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Volume No. 19, Issue No. 5

www.swportlandpost.com

Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

March 2011

Cleaning up Bridlemile creeks helps wildlife everywhere

By Polina Olsen The Southwest Portland Post

Dave Gooley couldn't do it alone. With the stream behind his Bridlemile home overrun, something had to change. The ivy and blackberry would kill trees, destroy wildlife, erode soil and contaminate water. He called the Soil and Water Conservation District and knocked on neighbors' doors.

Now, two years later, Gooley and 13 neighbors finished phase two of their conservation effort. "This was a great example of the financial and technical support of a government agency working with property owners to make something happen," he said.

They sought advice from experts, received a Financial Incentives for Sustainable Habitats grant, and cleared the land of invasive species. On Feb. 5, they planted 2900 native plants on the Bridlemile and Ivey Creek banks that border their homes.

Gooley's involvement started when the family moved to Bridlemile in 1989. English ivy and blackberries infested the greenway running through their backyard. Despite his family's efforts, the situation didn't improve.

"We noticed if others around us weren't going at it, the stuff would come back," Gooley said. Then, at a Bridlemile Creek Stewards meeting, he learned the West Multnomah County Soil and Water district worked with landowners and had a grant program for neighborhood operations.

"I inquired, and the district staff came out to look," Gooley said. "It wasn't just blackberry and English ivy but also garlic mustard, Japanese knot weed and other invasive plants. They change the soil so natives have trouble getting established."

According to Gooley, "It affects the birds and animals who live there. They told me to get as many people involved as possible. The grant program offers financial assistance buying the plants but the neighborhood has to get rid of the invasives and plant natives."

The group received a \$7500 grant. "It meant hard work strapping on boots and getting down into the ravine," Gooley said. "We didn't know a lot about the issues like which invasives are harder on the soil and how to



Urban Conservationist Mary Logalbo (left) and Bridlemile resident Jennie Greb helped with planting on February 5. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

establish a planting plan. The district staff helped us out, and the Bridlemile Creek Stewards gave us technical advice." When rough terrain made hand pulling some sections impossible, the district staff recommended a licensed herbicide applicator.

When it came time to replant, the district advised mid-winter. "The soil was wet, and we'd get the benefit of the

spring rains," Gooley said.

Every property owner showed up on February 5. Plants included red cedar, ponderosa pine, elderberry, salmon berry, snowberry, red alder, willow and Oregon crabapple. "All are native to the Willamette valley. We broke into teams and went at it for about four hours."

Now, the neighbors are watching (Continued to Page 7)

Snow Fooling



Portland Public Schools were closed for a snow day on February 24, so some folks went sledding in Dickinson Park. (Post photo by Leslie Baird)

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The Southwest Portland Post 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509 Portland, OR 97206

Ash Creek neighbors oppose new 2 million gallon water tank

By Lee Perlman The Southwest Portland Post

The Tualatin Valley Water District wants to double the size of their water storage facility at 6217 SW Garden Home Road, in the Ash Creek neighborhood. The Ash Creek Neighborhood Association doesn't think it's a good idea.

The existing tanks, each of which has a capacity of a half-million gallons, were built in 1952 and 1962 on the .65-acre site. The Washington County utility is seeking to replace them with a single 2 million gallon tank. The new tank will be similar in height to the existing one – about 45 feet – but much broader; it will be 92 feet in diameter.

In order to accommodate it, the Water District plans to demolish part of a grove of mature sequoia trees on the property, and is seeking a code adjustment to the required minimum landscaping.

City planner Sylvia Cate, who recommended approval of the request, wrote in her staff report, "Water tanks and reservoirs are not uncommon features in any neighborhood, and there are no aspects about the proposed upgrades that would create a jarring, out of place visual appearance incompatible with adjacent residential development."

Last month Hearings Officer Gregory Frank heard public testimony on the issue. At the District's request, he then left the record open for additional written testimony for the almost unheard of period of 60 days.

This, district representatives said, would allow them to hopefully reach

some agreement with neighbors.

"They had one meeting with us last June," Lyndon Ruhmke, a neighbor, told *The Post*. "At the time they said, 'Don't worry, this won't happen for a couple of years.' The next thing we received was notification of the hearing in January."

Longtime Ash Creek activist Nancy Donner said the District had attempted to do something similar in 1980 and 1981, and had been denied by the City then. "I guess they figured, because there has been such a turnover in homes in this area, there'd be no one left who'd remember," Ruhmke said.

