

► *Bring the kids to see the movie "Ramona and Beezus." Details in Community Life. – Page 8*



► *Owner Scott Edwards (left) is selling Barbur Boulevard Rentals property and related homes for just \$10 million. – Page 4*



► *Volunteer Kathy MacDougal brings bouquets to Hopewell House every Monday for hospice patients. – Page 5*



# The Southwest Portland Post

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Complimentary

April 2016

## Neighbors keep watchful eyes on proposed Multnomah Village apartments

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

Stewart Rounds' house is situated behind the proposed site of the 72-unit Multnomah Village apartments to be located at Southwest Capitol Highway and 33rd Avenue.

Rounds, a fixture at the monthly Multnomah Neighborhood Association meetings, has been one of many critics of developer Tim O'Brien's (of Urban Assets Advisors) complex.

Besides a proposed courtyard gathering space disappearing yielding to live-work spaces, the latest renderings feature a more massive looking apartment complex. Studios are expected to start at \$1,500 a month. In 2015, the average rent in Multnomah was \$800 for a one-bedroom apartment.

The latest drawings, by SERA Architects, have the building pulled forward towards Capitol Highway. Two commercial spaces are located on either end of the property.

Rounds has taken photos of the plans



Photo by neighbor Stewart Round of latest architectural drawings; design by SERA architects, developer is Urban Assets Advisors.

and, along with 20 other neighborhood residents, painstakingly poured over the permit details. Jim Peterson, Multnomah land use committee chair, has written several letters of concern to the city of Portland based on the committee's findings.

Questions have arisen about how the maximum height is calculated, concerns about a distinct ground floor

requirements, and parking.

"We all know that the proposed 40 parking spaces are not sufficient to handle all of the vehicles that will likely be owned by the residents of the building," said Peterson in a recent letter. "The extra vehicles will be parked on the neighborhood streets using parking areas already used by residents, employees, and visitors."

This would leave less room for pedestrians to walk safely and less room for large vehicles such as fire emergency vehicles to travel.

"Neighborhood businesses (and residents alike)," Peterson continued, "already complain that the neighborhood does not have sufficient parking to accommodate shoppers and  
(Continued on Page 3)

## Transportation manager presents four new proposals for Capitol Highway

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

The Portland Bureau of Transportation appeared at the March 8 Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting bearing four potential concepts for improvements to Southwest Capitol Highway.

According to Dan Layden, the bureau project manager, this stretch of road has been one of the most challenging projects due to topography and stormwater issues. About five years ago, a city sponsored concept plan was published proposing

retaining walls, sidewalks and bike lanes on either side of the highway, green space with trees, and 24-foot wide highway. The price tag then was \$17 million.

Unfortunately there wasn't a cent to fund it.

Fast forward to 2016. According to Layden, the Bureau of Environmental Services will pay for a new study of stormwater concerns. Layden spoke in front of 60 local residents, many who live along or near Southwest Capitol Highway.

"I can only speak for the transportation part since [the Bureau of] Environmental Services works on

the stormwater issues," Layden said.

That bureau was not in attendance at the March meeting.

Gone from the Southwest Capitol Highway Plan Refinement Report, are the two sidewalks and bike lanes and variety of other bells and whistles. Four scaled-back concepts were flashed on the screen.

Concept 1, the most expensive of the four at \$13 million, consists of one sidewalk and two bike lanes and sewers on both sides. Concept 2 at \$12 million has a centralized stormwater system and still has two bike lanes.

Concept 3, the least expensive at \$10 million, places all transportation improvements on the west side. There wouldn't be any major east side improvements. There would also be grade-separated pervious pavement with limited stormwater infrastructure.

Pervious pavement allows percolation of stormwater through the surface into the soil below where the water is naturally filtered and pollutants are removed.

Concept 4, at a cost of \$12 million, includes a multi-use path for both pedestrians and bike traffic and protected bike lanes in both directions.

"There really aren't a whole lot of details," Layden responded. "Engineering is where that comes in. Now it's to refine and look for other sources of income."

Lots of questions came from the audience. One was the scope of the project which would start at Garden Home Road (in Multnomah Village) and continue south to Taylors Ferry Road.

