

# ELIOT NEWS

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Fall 2003

*A Publication of Eliot Neighborhood Association*



## Baseball

By Tony Green

Eliot residents take notice: A baseball stadium may on its way to the neighborhood.

And it's time to start getting involved.

Since at least 2000, supporters of bringing Major League Baseball to Portland have been eyeing the Portland Public Schools headquarters as a possible site for a stadium.

And Mayor Vera Katz has suggested that the Eliot site is her favorite.

Until recently, however, the issue remained largely academic because Oregon had no mechanism for paying for a stadium.

But in case you missed it, that all changed. The Legislature – in rather dramatic fashion – in August approved a scheme that would take income taxes paid by players and executives and use them to pay off bonds. After passing the Oregon House, the bill failed the Senate, only to be resurrected the next night after what one can assume must have been some serious arm-twisting and deal-making.

Portland still must come up with another funding source, but the financial package is close to being in place.

Portland is one of three contenders as the new home of the Montreal Expos. The other two are Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia. With the passage of the baseball bill, Portland is now ahead of the other cities.

But much is still up in the air. Major League Baseball owns the Expos and is losing millions of dollars on the team. The other owners

want to sell, but they also want to get the best deal they can, so it is in their interest to have the three cities bid against each other.

For this reason, I would be surprised if MLB decides where to send the Expos until the other two locations have their financial bids in order, which won't be until next year.

But that doesn't mean interested Eliot residents can wait.

In the meantime, Portland will go through a process to decide where to build a stadium, should it win the Expos.

The Eliot site – referred to the Blanchard site because that's the name of the Portland Public Schools building – is by all accounts a top contender.

Commissioner Randy Leonard is pushing a site in Lents. There is some interest in putting it where the Main Post Office is at the West end of the Broadway Bridge.

But the two most likely sites appear to be PGE Park, which would have to be expanded, and the Blanchard site.

A staffer for the mayor told me in an email that the city would set up a site-selection process in the coming months. Eliot needs to be a part of the process.

Three years ago, Eliot voted to oppose a stadium. I'm not suggesting that we revisit that vote, but I think it's critical that we engage in the process constructively. If city leaders see us as obstructionist, they will roll over us without asking much input.

This will be tricky. I, for one, think a baseball stadium could benefit the neighborhood if done correctly. Stadiums in Houston, Denver and other cities have successfully sparked housing and business development.

But I am deeply skeptical of the city. The Rose Quarter has been a disaster. Eliot got nothing from it except traffic and litter.

That being said, it's time to get involved.

ELIOT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Fall General Membership Meeting

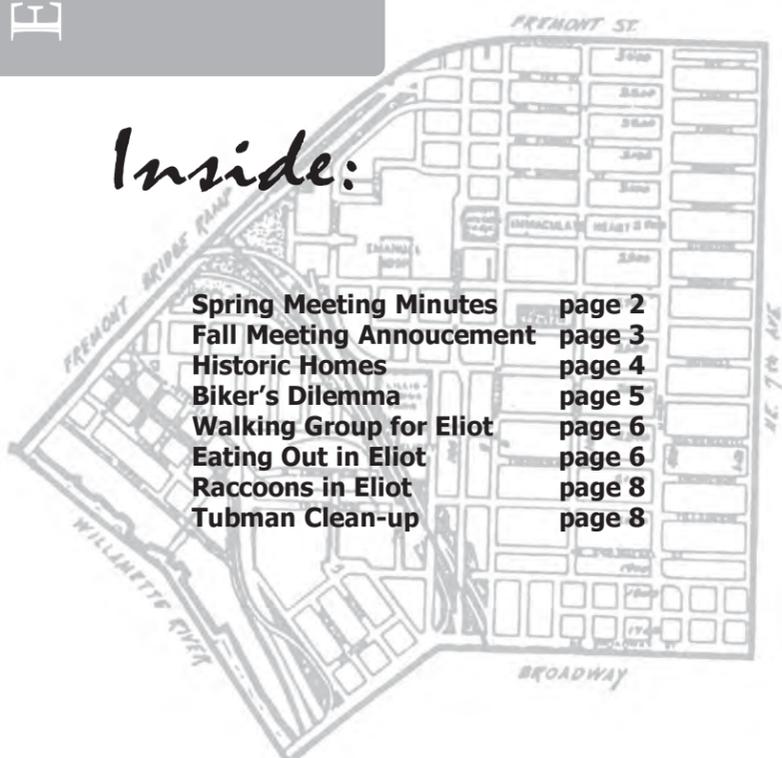
Emanuel Hospital  
Lorenzen Conference Center  
1700AB  
Monday October 8, 2003  
7:00 – 9:00 pm

### Agenda

- Neighborhood police officer latest report
- Neighborhood block watch
- Dawson Park Information
- Tubman Middle School Update
- **Baseball Stadium** Information

For more details, see page 3

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Raccoons are keeping their numbers up in Eliot. Pictured here are two juvenile raccoons that were successfully caught by a determined Eliot resident and released into a less populated wooded area.

See accompanying story on the back page.



Photo by S. Alexander, 2003

## A Guide to Eating Out in Eliot

Eliot may be small, but the neighborhood's eating out options are plentiful. Whether you want spicy Ethiopian food, a pastry with your coffee or a fancy cocktail, it's all available in Eliot. The following is a review of just a handful of the eating out options. And always remember: the best way to make sure

### San Rafael Cafe

Address: 415 NE San Rafael St.  
Phone: 503-284-2030

Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

Menu prices: Coffee and espresso \$1-\$3, Salads, sandwiches, platters \$3-\$6, Baked goods 50 cents-\$1

History: A fixture in the neighborhood for the last few years, the cafe sits adjacent to the Albina Community Bank at the corner of NE San Rafael St. and NE MLK. Owned by Asse Sebatu, the cafe is now under new management.

Vibe: Think homey. The friendly staff construct your lunch behind the counter while you sit at one of a handful of tables or barstools. The Beatles croon in the background. Hues of blue and yellow on the walls and ceiling give the space a modern look. Peer out the window and watch traffic whir by on NE MLK, just down the block.

