

working for clean rivers

CLARIFIER

DECEMBER
2012

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Message From The Director



Our workplace environment is very important to me and I strongly support programs that promote a healthy workplace. Twelve years ago, members of our Bureau Leadership Team became concerned about conditions and perceptions in our workplaces after hearing from some employees who felt unsafe or unsupported at work.

In 2000, we hired a consultant to create a workplace assessment and formed the Committee for Workplace Excellence to review the assessment and propose workplace improvements. The committee's adopted mission is to "Encourage a supportive and respectful workplace where employees honor diversity and help each other to succeed." They created the PEER Resource Program to help achieve that goal.

The PEER program has helped significantly improve workplace conditions. PEER volunteers take 12 hours of training to improve communication skills and learn about cultural diversity, human resources policies, and labor and legal issues. They are available to their co-workers to discuss problems in a safe, neutral environment, to help employees deal directly with their problems, and to show them how to take advantage of other resources.

Linda Dobson guided the PEER Program from its inception into the effective program it is today. Now, after 12 years of outstanding work, Linda is stepping aside and leaving the job of coordinating the PEER Program in the capable hands of Alice Coker. I'd like to thank Linda for her years of service and congratulate Alice on her new duties.

More than 80 BES employees have served as PEERS, and now it's time for some new recruits. If you're interested, you just need to submit a letter of interest to Alice Coker. You can download the letter, view PEER attributes and get other information at www.portlandonline.com/bes/recruitment. The application deadline is January 16, 2013.

Dean C Mann

NEED HELP!!
got questions?
PEER volunteers are ready to listen
let's talk.

Match the PEERS

Do you recognize your PEERs?

CONTEST

Try to match the photos of the PEER volunteers at right with their childhood photos on the next page. Write the number of the childhood photo in the circles next to each person's current photo and name. Send your guesses to Alice Coker at 106/1000 or alice.coker@portlandoregon.gov by December 21. The person who gets the most correct answers wins a gift card to Starbucks.

PEER VOLUNTEERS ARE BES employees who take special training to learn how to be sounding boards and objective listeners for their co-workers, and to refer them to resources and support structures that can help resolve workplace issues. You can find PEER volunteers at the Columbia



Helena Abernathy



Melissa Brown



Victoria Busch



Angie Tomlinson



Alice Coker



Chris Collett



Linda Dobson



Dawn Hottenroth



Jennifer Karpis



Jordan McCann



Taryn Meyer



Patty Nelson



Vickie Robison



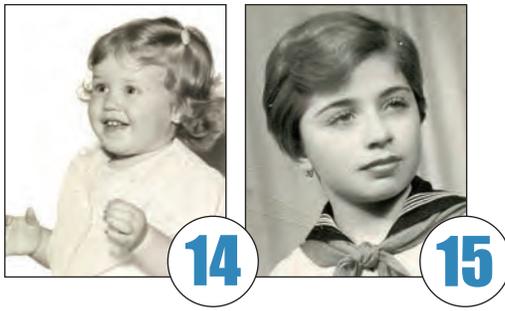
Kristen Thomas



Ali Young

Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Water Pollution Control Laboratory, the Portland Building and Pioneer Tower.

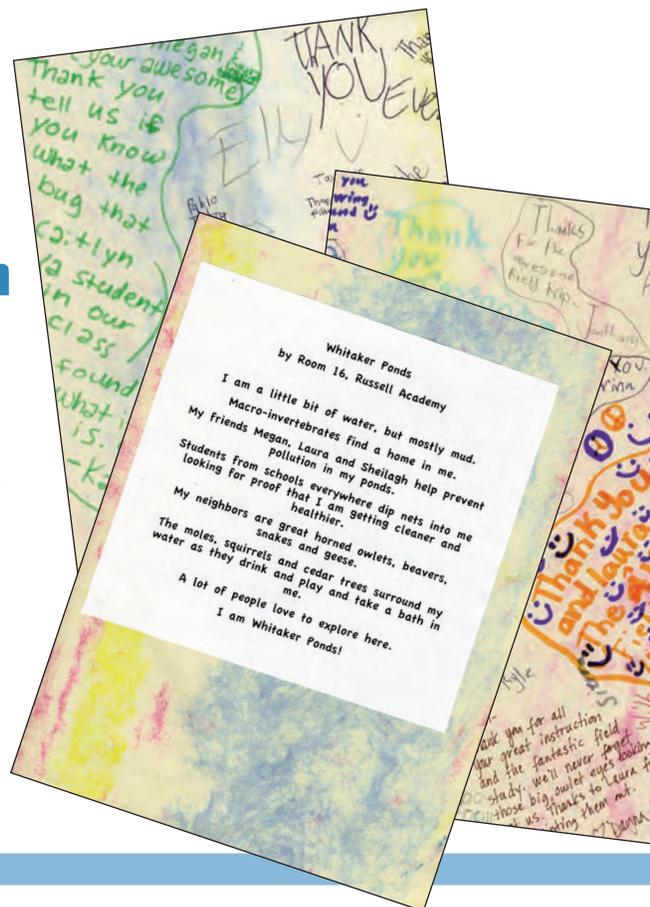
Get more PEER information at www.portlandonline.com/bes/peer.