Chris Lyons, Multnomah

transportation chair, said he hopes the project extends to Barbur Boulevard. Connecting Capitol Highway and Barbur Boulevard (Oregon 99W) could be a way to access state funds since the boulevard is a state highway.

Layden asked what concept the crowd preferred and there were mixed answers. Instead, it included road safety, water runoff, and that pervious pavement doesn't percolate due to the clay nature of this area.

"There have been six accidents in five months," Lyons reported.

"Several intersections have issues and water goes into my basement," said Grier Ingebretsen who lives near 40th Avenue.

A few want to preserve the goat path, others want speed restrictions, and even more want crosswalks installed especially at bus stops.

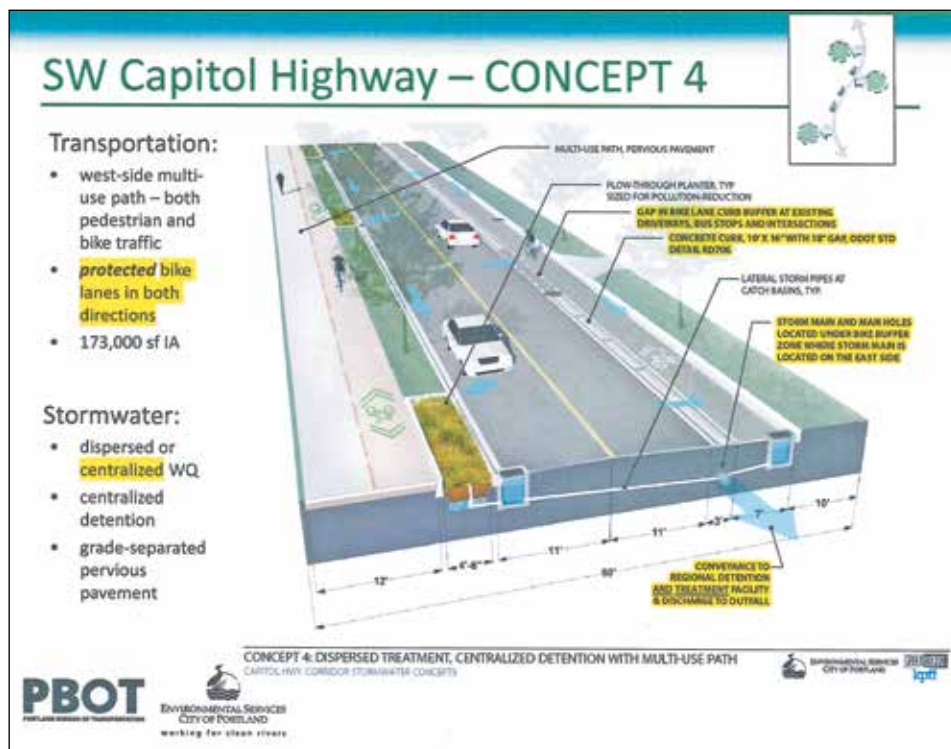
Some shrubs and tall hedges in public right-of-way would probably have to go, but to retain privacy replanting of trees is in the plan the project manager assured.

"Remember all of this is very preliminary."

Time was up. Layden wiped his brow and was thanked.

"Finalizing the design is a big step forward toward getting this project underway," Lyons wrapped up. "Funding still needs to be identified before the shovels break ground."

For more information or to become involved, attend the Multnomah Neighborhood Association which meets every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Multnomah Arts Center, Room 30, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. You may also contact Chris Lyons directly at chrislyons7@yahoo.com.



Concept 4. (Photo courtesy Portland Bureau of Transportation)

# EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

**Dear EarthTalk:** Is it true that home rooftop solar only makes sense in certain parts of the U.S. with proper incentives as opposed to where the sun shines the most?

-- Esther Knox, Wilton, NH

The short answer is yes. In the United States, whether or not it is easy and economical to go solar depends more on state politics than prevailing weather trends.

In those states with ample sunshine and the legislative initiative to get solar panels on residential roofs, there has never been a better—or cheaper—time to put photovoltaic panels to use.

