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January 2013

## Ashcreek's Dean Smith is a neighborhood leader wherever he goes

By Lee Perlman  
*The Southwest Portland Post*

When Dean Smith accepted a Spirit of Portland Neighborhood of the Year award for his Ashcreek Neighborhood Association in October, he told the Port-

land City Council, "When I first moved in three years ago, I thought that this would be a sleepy little neighborhood. In fact it's dynamic and very effective."

Smith is in a unique position to make such a judgment. Not only has he lived elsewhere, but he served as chair of the Goose Hollow Foothills League and

Irvington Community Association. He was also project manager of the first Central City Plan.

Born and raised in California, Smith moved with his family to the Hillsdale area when he reached "college age."

He lived downtown and in Goose Hollow while attending Portland State University. He lived in two different locations in Goose Hollow in the 1970s, and served as their chair.

Smith moved to Southeast Portland for awhile but, in 1985, moved again to Irvington with his wife Laura, and served as their chair as well.

In 2009 the couple looked to move again, to accommodate Laura's daily commute to Wilsonville and to "downsize" after their children moved out. According to Smith, Ashcreek friends told them of a new infill housing project happening a block away, and they took advantage of it.

It is a dramatic change from his previous homes, Smith told *The Post*. "Goose Hollow has some very large buildings and is very close to downtown, with a lot of traffic and a lot of businesses."

According to Smith, "Irvington is further from downtown, but it's still more urban, with an older housing stock.

Both places have fully developed streets and sidewalks, and there's not much opportunity for infill development."

"Ashcreek is quiet and almost entirely residential. It still has open spaces for infill. There are different issues: storm water runoff is a problem; there are a lot of under-developed streets, and most don't have sidewalks."

Moreover, Smith said, economic and political considerations work against a quick and easy solution.

"To provide infrastructure would eat up an enormous amount of the City budget," he said. "It appears City government tends to lesser-cost projects where they can see more bang for the buck."

Another issue may be the perception that Ashcreek, like the rest of Southwest, is rich enough to take care of its own problems. Smith said that isn't so.

"There are some expensive houses here, but most are fairly modest, with a lot of 1940s and 1950s ranch-style homes. This isn't Eastmoreland or Irvington or Alameda."

What has been comparable in all his homes, Smith said, is the level of neighborhood activity. "I was frankly

*(Continued on Page 6)*



Dean Smith is chair of the Ashcreek Neighborhood Association.  
*(Post photo by Lee Perlman)*

## Maplewood woman wants to make peace with neighbor who kidnapped her dog

By Jillian Daley  
*The Southwest Portland Post*

A Maplewood woman wants to make peace with a neighbor charged with kidnapping her dog and turning him into Multnomah County's Animal Control.

Paula Ripke, 50, who lives in the 7000 block of Southwest 54th Avenue, says about a year and a half ago she found a note on her door complaining that her Miniature Pinscher, Sparky, barked incessantly and was being neglected.

Ripke spoke with neighbors about her dog, and no one told her the dog was a problem. But the notes continued. Other neighbors told Ripke they had received similar notes.

Sparky usually played in the front yard, tethered to a zip line because the Ripke home has a small back yard. On July 5, Ripke's two children were spending the day with her nieces, and they decided to go out for lunch. The weather was fine, so they left Sparky outside, and when they returned two hours later, he was gone.

Notes in which someone threatened

to take the dog had been left in the mailbox and taped to the door, Ripke said.

Ripke called the police, canvassed neighbors, posted fliers, trying to find any hint of Sparky's whereabouts. Some neighbors said they saw an older, heavyset woman with the pooch.

Days later, her nephew spotted a dog on the Multnomah County Animal Services website that looked a lot like Sparky. Ripke realized her pup had been found and brought him home.

Ripke told Portland Police Officer Scott Foster the news, and soon after, he was able to identify a suspect. People who turn in a dog to animal control must give their name and show identification.

Sheila Gayle Yates, 58, of the 7000 block of Southwest 53rd Avenue, was arrested on July 25 on a charge of first-degree theft, Portland police Sgt. Pete Simpson said. Yates is not currently in police custody.

At press time, her case was scheduled for a settlement conference on Dec. 21 at Multnomah County Courthouse, during which attorneys were



Paula Ripke's son, Daniel Ben-Israel, holds Sparky in his arms on a chilly December afternoon in the front yard of the family home in Southwest Portland.  
*(Post photo by Jillian Daley)*

seeking to reach an agreement on behalf of their clients.

Yates said she preferred not to comment on the court case.

"I just want to have a peaceful settlement conference and just move on from there," she said. "That's my goal. I'm a lover, not a fighter."

Ripke said she never considered Yates as a suspect because she had worked with her on a professional basis through her job with the county and thought they were on good terms.

She does not want Yates to have a felony blemishing her record, so she asked the district attorney and the defense attorney to come up with a way for Yates to plead to a lesser charge but would give Ripke recourse if a similar incident occurred again. A civil

compromise could be in the works, Ripke said.