Part of the motivation for the change is that the current tanks do not meet seismic standards and would have to be at least upgraded. "I guess the cost was such that it made sense to build a new facility," Ruhmke said.

Aside from the process issues, he said, the proposed tank, and a 16-foot gravel path around it, would "fill the site from fence to fence," Ruhmke said. "It would cut off views and sunlight from surrounding homes, and remove mature vegetation."

He added that the District has "not been a good steward" of the property. "Prior to 2009 it was a [expletive deleted] with standing water that bred mosquitoes and no maintenance."

Pete Boone of the Tualatin Valley Water District, which serves parts of Beaverton, Tigard, Hillsboro and unincorporated Washington County, told *The Post* that seismic upgrade is part of the reason for the change, but only part.

The district's demand for water is (Continued to Page 7)

Letters to the **Editor** $^{\varnothing}$

The Southwest Portland Post 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509 Portland, OR 97206 Fax: (866) 727-5336 email: news@multnomahpost.com

Portland to Lake Oswego streetcar is screaming good deal for region

Regarding the story, "Will a streetcar from Portland to Lake Oswego cost \$458 million?" by Lee Perlman, The Post, Janu-

I am a resident of Lake Oswego. I live two blocks from the proposed Albertsons terminal in Lake Oswego.

I am volunteering with an organization called Next Stop Lake Oswego that is advocating the streetcar option. I am a high-tech marketing professional that has worked in the region since graduating from OSU in 1984.

My personal reasons for wanting the streetcar are three fold.

The streetcar and the development that will be tied to it will attract younger families to Lake Oswego, a demographic we are desperate for!

It will provide a comfortable form of transportation for me and my family to get into Portland to enjoy what the city has to offer.

It is a screaming good deal for the region. It is a \$500 million project that we will pay less than \$100M for. It will create permanent jobs in the Foothills area of Lake Oswego and over at United

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Streetcar in Clackamas where the cars will be built.

The consortium of Metro, TriMet, City of Portland, Clackamas Co., Multnomah Co. and the City of LO paid around \$2 million for the Willamette Shore right-of-way about 20 years back.

The asset is now valued at around \$100 million. Its value is included in the cost of the project because its value is used for fund matching through the Federal New Starts Program.

We will never again have this inexpensive option to take advantage of additional ca-

pacity in the congested Highway 43 corridor.

You might want to look over this breakdown of the funding so you can represent the cost of the streetcar as accurately as possible.

Recognize that this early in the project the cost estimates are just that, estimates.

It is unfortunate that the streetcar gets portrayed as the expensive option when, in fact, over the life of the project it is the most economically viable due to substantially lower operating costs and environmental benefits of electric propulsion.

Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Project Project Costs for the City of Lake Oswego (Streetcar Only)

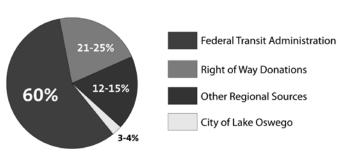
Estimated Projects Costs (2010 Dollars) \$288.9 to \$347.4 million

Estimated Projects Costs (Year of Completion-2017) \$379.6 to \$458.3 million

Estimated Funding Sources (Year of Completion-2017)

- FTA News Starts matching grant (60%) Willamette Shoreline ROW donation
- Other Regional Sources (state, region, cities) City of Lake Oswego's share

\$227.8 to \$275.0 million \$94.5 to \$97.0 million \$45.8 to \$69.0 million \$11.5 to \$17.3 million



Potential funding sources for City of Lake Oswego (assume 20% of local share)

- Urban renewal financing
- Local improvement district
- System development charges Other private sources

Foothills Development Potential

- Estimated development potential of \$900.0 million to \$1.2 billion, according to Leland Consulting Group, November 2010

The local funding requirements for the project are well below the funding required for the enhanced bus.

That said, what is really missing in the current analysis is an accounting of the development money that will come to the area due to the streetcar.

The enhanced bus will not bring any development moneys based on past experience and the consensus of the potential developers of the Foothills district.

Frank Hall Lake Oswego

Garbage trucks are leaking hydraulic fluid throughout the area

We use and appreciate the services of Waste Management of Oregon. Although we use only monthly trash service, we have trucks on our street every Friday.

We are concerned that these trucks that come up our hill to remove our trash, our recycling and our yard debris ironically all leak hydraulic fluid onto the street.