According to Solar Power Rocks, a website that helps homeowners understand the rules, incentives, and investment returns on local solar panel installations, the top three states where switching over to solar power makes the most economic sense are in the Northeast (New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut). Maryland, Connecticut, Oregon, Minnesota, New

Mexico, Vermont, and Colorado round out the top 10.

What makes these states particularly prime for rooftop solar is their willingness to allow homeowners to lease photovoltaic equipment from third-party owners (like Sun Edison, Solar City, Sun Run, etc.) and legislature-backed incentives to help keep costs down overall. Going solar in one of these states might end up being cheaper than remaining on the grid.

Surprisingly, a few states in the South (Florida, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Kentucky), where solar panels would seem like a no-brainer, continue to resist this change for the better, in large part due to entrenched utility lobbies intent on maintaining their fossil-fuel-based lock on the status quo.

According to a recent *Rolling Stone* article by Tim Dickinson, the recent ascent of solar power in the U.S. poses a grave threat to the business interests of big fossil fuel industry investors.

Dickinson details how these entrenched interests are “mounting a fierce, rear-guard resistance at the state level—pushing rate hikes and punishing fees for homeowners who turn to solar power.”

He adds that their efforts have “darkened green-energy prospects in could-be solar superpowers” like Arizona and Nevada. “But nowhere has the solar industry been more eclipsed than in Florida, where the utilities’ powers of obstruction are unrivaled.”



The best three states across the U.S. for putting solar panels on the roof are in the Northeast. (Photo by Nick Normal, FlickrCC)

“The solar industry in Florida has been boxed out by investor-owned utilities that reap massive profits from natural gas and coal,” reports Dickinson. “These IOUs wield outsize political power in the state capital of Tallahassee, and flex it to protect their absolute monopoly on electricity sales.”

While Florida might be a laggard on rooftop solar for now, that could all change if some residents are successful in their drive for an amendment to the state constitution to allow for third-party solar ownership (which would enable solar leasing).

Of course, the state’s utilities have challenged the amendment by creating their own, designed to confuse voters into keeping solar panels off their rooftops.

For more information on where your state stands in terms on rooftop solar, check out Solar Power Rocks 2016 U.S. Solar Power Rankings. Also, visit the website of the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency for a full run-down of state-by-state, federal and other incentives for installing solar panels and other forms of renewable energy equipment.

Contacts: Solar Power Rocks, [www.solarpowerrocks.com](http://www.solarpowerrocks.com); Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency, [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org).

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# PALOMA CLOTHING

# LGBT business builder conference offers four steps to certification

By Jack Rubinger  
The Southwest Portland Post

Many faces, one dream was how Camron Doss from the U.S. Small Business Administration described a networking event held on March 9 at the River's Edge Hotel (0455 SW Hamilton Court) in South Portland.

Billed as an LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender] Business Builder, the gathering brought together entrepreneurs, bankers, suppliers, and buyers and national and regional representatives from the SBA and the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

Key attendees at the conference included Mark Gibson, national LGBT communications director, U.S. Small Business Administration; Brent Stewart, supplier diversity manager, NGL chamber; Calvin Goings, SBA, regional administrator; and Paul Finlay, vice president, Portland Area Business Association.

Ruth Miles, Oregon Secretary of State, Office of Small Business Assistance, delivered the keynote address. "Small businesses are the backbone of Oregon's economy," said Miles. "It's exciting when the

SBA, the State of Oregon, and local resources all come together to help 'grow our own' in an event like this. I was honored to be part of it."

Oregon's Office of Small Business Assistance serves as an independent voice for small businesses within state government. Small businesses account for 98 percent of Oregon firms, employ over half the state's workforce and play a vital role in our economy.

"There's been cultural shift in the United States," explained Eugene Cornelius, deputy associate administrator, Office of Field Operations, SBA. "The number one export in the world is small business. Large businesses keep costs down by contracting with small businesses. We're reaching an underserved and diverse audience that is dedicated to creating new jobs, too."

Through this national co-sponsorship, a series of LGBT Business Builder education and outreach events are being held around the country that focus on SBA programs and services, and the gay and lesbian chamber's business certification.