Continued on page 6

The Eliot Neighborhood Association (ENDA) is a non-profit corporation whose members are the residents and business owners of the Eliot Neighborhood. Its purpose is to inform Eliot residents about issues affecting the neighborhood through meetings, newsletters and other activities. Members of the neighborhood association must be over 14 years old and live, own property, have a business, or represent a non-profit within the neighborhood. The Eliot Neighborhood Association was founded in 1969. It is recognized by the City of Portland, is a member of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Inc., and has representatives on several other groups and committees.

## Eliot Neighborhood Association Board

Co-Chair	Gary Hampton	282-5429
Co-Chair	Carol Kennedy	331-1312
Vice-Chair	Christine Czarnecka	287-5428
Treasurer	Heather Dorsey	282-4881
Secretary	Paul Dorsey	282-4881
Newsletter	Tony Green	249-8742
Member	Ginger Adamovics	413-4630
Member	Pauline Bradford	281-6635
Member	Jason Mershon	331-2929
Member	David Jahns	528-0266
Member	Joyce Boles	335-6923
Member	Kimberley Smith	284-6217
Member	Ann Kasper	493-3838

**Land Use Committee:** Mike Warwick (chairman), Pauline Bradford, Caroline Bruce (vice-chairwoman), Gary Hampton, Lee Perlman (287-0880), and Greg Dyson (331-0362)

**Representatives to the NE Coalition Of Neighborhoods:** Pauline Bradford

**Representatives to VOA Client Review Committee:** Christine Czarnecka, Susan Bailey (284-7010), and Carol Kennedy

**Representative to Lloyd District Transportation Management Association Coalition:** Pauline Bradford

**Representative to MLK Advisory Committee:** Mike Warwick (284-7010)

**Representatives to the Interstate Urban Renewal Area Advisory Committee:** Gary Hampton and Pauline Bradford

## ELIOT MONTHLY MEETINGS

If you live or work in Eliot, you are welcome and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of the Eliot Neighborhood Association, which are held the second Monday of each month at Emanuel Hospital.

It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, stay informed about what's going on in Eliot, help build a stronger community, and have input into decisions that may affect you. Also consider joining a committee or becoming a board member (we have vacancies).

Emanuel Hospital, 2801 N Gantenbein, Lorenzen Conference Center

Eliot News is published four times a year by the Eliot Neighborhood Association. It is delivered or mailed free of charge to every address in the neighborhood. It does not have a ISBN.

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## Eliot Neighborhood Association

### General Membership Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 14, 2003

**Chair:** Carol Kennedy

**Recorder:** Paul Dorsey

**Present:** Board Members: Pauline Bradford, Christine Czarnecka, Heather Dorsey, Paul Dorsey, Carol Kennedy, Ginger Adamovics, Jason Mershon, Gary Hampton, David Jahns

Non-Board Members: Laurie Fenk, Lee Pearlman (Land Use Committee), Terry Masters, Pamela Echeverio, Kenny Jones, Hannah Haywood, David Haywood, Meadow Shere, Tony Green, Kevin Harrington, Bob Munson, Angela D. Goldsmith, Cornelius Swart, Marius Andreica, Kathleen Wadden, Betsy Radigan

### Topic Discussion Action/Person Responsible

**Presentations:** At 7:00 p.m. Gary announced that we would start the General Membership Meeting a little differently due to the number of issues that needed to be presented. He informed everyone that each presenter had set up a station and for people to take time and read the information presented and please feel free to ask questions of the presenters and enjoy some food.

There were 5 stations with presenters:

- 1) Final Drawings on Russell Street Improvements
- 2) Cross Walk at Stanton and Williams
- 3) Art Work at Russell St. Max Station
- 4) 4 way stop at Mississippi and Russell
- 5) New Bus line on Russell St.

Meeting called to Order Introductions/Sharing Announcements.

At 7:35 Gary called the meeting to order. He announced that there was supposed to be a 6<sup>th</sup> presenter, Kathleen Wadden, with Portland Parks. She was to discuss recommendations made by the Interstate Parks Committee for Dawson Park. Introductions followed. Gary informed the group that due to time limitations, announcements had been placed on the table and asked that anyone interested please take a look at them.

### Community Policing:

Officer Axthelm was unable to attend the meeting but he forwarded announcements from the precinct which were read to the group. There was a homicide at 520 NE Fargo. The police department is looking for any information. There has been an increase in car and garage break ins. There was a shooting at 522 NE Stanton. A man shot through a door hitting his girlfriend. She will live. Kenny Jones wants to start a neighborhood watch. Neal stated that he would be happy to help set

this up with anyone that is interested. Angela Goldsmith wanted information on how to report increase in prostitution. This will be brought up with Officer Axthelm at the May meeting.

-- Carol Kennedy

### Committee Updates:

**Land Use Committee:** There are a fair number of liquor license requests in process. Most of the requests are for late hour establishments. They seem to be concentrated between San Rafael and Tillamook.

The convenient store at 7<sup>th</sup> and Knott is changing owners.

McDonalds is off the table!

**Land Use Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month @ 6:30 at Emanuel Hospital.**

**NE Coalition Committee:** The meeting pushed the need for low-income housing.

### Community Outreach:

Did not report. Irvington neighborhood is putting a sprinkler system into Irvington Park. A left hand turn signal is going to be installed MLK and Fremont.

It was suggested that the NE Coalition have a fund raising dinner because the NE Coalition is running in the red.

-- Lee Pearlman

### Interstate Parks Update:

Kathleen Waden from Portland Parks arrived to give us an update on the Interstate Parks Committee. She stated that the committee was formed to get public input from each neighborhood that falls under the Interstate Plan.

The committee assessed the needs for each park and now she is going to each neighborhood association to share the process. Unfortunately there is not a lot of money available right now so the representatives from each Neighborhood Association went to all the parks and discussed what was needed. Then the committee categorized them.

From this a high priority list was developed. This list was further broken into three categories: 1) Safety 2) working order & 3) expansion. Eliot has one park that falls under the Interstate Plan, Dawson Park. Kathleen mentioned three high priority items for Dawson Park. The first is to expand the play area, the second is to improve lighting and third is install new tables for checkers and chess.

*Note: Kathleen did not discuss the fourth item for Dawson Park which was on the list at the end of the last Interstate Parks Committee meeting and that was money to restore/maintain Dawson Parks Gazebos.*

**Other Issues**

Pamela Echeverio urged everyone to get the word out on 26-48, the graduated Income Tax for Schools and Basic Services. She stated that Portland Public Schools are looking at a 55 million dollar deficit. Gary asked if anyone had questions for the presenters which no one did. Gary asked the TriMet representatives if they have decided where the bus stops will be on Russell. The two leading places are at Albina and possibly Gantenbein.