"We're not out for vengeance," she said. "We don't want to make anybody miserable, but we also want to have some reassurance."

She no longer leaves Sparky outside when no one is home to watch him.

Foster brought the incident to neighbors' attention when he gave his report on public safety issues in the Maplewood Neighborhood Association meeting on Nov. 14

Simpson, the police public information officer, said Portland has a potent pet culture.

"People are very passionate about animals, and there are both people who love them and people who don't like to hear them," Simpson said.

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# Is it time to repeal the Second Amendment? Guns are not sacred, children are

## OPEN FORUM

By Tom H. Hastings

It is now long, long past time to repeal the Second Amendment. It serves evil, not good, violence, not peace, hatred, not love.

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution is a relic of a time when the citizens accepted their general powerlessness and seemed to live without imagination, just fear.

Still, it will likely take independent-minded gun owners to lead the overdue effort to rid our society of this curse.

We need gun owners with conscience to finally, at long last, face morality, face the truth, face the irrefutable terrible facts on the ground, in the ground, that perfectly innocent children are victims again and again and again to the lack of backbone of gun owners.

I'm a peace person, as are my friends. I am striving to be nonviolent and have

tried to learn nonviolence for years. I can point to alternatives to guns, I can argue against them, and that's about it.

What we need--what would dramatically change our national discourse on this--is for gun owners to stand up and tell the rest of us, "We no longer want our possessions to be regarded under our Constitution as sacred and above the law. We reject the kneejerk response from the NRA and the gun industry every time there is a tragedy."

Not once--never, not even one single time--have they admitted that guns can ever be a problem and are just things that should be subjected to laws like anything else.

When I worked on high-rise construction projects in my 20s and 30s I was very glad for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). They inspected just often

enough to help us stay relatively safe, even 300+ feet off the ground in the Minnesota winter.

We didn't have company owners lobbying to declare scaffolding or tie-ropes or other safety devices somehow related to near sacralization. The OSHA inspectors would pick up a faulty extension cord, pull out their wire snips, and cut it into short, unusable pieces, and would then write up a fine. Did that cost our companies? Only once--then they told the foremen to be careful to keep it all legal.

We regulate cars, motorcycles, boats, and much, much more. Some things are simply outlawed. People cannot have a marijuana brownie but they can have a handgun?

The lives of children are sacred; guns are just objects. We choose guns over children every day that we do not get rid of that long-antiquated Second Amendment.



Am I suggesting that ridding ourselves of the Second Amendment would solve everything? Obviously not; guns haven't solved much either. We need to learn new ways.

Learn nonviolence. Work to end poverty. Share. Support candidates who will reduce military expenditures and increase subsidies to all the many new ways to manage conflict that do not involve violence and the threat of violence.

Learn about Gandhi. Learn about mediation. Learn about de-escalation. These are how we negate the "need" for guns. Are they foolproof? Nothing is. But the Second Amendment is not serving us well, not at all. Time for change.

*Editor's Note: Tom H. Hastings of Portland directs PeaceVoice, a program of the Oregon Peace Institute. Hastings can be reached via email at pctotom@gmail.com. Due to the December tragedies at Clackamas Town Center and at Newtown, Connecticut, we felt this opinion piece was particularly appropriate. The Post welcomes reader response.*

# Candlelight vigil held for pedestrian killed on Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post

A candlelight vigil was held on December 20 for 27-year-old Mara Forsythe-Crane who was struck and killed by a truck the morning of December 18 while attempting to cross Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway at Shattuck Road.

Family, friends and neighbors met at the Muchas Gracias restaurant park-

ing lot on the southeast corner of the intersection.

"Mara had the promise of a full life," said one neighbor. "This is a great loss for all of us."

Some 30 people stood in the cold night air during the evening rush hour and watched the traffic speed by as they remembered Forsythe-Crane, who lived nearby in the Bridlemile neighborhood.

Many folks wore reflective clothing, carried glow sticks, flashlights and candles. Ann Beruton, a Bridlemile neighbor, brought her basset hound named Maverick.

Janet Hawkins of Hayhurst was among the speakers who needed a megaphone to be heard above the traffic noise.

"We want to remind all drivers that pedestrians and bicyclists are present at all times during the year, day and night," said Hawkins. "This means that drivers should use extra caution at intersections, especially during the stormy and dark Oregon winter."

Roger Averbeck, chairman of the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Transportation Committee, was among the speakers.


"We are very saddened by this tragedy. This is the 14th pedestrian fatality in the City of Portland this year," said Averbeck.

"Each of us wants to do our part to prevent these tragic fatalities from hap-  
(Continued on Page 3)

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## Comprehensive Plan draft calls for 10,000 new homes in Southwest by 2035

By Lee Perlman  
The Southwest Portland Post

Draft proposals of the Portland Comprehensive Plan are due in February. This citywide document will set, and make changes to, the tools by which the City guides public actions and private development.