The SBA and the chamber have partnered to increase economic



Eugene Cornelius Jr., deputy associate administrator, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Small Business Administration. (Photo courtesy of National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce)

opportunity to LGBT entrepreneurs by highlighting SBA programs and services coupled with the chamber's business certification.

There are four steps involved in the certification process which begins by building a profile and submitting information to [my.nglcc.org](http://my.nglcc.org).

Completion of application (including supporting documents to verify that the business is 51 percent LGBT owned and operated).

Site visits verify the company's legitimacy and ownership. A third-party body, the National Certification Committee, reviews documents and makes ultimate decision on certification.

The business receives certification, access to resources and exposure to Fortune 500 companies including Northrop-Grumman and Apple.

"Certification is like many of the

tools available in business. Becoming certified doesn't guarantee success or more business," said Robyn Davis of Verbio.

"However, not being certified could mean missing out on business opportunities that are out there. It could also be the edge you need to move ahead of your competition and win the business."

So what do you get for being certified? According to Davis, "Nothing but a better chance to win business. That's what being an entrepreneur is all about, positioning your business so that when an opportunity presents itself you are ready."

Jill Nelson of Hot Diggity Dog, a dog walking service based in Seattle, said she has quadrupled her network and landed new clients all over the United States through the certification program.

## Crossroads Community Garden opening April 22

You are invited to celebrate the opening of the Crossroads Community Garden on Friday, April 22, at 3 p.m. Located at 6948 SW Capitol Hwy near the Hillsdale Community Church, the new garden has three ADA-compliant raised beds and a

wheelchair accessible garden shed. Anyone interested in information about plot availability at community gardens should contact Laura Niemi, Portland Parks & Recreation Community Garden program coordinator, at 503-823-1612.

## Multnomah Village Apartments

(Continued from Page 1)

visitors. The situation will only get worse for the local businesses after this project is built."

Neighborhood chair Carol McCarthy said at the March general meeting, "If we get a design review, we can look at the guidelines which include actual height, character, and an opportunity to testify and appeal most likely."

Projects need to meet the community design standards or else go through design review. The developers can revise their plans if the city planners find things in their design that do not comply with the standards.

Over 1,800 signatures were submitted to the city last year in opposition of the apartment.

Jessica Wade of Multnomah, a member of the citywide Public Involvement Advisory Council, put a motion on the floor at the March meeting.

Wade's motion requested the neighborhood send a letter requesting that O'Brien include approximately seven affordable housing units in his complex. *Note: An inclusionary zone requiring affordable housing recently passed by the Oregon Legislature would not be implemented until 2018.*

Members debated and wondered why O'Brien would do such a thing since it currently is not required.

"Possibly being a good gesture as a former neighbor giving back to the community?" Wade responded.

"We are not going to stop the development," vice chair Martie Sucec said during discussion of the motion. "We were going to get a design overlay but now we want to just push it to a design review."

"And although I don't want to vote against affordable housing," said Sucec, "we have [O'Brien] on tape that he won't do affordable housing."

The motion failed.

"Frankly, we expected a more imaginative, even 'funky' design for Multnomah," Peterson said in his letter.

Funky was the word fondly described by residents and visitors alike who regard it as part of its charm.

"There is no charm in this building. It will *not* enhance Multnomah Village," said Peterson. "It would be radically out-of-scale and would overpower all other buildings in the Village."

"If this building goes forward as proposed," Peterson said, "the guidelines will not be met and the purposes of the design overlay thwarted once again."

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**THE COUNTRY STORE**

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

**Golden Touch restaurant to remain open for now**

Hold the presses: the Golden Touch restaurant, located at 8124 SW Barbur Blvd., has received a temporary reprieve and will stay open at least until May 2017.

According to Jeremy Messer, son of the owner George Messer, deliberations between the restaurant owners and property owner brokered a deal to keep the Golden Touch open, at least for now.

"I wanted to call you before you went to press," the younger Messer said days before the paper's deadline. "We're going to remain open!"

While eyes are focused on large apartment complexes and transportation issues in Southwest Portland, a large developer has proposed a 101-foot tall commercial and residential building where the Golden Touch has resided since 1982.

