letting the kids run around on the play equipment while dinner is cooked on one of the barbecues. Invite your neighbors over to Sumpter for dinner some night- you will not regret it.

Finally, the Sunnyside Community Garden continues to prosper. Even with adding additional plots there is still a waiting list. I am not sure about what has been done to the soil there because everything grows! The corn there is higher than any farmers in Marion County. This is a great use of public space and I hope that this operation can continue to expand.

THE INVASIVE WEED ON KUEBLER BOULEVARD

By Patrick O'Dell, SGNA Board Member

Kuebler Boulevard is being invaded. Not by aliens from another planet, but by a stubborn, and prolific weed. This weed is familiar to most of us who drive on Kuebler, especially in the Spring. It is a colorful bush of golden yellow known as Scotch Broom. This weed is most abundant between I-5 and Commercial Street.

A couple of years ago, the City of Salem and Marion County organized a program involving volunteers who have done a great amount of work, especially along the south side of the corridor. However, there is still a lot of work to be done before this menace can be eradicated. Kuebler Blvd. is a natural gateway into South Salem, and it should be as attractive as we can make it.

Praise and appreciation should be extended to the following volunteers who have worked consistently and tirelessly on this project. They are Ron Allowitz and his grandson, Pherson Shepherd; Judi Morris, Randy Vande Walle, Dan Schie, and Roger Brousseau.

SGNA would invite anyone who is interested in volunteering for cutting down or pulling Scotch Broom to call a board member or Roger Brousseau at 503-510-5343. The target date for the next volunteer work day is Saturday, October 22, 2011. There is still much work to be done, and no limit to the need for willing volunteers.

We hope to see you there.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SOUTH SALEM

*By Rick Retzman, Neighbor
and South Salem Connect Co-Chair*

Hi neighbor! I have lived in the SE Salem Neighborhood for over ten years. I wanted to make a difference where I live, so I joined with other South Salem residents and community groups as South Salem Connect. South Salem Connect includes all the neighborhoods within the South Salem High School boundary. Our purpose is to support children, families, and neighborhood livability in our community.

In just the last year, our community involvement included:

- Community Garden activities
- Make a Difference Day leaf raking project
- Bilingual newsletters
- Litter pick up project
- Publicity and outreach

We also gave grants for the following:

- Our Savior's Lutheran to expand their after-school program
- Leslie Middle School for their Strengthening Families Program
- Richmond School for their literacy project
- Family Building Blocks to assemble free literacy goodie bags
- Hoover School for a field trip to Western Oregon University
- SE Neighborhood Community Center for their youth program



South Salem Connect partners, including Rick Retzman and canine companion, second from left, participate in a leaf raking project.

South Salem Connect meets monthly the third Wednesday at 11:30 am at a different partner's location. All who are interested in joining us in supporting children, families, and neighborhood livability of the South Salem community are welcome to join us. For more information, to share your ideas, or to join our mailing list, please contact us at southsalemconnect@gmail.com.

FALL LEAF HAUL:

LET'S COMPOST THOSE LEAVES!

**December 3, 2011,
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**



The Fall Leaf Haul is a leaf collection program designed to provide Salem residents a means to compost their leaves and grass clippings. No tree limbs are accepted. The program is for Salem residents only (no commercial landscapers, please).

Food or cash donations will be taken for the Marion-Polk Food Share and Parks Tradition Fund. The sites are being organized and staffed by neighborhood associations and other volunteers. The sites are located at the State Fairgrounds (Silverton Road at Lana Avenue NE), Sprague High School (2373 Kuebler Road S) and Wallace Marine Park (200 Glen Creek Road NW).

Seniors and disabled citizens may call Center 50+ at 503-588-6303 for assistance in transporting bagged leaves to a collection site. November 12 will be the last day seniors and disabled citizens will be able to sign up for assistance. If you would like to volunteer a couple of hours to help at a site, call 503-589-2195 for information.

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South Gateway Neighborhood Association

555 Liberty Street SE, Room 305
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What's Inside

- Message from the Chair
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- The Invasive Weed on Kuebler Boulevard
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SOUTH GATEWAY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Vice Chair
Michelle LeTourneau

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Maria Delaney

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Todd Edgar

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Billy Cordero
Maria Delaney
Tim Grossnicklaus
Patrick O'Dell
Kristin Roisen
John Stensland
Sarah Schra
Steve Withers

Neighborhood Watch
Todd Edgar
Sophie Polonsky
Jeff Seg0

Outreach
Sophie Polonsky
Katrina Strand
Sarah Schra

Parks
Billy Cordero
Todd Edgar
Tim Grossnicklaus
Katrina Strand

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Maria Delaney
Patrick O'Dell
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Pringle Elementary
5500 Reed Ln SE, 97306
503-399-3178

Sumpter Elementary
525 Rockwood St SE, 97306
503-399-3337

The South Gateway Executive Board meets the second Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1770 Baxter Rd SE. The Annual Meeting, where officers are elected, is traditionally held in the fall. These meetings are open. The public is invited.
Visit us online at www.sгна.us.

This is a publication of a City-recognized neighborhood association, not the City of Salem. Opinions expressed are not the opinions of the City, its officers, employees, or agents. Unless stated in the article, opinions expressed are not the opinions of the City-recognized neighborhood association.



City of Salem housing assistance is available on an equal opportunity basis.



It is the City of Salem's policy to assure that no person shall be discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and source of income, as provided by Salem Revised Code Chapter 97. The City of Salem also fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and related statutes and regulations, in all programs and activities.