There will be a series of public workshops, including one the evening of February 19 at the Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy.

There will be changes proposed to zoning and the zoning code itself, as well as new facilities, transportation and bicycle plans.

In addition, as members of the Comprehensive Plan team told the Planning and Sustainability Commission last month, the public will be asked to react to a series of Growth Scenarios they have been working on, which will guide how and where future growth will take place.

The existing zoning map provides "a lot of capacity" for growth, "but not a lot of focus," planner Tom Armstrong told the Commission. The new Plan provides an opportunity to decide "how we want to grow," he said.

One scenario is Default, just keeping the existing zoning pattern, planner Spencer Williams said.

Another is to concentrate growth in and around commercial "nodes" such as Hillsdale and Multnomah Village, he said.

A third is to concentrate growth along transit corridors and main streets such

**"In the West Hills there are big deficiencies" in terms of basic streetscape infrastructure. "The big difference is those people don't care as much. They're living in relative isolation by choice."**

— Susan Anderson, executive director.  
Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

as Southwest Barbur Boulevard and Capitol Highway. Finally, the City could concentrate on filling up the Central City in and near Downtown.

Planners have estimated the amount of new growth each part of the city could expect under each scenario, Williams said. The West Hills would be likely to get the smallest share of new density under all the scenarios, between 10,000 and 11,000 new residences by 2035.

Planners have also looked at how the scenarios would help achieve the goals contained in last year's Portland Plan policy document. For instance, 47 percent of Portlanders live within a quarter mile of "frequent" transit service, and a goal is to increase this to 80 percent.

Currently 45 percent of Portlanders are deemed to live in "complete neighborhoods" where many services are within easy walking distance; the scenarios would raise this to just 48 to 53 percent.

Planning and Sustainability Ex-

ecutive Director Susan Anderson said, "There are a whole lot of variables other than land use" that can determine who goals are met. One is the provision of new transit facilities.

However, as Commissioner Howard Shapiro pointed out, "It seems to me you have to rely on sister agencies like TriMet, and they've not always been a willing sister."

To this Armstrong replied, "We start by deciding our priorities. Our investments can lead them to confidence that if we improve service, it will result in greater ridership."

A key issue is where and how the City allocates "investment" in the form of better streets, parks and other public facilities. "We now have a system that allocates growth, but not investment," Armstrong said.

The question of providing such infrastructure is a tricky one. On one hand, the City feels a need to be "efficient" in allocating scarce dollars for very expensive items, taking advantage of federal matching funds whenever available.

On the other hand, a consistent theme of the Portland Plan is "equity," and this includes providing basic services to areas that lack them, especially East and Southwest Portland.

With regard to Southwest, Anderson said, "In the West Hills there are big deficiencies" in terms of basic streetscape infrastructure. "The big difference is those people don't care as much. They're living in relative isolation by choice."

Some Commission members questioned whether the February events will

in fact allow the public to weigh in on choices not already made.

To this planner Sandra Wood said, "No, the whole thing is open to discussion."

According to Wood, "It's difficult for the public to weigh in on the whole 200 pages, so we're zeroing in on some issues. Some things may be more open than others, but it's definitely not baked."

Commission chair Andre Baugh commented, "This will play out as some hard choices for people to make."

### Candlelight Vigil

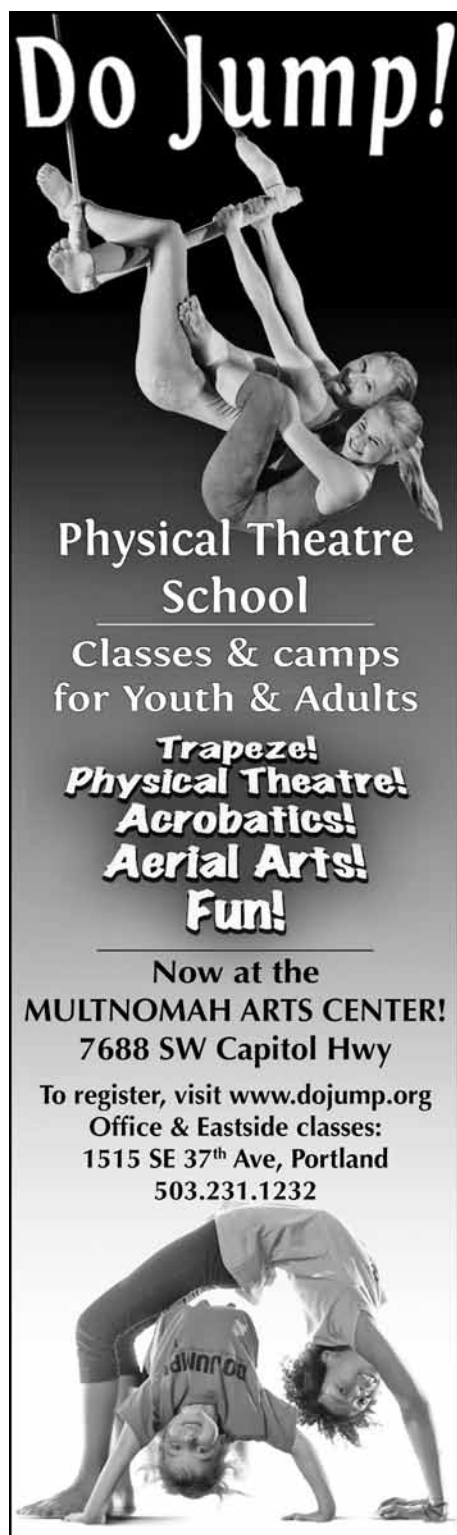
(Continued from Page 2)