The Transit Center bus will turn from Vancouver and travel down to Interstate on Russell and then to the Albina station. Lee asked if there would be a problem with trucks getting through. The response was that the new curb extensions were specifically designed for the trucks. Betsy Radigan wanted to take a moment to inform the group of the money politics involved with the Park improvements.

She stated that the only way the Interstate Parks will get the improvements is if it comes from Urban Renewal. There are a lot of interests looking at this money. She encouraged everyone to attend the ICURAC meeting next Monday (4/21) and press the committee that Parks are important.

Carol informed everyone that the neighborhood clean up flyers will be going out soon. The clean up is scheduled for May 17.

Ginger reported that they are trying to raise money for Dawson Park's Concert in the Park this summer. She wanted to get the word out that \$250 gets your name on the material through Public Parks. The Concert Committee will be meeting on April 21.

**Other announcements:**

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Mississippi Street Fair  
 May 15<sup>th</sup> – Boise Eliot Multicultural Fair  
 There will be a Juneteenth celebration in Eliot.

There will be a Tubman cleanup with Friends of Trees from 8-12 this Saturday (4/19). It was decided to save the baseball issue for the next meeting.

**Adjourn**

Next Meeting: May 12, 2003

**ELIOT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
*Fall General Membership Meeting*

**Emanuel Hospital  
 Lorenzen Conference Center 1700AB  
 Monday October 8, 2003  
 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

**Agenda**

- 7:00 pm -- **Start** Procedure  
 Introduction and sharing  
 Approve Agenda  
 Approval Minutes from April 14,2003  
 Announcements
- 7:15 pm **Community Policing** Update  
 Roger Axtheim, Senior Neighborhood Officer
- 7:30 pm **Committee Reports** Information  
 Land Use  
 NE Coalition
- 7:45 pm **Neighborhood block watch** Info/Action  
 Heather Dorsey Update
- 8:00 pm **Dawson Park** Information  
*What's our next step? We need Volunteers*
- 8:15 pm **Eliot's Neighborhood Partnership** Information  
 Tubman Middle School Update, Christine Czarnecka
- 8:30 pm **Baseball Stadium** Information  
*What's New? Forming a committee to make a recommendation to the Neighborhood Assoc.*
- 9:00 pm **Adjourn**

— **Food and Drink provided** —



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## Historic Homes and Buildings of Eliot

### The Little Captain's House

By Roy E. Roos

One of those many little Victorian era cottages that stand in our neighborhood was the residence of a well-known riverboat captain.

Interestingly, most of the homes built for captains were usually grand elegant homes and sometimes mansions but this home was meant to be small and simple. This cute little Queen Anne & Shingle Style Cottage does have architectural pizzazz but not too far out of the ordinary for the small homes built during the late 1800s. The original floor plan inside was very simple too. This captain desired simple living without the usual extravagant stuff desired by most people of this era and did not need a lot of space inside for his family and he did not need servants.

In 1890, Captain Charles I. Hooghkirk had this little house built at 26 NE Stanton for his wife and one year old son. At this time, the street was known as San Mateo as he was listed in the old Albina directory at this location. In July 1891, the town of Albina consolidated with East Portland to become part of Portland and most of the Albina street names were changed. San Mateo was changed to Stanton, believed to be in recognition of Edward G. Stanton, a wealthy Portland merchant.

Charles Hooghkirk was born in July 1859 in Long Island, New York. The very young family moved west in proximity of the Ohio River Valley. When young, he started working as an apprentice of steam boating on the Ohio & Mississippi Rivers and his love for piloting rivers grew.

He came to Portland in 1881 and worked as a shipmate for the old *Fleetwood* and *Telephone* steamships that ran up and down the Willamette River. In a few years, he became the captain piloting those ships. In about 1886, he became the captain for the *Puritan* (later named the *Alarm*). In 1888, he was the captain and part owner of the *Cyclone*, a large vessel that ferried passengers from the foot of Stark Street downtown to the Albina ferry dock.

Captain Hooghkirk became well acquainted with many Albina residents and planned to move here from his downtown home. When he built his home here in Albina, it was at the end of the Williams Avenue streetcar line that was built in 1889 and connected with Portland via the Steel Bridge. In 1887, he

married Laura from Iowa and one son named Dolph L. Hooghkirk was born in 1889. The family remained here until 1914 when the captain took permanent residence in Rainier, Oregon.

During the early 1890s, bridges crossing the Willamette River put a big dent in the business as the Albina ferry became nearly obsolete. In 1892, Captain Hooghkirk took ownership interest in the steamer *The Iralda* and he piloted the boat downstream between Portland and Rainier where he was involved with much commerce on the Columbia as well.

By 1900, he was also the captain of the steamer *Republic* and had a second small house built in Rainier. By 1913, he decided to make Rainier his permanent residence as larger bridges were finished crossing the Willamette River. He focused his ferrying operations there until about 1930 when the large bridge between Rainier and Longview was completed.

Now, he took the attitude of "if you can't beat them, join them". He took employment with the bridge company for the remainder of his life. On 19 January 1937, Captain Hooghkirk passed away in Rainier and was only survived by his son Dolph. The *Oregonian* newspaper recognized him as one of the masters of the riverboat steamers and compared to other veteran captains Ernest W. Spencer and Fred Sherman. In 1939, historian Fred Lockley of the *Oregon Journal* noted Captain Hooghkirk and his positive influence on the early days of development in the Albina community.

In 1914, the Hooghkirks sold their Albina home to Martin and Kate Cahill who only stayed here a short period and used the house later as a rental. He was apparently called into service during World War I. In March 1920, this little house was sold again to Christian and Paulina Krossa. This couple was of Scandinavian descent and lived here and operated a grocery store on N Lombard.

In 1927, they moved from Portland and sold the house to William M. & Hannah Wilbur. William Wilbur had a barbershop in a building that stood at 2827 N Williams and is believed to have been an African-American.

In 1932, Frances E. Zeller acquired the house. She was a widow and her son owned property on both

sides and operated a funeral home in a building that stood at 2826-28 N Williams around the corner. In 1954, they moved the funeral home to a new building on the 2100 block of NE Broadway in Irvington. This establishment still stands today and is known as the Chapel of the Roses.