We have also noticed this problem of hydraulic fluid spilling on the streets when walking the dog in nearby neighborhoods. When it rains, these puddles of oil run off our hilly west side streets into the storm sewers.

This is an environmental problem in that each one of these leaky rigs is a point source of pollution. I have spoken to the drivers who say the trucks are old and are to be replaced.

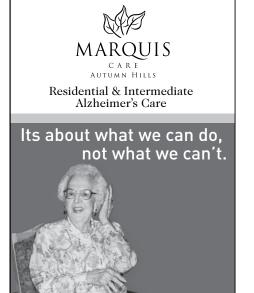
In the meantime, however, Waste Management has a responsibility to maintain these trucks or take them out

A contract with the City of Portland that includes such things as the agreedupon lifespan of their equipment does not constitute a license to splash oil on our neighborhood streets until the replacement date arrives.

We've written to Waste Management and asked them to please fix these hydraulic fittings so they quit leaking.

If this continues we will need to report this to Portland Environmental Services and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

David and Meg Thompson, Hayhurst (Additional letters on Page 7)



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Editor & Publisher: Don Snedecor Reporters/Writers: Polina Olsen and Lee Perlman Retail Advertising Manager: Harry Blythe Graphic Design: Leslie Baird Design **Printing**: Oregon Lithoprint



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The Post has a circulation of 7,000 in Multnomah Village and the surrounding neighborhood business districts including Burlingame, Capitol Hill, Garden Home, Glen Cullen, Hillsdale, South Portland, Raleigh Hills, West Portland and Vermont Hills. The Post is published on or about the 1st of every month. Subscriptions are \$14 per year. Back issues are \$2.50 each when available. All major credit cards accepted.





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CAC votes in favor of Portland to Lake Oswego streetcar line

By Lee Perlman The Southwest Portland Post

Last month the proposed Lake Oswego to Portland streetcar route received an overwhelming – and expected – endorsement from the project's Citizen Advisory Committee. However, the project faces other, more meaningful votes, and their outcome is anything but assured.

The CAC vote was 17 for the streetcar extension from its current location on Southwest Lowell Street, three of these by absentee ballot, one for No Build, two for an Enhanced Bus route, and one abstention. Three others were not present and did not vote.

Two dissenters from Lake Oswego, Joy Strull and Elizabeth English, raised procedural objections. Both said the communities they represented were at best divided on the issue, and if anything opposed to the route.

Strull said she personally did not have the clear mandate from her constituency that would allow her to vote and added, for the group as a whole, "I question whether a commitment of this magnitude makes sense without a clear majority." She also questioned whether the CAC was representative.

Chair Ellie McPeak conceded this last, saying, "We are a very imperfect body, as are most decision-making bodies."

She was less impressed by accounts of public meetings, saying, "If 80 people come to a meeting they're a self-selected group out of 36,000."

CAC member Beverly Bookin, representing the Johns Landing Owners Association, told Strull, "We've been charged with making a recommendation. It's time for the people who have sat around this table and considered the information to decide. If you'd prefer you can abstain, but some mushy statement is not acceptable."

Still to come are votes by the Portland and Lake Oswego City Councils, on April 6 and 12, respectively. The latter includes members who ran for office last year on a platform of opposing this project. Not only that, but opponents have raised money and hired a team of professionals to aid their cause.

One of these, consultant Len Bergstein, spoke at a late January meeting of the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission. "The inconvenient truth is that this is fatally flawed," he told the Commission. "It costs too much, delivers too little, offers no appreciable relief from congestion. The impacts are overlooked, there's no guarantee of federal funding, no funding plan in place."

Assuming a 50 percent federal match, this would cost \$144 million, which "competes with other projects and Tri-Met's service to other transit-oriented communities." A recent public meeting revealed "Lake Oswego is split right down the middle. It doesn't garner broad public support."

He added, "I'm not asking you to say no, but to say 'whoa!'" However, he had earlier said that additional study of the project would be "money down a rat hole."

to 50 percent federal funding is based on

the level of support for the \$1.5 billion Portland to Milwaukie Light Rail Project. Streetcar advocates say they are confident of 60 percent federal funding for a streetcar project.

Commission member Chris Smith, a strong streetcar advocate, replied, "If we applied your reasoning to the Columbia River Crossing, we'd have abandoned that long ago. We could have built this with what we've spent studying that."