According to the permit, the applicant proposes to construct approximately 223 dwelling units (up from a previous number of 140), commercial space for a Natural Grocers, and 452 parking spaces.

In anticipation of future transit and bicycle improvements at this area, a sizeable right-of-way dedication of 7,200 square feet approximately 20 feet in depth will be required.

Pacific Typewriter has already vacated

the property. They moved down a mile away. The restaurant was going to close its doors at the end of this month.

"It began one day during lunch several years ago," explained waitress Chelsea Messer, who married the owner's son. "Developers were seen walking around the property without any communication to the staff."

"The lease was up in April," said her husband as he flipped pancakes and prepared tuna salads.

A few seats down, Dale Carper, from Gresham, was finishing up his breakfast and was shocked to hear about the potential closing.

"I've been coming here since the '90s," he said. "This is high quality, affordable food done right with home-style cooking."

"The property owners tried several time to break our lease," Messer said. "According to them we were in violation of 'anything'. We used all our savings to sue them and lost."

The restaurant was rented for the set of TV series "Grimm," and also the set of a Harley-Davidson photo shoot. Former Governor Barbara Roberts used to eat here and many Trailblazer players have eaten here over the years.

"We're going to be here another year. Please spread the word," Messer said.

**Barbur Boulevard Rentals and related homes for sale, just \$10 million**

Right across the street from the Golden Touch Restaurant, lies an institution, and museum of sorts: Barbur Boulevard Rentals. This property, too,



Owner Scott Edwards and son Casey, take a break outside their rental business. The property is up for sale. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

will soon be redeveloped making room for additional commercial and residential options in an area growing by leaps and bounds.

Owner, Scott Edwards has put the property up for sale but is definitely not retiring or selling the business. He's looking for space in Clackamas or Washington counties.

Locally owned since 1958, Barbur Boulevard Equipment Rentals was started by Richard Edwards, Scott's father. At one time, Edwards had 25 bulldozers and 25 tractors. With changing demographics and zoning changes, Edwards has no option but to move along.

"People hire gardeners and landscapers these days," Edwards explained. "They don't need many of the items I have for rent."

Edwards complained about the high property taxes in Multnomah County and the state raising the minimum wage to the highest level in Portland.

"This will cost me even more expenses," he sighed. "I will probably raise my prices."

He has 25 employees and expands to about 40 in the summer months. Edwards started working for his father at age 15 filling gas cans and carrying equipment to customers' trucks.

According to Edwards, the latest

price tag for the property is \$10 million. That includes several homes and an old farmhouse where some of his relatives live.

"I've had a few offers already," Edwards said as he showed off over 200 high chairs and numerous shelves of tents and tablecloths.

"But what the potential buyers had in mind didn't fly with the city," he said. "The city is not business friendly. Permits are needed for everything and are confronted with countless regulations."

The Golden Touch will soon be redeveloped. Light rail or rapid bus transit will eventually run down Barbur Boulevard spawning even more developments. Other local businesses are being torn down or remodeled.

"I've seen Safeway get remodeled twice," he said.

Edwards pointed out a gorilla in a cage sitting next to an old dunking tank.

"You can rent anything here," Edwards beamed, "from a wrench to uh, well, a gorilla in a cage!"

While one can, stop by and see his collection of old photos of the area, animal trophies on the wall, and his hunting and fishing expeditions around the world. You can't rent those though.

(Continued on Page 6)



The original booths await more customers now that the Golden Touch restaurant will remain open for another year. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

# Bloom Project brightens days for Hopewell House hospice patients

By KC Cowan  
The Southwest Portland Post

When a person goes into hospice care, it can be an emotional, stressful time for them and their family. At Hopewell House in Hillsdale, staff and volunteers help make the transition as easy as possible.

And quietly, one group has been brightening that ordeal by donating floral arrangements every week, for every patient.

It's called The Bloom Project, and is the brainchild of Heidi Berkman, who in 2007 worked as an event planner in Bend. She was frustrated to see the enormous amount of wasted flowers.

At the same time, she had a loved one in hospice care. Thus, the seeds were planted for what is now an organization that utilizes hundreds of volunteers to sort, arrange, and deliver beautiful bouquets of flowers that were destined to be thrown out to hospice and palliative patients. In 2012, she brought the project to Portland.