Thank You Lynn and Megan

Lynn Vanderkamp and Megan Hanson are the bureau's Clean River Educators who offer school students in Portland free classroom and field study science education programs. Their students learn about watershed health, urban ecology, the causes and effects of water pollution and how to protect rivers and streams.

Last year, Megan and Lynn together made contact with over 13,000 students in kindergarten through college. Sometimes their students let them know how much they appreciate them. Russell Academy fourth graders sent Megan Hanson this card after a Whitaker Ponds field trip.





East Lents Video

The Communications Division produced a short video about the East Lents Floodplain Restoration project that is available on the Environmental Services YouTube channel at <http://youtu.be/gz0CkY62Z0A>.

Meanwhile, work on the project is winding down. Planting crews have planted thousands of trees and shrubs this fall along Johnson Creek and in wetland areas and have removed invasive plants. They will finish planting at the project site early next year.

Final construction this year includes planting street trees on Foster Road, installing bike racks at the Rollin' Tire interpretive site and gates at the ends of the trail running through the project area.



East Lents Floodplain Restoration project new pedestrian bridge



New plantings and split rail fence



HYDRA Enhancement

Construction begins in January on the Portsmouth Shaft Control Building and Radio Antenna at the north shaft of the Portsmouth Force Main. The 30-foot radio antenna will enhance the city's HYDRA system, which monitors sewage pump stations, sewer levels and flows, wastewater pH and conductivity, and rainfall. HYDRA helps ensure that the city complies with its wastewater and stormwater permits, including its requirement to control combined sewer overflows.

The city controls the HYDRA system from the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant via radio, leased communication land lines, and fiber optic lines. The North Shaft site is an ideal back-up radio site because of its elevation and its direct line-of-sight communication with five other HYDRA radio towers. It will be the only site on the fiber optic communication ring that has this line-of-sight access to the HYDRA system.

Office Building Update



Construction cam image from 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2012

Construction on the Engineering Office Building at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant is nearing its midpoint. The city's contractor has completed a new parking area just west of the Dodd building, installed underground utilities and prepared the site for the new courtyard.

The contractor has also installed tunnel segments from the East Side Big Pipe that visitors will walk through to reach the office building. Interpretive signs inside the rings will display information about the Big Pipe and Portland's combined sewer overflow abatement program.

Building foundations and most of the vertical concrete columns and masonry walls are in place. The contractor began pouring the concrete roof this week. The roof, including an ecoroof, will be complete in April. Interior framing begins next month and window system installation will start in late winter. The project should be complete by June 2013.

The contractor installed a construction cam that takes frequent still images of construction progress. You can view the cam at 209.180.175.33:8081/image.jpg. Be patient. It takes a minute or so for the image to load.



Division STREETScape Project

Streetscaping • Street Reconstruction • Green Street and Sewer Work

Streetscape Delay

Environmental Services and the Portland Bureau of Transportation are working together on the Division Streetscape Project. The bureaus have pushed back the start of construction from late this year until spring or summer 2013.

There will be streetscape improvements and repaving on SE Division from SE 11th Avenue to SE Cesar Chavez Boulevard. The city will also construct 55 new green street facilities, including 25 curb extensions, to manage street runoff along with nearly 5,000 feet of new sewer pipe. The project will include eight art installations and six new bike corrals.

Wellness Tip

It's not uncommon to feel a little more down when the days are short. This lack of daylight can bring on the winter blues, otherwise known as seasonal affective disorder (SAD). Typical symptoms include fatigue, lack of interest in normal activities, social withdrawal, gaining weight and craving carbs. Try lighting things up a little every day. Take a long walk outside or arrange your home or office near a window to get more daylight. Full spectrum light therapy can also help.

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.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers



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
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner Dean Marriott, Director

Produced electronically OD 2012