

Date: December 29, 2006
Contact: Maura White, PAL Executive Director, Rockwood Weed & Seed Steering Committee Chair, , 503-823-0250

News Release
Rockwood Community Forms Business Coalition

Rockwood business community members are invited to attend the monthly Rockwood Business Coalition meetings to provide input and to become actively involved in projects. The next committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 10, 2007, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. at the Rockwood Grange.** In addition to a monthly committee meeting, there are opportunities for the business community to be involved hands-on with projects and/or subcommittees and task forces designed to accomplish tasks.

Community businesses have been meeting throughout the previous year to develop and implement a Rockwood Business Coalition.

Rockwood Weed & Seed, community crime prevention initiative out of the U.S. Department of Justice, is a community revitalization strategy that combines various aspects of law enforcement with community development projects. The Rockwood Weed & Seed initiative, over the previous four years, has successfully addressed the following strategic areas: Community Policing, Crime Prevention, Health and Social Services, and Neighborhood Revitalization.

As part of the Neighborhood Revitalization efforts project goals stated; *“Improve the business vitality and image of the business community in Rockwood.”* To help achieve this goal, local businesses have been meeting to create a Rockwood-based business coalition. The objectives outlined by the group include; being a highly visible association representing and promoting local businesses and the community, as well as to maintain and enhance a positive image/identity for Rockwood businesses. It is envisioned that the group will have a collaborative link to the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce as well as working with other local business associations; sharing ideas, trainings and hosting community events and activities.

For more information, please contact Maura White-Cioeta, Executive Director of PAL and the Rockwood Weed & Seed Steering Committee Chair, 503.823-0250 or maura@palkids.org or Business Coalition Coordinator Natalie Mitchell, 503-473-9227. Ms. Mitchell holds office hours in the Rockwood Community Policing Office, **18201 SE Stark in Rockwood**, Tuesdays 9am-1pm and Fridays, 9am-4pm.

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