This little home withstood hard times as a rental during the 1960s & 1970s. It was vacant between 1979 through 1985 but thankfully survived. Between 1986 through the 1990s, it had owner occupants again who maintained it and did landscaping. Today, it stands happy again with a decorative paint job on an

oversized lot surrounded by appropriate landscaping. Some of the nearby homes are currently undergoing sensitive renovations.



Located at 26 NE Stanton in Eliot, this elegant cottage was originally built for a captain in 1890. Photo by T. Green,

c. 2003 R E Roos

## Kirtsen Jenkins' Real Estate Report

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124 NE Tillamook	3	2	1402	\$185,000
119 NE Monroe	3	1.1	1598	\$259,900
40 NE Ivy	4	4	2600	\$269,900
232 NE Graham	3	2	2188	\$349,000
<b>Pending:</b>				
3733 N Williams	6	3	1772	\$239,900
522 NE Stanton	2	1	1361	\$185,000
520 NE Fargo	5	3	3258	\$200,000
3624 NE 7th	2	2	1444	\$249,000
3536 NE Rodney		4	2	2912
\$249,950				
76 San Rafael	3	1	1745	\$259,900
3002 NE 7th	4	1	1680	\$269,900
63 NE Cook	4	2	2006	\$309,000
50 NE Fargo	5	2	2870	\$379,900
<b>Sold:</b>				
2729 NE 7th	2	2	1289	\$147,000
6 Monroe	3	2.5	1316	\$157,000
526 NE Cook	4	1	1832	\$240,000
2632 NE 7th	4	2	1650	\$240,000
2446 NE 7th	4	2	1948	\$275,000
533 NE Brazee	3	2	1833	\$315,000

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## A Commuter's Dilemma

By Grant Butler

The Eliot Neighborhood is heaven for bicyclists. It's centrally located to downtown Portland, the Pearl District, the Hollywood District and Alameda, making it easy to ride on two wheels instead of four for commuting, shopping for light groceries, dining out, or visiting nearby friends.

On most days – Blazer-game nights a glaring exception – Eliot's residential streets are lightly used by automotive traffic. And most of its main thoroughfares have sufficient bike lanes.

What's more, there's a strong cycling community that exists in the neighborhood. Some are hardcore activists, using the power of bicycling as a political tool that can improve the city's livability. Others are avid bicycle commuters or people who enjoy a good weekend ride as an alternative to dull workout routines in the gym.

This past summer was a cyclists-versus-motorists season, tensions catalyzed by several fatal accidents involving cars and bicycles. "No wonder there are accidents," was the argument of numerous car users in a series of letters and editorial columns in the pages of *The Oregonian*. "Cyclists act like they own the road, and they don't obey traffic signals."

"Not so fast," the cyclists responded. "Cars are too big, and go too fast. And drivers aren't paying attention to cyclists on the road. They're too busy with their damn cell phones."

As an Eliot resident who commutes by bike regularly and also uses a car to run errands, I felt myself pulled between the two sides. When I've toiled around town on my Specialized hybrid, I've nearly been zapped a number of times by drivers in mini vans yaking on their cells – no doubt coordinating such urgent business as picking up Billy from soccer practice or getting Brandi to dance lessons on time. But I've also started paying very close attention to the horrid road behavior of some of my fellow cyclists. While reckless drivers certainly have much to answer for – please, hang up and drive – I'm beginning to think that they have a point taking exception to the holier than thou stance of some cyclists.

Here are some transgressions you can spot on any given day: Ignoring the rules of the road: Bicyclists are expected to obey traffic laws, and yet it's common to see riders in Eliot not obeying stop signs, traffic lights or signaling their intent to turn.

Not knowing which way to go: Some bicyclists seem to have things totally backwards. Or at least it seems that way when you see them riding the wrong direction down one way streets. This is a head-on collision waiting to happen.

Even more dangerous are the cyclists who ride the wrong direction on bike lanes. This past year, as bicycle traffic has been limited to the north side of the Broadway bridge, it's common to see cyclists riding the wrong way in the bike lanes along Northwest Broadway, by the main post office, and up North Broadway, directly opposite the Rose Quarter. The head-on danger here isn't posed by cars, but by another cyclist.

Taking sidewalks hostage: It's perfectly acceptable for bicyclists to use wide sidewalks on streets where there aren't adequate bike lanes. But some cyclists ride quickly and dangerously down sidewalks that clearly are meant solely for pedestrian traffic, putting children, pets and the cyclists themselves in danger of an accident.

Acting like dim-bulbs after dark: Riding at night is dangerous – at least if you're like the number of cyclists I see on Eliot streets well after dark with no headlight and not wearing a single stitch of reflective clothing. Granted, a loud windbreaker might look crummy worn over that chic jet-black hoodie, but it's better to clash than crash. Do you really want to impress the fashionistas in the emergency room?

Not using heads about helmets: Granted, it's not illegal for adults to ride bicycles without helmets. But doing so is irresponsible nonetheless. Helmets save lives. Period. Those who argue that they aren't needed as long as cyclists prevail in the war with automobiles are ignoring the many other potential accidents that are out there.

An example: One Friday morning last July (Ironically, the same day as the monthly Breakfast on the Bridge, meant to encourage bicycle commuting), I was riding my bike westbound on the Broadway bridge. As I approached the intersection of Broadway and the Lovejoy ramp, I was passed by another cyclist who gave me no warning – ever hear of a bell? – nearly sending me tumbling into the bridge rail. As this helmet-less rider hit the Broadway/Lovejoy intersection, he ignored the red bike signal, and was almost hit by a car attempting to make a legal right turn onto Lovejoy. The cyclist then flipped the car driver off.

The kicker: He was wearing one of those self-righteous "One less car" T-shirts.

It's guys like that who give car drivers their arguing points.

*Stephanie, diagnosed with cancer at age 5, was treated for leukemia at Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital. Her cancer is in remission and she is enjoying life to its fullest.*



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For information about the Emanuel Children's Hospital Foundation, please call 503-413-2786.

For employment, visit our website, [legacyhealth.org](http://legacyhealth.org), or call 503-415-5405.

