

Home & Garden

Biodiesel Keeping North Portland Homes Warm

By Kathy Hyzy of The Oregon Environmental Council

Residents out for an evening stroll through St. Johns on a calm night might notice a funny aroma, as if they were approaching a neighborhood deep-fry potluck. Instead, it's the smell of exhaust from families heating their homes with biodiesel heating oil.

The cleaner-burning blend of regular heating oil and biodiesel, a fuel made from oils like soybean and recycled cooking grease from restaurants, is an increasingly popular way to keep warm in Portland.

"We really liked that biodiesel is a cleaner-burning, locally produced heating fuel," says Ryan Deibert. He and his wife Lorelei Juntunen have been heating their St. Johns home with B20, a blend of 20% biodiesel with regular heating oil for the last two years. They did not have to make any modifications to their heating system to switch to the fuel.

"We figure that it costs us a little less than \$5 more per month versus regular heating oil," Deibert says. He feels it is well worth it. "Knowing that every bit of that extra goes back to the local economy, it just

makes more sense."

The Deiberts' heating oil is delivered by Star Oilco, which purchases its biodiesel from SeSequential Biofuels, a company that is headquartered in St. Johns. SeSequential and Maui-based Pacific Biodiesel partnered to

open the state's first biodiesel production plant in Salem in July of 2005. The plant produces approximately one million gallons of biodiesel a year, mostly from used cooking oils collected from restaurants and food processors.

"The heating oil sector represents a really exciting opportunity for biodiesel. Homeowners like that they can use a cleaner-burning fuel to stay warm, while also contributing directly to the local economy by buying locally made fuel," says Tyson Keever of SeSequential Biofuels.

According to testing by the federal government, burning B20 reduces emissions of carcinogenic hydrocarbons by 30%, particulates by up to 20%, and sulfur by 20%. Pollution from burning regular heating oil, which is the same as pollutants from diesel, is linked to health hazards

ranging from asthma to cancer and heart problems. Reductions from local sources of air pollution can make a significant difference in the health of children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses in the community.

Additional studies have shown that biodiesel heating oil blends can help keep furnaces cleaner and more efficient. Biodiesel is a powerful solvent, and will clean any fuel-wetted parts of a furnace system.

"It was a seamless transition. They just started filling our tank with the B20 blend, and that was it."

In response to growing demand, more heating oil providers are beginning to offer biodiesel blends to their customers. Earlier this year, First Call Heating & Cooling announced plans to sell biodiesel to its customers. In addition to Star Oilco, nearly a half-dozen heating oil providers are already offering biodiesel heating oil, or have announced plans to do so before winter ends.

For a complete list and more information about biodiesel heating oil, visit www.biofuels4oregon.org/users/heatingoil.

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Grand Central Bakery

By Derek Long

Residents and visitors to the burgeoning North Mississippi area now have a new choice for baked goods with the opening of a branch of the Grand Central Bakery Cafe.

The new bakery features fresh pastries baked onsite daily, while the café serves up a range of sandwiches, soups, and salads. In addition, Grand Central Baking has moved the catering and central kitchen facilities from their Irvington branch to the North Portland location.

The brand new location in a refurbished industrial building on Fremont is the fifth bakery in Portland for the company. Grand Central, a family-owned operation specializing in producing high-quality artisan breads, was founded by Gwen Bassetti in Seattle in 1972.

Paul Earle, the manager of the spot, has been an employee of Grand Central Baking for over eight years, working at both the Multnomah Village and Irvington locations.

"Going from Multnomah Village to here has been very different," said Earle, "This is a

much more energetic community."

As part of the opening day celebration on March 11, Grand Central pledged to give neighboring Boise Eliot Elementary 10 percent of its gross, an amount of around \$600.

The building housing Grand Central Baking adjacent to Boise-Eliot Elementary school formerly served as a trucking facility. Upstairs is the office of Second Story Interactive, a multimedia firm specializing in creating interactive displays for museums and cultural institutions. Second Story's new studio will feature changing exhibitions showcasing digital media. Two more retail/office spaces are available for lease in the building.

Earle, a University Park resident, said he's excited that Grand Central has expanded to the Boise neighborhood.

"They picked North Portland for a reason," said Earle, "They saw it as a vibrant neighborhood and wanted to be part of it."

Grand Central Baking 714 N. Fremont, 503.546.5311, www.grandcentralbakery.com



Yummy bread arriving track 9. Grand Central Baking Company moves its headquarters to N Fremont. PHOTO BY DAVID SHARP

Make way for Rosa Parks? Not the whole city, just a street – maybe

By Michael Newman

Should Portland Boulevard be renamed in honor of the late symbol of peaceful resistance, Rosa Parks?

An impromptu executive community of ministers from around the city have begun lobbying Commissioner Dan Saltzman to give the idea his consideration and, according to Saltzman's policy manager, Promise King, he's into it.

In 1989, Union Avenue was renamed Martin Luther King Boulevard at the behest of a coalition led by a local woman, Rosalie Huff. And in 1996, the City Council, led by Mayor Vera Katz, changed a large section of Front Avenue to Naito Parkway in honor of the civic involvement of local real estate mogul, Bill Naito.

The committee for the Rosa Parks proposal selected Portland Boulevard because, as the Rev. B.E. Johnson explains, "That street has no family name already attached to it, and it has a bus route."

See ROSA / Page 23



Could N Portland Blvd become N Rosa Parks Blvd? PHOTO BY DAVE SHARP

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