Lying between Portland and Lake Oswego is the unincorporated and wealthy Dunthorpe/Riverdale community, which historically has been solidly against any transit project through its territory. At the Commission meeting, however, the streetcar received a strong boost from longtime resident Mertie

She lived in the community when it was an active freight line, she said.



Portland Streetcar stops at Gibbs Street in the South Bergstein's reference Waterfront neighborhood. (flickr file photo courtesy of pchurch)

"I raised four children and dogs, and I only lost one duck to the train. My bedroom was 20 feet from the middle of the tracks, but you got used to it; you worried if you didn't hear it. This area was developed by rail."

She would receive some of the right of way if it was abandoned, she said, "but it's still not right." Her neighbors who oppose the project moved in later, she said. "This has been done successfully in Boston and New York, but not in California where they come from. Eisenhower built us all a 'wonderful' freeway system; have you driven I-5

"They saved the right of way 20 years ago, and 20 years later we're still discussing this. The time is now. We're way behind the curve on this. Don't dawdle any more. Build this not only to Lake Oswego, but all the way to Bridgeport

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Multnomah resale shop helps animals and their people

THE COUNTRY STORE

By Polina Olsen The Southwest Portland Post

When we stopped by Exchange for Animals, a new resale shop in Multnomah Village, owner Harriet Sheridan was busy arranging used dog cages and mats. Housed in a converted bungalow at 3636 SW Troy St. next to the Rivergate Church and a block west of the Coin Cottage and other stores, the shop is easy to find. Just look for chickens in the front yard.

Keeping chickens, Sheridan said, has become part of Portland, just like reusing, recycling, and buying local. She hopes her business will encourage all four while accomplishing her mission. Sheridan wants to help pet owners avoid euthanizing their animals.

Sheridan will start by contributing part of the shop's proceeds to veterinary rescue clinics. She hopes to gain non-profit status and start a pet surgery fund for those in need. "I come from a background where I studied animal behavior," she said. "I have empathy for animals because they can't advocate for themselves."

Her dog's recent expensive surgery made her think of others. "I felt lucky to be able to save my dog's life," she said. "For many there is no choice. They have to have the dog euthanized. I told all my friends, 'I 'm opening a resale shop, and I'd like donations from your attics.' Generous friends have given me things that I can turn into funds to help

animals.

The shop includes everything pet like carriers, harnesses, crates, and beds. She rents cages to people who won't need one once their puppy grows. A retired geography professor donated artifacts from around the globe. Jewelry includes reproduction museum pieces. She has dishes, clothes and a room for children's items. She plans special events in the kitchen, like teaching people how to make organic dog treats.

"Since I began this business, I've met people who rescue every type of animal," she said. "I met someone who does chicken rescue in Beaverton and pig rescue in the Southeast. I want to be part of the neighborhood. It's like the slow food movement. Many people come in here to talk. I'm serving a function beyond being a resale shop."

Exchange for Animals, 3636 SW Troy St. is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 503.477.4374 or visit http://exchangeforanimals.com.

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VS 1115



Harriet Sheridan, Clovis and Iyla at Exchange For Animals, a new resale shop in Multnomah Village (*Post photo by Polina Olsen*)

Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day celebrations coming to Multnomah Village

Multnomah Village would like to invite you to celebrate "Mardi Gras in the Village, Tuesday, March 8th, specials will abound. Sip D'Vine will be hosting the 2nd Annual Mardi Gras "We Love it Here" Multnomah Village Bloc's Initiative fundraiser.

Owner Jill Crecraft will have face painting, authentic New Orleans bites, drink specials, music and a lot of fun. Come dressed for the fun or get in the spirit at the event. Suggested \$10 donation to benefit Multnomah Village Bloc's Initiative.

Information about the latest happenings around the village will be on display and ready for your input. Also check out the other offerings in the village in true New Orleans style.

Wander the village getting beads from Renner's Grill, check out the drinks and food at O'Connor's, Journey's, Down to Earth Cafe and Marco's Cafe. Stop in at Village Beads and make your own strand if the mood hits you. We would love to see you!!!

Don't forget about the St. Patrick's Day celebration in the Village on March 17th. Be Green for a day! O'Connor's will be hosting the solo music of Scott Brown from 7-10 p.m. in the restaurant, no cover.

Next door at O'Connor's Vault will be

American/Folk music from Tin Silver from from 7-10 p.m. with a \$5 cover. O'Connor's and Marco's cafe will have special St. Patrick's Day bites as will Journey's and Down to Earth Cafe. Join us and be green to get rid of those late winter blues.

