

*working for clean rivers*

# CLARIFIER

JUNE  
2012

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

## Message From The Director



**O**n May 30, the Portland City Council voted unanimously to approve a new \$404-million city budget. The Council will vote this month to adopt the approved budget.

In February, we submitted a requested budget that we worked on with staff and our Budget Advisory Committee last winter. It identified roughly \$2.3 million in reductions to hold the required increase to the monthly sewer and stormwater bill for an average single family residential customer to 5.9%. The Mayor proposed additional changes and reductions in early May that further reduced our budget. Here is a summary of what the City Council adopted.

### **Positions**

The Requested Budget included cutting 3.5 full-time positions, and eliminating funding for three additional positions for next year. The Adopted Budget would eliminate an additional 9 vacant positions (several of them part-time). Filling these positions had proven difficult given the city hiring freeze. Eliminating these positions reduced costs and revenue requirements by \$667,318.

### **Cost-of-living and Merit Increases for Non-represented Employees**

The Budget implements a city-wide, 11-month delay in cost of living increases and merit (performance-based) increases for non-union employees earning more than \$45,000 annually. Employees covered by union contracts will continue to receive cost of living and merit increases. This reduced costs and revenue requirements by \$670,891.

### **Pass-through of Savings from Budget Reductions Elsewhere**

Requested budgets have been reduced in General Fund bureaus whose costs are allocated to other city bureaus. The reduction to BES' share of these allocated costs will be \$415,763. The impact of these changes is a one-time dip in the rate increase for next year from 5.9% to 5.4% (representing about 30 cents per month).

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### Other Actions

In addition to the initial Mayor's proposed budget, we were asked to make several other adjustments. Commissioner Saltzman directed us to freeze system development charges, plan review fees and land use review fees at their current level, which lowers next year's forecast revenues by about \$500,000. We were also asked to fund an additional \$62,500 for inoculating Dutch Elm trees, and to take responsibility for operating and maintaining the Portland Loos, which will cost about \$119,000. All of these changes will have to be offset by expenditure reductions in order to maintain our balanced budget.

Thanks to all of you who worked so hard putting together our budget packages and responded so quickly to budget questions. ■

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## Water Quality Data on the Web

Pollution Prevention Services field staff have collected and tested Willamette River water samples for years. Now you can see results of their sampling at [www.portlandonline.com/bes/waterquality](http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/waterquality). Field operations collects monthly water samples year-round at three locations and weekly samples at five Willamette River public access points from May until October. The webpage displays information for *E. coli* count and water temperature for each location. ■

## St. Johns Parade

The annual St. Johns Parade celebrated its 50th anniversary on May 12. Some staff from the BES Water Pollution Control Laboratory and members of their families joined the celebration. The WPCL has been part of the St. Johns community since 1997. ■

*From left: Jason Law, Angela Peschke, Babette Faris, and Peter Bryant march in the annual St. Johns Parade*



## ★ Brownfield Awards

Two Portland Brownfield Program projects have won 2012 Oregon Brownfields Awards. The program will receive the awards on June 13 during the annual Oregon Brownfields Conference. The award-winning projects are the June Key Delta Community Center and Tabor Commons (pictures at right).

The Delta Theta Sigma Sorority purchased a former gas station site at N Albina and Ainsworth in 1992 and transformed it into the June Key Delta Community Center, a sustainably-designed building. The sorority is working to make the center a U.S. Green Building Council Living Building Challenge project. The Portland Brownfield Program provided funding for environmental site assessments, which enabled redevelopment of an abandoned site.

Tabor Commons, a community-owned property under the Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Coalition (SEUL), is also the site of a former gas station. The southeast Portland property is now home to Café au Play, a nonprofit, family-oriented coffee house and community center. The Brownfield Program provided environmental site assessments and cleanup funds for the Tabor Commons project and helped transform a blighted property into a neighborhood asset. ■



## Another SHARP Year

Last month, Oregon OSHA awarded the Environmental Services Construction Services group its fifth-year SHARP Certificate (pictured below). The SHARP (Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program) award ceremony was part of "Safety Break Oregon," an Oregon OSHA occupational safety and health event for Oregon employers.



BES Construction Division Manager Mark Hutchinson

coordinated the half-day event and facilitated a discussion on common construction risks and safety strategies. Construction Manager Blair Bean made a presentation on construction site safety. Inspection Supervisor Rick McCoy discussed driver safety and BES Inspection Manager Neil Choate outlined Construction Division safety accomplishments.

Congratulations to the Construction Division on attaining its fifth-year SHARP certification. ■



## SHINING STARS

The Environmental Services Recognition Team circulates eight Shining Star Awards throughout the bureau. Employees give them to coworkers for outstanding achievement, notable performance or just good team play.