Legacy Health System, a nonprofit organization, includes Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, Emanuel Children's Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital & Medical Center, Meridian Park Hospital, Mount Hood Medical Center, Visiting Nurse Association, Legacy Clinics and CareMark/Managed HealthCare Northwest PPO. ©2001

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Continued from cover page

**Eats & Drinks:** Standard cafe fare, with a bit of flair. A chalkboard above the counter lays out your options. The Greek salad is a good bet, or choose from a selection of sandwiches: roast beef, turkey, ham & cheese, tuna, BLT or the turkey club. Or sample a platter from the Ethiopian menu. Perhaps you're in the mood for kitfo, a meaty stew, or a vegetarian platter. The cafe also offers a full espresso bar. Top off the meal with a muffin, cookie, or homemade coffee cake.

If the food and drink weren't enough, the cafe also sells a variety of phone cards. Manager Sisay Dibabu says the cards are popular among Ethiopian customers, some of whom use the pay phone inside the cafe to call friends or relatives overseas.

**Bottom Line:** All the comforts of home, but the food and drink are far superior. With generous hours, the cafe is a great place to jumpstart your morning, afternoon or evening.

— Joel Odom

### Widmer Gasthaus Pub

Address: 929 N. Russell  
Phone: 503-281-3333

**Hours:** 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Thursday; 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday; Noon to 9 p.m. Sunday

**Menu:** Sandwiches and burgers range from \$6.95 to \$7.95; Dinners run from \$10 to \$17.95.

**History:** Kurt and Rob Widmer opened the restaurant in 1995, helping spark redevelopment of Lower Russell.

**Vibe:** The Gasthaus, like the other North Russell establishments, has high ceilings and exposed brick. It has a pre-Prohibition brewery feel. Usually crowded, but not too long a wait. Families welcome, but the bar is an excellent place to watch sports on television and try whatever beer is in season.

**Eats & drinks:** Soups, salads and pretzels, of course. There's bratwurst and weisswurst. Sandwiches range from a reuben to a Ratskeller burger. Dinner entrees range from chicken schnitzel to bacon-wrapped filet mignon. No dieting allowed, folks. Choose from a wide variety of Widmer classic beers to tasty seasonals. Plus they have excellent desserts!

**Bottom line:** For my taste, the Ratskeller is one of the best burgers in Portland.

— Tony Green

### Bridges Cafe and Catering

Address: 2716 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Phone: 503-288-4169

**Hours:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends

**Menu prices:** Breakfast \$3.95-\$8.95, Lunch \$4.95-\$6.95

**History:** Since taking over this popular brunch spot in March 2002, own-

ers Laura and Tom Lane-Ruckman have aimed to keep the food simple and pure. The menu has stayed mostly intact, but the Lane-Ruckmans have favored from-scratch ingredients over mixes and are using more organic ingredients like those from famous potato man Gene Thiel when they can. Tom says patrons can expect to see some minor seasonal menu changes in the future.

**Vibe:** The decor is modern with a dash of hip. Several silver metal mirrors hang along one wall, while large panes serve as your windows to the world along NE MLK. Bright yellow walls contrast nicely with mosaic-tile tabletops. The wait staff are friendly and attentive.

**Eats & Drinks:** There is no shortage of choices here. Breakfast options include a multitude of omelettes and scrambles, along with basics like granola and oatmeal. The breakfast burrito and catfish hash are favorites. For lunch, the rice and beans are a great value at \$4.95, or try one of the bridge sandwiches, such as the Fremont Chicken or the Marquam Dip.

**Bottom line:** The quintessential neighborhood brunch stop, Bridges' offerings deliver just what the Lane-Ruckmans have stated as their goal: simple, satisfying, tasty food.

— Joel Odom

### Gotham Bldg Coffee Shop

Address: 2240 N Interstate Ave.  
Phone: 503-493-2646

**Hours:** 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday

**Menu prices:** Breakfast \$2-\$7, Lunch \$3-\$7

**History:** The owners of Ripe opened the Gotham Bldg Coffee Shop in June 2002. If the lunchtime crowds are any indication, the side venture has been a successful one.

**Vibe:** Despite the name, the Gotham Bldg Coffee Shop bears zero resemblance to the bat cave. The space is open, airy, modern, swanky — anything but dark and foreboding. Downtown and the Fremont Bridge loom large and beautiful out the front window. With its high ceilings and cool fixtures, the shop feels more like a gallery than a coffeehouse. But here, thankfully, the art is also edible.

**Eats & Drinks:** Illy coffee headlines the full espresso menu, but the java is just the beginning here. On the breakfast menu, try the basic Belgian waffle with butter and real maple syrup for \$4, or splurge by adding the mascarpone and fruit for \$3 more. Lunch offerings include panzanella salad with farmer's market tomatoes and bread from Ken's Artisan Bakery along with soup and sandwiches. A selection of baked goods sit temptingly under glass coverings.

**Bottom line:** Probably the hippest coffee spot in all of Eliot, with excellent food to boot. The loft-like setting has all the ambience of the Pearl District, but with much more bang for your buck.

— Joel Odom

### Mint

Address: 816 N. Russell St.  
Phone number: 503-284-5518

**Web site:** www.mintrestaurant.com

**Hours:** 5-10 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, 5-11 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 5-late Fridays and Saturdays, closed Sundays

**Menu prices:** Appetizers \$6-\$11, Entrees \$11-\$23, Desserts \$5-\$9, Cocktails \$6-\$10

**History:** Deft Portland mixologist Lucy Brennan opened Mint in 2001, helping establish North Russell Street as one of the city's new hotspots. The restaurant became a quick draw for urban dwellers in search of a fanciful drink and adventuresome Caribbean-leaning food.

**Vibe:** Loft-style minimalism intersects with touches of luxury. Plush, jewel-toned pillows and curtains drape seating along the restaurant's walls, which are spartan brick on one side and creamy white on the other. Paper lanterns dangle from the ceiling, purple lights illuminate the walls, and twinkling candles grace each table — all lending warmth to the darkish room.

From outside, you can see dining companions lean in for animated conversations. The crowd tends to be fairly young, and many show up in their cosmopolitan best. This is not the place for tattered T-shirts or parkas, though to be sure, it's a warm and welcoming for all.