pening in our community. Crashes are preventable. Slow down, obey the rules of the road, write letters needed to fund traffic safety in our community."

Several people at the event noted the diagonal way that Shattuck Road intersects with Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway. According to Averbeck, there is something called "skew" at this particular intersection where vehicles can turn at a high rate of speed.

"We need more signs, more pedestrian involvement," said one family member. "Slow down; take a second while turning; every pedestrian is important. Slow down and love each other this holiday season."

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## Choosing Wisely makes sense for good health

*Is your doctor ordering too many tests?*

By Joyce De Monnin,  
AARP Oregon Outreach Director



normal so you figure, that's great!

But is it?

For the first time, the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation (ABIM) has come up with guidelines that can help both providers and patients decide if therapies and tests are a good idea through the Choosing Wisely Campaign. "Too much testing is being done that isn't needed, that doesn't work," says John Santa, M.D., who directs health ratings for Consumer Reports. Before going to work for Consumer Reports, Santa worked at Oregon Health and Sciences University.

*Choosing Wisely* is focused on encouraging physicians, patients and other health care

Consider this scenario: You go to the doctor for a routine annual physical, and the next thing you know the doctor has ordered a half dozen diagnostic tests. Everything turns out

stakeholders to think and talk about medical tests and procedures that may be unnecessary, and in some instances can cause harm.

Consumer Reports will be developing and disseminating materials to patients through large consumer groups such as AARP to help patients engage their physicians in these conversations and ask questions about what tests and procedures are right for them.

We all have a role to play in stopping expensive treatments that cost money and may not improve your health. Choosing Wisely is an important tool to make sure you are getting the right care at the right time, and care that is safe and tailored to you. Go online to find further resources and information:

**Facts sheets and information on Choosing Wisely:**

- <http://consumerhealthchoices.org/campaigns/choosing-wisely/>

- <http://bit.ly/HPfXOT>

**Information on how to receive Quality Care in Oregon:**

- [www.partnerforqualitycare.org/](http://www.partnerforqualitycare.org/)



## Kiwanis volunteers bring spirit of Christmas to Multnomah Village

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

If you're one of those people who just dread the holidays full of parties, endless assortments of sweets, and the buzz of shopping madness, then by all means, the yearly Breakfast with Santa is the place for you!

I'm not talking about the piping hot, perfectly round pancakes or the sausage links that seem to be swallowed whole. Nor am I talking about the long wait to see the kindly old gentleman from the North Pole.

I'm talking about the wonderful volunteers who make up the Southwest Hills Kiwanis. Yes, *those* guys, the ones slathering pancake batter on the large griddle every year during Multnomah Days.

Breakfast with Santa is held at the Lucky Lab in Multnomah Village every December and the Kiwanis pull out all the stops. Volunteers from three generations gather to prepare the tables, create center pieces, and serve nervous bellies waiting to see Santa.

But it was one volunteer in particular who pulled my heartstrings that cold, blustery day: an eight-year-old girl named Kaia.

From Oregon City, no less, Kaia awoke at five-thirty that morning to get ready for the long ride to the village she's never been.

"My job is to set the table and put the syrup on the tables," she beamed as her reindeer antlers flopped from side to side.

She also helped with trash and reset place settings after the first set of families departed. She said she didn't even know Santa would be there.

Over 200 children and their parents were served that day and collected nearly \$5000 for Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

According to Teri Mills, lieutenant governor of the Southwest Hills Kiwanis, they raised over \$224,000 this past year for Doernbecher. A Mustang convertible raffle ticket fund raiser, organized by Vietnam Veteran Paul Faulk, alone brought in nearly \$126,000.

Paul, along with Kirk Caudill and Bob Collison, have almost 80 years of service in Kiwanis alone. They're the ones that get to stand over the hot griddle for hours at a time.

Kiwanis International is over 100 years old and was named after an Indian Village in upstate New York. Current membership numbers around 240,000 in 7,700 different clubs in 80 countries. The average age is 57, with membership being 74 percent men and 26 percent women.

Kiwanians have programs that range from the elementary school up to college. The Key Club attracts high school students who in turn conduct



Kiwanis volunteers Paul Faulk, Kirk Caudill and Bob Collison sling up some tasty pancakes. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

community projects.

