From the Chairs ...

Welcome to 2011 and the Spring. On behalf of your new Co-Chairs we would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve the neighborhood. First, by way of introduction we would like you to know a little bit about us.

Gordon Wilson was born in NW Portland, and moved to the Oregon City McLoughlin Neighborhood in July 2005; he values Oregon City’s good quality of life and is interested in helping maintain and improve Oregon City’s natural and historical assets. Tim Powell has been a resident of McLoughlin since 1994. He has been a Chair or Co-Chair twice during that time and enjoys the challenges and the energy of the neighborhood.

We are excited to be working towards making some changes to our meetings, newsletter and enhancing the communication to the neighbors. First we would like to take advantage of social media by enhancing our Facebook page. You don’t need to join Facebook to take advantage of the page, just paste this address in your browser: www.facebook.com/mnaoc ...and there you are! We will be updating and reformatting our webpage (www.mnaoc.org). All of this to better keep you informed of goings on in the neighborhood.

We want to get interesting speakers that are both informational and seasonal, so look for gardeners, home repair experts, water conservation and the like in upcoming meetings. We will also be including a report of the previous meeting minutes so you can stay up to date even if you couldn’t make the meeting. Look for changes to the newsletter as well. All in all a little spring cleaning and freshening things up to prepare us for a great year in the neighborhood. Join us for the meetings, won’t you? We look forward to meeting all of our neighbors at upcoming meetings.

- Tim Powell & Gordon Wilson, Co-Chairs

For newsletter submissions, please contact Denyse McGriff at mcgriffd@pdc.us or 503-656-3912. Deadline: Thursday, June 9.
Arch Bridge Update

The Oregon City/West Linn Arch Bridge on Oregon Highway 43 opened on Jan. 1, 1923. This bridge has served the communities well for 89 years. More than 13,500 vehicles and 200-300 bicyclists and walkers cross the bridge each day. Inspections have revealed some corrosion of the underlying steel structure, damaged railings and the need for resurfacing the bridge deck and the Oregon City approach.

This bridge and many other beautiful Oregon bridges are the legacy of Conde B. McCullough, who was considered one of the top bridge engineers in the world. He designed more than 30 arch bridges in Oregon at a time when travel by automobile was not common. This project is an opportunity to restore this one-of-a-kind bridge and maintain the significant link between Oregon City and West Linn.

When the project is complete, this architectural treasure will be restored and its life-span extended to serve the community for years to come.

Project Update, April 2011:

Hydroblasting

There’s lots of work going on but much of it is not visible to the public. The contractor, Wildish Standard Paving, has completed hydroblasting inside the arch chambers on the Oregon City and West Linn bridge piers. This work removed all the Gunite using high pressure water at 40,000 pounds per square inch (psi). This is difficult and dangerous work. The workers had to wear protective gear and the blasting created huge amounts of steam making it impossible to see. The workers had to listen for the differences in sound to know when all the Gunite was off of a steel beam.

Bill Daniels, Dakota Spencer, Damon Mabee and Denyse McGriff removed trash, weeds from planters and basically made 7th Street look clean and tidy at the annual Clean up 7th Street event, April 16, 2011.

As many of you know, the McLoughlin Neighborhood Association adopted 7th Street through the neighborhood. As part of that program we agreed to clean up the street at least once a year. It’s a great chance for community service. We hope you’ll join us next time!

The next round of hydroblasting will take place above the bridge deck. All the material that is removed through hydroblasting or demolition is captured and contained so nothing enters the river.

Bridge Column Repair

Over the years, areas of corrosion developed where water seeped below the bridge deck and penetrated the concrete, damaging the steel columns at their attachment points to the deck and the arch. The bridge deck is being jacked up in various spots so that workers can remove concrete that surrounds the columns supporting the bridge. While the column is temporarily supported, the column steel connections are being repaired.

So far the corrosion and repairs needed have not exceeded our expectations and that is good news.

All of this work is done by hand by individual workers and much of it out of sight—inside the chambers, arches or under the bridge deck. Later in the project you will see larger equipment on the bridge as sections of the deck, sidewalks and railings are removed.

Soon materials will be delivered to build a temporary support structure (falsework) on the Oregon City end of the bridge. It will support the span across 99E while the horizontal beams (girders) which attach the deck to the pier are repaired.

HOPE Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who brought food for the food drive. T-shirt winners are Bob & Rita Randall and Gordon Wilson.
Emergency! Are you prepared?

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a national citizen preparedness movement aimed at empowering households in the event of a disaster -- be it a personal house fire or a regional earthquake.

Jo Becker, a volunteer at Clackamas County Fire District #1 OrCity CERT program, encourages everyone to go through the program, and get prepared! She also says they’re trying to build up post-class activities (continuing ed, practice drills, etc.) for CERT graduates.

Additional information is online at www.clackamasfire.com/cert.html

A moment in Oregon history

Did you know? ... The Oregon Country was the territory west of the Continental Divide from northern California to the southern tip of Alaska. The settlement of the Oregon Country boundary at the forty-ninth parallel in 1846, and the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848 brought the western states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Arizona under the American flag. And at this time, Oregon City was the capital of the Oregon Territory.

The McLoughlin Historic District sign at the top of Singer Hill is now complete. The quote, supplied by Traci Hill, manager of the McLoughlin Memorial Association, is as follows:

“To Oregon - from the fertility of its soil, the salubrity and mildness of its climate, the finest place in North America for the residence of civilized man.”

-- Dr. John McLoughlin, fourth of July celebration 1850

Calendar

May 1 - May Day
May 5 - MNA General Meeting
May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
May 8 - Mother’s Day
May 14 - Victorian Handcraft: Pine Cone Work, McLoughlin House
May 18 - Remembrance of Mt. St. Helens Eruption
May 19 - Civil War Lecture & Brown Bag Lunch, McLoughlin House
May 20-22 - Annual Pioneer Family Festival
May 21 - Teddy Bear Parade
May 21 - Founder’s Day, McLoughlin House
May 30 - Memorial Day, Mt. View Cemetery

June 2 - MNA Steering Committee Meeting
June 11- Victorian Handcraft: Drawn Thread Embroidery, McLoughlin House
June 16 - Civil War Lecture & Brown Bag Lunch, McLoughlin House
July 4 - Fourth of July
July 6 - MNA General Meeting
July 9 - Victorian Handcraft: Knotted Fringe, McLoughlin House

Details for neighborhood events are on Facebook: www.facebook.com/mnaoc ... click “Events” in the left-hand menu.
For newsletter submissions please contact Denyse at mcgriffd@pdc.us or 503-656-3912.
Deadline for next issue: June 9, 2011.