**Eats & Drinks:** Drinks get star billing on this menu, which may entice you to sign up for one of Brennan's Sunday cocktail-making classes. Creations range from the sweet (try the Velvet, a mix of vodka with blackberry juice, vanilla syrup, lemon lime juice and a splash of mandarin puree, served on the rocks) to the savory (an avocado daiquiri is smooth in every sense of the word, and surprisingly addictive). A complimentary dish of roasted pumpkin seeds helps diners work up an appetite while they sip.

The food is ever-changing, as the chef overhauls the menu seasonally. A few things can be counted on: The food is always artfully presented, al-

ways flavorful, never dull. The summer appetizer menu included a smoked salmon salad, as well as mouthwateringly good squash blossoms stuffed with fontina cheese and served with roasted tomato-mint salsa. For the main course, roasted vegetables wrapped in puff pastry made for a comforting, flavorful mix; the plantain-crusted halibut and scallops with lemon risotto were both light and aromatic. The kitchen does well with dishes that burst with flavor, yet don't overwhelm the palate. Finish your meal with the daily flan or a selection of Spanish cheeses with seasonal fruits and almonds, to name a few of Mint's desserts.

**Bottom Line:** The perfect place to awaken your taste buds, your hip urban self, and your inner conversationalist.

— Laura Oppenheimer Odom

### Addis Coffee House

Address: 2601 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Phone number: 503-331-5955

**Hours:** 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday

**Menu prices:** \$1.25 for a small coffee, \$1.50 for a large; specialty coffee drinks hover in the \$2-\$3 range; baked goods, \$1-\$1.90

**History:** Addis is the latest incarnation of this space in a vintage building on the west side of MLK, which has housed several coffee shops before. Proprietor Alemseged Beyene also runs the Ethiopian market next door.

**Vibe:** Exposed brick walls, weathered hardwood floors and high ceilings give Addis a serene, yet urban feel. Old-time black and white photos of Portland grace the walls. This is the place to write, think, chat, brainstorm or read. On a nice summer day, sunlight streams through the windows. The bar stools at a counter facing MLK are a good spot for people-watching, and an alcove in the back offers for-rent ads, notices of rallies or other events, local college schedules and community

## Eliot Neighborhood Walking Group

A walking group is starting in the neighborhood. Are you looking for:

- A way to start exercising more?
- A way to get to know your neighbors and your neighborhood?
- A way to provide a positive presence in the neighborhood?

The walk will start at 9:00 am on Saturday mornings at Dawson Park, rain or shine. Let's meet near the pavilion. Expect for the walk to last between 45-60 minutes. All levels of fitness are welcome. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are also welcome. Come dressed for a brisk walk that will meander throughout our neighborhood. If there is additional interest, we can include a coffee, tea, etc. break after the walk, as there are many wonderful coffee shops in the neighborhood to explore.

**Hope to see you there!**

newspapers.

**Eats & Drinks:** Addis serves a nice array of beverages, including the popular Ethiopian coffee and coffee shop standards like the americano, cappuccino and cafe au lait. For a more adventuresome drink, try the Mexi-Mocha, a mocha infused with spicy Mexican chocolate. A case of reasonably priced goods from Delphina's Bakery offers scones, muffins and cinnamon rolls — all fresh and aromatic. Selections from a basket of day-old baked goods on the counter are a steal at just \$.75.

**Bottom line:** A relaxing, inviting place to imbibe your caffeinated beverage of choice and watch the world go by.

— Laura Oppenheimer Odom

## 820

Address: 820 N. Russell St.  
Phone number: 503-460-0820

**Hours:** 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday through Friday, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday

**Menu prices:** Mixed drinks \$6-\$10, small plates \$5-\$8

**History:** Named for its address on North Russell Street, 820 opened this year as the companion bar to Mint, an upscale Caribbean restaurant next door. Concoctions from the bar have always shined at Mint, and now they have their own showcase.

**Vibe:** 820 is pure urban swank. Ambient house music serves as a soundtrack to the intimate conversations sure to percolate between the bar's exposed brick wall to the west and black wall to the east. Centipede-like green paper lights cast a soft glow on the walls, and candles sparkle at every table. Exposed pipes completes the look. For a breath of fresh air, try one of 820's sidewalk or courtyard tables in nice weather.

**Eats & Drinks:** 820 offers several small plates, all in keeping with Mint's Car-

ibbean and Latin-inspired food. The green chile and corn quesadilla with queso fresco and creme was delicious. A summer tomato salad or marinated mushrooms would be a great start as well.

But people come to 820 for the drinks. The beverage list reads something like the dessert menu at Papa Haydn. It's long. It's eclectic. And somehow, each offering sounds so perfect, you don't know where to begin. Love on the Rocks was a good start, with its sweet, yet tangy, mix of vanilla vodka, parfait amour, cranberry juice and pineapple juice. The bar manages to turn odd-sounding ingredients (think avocado, rhubarb, beets or rosemary) into the most brilliant drinks. Feeling more traditional? Opt for a gin cooler, house margarita or banana drop. The drinks arrive looking like an artist's color palette — almost (but not quite) too pretty to drink. There's no bad option, and the adept wine and beer lists round out the choices.

**Bottom line:** Some of Portland's most creative and blissful drinks are tucked away in this suave urban oasis.

— Laura Oppenheimer Odom

## East Side Cafe

Address: 2225 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Phone: 503-288-8036

**Hours:** 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays-Fridays; 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays

**Menu:** Build-your-own breakfast burritos (\$6.95), plus other egg dishes and pastries and granola (\$1.95-\$4.95). At lunchtime, hot and cold sandwiches (\$5.25-\$6.50), a half-dozen salads (\$1.75-\$6) as well soup and chili (\$2.50-\$3.95), hot dogs (\$3-\$5), and a throwback grilled cheese on white bread (\$1.95).

**History:** This onetime cell phone shop (and briefly, a convenience store), has been open less than a year, although there's been steadily building buzz for its Stumptown Coffee espresso drinks and hearty sandwiches.

**Vibe:** Bright and a bit funky, with re-finished hardwood floor giving the dining area a bit of sleekness, with colorful, large spin art on the walls as well as art installations by local artists (one recently was dioramas fashioned out of old shoe boxes).