Monies have also been donated to the Mt Hood Kiwanis Camp for children and adults with disabilities, Neighborhood House, and the Southwest Community Health Center.

"We're starting a new program," explained Teri. "We found out that many of the seniors, who receive food from Loaves and Fishes' Meals on Wheels, end up giving their pets half of their meal."

So starting in 2013, the Kiwanis, in coordination with the Banfield Pet Hospital, will solicit pet food donations and distribute to the seniors

with pets.

When asked why an eight-year-old girl had to work for hours and hours for people she didn't even know, Kaia replied that her whole family including her grandmother helps out.

"Kids are missing out on all the fun," she said as she took someone's order. "I haven't even said hi to Santa yet. I've been so busy!"

And did she get to eat all the pancakes she wanted? Yes! Three of them!"

For more information on the Kiwanis or the pet food collaboration project, please check out their website at <http://www.kiwaniswhills.org>.

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### Update: Water work on SW streets

The Portland Water Bureau is nearing completion of its **Westside Header Project-Phase 2**. In January, the contractor must make the final connections to the new 36-inch diameter supply pipeline on SW Market Street, west of SW Naito Parkway. One traffic lane will be affected. This work will take about one week, starting January 7.

On its **Carolina Mains Project**, crews will re-start work in January, making pipe connections to the three Burlingame water storage tanks on SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The street work is completed. Under dry weather conditions, the damaged sections of asphalt on SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SW Chestnut Street will be repaved.

On the **Portland Heights Main Project**, work to install a new 16-inch diameter pipelines to connect to the water storage tanks at SW Talbot Road continues. Crews are working their way down SW Greenway Avenue, back to SW Montgomery Drive to the tank site.

Please obey all flaggers' instructions and traffic detour signs. Motorists are encouraged to find alternate routes away from the work zones.



### COMMUNITY RECYCLING

Sat., Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 9am-noon at St. Luke Church, SW 46<sup>th</sup> Ave & SW Vermont St.  
Donations requested. Items must be clean and sorted by category.

**Holiday Items** - Artificial trees & light strings. *Recycle screw-in bulbs separately.*  
**Soft Plastics** - Stretchable plastic bags, film, shrink-wrap, bubble wrap, lumber wrap, pallet wrap. *NO frozen food bags. NO food packages that crackle when squeezed.*  
**Rigid plastics** - Clam shell containers, PVC plastics, plastic toys, lids and caps, nursery pots, trays, tubs, buckets, toothbrushes, straws, motel room cards, etc.; CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, cassettes and cases. *NO plastics made for use in microwave ovens. NO corn-based 'PLA' compostable products (non-plastic eating utensils, cups, etc.). NO latex or rubber gloves.*  
**Light bulbs** - CFL's, incandescents, floods and halogens. *NO fluorescent tubes.*  
**Small batteries** - All small battery types. *No auto or boat batteries.*  
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## Hillsdale mother leads effort to open outdoor classroom at Rieke School

By Jillian Daley  
The Southwest Portland Post

A Hillsdale woman plans to bring an outdoor classroom to Rieke Elementary School with support from students, staff and volunteers.

If Rieke ropes a \$1,900 grant from Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. this month, the project will begin immediately on 2,400 square feet of land behind modular buildings at the school, said Jamie Repasky, project organizer and Rieke mom.

The plan includes covered seating, a path, an oak tree, storage shed and a bridge across an existing rain garden that looks like a plant-filled creek bed.

There would be a hanging vegetable-and-herb garden and a science-class-worthy nurse log, a fallen tree upon which other trees grow and little life forms thrive.

Repasky said the project abounds with teaching opportunities, such as where produce comes from.

Community members are donating construction and project design aid for the site, which will be open for public use when school is not in session. A neighbor gave two rain barrels.

Members of Missio Community, a church, are lending muscle. Hillsdale Neighborhood Association submitted a letter supporting the SWNI grant.

Repasky said several teachers and the principal wanted an outdoor classroom, and she has time to help in-between job hunting.

"The school just needed someone to help bring them together," Repasky said.

The project could cost \$7,000 to \$18,000, depending on factors including whether the main shelter is permanent or temporary.

Funds so far include a \$1,500 grant from West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. Portland Parks & Recreation will provide trees and logs for seating.

Rieke landed a \$1,000 bonus from Portland Public Schools for its energy-



Jamie Repasky is working to bring an outdoor classroom next year to Rieke Elementary School, which her children attend. (Post photo by Jillian Daley)

saving efforts, efforts which also earned the school kudos.

On September 7, Rieke became the first Oregon school to win the Green Flag Award, the highest honor for National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA program.

Students, staff and volunteers received the award for implementing Eco-Action Plans on biodiversity education and reduced consumption, waste and energy use, said Erin Barnett, communications manager for Portland Public Schools.