--Randy Bonella



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New sidewalks and bike lanes slated for Multnomah Boulevard

By Lee Perlman The Southwest Portland Post

The Portland Bureau of Transportation held an open house last month on proposed new sidewalks and bike lanes on Southwest Multnomah Boulevard. Virtually none of the people who came and either spoke to staff or signed written forms were against the proposed \$4.5 million Phase One program. Some were disappointed there isn't more.

Project manager Rich Newlands told *The Post* that quite a few people were disappointed that sidewalks were proposed only for the north side of the boulevard. Part of the City's motivation, he said, was to stretch inadequate resources as far as possible.

Hillsdale and Southwest Trails activist Don Baack noted that the plans call for bike lanes on both sides of the boulevard, and suggested that the south side be designated a combined "bike-ped" facility. "That's the way it will be used anyway," he said.

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. land use chair Marianne Fitzgerald was disappointed that the sidewalks extended only from Southwest 22nd to 31st avenues.

"I'm glad that they're designing this out to 40th [The stretch from 31st to 40th avenues would have to wait for Phase Two funding sometime in the future] and glad that we're finally getting some sidewalks, but I would have liked to see them come closer to Multnomah Village," she told The Post. City staff has "admitted they're picking the low-hanging fruit, the easiest to do."

Baack had several other suggestions. One was a bike boulevard from Multnomah to Southwest Troy Street at 25th Avenue, with a signal at Troy Street and Multnomah Boulevard, to provide access to the Hillsdale neighborhood.

Another was a new bikeway from Multnomah south to Southwest Barbur Boulevard connecting to an existing signal at 24th Avenue, this last as a more direct route to the newly-remodeled Safeway Market. Finally, he called for an outdoor drinking fountain, with a spout for dogs, at Safeway.

Newlands said he agreed, at least in principle, with the proposal for a new route to Safeway, saying that using existing routes involve either unsafe practices or "a lot of out-of-direction travel."

Noting that Southwest Portland has 44 arterials without sidewalks, Fitzgerald said grimly, "One down, 43 to go."

Part of Multnomah Boulevard to be repaved

With the installation of new pressure sewer lines and water mains under Southwest Multnomah Boulevard virtually complete, the thoughts of City representatives and neighbors has turned to thoughts of making the battleground "good as new."

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and the Ash Creek Neighborhood Association have both called on the City to completely repave the street, not just patch over the parts that had been dug up.

Last month Bureau of Environmental Services spokesperson Stephen Sykes told *The Post* that the City has agreed to a full repaying of Multnomah between Southwest 31st and 45th avenues.

"It was in poor condition when we started our project," Sykes said. "This is in the long-term good for everyone." However, Sykes said, BES did not agree to the same full-pavement treatment for Multnomah from Southwest 45th to 69th avenues, as Ash Creek requested, because it was not in as bad a shape.

Ash Creek chair Jack Klinker told *The Post* he was not as concerned about this, since the City has plans to repave the street in the near future anyway. He was disappointed that BES would not fully repave lower Multnomah until the weather improves in the spring.



Multnomah resident Kim Isaacson (left) talks with a City of Portland transportation planner at the Multnomah Boulevard Open House, Feb. 17. (Post photo by Don Snedecor)

South Portland Jail

(Continued from Page 8) use to move forward."

Both Leonard and Mayor Sam Adams voted for the amended resolution, Leonard without comment. Commissioner Dan Saltzman was absent.

"Four out of four. You can't beat that," a smiling Davis said after the vote. He later added, "This is the first time I've been this pleased in a long time. This took a lot of work, but I wasn't alone." He gave credit to fellow South Portland board members Kerry Chipman, Bill Danneman, and Kelly Doyle."

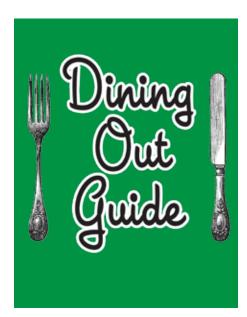
As Fish pointed out, the new requirement does not mean that the proposed detention facilities will not be built.

It seems unlikely that this would be acceptable to some South Portland residents, especially parents of the new Southwest Charter School across the street, under any conditions. Davis suggested that the length of the process alone might defeat the development.

Leonard later told *The Post*, "I fear that many people who opposed this facility will assume that they won. This facility will inevitably be approved, and when it is those people will be even angrier than before."