**Eats & drinks:** The breakfasts, while more limited in options than the lunch menu, offer great flavors at reasonable prices. Those burritos can be filled with whatever you fancy, from green peppers to black beans to sausage, so you only have yourself to thank or blame for the flavor combinations. Also, look for light buttermilk pancakes and a killer fried egg, bacon and cheese sandwich on an English muffin. Lunch sandwiches have the same sort of pick-your-own approach, though a Philly cheese steak stands with some of the best in town.

**Bottom line:** Next to the cash register, they've posted one of those Starbucks cardboard coffee sleeves, with a red circle and slash over the corporate logo, and the words on the sleeve al-

tered to say "Warning: The coffee you are about to enjoy is extremely Ecorporate." That's East Side Cafe in a nutshell: A very welcomed — and far tastier — alternative to the ever-en-croaching Starbucks. Now if we could only get them to stay open into the evenings ...

— Grant Butler

## Queen of Sheba

Address: 2413 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Phone: 503-287-6302

**Hours:** Lunch — noon-3 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; dinner — 5-10 p.m. daily.

*Note: The Queen of Sheba has gone to cash only.*

**Menu:** A dozen vegetarian dishes (\$7.50-\$9.50), seven beef dishes (\$8-\$9.75), plus six chicken and two lamb entrees (\$8.50-\$10). Most dishes are \$1 less during lunch hours. In addition, the restaurant has one of the best selections of international and domestic microbrews by the bottle.

**History:** Owner Alem Gebrehiwot and his family originally opened this business in 1995 as a neighborhood mini mart, selling Ethiopian spices and regular grab-and-go chips and beer. But on the side, they offered a couple of tables for their fiery hot inland-style Ethiopian dishes. As word grew about this food, more tables moved in, with the mini mart items eventually forced out, turning Queen of Sheba into a full restaurant. Last year, the restaurant expanded into a space next door, adding a full bar as well as occasional evenings of live jazz.

**Vibe:** The atmosphere is a bit spartan, with colors of the Ethiopian flag adorning the walls. But the family spirit is the real reason to go here. Diners are greeted as longtime friends, and when the food arrives, you know those friendships are built on great food enjoyed in good company.

**Eats & drinks:** The kitchen can make things mild or wild, depending on personal tastes for peppers. But be warned: Hot really means hot, so take it easy if you've never tried it before. Some of the most intriguing flavors come from the milder side anyway, like a stew of mushrooms and beef, or a milder lamb stew. But the adventurous will want to try dishes that pack more punch, particularly the spicy chicken and lamb specialties. All dishes come with a palate-calming green salad and are served on a bed of spongy injera, a pancake like bread meant to be torn apart and used to scoop up morsels. Yes, you eat with your hands here, which is part of the fun and the mystery.

**Bottom line:** Hands down the best ethnic fare in the Eliot Neighborhood. But that's not where the benchmark should be drawn. Queen of Sheba is some of the most-exciting dining you'll find in the whole metropolitan area.

— Grant Butler

## Eliot Neighborhood Restaurants

### BREAKFAST/COFFEE/CAFES

**Addis Coffeehouse**  
2601 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
(503) 331-5955

**Bridges Cafe**  
2716 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
(503) 288-4169

**Eliot E-Mat Cafe**  
2808 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
(503) 280-8889

**San Rafael Cafe**  
415 NE San Rafael St.  
(503) 284-2030

**East Side Cafe**  
2225 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
*Coffee Shop*  
1909 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**Gotham Bldg Coffee Shop**  
Address: 2240 N Interstate Ave.  
Phone: 503-493-2646

### BARS/TAVERNS

**Bill Ray's Tavern**  
2210 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**McMenamin's White Eagle Cafe & Saloon**  
836 N. Russell St.  
(503) 282-6810

**Sloan's Tavern**  
36 N. Russell St.  
(503) 287-2262

**Billy Reed's Restaurant & Bar**  
2808 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
(503) 493-8127

**820**  
820 N. Russell St.  
(503) 284-5518

**Widmer Gasthaus**  
929 N. Russell St.  
(503) 281-3333

### LUNCH/DINNER

**Queen of Sheba**  
2413 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
(503) 287-6302

**Pizza a go go**  
3240 N. Williams  
503-335-0300

**Popeye's Famous Fried Chicken**  
3120 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
(503) 281-8455

**Tropicana Bar Be Cue**  
3217 N. Williams Ave.  
(503) 281-8696

**Legacy Emanuel Hospital Cafeteria**  
2801 N. Gantenbein Ave.  
(503) 413-2200

**Mint**  
816 N. Russell St.  
(503) 284-5518

**Chuck's Market, J&S Grocery**  
2415 N. Williams Ave.  
(503) 281-6269

### Other Options:

Sandwich to go? Try the low-priced offerings at **Chuck's Market**.

McDonald's may not be coming to Eliot, but you can still get fastfood at **Popeye's**.

Now that Doris's Café has closed, go to the **Tropicana** to get your ribs and oxtail.

Want to eat where the cab of a truck sticks out of the tavern? Try **Sloans**.

If you like live music while you eat, there's the **White Eagle**, **Billy Reed's** and **Billy Ray's Dive**.

Pizza and Pabst Blue Ribbon? **Pizza a go go**.

**Remember:  
Eat in Eliot.**

## Raccoons in Eliot

By Tony Green

Barking dogs. Fighting cats. Crowing roosters. A lot of different animal noises have awakened me over the years. But I'd never heard the strange trilling sound that woke me at about 4 a.m. earlier this summer.

I turned to ask my wife what it was. "A raccoon," Shara said, irritated. "Really?" I said, putting it all together. "I guess that means I caught one."

But my excitement did not last long. The trilling continued all night as the ensnared young raccoon desperately called for its mother to help. I felt a bit guilty about breaking up the raccoon family and increasingly nervous as I wondered exactly what I was going to do with the raccoon I had caught.

I got out of bed at 6:30 a.m. and went out into the yard to check out the trap. There was the raccoon. I reached to clear off the brush I had used to disguise the trap and the animal hissed and lunged at me. My stomach clenched. I got the reinforced welding gloves I had selected for the occasion and picked up the cage.

The raccoon scampered from side to side, causing the cage to rock and making it difficult to carry. I finally got to my car and put the cage in the back. I had decided I would release the animal in Forest Park — somewhere on the other side of the Willamette so it could not find its way back. My neighbor, who lent me the cage, said raccoons could find their way home from at least five miles away. When she trapped raccoons the summer before, she took them to Clark County.

