

## BRIDGETON NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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PENINSULA DRAINAGE DISTRICT #2

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### TREES, TREES AND MORE TREES

Much has been going on relative to tree removal and planning for the next phase of the project.

Walter Valenta, Alise Goforth and Tom Kelly have been authorized by the BNA to represent their interests in working with PEN 2 Board Supervisor Dick Shafer in finding agreement on a plan of action. There has been a walk through to determine which trees need to be removed, and which ones can stay.

Of the trees tagged to remain, there may be some that will need regular maintenance. That will be the responsibility of the landowner upon whose land the tree sets. If the landowner chooses not to maintain the tree(s), then it is proposed the District will remove it at District expense. The District will talk with the landowner to determine which option works best.

Regarding the timeline for removal, which has been changed by the federal agencies as they work through this new process, FEMA has told the District that there is no impact to flood insurance, and the D-FIRM maps being created by FEMA for the City of Portland, until September 2009. Therefore, the District, with the cooperation of the BNA, needs to have the trees removed during the good weather of the summer of 2008. That would allow time for inspections and reports so that information can be forwarded to FEMA on or before March of 2009 so it can be included on the maps published in September 2009. If not done by then, the levee is unlikely to be recertified and will be put on the D-FIRM map as a decertified levee. Then insurance would be affected if the levee status goes from "flood protected" to "flood unprotected".

All of this is a consequence of living on and maintaining a federal levee. We appreciate the residents patience and cooperation. Thank you.

### WHAT COMES NEXT?

The other thing being hashed out by the group is a planting plan to help bring the neighborhood into an improved appearance. The District has offered \$10,000 this year toward developing such a plan. The group is talking about hiring landscape architect Bo Nevue of Nevue/Ngan Associates of Portland. Bo has done work for the City of Portland on the landscape plan of the trail project so knows a good deal about the area, its issues and opportunities. If he is engaged to assist, Bridgeton neighbors can work with him on the options available for planting trees and shrubs on top of a levee.

Hopefully, a three year plan can be developed so the District can invest each year in some level of planting on the levee. Some of the options would include:

- Trees in pots that could be moved in the event of a flood fight.
- Shrubs planted on overbuild for color and space definition.
- Perhaps even trees planted in the overbuild using vaults. This is tricky and would have to be cooperatively worked out with the utilities and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The District, whose responsibility is maintaining the levee for safety, will have neither the resources to fully fund the landscape plan nor the mandate to landscape. However, the District and its staff will assist the neighborhood in the fund raising that can finance the plan, an area where it has expertise and contacts.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact your local BNA representative, or call the District office at 503-281-5675, x 300.

*"It is best, when two have the same agenda, to find ways to achieve it."*

**Anonymous**