

VOLUNTEERS START HOLLYWOOD CLEAN-UP

The Hollywood District is looking a little bit cleaner and shinier today. That's because volunteers swept through on July 12 for Hollywood's first Clean-Up Day in 2008. "We made a difference!" said volunteer Diane Irvine of Hollywood Wine and Espresso. "You can already see changes after just a few hours work."

Business owner Kim Cottrell organized the clean-up. She said she noticed problems with trash and weeds in Hollywood streets while biking to work. "I think it would be awesome if Hollywood were unrivaled in its local, appealing, friendly, and unpretentious welcome to visitors and residents," Cottrell said. "To do that we need to have appealing places to sit, walk, bike, and live."

She decided to take action, and talked with members of the Hollywood Boosters for help in planning and carrying out a clean-up day. She asked for volunteers at the Booster luncheon meeting, and contacted neighbors, friends and Grant High School students to join in.

More than 15 people gathered together at the Hollywood Theatre at 8 am on the morning of Saturday, July 12. They grabbed gloves, garbage bags, brooms, rakes and weeding tools, and went to work. Cottrell's plan was to have the volunteers clean up the Third Thursday route, so that Hollywood streets would be more attractive for visitors at the big monthly neighborhood event. The group went out in teams and scoured the streets for trash, swept off sidewalks and pulled weeds. "My secret was to have my husband and his boys help out," said Cottrell. "Once the boys were told what was going on, they got pretty involved and they had some pretty strong opinions about how to stop littering in Hollywood. It was fun to have them out there with us!"

The number one garbage item on the streets of Hollywood? Volunteers say it is cigarette butts. "I can't believe how many cigarette butts there are on the streets!" said Mary Langman of Meals on Wheels. "My garbage bag is full of them!" Cottrell added, "Cigarette butts are a huge proportion of the litter. They were EVERYWHERE. I understand we're getting rid of more and more areas for smokers, but they need a

place to throw the butts and not in the trash because of the fire danger."

Volunteers said they enjoyed the work and the results. "I feel so good about my neighborhood and myself when I am picking up trash to make the streets clean," said Kerry Tomlinson of Quirks of Art & Furniture. "It makes me smile to see Hollywood looking so good, and to know that I could help out."

The clean-up was so successful that Cottrell plans to hold one every month that Hollywood is hosting Third Thursday, now through October. It will be held the second Saturday of each month, right before Third Thursday. She hopes more people will join in, and is even planning to make bright green T-shirts for regular volunteers. "If this is popular, we could consider expanding the scope of our efforts," Cottrell said. "Maybe we'll plan to work for two hours each time and see how many other nooks and crannies we can clean out. Most important, we'll see how it evolves and keep the goal realistic so everyone can have fun and will return."

If you are interested in joining in the clean-up, contact Kim Cottrell at kim@kimcottrell.com or 503.890.6865.

Volunteers:

Pam Medley (volunteer)

Sarah Medley (Grant High School senior)

Cleo Hehn (Grant High School senior)

Meredith Comnes (Grant High School senior)

Paul Clark (Township Properties)

Diane Irvine (Hollywood Wine & Espresso)

Matilda Isse (US Bank)

Ellen Bergstone Beer (Hollywood Theatre)

Mary Langman (Meals on Wheels)

Linda Seals (Posh Designs)

Kerry Tomlinson (Quirks of Art)

Nick Bolton

Luke Bolton

Bruce Bolton

Kim Cottrell