## Planning to include focus sessions on schools, parks, land use and transportation

### HILLSDALE NOTEBOOK

By Jillian Daley  
The Southwest Portland Post

The Hillsdale Neighborhood Association at its meeting last month took the first steps toward creating an action plan: a to-do list of improvements and projects for the neighborhood.

To determine what items to put on the list, neighbors will hold Saturday focus sessions in the coming weeks on schools, parks, land use/property development and transportation.

The first focus session on transportation will be Saturday, Jan. 12, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, at The Watershed at Hillsdale, 6380 SW Capitol Hwy.

At the neighborhood association's regular December meeting, association chairman Mikal Apenes showed the gathering of about 20 people the most recent action plan, which was from 2005-2006.

Apenes said a new plan was overdue, and the existing one gives neighbors a sense of what they've accomplished and a framework of how to approach the next plan.

Items from the old plan include keeping Rieke Elementary School open, working on Portland's Red Electric Trail and cleaning the Bertha Triangle, a swath of land that was polluted from an automotive repair and gas station facility.

"I think if you look at this stuff, the people who wanted to see something happen made it happen," said neighbor Don Baack. Baack is also chairman of SW Trails, a group advocating for improved walking and biking trails in the area.

Baack has been instrumental in the development of the Red Electric Trail, which follows the route of a 20<sup>th</sup> Century, interurban passenger train.

Once complete, the in-progress, long-term project will connect Washington County, Southwest Portland and the Willamette River with a series of bridges and trails for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Rieke is flourishing, flush with almost 400 students. The neighborhood association helped, but the primary driver for the school's survival was students' parents, Apenes said.

A developer, with community help,

transformed the Bertha Triangle from a brownfield to the Watershed at Hillsdale, home to senior housing and community space – the association holds meetings there. The site's name comes from the shape made by the roads bordering it, Southwest Bertha Court, Bertha Boulevard and Capitol Highway.

"This is wonderful, just for learning the vision a few years ago and seeing which (items) we can tick off," said

neighbor Arnie Panitch.

Apenes inspired neighbors to hold the focus sessions to figure out their next steps.

"We can distill it down to bullet points and present it to the neighborhood," he said.

Neighbor Michael Reunert said organizers of the plan should focus on goals the whole neighborhood wants. Reunert suggested a survey or another

way to sample a larger portion of the population.

Glenn Bridger joked that he knows one way to attract more people to meetings to weigh in on decisions. "Controversy is what drives participation," Bridger said.

Rick Seifert said the neighborhood should start simple. "First identify what are our assets and what are our deficits," he said.



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# Hillsdale sewer and water projects designed to prevent road damage, improve reliability

By Jillian Daley  
The Southwest Portland Post

A city sewer project planned in Southwest Portland would prevent the collapse of streets, and another project will improve water pipe reliability.

A sewer pipe repair project is planned at Southwest Capitol Highway and Terwilliger Boulevard.

It will be supported with \$750,000 in Portland Environment Services capital improvement funds, said bureau spokesman David Allred.

The sewer pipes, built in 1929, are buckling beneath the weight of the road fill and asphalt paving laid over them.

The sewer project will start in early to mid 2013 and take five months, Allred said. One section of pipe is at Southwest Terwilliger Boulevard and Vincent Place. The other section will be under Capitol Highway and east of Terwilliger Boulevard.

A water pipe project could be done afterwards in the same area and will be paid for with \$3.2 million in Water Bureau capital improvement funds, bureau spokesman Tim Hall said. The

water project could start in spring 2014 and be finished that year but depends on a budget approval process.

"New water pipe would connect two existing systems to increase reliability to the Burlingame service area," Hall said.

About 3,400 feet of water supply piping would stretch from Terwilliger Boulevard and Capitol Highway and follow a series of roads, ending at Southwest Chestnut Street. Phase one of the water supply pipeline was done this fall in the Burlingame area.

In addition, the Portland Bureau of Transportation has preliminary plans

to reconstruct the pedestrian island between Terwilliger and Capitol after the water project is done, Allred said.

Some sewer construction will be done at night to avoid disrupting traffic, but there may be delays, Allred said.

"Capitol Highway, Terwilliger Boulevard, and pedestrian trails should remain open during the sewer construction," Allred said. No interruptions to sewer service are anticipated.

There is no traffic control plan yet for the water project, which may impact traffic, Hall said, adding that the new water pipe won't affect existing service.

## Sellwood Bridge to close January 17



Multnomah County has reset the closure of the Sellwood Bridge for the week of January 17, spokesperson Mike Pullen told The Post. In the week that follows, crews will move the deck of the bridge to a set of temporary pilings about 40 yards to the north. This will serve as a temporary detour route while a new bridge is constructed on the old site. Shown: skid beam on track and truss. (Photo courtesy of Mike Pullen, Multnomah County)

## Dean Smith

(Continued from Page 1)

surprised," he says of his introduction to Ash Creek.