Berkman said as a country, we do not like to talk about death, even with growing awareness of death with dignity. The word hospice scares many.

"As a result, we wait to be told what we can do or when and if we can visit," said Berkman. "It is during this time that patients and their family members

can benefit from the gift of flowers."

Because patients are often confined to their beds, arrangements are compact enough to sit on a bedside table. Not only is there delight for the patients when the flowers arrive in the rooms, Berkman said it also helps the staff. It lifts their morale and gives them a positive interaction with their patients.

"They are no longer the 'angel of death,' but, rather, someone that is bringing a thoughtful gift of something colorful, beautiful and alive," she explained.

Flowers near the end of their "sellable life" are donated by flower shops and grocery stores. Volunteers pick them up and take them to Teufel Holly Farms where owner Larry Teufel has donated space in a greenhouse for The Bloom Project to use as a workspace. Then more volunteers sort and deliver them to hospice homes all over town.

Kathy MacDougal has been sorting and arranging bouquets for Hopewell House for three years. She said some weeks there is a wonderful variety, and sometimes not so much. They must also sort and discard the flowers that are on their last legs.

"And we're very careful with that," MacDougal said. "Because the goal is to have the bouquets last at last five days, hopefully more."

Berkman said The Bloom Project could not exist without the more

than 300 dedicated volunteers in Bend and Portland. "We have a detailed training program that each volunteer is required to complete, prior to volunteering on a regular basis," she said.

"Each person attends an orientation and introduction to processing flowers, then a floral training session. Following that, each volunteer who wishes to work with flowers will meet with a mentor for a minimum of three mentoring sessions before graduating."

The project has grown so much that bouquets are also made for patients who are in palliative care in their own home. Volunteer Chaplain Eric Smith picks up flower arrangements for 20 to 25 home hospice patients each week.

"To see people's faces—their faces light up with joy and they'll smile," Smith said. And if the patient isn't able to appreciate the blooms, the caregivers certainly do. "I like to give them a rose and say: For all you do,

this bud's for you!"

MacDougal said they routinely receive thank you cards from family members of hospice patients. It helps reinforce the value of their efforts.

"I've done volunteer work my whole life and it's the only thing I've done where it just always feels like it is time well spent," she said. "It's the simplest gesture, and yet it means so much."



Carol Blanus (left), volunteer coordinator at Hopewell House poses with volunteer Kathy MacDougal and that week's flower delivery. (Post photo by KC Cowan)



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# Boys & Girls Aid offers free seminar for foster parents in Southwest

By Jack Rubinger  
The Southwest Portland Post

Boys & Girls Aid has a 130-year history in Oregon and the need for safety, security, and socialization for teens is just as important now as it was then.

"There's a crisis in Oregon," said Ryan

Imondi, director of communications & marketing, Boys & Girls Aid. "There are more than 8,000 kids in foster care and 2,500 in Multnomah County. There are just not enough foster beds, so kids wind up in hospitals, unsafe homes, and shelters."

According to Imondi, "While teens are perceived as an intimidating population, they're actually a great

population at a turning point, so foster parents can have real conversations, set positive direction, and provide meaningful input during this pivotal period."

Because foster parents are often busy during the daytime working, Boys & Girls Aid has established a day program at their Johns Landing headquarters for teens which accommodates 15 children at a time.

The day program, open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., also reduces foster parent burn-out because it's tough to reward foster parents who need to take care of themselves.

For those interested in learning more about helping at risk teens, Boys & Girls Aid is conducting a free informational event at the Southwest Community Center, 6820 SW 45th Avenue, on Thursday, April 14, from 6 – 8 p.m. For more information, visit: <http://boysandgirlsaid.org>.

"Regardless of age or background, we believe children belong in families that are permanent and stable. While every child deserves a family, not every child has a family. Between the ages of 0 to 23, we have a focus on making sure every child has a lifelong adult connected to their future," said Imondi.

"Kids in foster care are Oregon's most at-risk population. In fact, this population is 63 times more likely to be incarcerated than other groups."