Leonard had wanted to simply attach some conditions as part of Council's approval, "but I didn't have the votes. A majority of Council had already decided that this should have a conditional use."









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City Council considers new tree planting and cutting regulations

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

The Portland City Council last month took up the Citywide Tree Ordinance, an attempt to rewrite, unify and streamline all regulations relating to the planting, cutting and pruning of trees on all public and private property.

For southwest Portland activists, it was the culmination of years of work.

The Tree Project has been ongoing for three years. Planner Joe Zehnder said it was inspired by complaints about the current code.

Project manager Roberta Jortner said that current rules, shared by five different bureaus, are "inconsistent, with noticeable gaps."

Among other things, the Project's recommendations call for a single point of public contact, a user-friendly manual, and a hotline for reporting violations.

Regarding this last point, Jortner touched off a debate when she suggested that someone seeing illegal tree cutting on weekends should call 911.

Commissioners Amanda Fritz and Randy Leonard quickly said this would be an inappropriate use of this system. Commissioner Dan Saltzman wasn't so sure. "I can see where 911 is appropriate," he said. "I'm less interested in penalizing people for illegal tree cutting than in preventing it in the first place."

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission chair Don Hanson, himself a landscape architect, said current tree regulations are "a mess, hard to find and inconsistent."

During the course of hearings the commission heard complaints that the proposed rules go too far and not far enough, he said. While saying, "I won't pretend we resolved all the details," he said he found the end results "rational, understandable and clear."

Michael McCloskey, a southwest resident and member of the Urban Forestry Commission, called for maintaining trees in unimproved right of ways that are "well-established." In southwest, "It's sometimes hard to tell where City property ends and private property begins," he said.

Greg Schifsky, longtime Bridlemile community activist, said, "I hope you support this all the way." He recalled a weekend incident in 1967 when, "I looked at the hillside and there were no trees – it was as if they were denuded by an occupying power. With enactment of this, we can ensure that doesn't happen. Paint yourself green and really mean it."

Fritz told Schifsky, "We wouldn't be here tonight considering this without your advocacy."

Fritz had similar praise for another southwest advocate, Margo Barnett; both women helped create Holly Farm Park. "We've been urging the City to revise the code for years," Barnett said. "I'm very pleased with the fact that this includes many of our recommendations."

The Project has been "a very long process and a balancing act." The authors had tried to be flexible, and that had increased the recommendations' complexity, Barnett said. She did regret that the act did not provide relief for owners whose sidewalks are damaged by tree roots, especially the low-income.

The proposal did have critics. Southwest homeowner Wayne Person criticized new regulations governing tree cutting on developed single-family home sites.

Person was denied a permit to cut down a dangerous tree, he said, and its branches fell "through my roof, through my garage window, within ten feet of me while I was holding my grand-daughter. You should allow homeowners to cut their own trees when appropriate."

Another southwest homeowner, planner Mark Dane, said, "Infill is the greenest form of development," and the proposals will mean "more consultants, bureaucratic costs, and time. Every time we try to simplify the code it gets thicker."

Developer Justin Wood, while praising the intent of the Project, said the end result is "still fairly complicated, and falls too heavily on the development community."

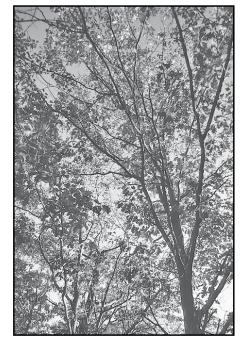
Wood recommended exempting lots of 5,000 square feet or less from regulation. (The proposals put the minimum at 3,000 square feet.) Other homebuilders called for other changes, such as exempting developments with 80 percent lot coverage (the proposal would exempt those with 90 percent coverage).

Builder John Fiocchi, said, "I'm just about ready to move out of the city." The City already charges \$33,000 in total fees per unit, he said, and of this \$8,500 pertains to trees.

Regulation of private property is inappropriate, Fiocchi said; "This is my private property, I own it, I bought it, I pay taxes on it." Turning to Council he said, "You guys are all smart, look into this more."

In contrast Nancy Seton, land use chair of the Southwest Hills Residential League, said, "We're very pleased to see the changes we asked for. Without trees our homes would be sliding down the slope to Goose Hollow or Highway 26."