"I didn't expect the level of sophistication and expertise I found here. There are at least three here who put in hundreds of hours of volunteer time a year. Pound for pound, this group is on a level with any other neighborhood association in the city."

At the Spirit of Portland Awards ceremony Smith gave credit to fellow volunteers Esther McGuiness, Nancy Donner and Dorothy Gage.

Marianne Fitzgerald, who serves as the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) board chair, is "one of the hardest-working volunteers in the city," he said. Roger Averbeck is "virtually a staff member at regional transportation forums."

Fitzgerald, in turn, said, "Dean has been fabulous to work with."

During Ashcreek's opposition to a proposed water tower, Fitzgerald said, "Dean's experience as a neighborhood leader, in dealing with City officials and as a negotiator was very useful."

"We didn't prevail, but we did as

well as anyone could have." Smith also handled some contentious public meetings well, Fitzgerald said.

Smith mentioned "Sylvia Bogert and her fabulous staff at SWNI" during the awards ceremony.

Irvington had been largely self-sufficient and had relatively little contact with the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, he said. Goose Hollow worked closely with the Neighbors West/Northwest staff.

However, Smith said, "SWNI has a representative board that develops positions and policies, and does a lot of things that West/Northwest didn't."

The 1989 Central City Plan envisioned intense development not just in downtown, but in other close-in areas, including North Macadam.

Assessing the Plan today, Smith said, "I think it worked really well. Most of the things it envisioned, like the Portland Streetcar, have been realized."

"The development of the Pearl as a residential area has been realized and then some, said Smith.

"The redevelopment of the waterfront in North Macadam has been realized, although the height of the buildings is greater than what was envisioned."

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# Portland City Council approves low-cost model for street paving

By Lee Perlman  
The Southwest Portland Post

The Portland City Council last month unanimously adopted "Out of the Mud," a low-cost model for paving streets.

Standard city streets contain a minimum of two travel lanes, two lanes of parking, curbs and sidewalks on both sides.

Installing such streets costs the average homeowner \$300 a month under the City's Bancroft bonding system and creation of a Local Improvement District.

Until last month, the City would only provide financing, and long-term maintenance, for streets that met this standard.

Under an L.I.D., the City supervises the work of the paving, and provides financing through low-interest Bancroft bonds. However, in most cases adjacent property owners must pay 100 percent of the cost.

The proposed new standard consists of a strip of pavement 16 feet wide, enough for one standard vehicle in each direction, plus a gravel shoulder for car storage and pedestrian access.

The new model will cost the average homeowner \$65 per month, staffer Christine Leon told Council. For about \$85 a month, they can add a separated sidewalk, she said.

To qualify, Leon said, a street must not only be classified as a local service street, "but it must operate as one," with fewer than 500 vehicle trips per day. It must have good visibility and a "definable edge."

The street must have a 15 miles-per-hour speed limit. It must have speed bumps and other forms of traffic calming.

These and other standards were inserted in response to concerns by Roger



Unpaved street at SW Wood Parkway and Collins St. (Post file photo by Leslie Baird)

Averbeck of Ashcreek and others, who feared for pedestrian safety on streets with no defined sidewalks.

In answer to a question by Commissioner Randy Leonard, Leon said that except where development is occurring, "No one has to do anything" to improve their street beyond what already exists. "This is one more tool

in the tool box," she said.

A possible future financing feature is that participating property owners can defer payments for new streets for five years if 51 percent of them or more earn 80 percent or below median local family income.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz asked if such deferments could be offered to

all low-income property owners even if they didn't constitute a majority on a street. Staffer Jennifer Cooperman said no, "You can't do this property by property."

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. board chair Marianne Fitzgerald said, "We have many miles of streets that could benefit from this program, and many miles of streets that look like this program. This could make a difference." However, she also called on Council to be sure to retain the program standards.

Southwest Trails chair Don Baack added his support, saying that people in Southwest do not walk more often because they are afraid to. His own street contains just 18 feet of paving, he said.

Fritz, in voting for the proposal, praised Leon and Mayor Sam Adams. "Folks in southwest definitely will be pleased," she said. "This makes a lot of sense for a lot of people."

Adams said, "I wish every neighborhood had a Marianne Fitzgerald and a Don Baack."

## Environmental Services pays \$1 million for pump station repairs

By Lee Perlman  
The Southwest Portland Post

The Portland City Council last month made an emergency allocation of \$1 million for a new surge tank at the Fanno Creek Pump Station.

According to Stephen Sykes of the Bureau of Environmental Services, the tank contains "spikes" of sewerage that occur when the pump at 6895 SW 86th Ave. in Garden Home is turned on or off.

The pump is activated automatically when storm water runoff reaches a certain level.

Problems with the existing facility have generated complaints of bad smells from neighbors and users of the Fanno Creek Trail.

Sykes said BES may have helped generate some of these calls through signage advising people where to call in the event of problems.

