

Subach plans Summer Fest activity to benefit Food Pantry

By Hannah Disch

Observer correspondent

For the past several years Dan Subach has coordinated the Oregon Youth Basketball League's collection day for the Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry. This event has become more and more successful over the years. This year, during the January food drive the players, coaches and families of the Oregon Youth Basketball League collected over 5,000 food items and

\$7,000 in cash from the community. With matching funds donated from local businesses the cash total reached \$9,238 altogether.

The volunteers at the food pantry, whom Subach describes as "such wonderful people and such hard workers," have been extremely appreciative of the work of the Oregon Youth Basketball League and the generosity of the Oregon community.

This year, Subach asked food pantry volunteers what

else could be done to help, and was told that in spite of generosity from the community and hard work by the Boy Scouts and others, supplies at the food pantry tend to get depleted during the summer. Subach came up with the idea of tying a food drive into Summer Fest. He's currently working with a local car dealer, who will hopefully donate a pickup truck to be used in this year's Summer Fest parade.

"Our hope," says Subach,

"is that the good neighbors of Oregon will bring non-perishable food items to the parade with the main goal being to fully stock the pickup truck throughout the parade route."

The pickup truck will then be driven straight to the food pantry to deliver the food. Cash donations may also be taken during the parade. The motto of the food drive is "Fill the Truck."

The Oregon Chamber of Commerce has generously

donated space not only on the parade route but also on the Summer Fest grounds for this venture. This way, anyone who wishes to donate to the food drive but is unable to make it to the parade will be able to drop off their donations at the Summer Fest grounds prior to the parade. "Hopefully the truck will be so full that we will have to empty it before we can even start the parade route," says Subach.

Oregon's Summer Fest

runs from June 26 through June 29. The parade will be held on Sunday, June 29 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. According to food pantry volunteers, the items they are most in need of during the summer months are canned goods, especially canned meats, canned fruits and canned vegetables. Peanut butter and cereal are greatly needed also. For more information on the "Fill the Truck" food drive contact Dan Subach at 835-0535.

Badfish Creek group becomes first chapter of Rock River Coalition

The Rock River Coalition (RRC) established the Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed (FBCW) as its first Chapter at its 2008 annual meeting. As a chapter, the watershed group is a self-governing member

under the auspices of the RRC Board.

An RRC chapter is a non-incorporated group working towards improving the environmental, economic, cultural or recreational resources within a specified

area of the Rock River Basin. An RRC chapter follows the coalition by-laws and policies and is under the direction of the RRC Board of Directors. The chapters benefit by having nonprofit status, an existing organiza-

tional framework, administrative support and insurance coverage.

Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed

FBCW is a small but enthusiastic group who want

to promote good environmental policies in the village of Oregon and surrounding area. They have been meeting since March 2007, developing a vision, purpose and action plan. Members live throughout the Badfish Creek Watershed, which includes parts, or all of, the city of Fitchburg, villages of Oregon, Brooklyn and Cooksville and the towns of Dunn, Rutland, Oregon, Porter, Union and Dunkirk.

Their purpose is to educate themselves and others about the Badfish Creek Watershed and to work in partnership to improve riparian (riverbank) habitat and water quality, and to encourage land use policies that protect the creek.

In 2008, they plan to implement this by hosting educational programs, including presentations and

information and potentially, funding," said Caroline Werner, founder of the Watershed group.

"Members of FBCW are learning about county and state resources and laws that will help protect the Badfish Creek watershed, especially in areas of streambank restoration," Werner continued. "Some areas along the creek are in need of streambank restoration, but at the same time there are some very good examples of healthy streambanks. We're also excited to announce that the FBCW was awarded an environmental grant from the Dane County Environmental Council, which will fund some of our 2008 activities, including a membership drive and a stream clean-up."

A core group of dedicated individuals and many

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