According to Seton, "We need to support tree preservation on developable and non-developable land. We need more consistent enforcement of stream setbacks. We need to preserve the canopy, and to do that we need a code that works for, not against, this objective."



John Gibbon, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. land use chair, said that tree preservation on private property is a matter of public interest, especially in landslide-prone areas.

Gibbon said in his own Quail Park subdivision there is a requirement that every tree cut must be replaced. "It's not inexpensive, but it's worthwhile."

Simone Goldfedder of Southwest Hills said she "strongly supported" the proposal, and said it "provides many options to approach a (development) site instead of a proscriptive, one-sizefits-all approach.

"This doesn't limit an owner's right to develop; it only emphasizes the importance of tree preservation."

Goldfedder added, "It's clear much of the canopy is in the more affluent neighborhoods, and loss of canopy affects the form and health of neighborhoods."

Bob Sallinger of the Portland Audubon Society called for stronger regu-(Continued on Page 7)

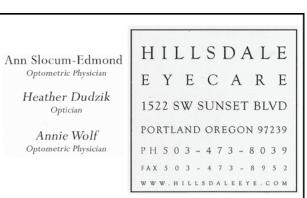
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Tree Regulations

(Continued from Page 6)

lations than the proposal contains. For instance, homeowners would be required to replace trees cut if they are 20 inches in diameter or more.

Sallinger thought the requirement should apply to trees 12 inches in diameter. He also opposed exempting small lots from development regulations; "you can always mitigate off-site," he said. The cost of planting and preserving trees is "a bargain, with a great return on investment."

Representatives of the Parks Bureau and Bureau of Environmental Services endorsed the draft. Paul Scarlet, director of the Bureau of Development Services, said he supported its "goals," but had "concerns" about the complexity, flexibility and enforcement of the new proposals.

Commissioner Randy Leonard, who oversees the bureau, was upset when its representative, Rebecca Esau, said she had not seen the latest changes to the proposed draft.

After some discussion Council agreed to have Bureau representatives meet, reach consensus and have Council consider the result on March 9. Susan Anderson, Director of the Bureau of Development Services, cautioned, "I am virtually sure there won't be 100 percent agreement among us."



(Continued from Page 1)

and waiting. They'll meet over the next three years to clear invasives and weed. They look forward to crawdads in the creek, salamanders, songbirds, and maybe even some beaver. "Hopefully, we'll convert the whole area to a native conservation zone," Gooley said. "It's something that can be enjoyed, and it's beneficial to the environment."

Mary Logalbo, an urban conservationist for the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, worked closely with Gooley and his neighbors. "Our mission is to help private land owners conserve their land," she said. "I help people with invasive species removal, native plant establishment, storm water management and wildlife enhancement."

She was excited to see three acres of

landowners band together for the conservation project. "They were already losing most of their native trees due to ivy and clematis," she said.

According to Logalbo, the polluted streams would eventually affect the Columbia and Willamette rivers. "Without the trees, you'd have a warmer stream and more erosion," she said.

And, projects like this affect wildlife throughout the region. For example, removing invasives and planting willows attracts the Willow Flycatcher, a threatened bird. "If we just let it go, we could lose them. A healthy environment is good for all wildlife."

Contact the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District at 503/238-4775, www.wmswcd.org. Learn more about the Bridlemile Creek Stewards at swni.org/bridlemile neighborhood association/creek_stewards.

Letters to the

The Southwest Portland Post 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509 Portland, OR 97206 Fax: (866) 727-5336

email: news@multnomahpost.com (Continued from Page 2)

Pedestrians need to share responsibility for their own safety

Our mothers taught us not to wear dark clothing when walking at night, to walk facing traffic and to look both ways and cross safely. This was good advice, which seems to have been lost to younger generations.

Pedestrians need to take some responsibility for their own safety. They need to follow the simple rules that our mother's taught. As a driver, it scares me to death when I come upon someone in the roadway in dark clothing and barely visible.

All of us are pedestrians at some point and it is our responsibility to cross safely instead of thinking that the walker owns the road and drivers must look out for them.

It is arrogant and foolhardy to take risks just because the pedestrian is supposed to have all the rights. It is time for pedestrians to use the common sense that mothers preached for years.

Patti Waitman, Multnomah

Ash Creek opposed Water Tank

(Continued from Page 1)

half a million gallons short of the supply now, he said, and will be a million gallons short by 2016. The comment about not proceeding for two years was "a misunderstanding," he said, and referred to construction rather than process.