As I drove off, a strange feeling set over me. Where exactly was I going to let the raccoon go? How was I going to open the cage without it attacking me? What if the raccoon got out of the cage in the car and attacked me while I was driving?

I stopped at several points along St. Helen's road, but only after the third or fourth try did I find a spot where I could not be seen from the highway or someone's front window. Although I did not believe I was doing anything illegal (and still do not), I know I would be annoyed if someone released a raccoon near my house.

I stopped and took the cage out of the car and flipped it over as instructed. The creature scrambled around and I tried clumsily to open the gate. Finally, the door popped open and — much to my relief — the animal took off running in the opposite direction.

But this was just the beginning. If you want to catch raccoons, be prepared to be in it for the long haul. There's rarely just one on your block and you'd be surprised what else you catch accidentally.

I guess the first question is: why did I want to catch raccoons?

Well, the answer is that I did not want to catch raccoons, I wanted to get them out of our yard. Raccoons have killed four of our ducks in the last few years, once leaving just a duck foot. They ate a bunch of gold fish. They peeled back the lawn looking for bugs. They knock plants into the fountain, clogging the pump. And when we ran into them in the yard at night, they did not run away. The big one — the mother, I'm told — stood up on her hind legs and hissed.

This summer was particularly bad. We ran into the raccoon family constantly. We became nervous about walking through the yard at night. And they began showing up earlier and earlier, even before our chickens had gone into their coop for the night.

I'd lost some ducks, but I really did

not want to lose the chickens.

So Debbie, the neighbor, lent me her trap. She said she had caught four last year, but not the mother. She had everything I needed and was happy to let me try this year.

So here's what you need:  
— A trap. It should be a humane one. I cannot tell you what the law is on this, but my animal rights friends are sure about this.

— Peanut butter. It's the best bait. Any sort of meat or fish attracts cats and rats.

— Thick gloves. For handling the cage. I've never been clawed, but the gloves are key.

— Release point. Unlike me, find a place to release the raccoons *before* you catch one. The place I released the first one turned out to be just around the bend from a residential area. I easily could have come in contact with a resident who most likely would have been none too pleased with me. Later, I found a great spot on Northwest Saltzman Road.

At this point, I should point out that Shara, my wife, does not entirely approve of my catching raccoons. She's a little concerned that I might catch them too young. She worries that they won't survive where I'm releasing them; either there won't be enough garbage cans for them or the raccoons will get hit by cars. She thinks it's a little mean to release them in someone else's neighborhood. And she thinks what I'm doing won't do any good because new raccoons will just move into the neighborhood.

I have answers. The ones I have caught are not too young. I'm releasing them in an area with both a large woods and plenty of garbage cans. If you live in Forest Park, you have to expect wild animals. I don't know if new raccoons will move into the neighborhood, but at least I'm trying.

After catching one raccoon, it seemed they grew smarter. I didn't catch another one in June or July. I caught a feral cat. I caught an opossum. I caught my own rabbit, Pepe, who had escaped from his cage.

Then, in mid-August, I caught two in one night. A few days later, I caught another, and another and another — five in one week. One morning I went out there, and I found one raccoon in the trap and two standing outside the cage. I thought they were going to attack me, but they ran off.

So despite my success, I almost certainly have not caught the mother and at least one child. Those who have seen her say she is at least as big as my daughter, Lulu, who is almost 50 pounds. I'm not sure Mama Raccoon can even fit in the trap, but I'm determined to try.

When I caught five in a week, it was like I was fishing and the trout were biting at every fly I threw out there. I started fantasizing about catching all the raccoons in the immediate vicinity and then branching out to other neighborhoods. I have friends in Irvington who complain about raccoons. I could catch them, too.

But I haven't caught a raccoon in a week as I sit down to write this. Maybe I've lost my touch. Maybe Mama isn't catchable. Maybe Shara is right — this is all just a waste of time. Mama is going to raise another brood next year.

Whatever. I'm going to keep trying for a while. But I've definitely curtailed my ambition. No matter what, I'm not going to branch out to other streets. If you want to catch raccoons, you're going to have to do it yourself.

## ELIOT NEWS

### Ad Rate Sheet

Eliot News has a per issue circulation of 3,000 and is hand delivered to nearly 100% of the homes and businesses in the Eliot neighborhood.

Eliot News is also distributed to residents and businesses in surrounding neighborhoods, including Irvington, Sabin and Boise.

Eliot News uses a tabloid newspaper format (11 x 17) of 4 to 8 pages.

Eliot News is published four times a year. Ad deadlines are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1.

Current Ad Rates are as follows:

No. of Issues	1/16 pg 2 1/4" X 5"	1/8 pg 4 1/2" X 5"	1/4 pg 8 1/4" X 5"	1/2 Pg 8 1/4" X 10 1/4"	Full Page 16 1/4" X 10 1/4"
1x	\$ 25	\$ 37	\$ 58	\$105	\$188
2x	\$ 42	\$ 68	\$108	\$195	\$353
3x	\$ 63	\$ 97	\$154	\$277	\$502
4x	\$ 84	\$122	\$194	\$349	\$632

*Sizes listed are width by height*

Please make checks out to Eliot Neighborhood Association and mail to:  
Tony Green, 51 NE Tillamook St., Portland, OR 97212.

**We appreciate your business!**



Susan Bailey, Heather Dorsey and a happy community service crew transform Harriet Tubman MS before the new school year begins. *Photo by C. Czarnecka, 2003*

### Back-To-School Cleanup

The Eliot Neighborhood/Friend's of Trees/Harriet Tubman MS partnership came through with a BACK-TO-SCHOOL Cleanup on the morning of August 30.

The school exterior was transformed with mulch, pruned hedges and an overall cleanup. Community service volunteers from Multnomah County courts, Tubman Middle School staffers Ryan Bender and Lyndell Stone plus Eliot's Tubman Team gave part of their Labor Day holiday to making the school look good for returning students and staff.

You can join with neighbors, local businesses and Tubman students through the coming to create exterior art/design enhancements, continue with the landscape work and other community service projects.

Harriet Tubman MS is a SUN school and is looking for partnerships and involvement from all segments of the local community.

If you have ideas or want more information contact Ryan Bender, SUN School staff, at 503-916-5636 OR Christine Czarnecka, Eliot contact, at 503-287-5428.