In a related matter, BES and Clean Water Systems of Washington County have signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement allowing for expansion of the pump station to two adjacent properties.

The project has been controversial; the proposed site is in Washington County, and neighbors have com-

plained that they will bear the impact of a facility that serves Portland residents.

Nonetheless, a Washington County hearings officer approved the proposal subject to a number of conditions. Among these are that the City put together an advisory committee to discuss and deal with public concerns and issues.

This committee, now being formed, will include representatives from trail advocates and the Fanno Creek Watershed Stewards, but will "absolutely" include neighboring residents, Sykes said.

For more information, email stephen.sykes@portlandoregon.gov or call 503-823-7898.

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# Stephens Creek Crossing housing development scheduled to open in early 2014



Multnomah neighbor Randy Bonella said recently that he would like California Street residents to attend one of the MNA meetings and share their views on the Stephens Creek Crossing development. (Post photo by Jillian Daley)

## MULTNOMAH NOTEBOOK

By Jillian Daley  
The Southwest Portland Post

A presenter offered an update on the \$52.8 million Stephens Creek Crossing low-income housing development during the December Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting.

The 122-apartment project, featuring community gardens and a children's center with Head Start classrooms, will be on Southwest 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, just south of Capitol Highway where Mittleman

Jewish Community Center stands.

The project replaces 60-units of cinder-block public housing built in 1968, which have been razed. Seven Habitat for Humanity homes for first-time homebuyers also will be built nearby.

Home Forward, previously Housing Authority of Portland, used a community design process from 2009-11 to vet the project, holding workshops and going door to door.

Residents of nearby Southwest California Street long have shared concerns with Home Forward about how the project's proposed development of their unimproved street could increase traffic.

But Multnomah neighbor Randy

Bonella said he would like California Street residents to attend one of the neighborhood association meetings and share their views themselves.

Home Forward community relations manager Pamela Kambur told the Multnomah Neighborhood Association during her presentation that the ideal situation is for the California Street improvements to begin this spring.

"We're very supportive of the Southwest California neighbors and their concerns about keeping it a low traffic speed," Kambur said.

None of the California Street residents were present at the association meeting to discuss the traffic concerns.

The association's transportation chairwoman, Kay Durtschi, said she's been at a recent meeting with California Street residents and didn't hear any contention.

"Nobody was really upset and at each other's throats," Durtschi said.

Bonella, a former Multnomah Neighborhood Association president, said he understands that California Street residents have concerns, but he hasn't heard them first hand.

"If the California residents want the neighborhood association behind them or the neighborhood association to do something on their behalf, they really need to come to the meetings, so their voice will be heard," Bonella said.

Meeting attendees then discussed ways to reach out to their neighbors.

The Stephens Creek Crossing buildings are scheduled to be finished by the end of 2013, and residents are to begin moving in at the start of 2014.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

By Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post

**7 Multnomah Historical Association** will have their monthly board meeting on Monday, January 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Offices conference room, 2929 SW Multnomah Blvd. For agenda information visit [www.multnomahhistorical.com](http://www.multnomahhistorical.com).

**8 Multnomah Neighborhood Association** meets again on Tuesday, January 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. Visit [www.swni.org/multnomah](http://www.swni.org/multnomah) or contact Moses Ross, [mnachair@gmail.com](mailto:mnachair@gmail.com) for agenda information.

**12 Second Saturday Family Dance.** Fun folk dancing for kids and families with live music and Caroline Oakley calling! Saturday, January 12, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Fulton Park Community Center, 68 SW Miles St. \$6 adults, \$5 children, \$20 per family max. For more information call 503-245-5070.

**19 Powwow honors Native American culture.** Portland Community College's Wacipi ("They Dance") Winter Powwow to celebrate Native American culture and tradition, which is free and open to the public, will be held from noon to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, in the Health Technology Building, PCC Sylvania Campus, 12000 SW 49th Ave.

This cultural event features drum groups and dancers from across the region, Native American crafts and food, activities for children, and raffle prizes. Other attractions include grand entries at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., a college fair from noon to 4 p.m. and a free community dinner at 5:30 p.m. This event is alcohol and tobacco free.

Proceeds from the annual Winter Powwow support the college's Native American Student Scholarship, which helps to increase access and retention

of Native American students. For additional powwow information, visit <http://www.pcc.edu/powwow/>.

**23 The 99th birthday of William Stafford.** A poetry reading celebrating and commemorating the birthday of one of America's most important poets, will be held Wednesday, January 23, 7:00 pm, Annie Bloom's Books, 7834 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland.

Bring a favorite William Stafford poem to share. Hosted by Friends of William Stafford board member Susan McKee Reese. Featuring Barbara Drake, Valentine Freeman, Lisa Galloway, Tom Hogan, and Annmarie Trimble. Contact Susan Reese [sgreese@pdx.edu](mailto:sgreese@pdx.edu) or [books@annieblooms.com](mailto:books@annieblooms.com) for more information.

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