Ruhmke challenged this. "They

have yet to produce a technical document that shows they have that big a need," he said. "And if it was from 2006 it's a fantasy because in those days we assumed that residential development in Washington County would just keep on growing."

Another District representative, Todd Heidgerken, said of the impact,

"I have to be honest, this structure would have a bigger footprint. We're looking at ways to make it visually more pleasing." They propose to plant wax maple and Japanese Barberry.

Ruhmke told *The Post* that he could accept an alternate proposal for increased water capacity on the site, such as two 1.5 million gallon tanks. Asked if they would consider structural rather than cosmetic changes in their plans Heidgerken said, "I couldn't say one way or the other. We would have to consult our board."

Heidgerken said the District had hired consultant Eryn Kehe to "find what the neighbors are concerned about, drill a little deeper into that."

Ash Creek chair Jack Klinker told The Post, "They have to upgrade their tanks, and they see this as a cheap way to increase capacity. I don't think this is appropriate for this neighborhood, but it's a subjective judgment."

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City Council agrees to hearing on conditional use of South Portland jail

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

In February, with no debate, the Portland City Council unanimously agreed to give neighbors of the proposed South Waterfront immigrant processing what they have been seeking for months: a hearing on their concerns and issues.

Previously, the Bureau of Development Services had ruled that the proposed facility at 4310 SW Macadam Ave., to be operated by the Federal Government's Immigration and Customs Enforcement on a long-term lease, was primarily an office building, an extension of the previous use of the site, and allowed by right.

The proposed facility was subject only to design review to determine its operation and aesthetic qualities.

The South Portland Neighborhood Association, led by land use chair Jim Davis, had argued that in all important respects the proposed facility is a jail, and as such should be subjected to a conditional use review that would deal with safety issues and its suitability for its site.

When the Portland Design Commission approved the project (after ruling that the use issue was outside their scope), Davis and South Portland appealed the decision to Council. It was the subject of a three-hour hearing in January.

Commissioner Randy Leonard at first moved to deny the appeal and approve the project. However, Commissioner Amanda Fritz then proposed an amendment whereby the detention facilities – comprising 4,000 square feet of the 65,000 square foot building – would be subject to a conditional use process. Leonard accepted this as a friendly amendment without argument.

In previous testimony, representatives of Lindquist Development LLC, the property owner, and the Federal Government had argued that the proposed facilities would hold people who had not been charged with a crime, that they would be held there for no more than 12 hours at a time, and that there were no beds or other facilities to accommodate a longer stay.

Also, the detention areas comprised only a miniscule portion of the total square footage. Based on this, they argued, the use would be a "processing," not a "detention," center, and allowed by right.

"It was very clear that the characterization of this as a detention facility was erroneous," Leonard told Council. "I disagree," Fritz responded. "The square footage is only one factor."

Another Council member, Nick Fish, chimed in. "This is not the Wapato Jail, but not an office building," he said. "It doesn't comfortably fit any of our use definitions."

Therefore, he said, the best course is to decide that the building has two primary use definitions, one of which inquires a conditional use permit. "This is the only way we don't do violence to the code," Fish said.

Moreover, he said, "This allows the neighborhood to weigh in on issues such as safety. It doesn't preclude such a facility; it just calls for public review." Fritz added, "It recognizes the neighbors' concerns while allowing the office

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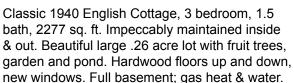


This building located at 4310 SW Macadam Ave in South Portland could be home to a new federal jail. (Post file photo by Don Snedecor)

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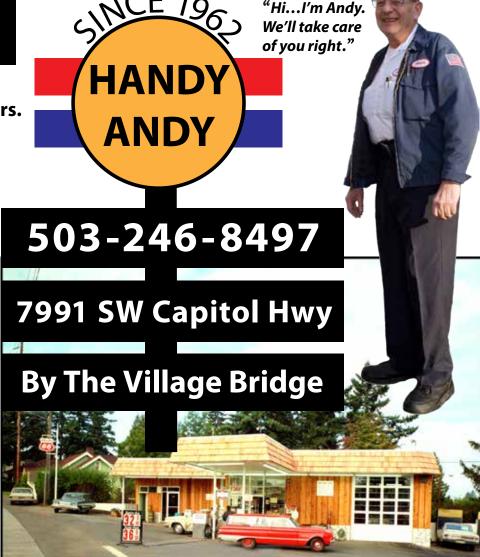
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