When you receive the Shining Star, display it at your desk for two months, then pass it on to a deserving coworker and let the Recognition Team know who you gave it to. Passing the award on is an acknowledgement of achievement or excellence that might otherwise go unnoticed in a bureau this large. Shining Stars are meant to be awarded across group lines. When it's time to pass it on, consider employees in all groups, as well as your own work team or group. Shining Star recipients have passed their awards on to co-workers.

### Here is a list of new Shining Stars:

Gary Taylor	Shining Star # 1	to Willy Park
Ronda Fast	Shining Star # 2	to Marie Walkiewicz
Andre Duval	Shining Star # 3	to Bret Winkler
Christa Overby	Shining Star # 4	to James Bowen
John Burns	Shining Star # 5	to Mary Bushman
Andi Hodge	Shining Star # 6	to Nick Atanasov
Toby Query	Shining Star # 7	to Dave Helzer
Amber Clayton	Shining Star # 8	to Ruben Gonzalez-Baird

Go to [www.portlandonline.com/bes/stars](http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/stars) to read more about BES Shining Stars.

### ★ Tunnel Honors

The East Side Big Pipe has hauled in another award. The Underground Construction Association (UCA) of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) has named the East Side CSO Tunnel its Project of the Year. Parsons Brinckerhoff led project design. BES and Jacobs Associates managed construction and the prime contractor was the joint venture of Kiewit-Bilfinger Berger. The award will be presented at the 2012 North American Tunneling Conference in Indianapolis on June 26. ■



## CityGreen

Environmental Services launched the Ecoroof Blog in 2009 to build green roof technology awareness in Portland and around the world. Traffic on the blog started at around 500 hits per month and has grown to around 17,500 hits per month.

The number of Portland ecoroofs has also grown. There are now about 330 ecoroof projects in Portland and the blog has been a great way to share this information on the Environmental Services website and show the value of ecoroofs in our city.

The end of the CSO Program last year makes green infrastructure even more important in managing our urban watersheds. In recognition of that, the Ecoroof Blog has expanded to highlight the range of green infrastructure projects throughout Portland. The new blog is called CityGreen. It will continue to emphasize the beauty and value of ecoroof projects, but will also look more broadly at how green infrastructure can improve the rest of our city spaces while enhancing livability.

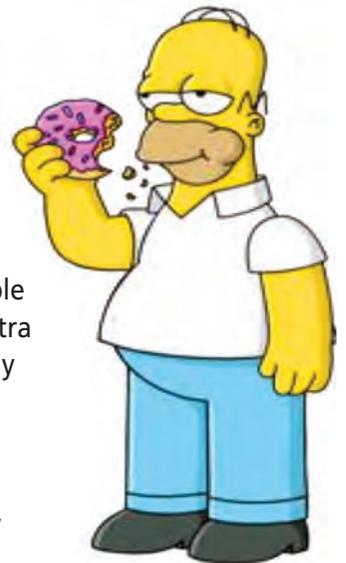
You can find the blog online at [www.portlandonline.com/bes/CityGreen](http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/CityGreen). ■



### + Wellness Tip

As men age they become more susceptible to certain health issues. Men's joints can become less flexible with age. Less flexibility can lead to falls, a major cause of disability for older people. Stay flexible with yoga or T'ai chi which also helps improve balance. Lose the extra pounds to help protect knee and other body joints by reducing daily calories by 500 to 1,000 per day.

The risk of prostate cancer increases about 10 percent per decade beginning at age 60. Improve prostate health with regular exercise, eat lycopene-rich foods such as tomatoes and watermelon, and get regular check-ups. ■



**? Learn more about your coworkers on the BES intranet at TEAM BES.**

Read about your teammates and review past profiles on the BES intranet at [www.portlandonline.com/bes/teambes](http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/teambes).

**☐ Contact your PEERs**

PEERs are specially trained Environmental Services staff volunteers who are available to offer bureau employees support, guidance and referral. [Click here to learn more or to contact a PEER volunteer.](#)



**Our Mission**

Environmental Services serves the Portland community by protecting public health, water quality and the environment.

We provide sewage and stormwater collection and treatment services to accommodate Portland's current and future needs.

We protect the quality of surface and ground waters and conduct activities that plan and promote healthy ecosystems in our watersheds.

**Our Vision**

To be recognized as a trusted service provider and innovative environmental leader through a demonstrated commitment to clean rivers, healthy watersheds and our community.

Environmental Services: [www.portlandoregon.gov/bes](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes)

Dan Saltzman, Commissioner    Dean Marriott, Director

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