Londo Ramos has fostered 20 youth over the last 3 years. Her 20th foster child came just last week. Most children in her home are teenagers, but she's had kids between the ages of 12 – 18.

Ramos and her husband follow up with kids after they leave their care. Most return home to parents and do well. Some go into other treatment programs and some to other foster homes after completing the Boys & Girls Aid program.

"Being a foster parent takes a great deal of patience, love, and willingness to be flexible," said Ramos. "Most youth in our home come from very unstable home lives. We love watching youth grow emotionally, mentally, and in height. Most youth have never had a family meal at a dinner table, no home cooked food, or food that was not out of a box.

"It's hard to see youth fail and return to detention, or see youth return to a family environment that is unhealthy, only to return to foster care or the juvenile court system," Ramos added. "But the majority are successful. And become law abiding, self-reliant citizens."

Ramos works for the State of Oregon and the CARE Assist program. She also works for the State of Oregon in the Trauma Systems Program as a policy analyst.

"Our programs offer an alternative to detention and incarceration," said Elizabeth Vrooman, foster family outreach coordinator, Boys & Girls Aid. "We help kids get back on track during difficult periods of transition. We also provide important life skills coaching so kids can better manage their futures."

Boys & Girls Aid also offers a new teen girl program for those close to age 18 which teaches about budgeting, setting goals, earning a college diploma and fulfilling college applications. On an emotional level, the program provides role models for healthy relationships, learning the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships, and learning how to articulate and advocate for yourself.

Headquartered at 018 SW Boundary Court, this nonprofit works to secure lifelong connections for every child in Oregon.

## THE COUNTRY STORE

(Continued from Page 4)

### Switch Shoes and Clothing celebrates 10th anniversary



Co-owner Jennifer Robinson models a hat at Switch Shoes and Clothing.

Switch Shoes and Clothing is celebrating their 10-year anniversary April 8 – 10 with a three-day sale, door surprises, and events. A dance party starts at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 8, a henna artist will be on hand from noon - 4 p.m. on Saturday, and cake and

champagne will be served on Sunday. Sales will take place during the regular daytime hours.

Located in Multnomah Village, Switch opened in April 2006 as a retail shoe store. After a baby clothes business closed next door, Switch owners cut a door through the wall expanding their floor space offering items from small independent designers in Portland and Israel.

"In 2010, we doubled our size and added clothing," co-owner Jason Lensch said. "We have stayed committed to our core concepts and values throughout our decade of business."

"Seventy percent of our Israeli shoes and some of our clothing lines can only be found at our store and nowhere else in the country," Lensch said.

He, and wife Jennifer Robinson, another co-owner, chair the Multnomah Village Business Association. They coordinate Multnomah Days, the holiday gala, flower baskets, and securing more business members.

Rina and Moshe Menashe are the other owners.

"The circle of women supporting women is truly the heart of the business," said Rina. "It's the heart of Switch."

Located at 7871 SW Capitol Hwy., Switch is open Mon. – Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and every first Friday until 9 p.m.

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Scott Ford, one of our readers, enjoyed a fabulous salad and a copy of the *Southwest Portland Post* in South Waterfront. Where do you read *The Post*?

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# Steering committee meeting, public forum scheduled for April 6 at SWCC

## SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

An upcoming Southwest Corridor steering committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6 from 6 – 7 p.m. at the Southwest Community Center at Gabriel Park located at Southwest 45th Avenue and Vermont Street. This meeting is open to the public but has no testimony.

Immediately following is a public forum from 7 – 8 p.m. featuring a 20-minute panel discussion with steering committee members. Small group table discussions will take place in which to provide input for staff recommendations and PCC options.

The committee plans to review the most recent technical report on ways to serve Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus with improved transit. The college has been pushing for direct service to the Mt. Sylvania campus, the largest in its system with roughly 14,000 students.

Committee members will review staff recommendation on a tunnel and decisions between bus rapid transit and light rail.

"We want people to understand that this forum will focus primarily on the mode and PCC (Sylvania) tunnel decision," explained Noelle Dobson, Metro senior public affairs specialist, "and not every aspect of the project."

If light rail is chosen, direct service would need a tunnel beneath residential areas between Southwest Barbur Boulevard and the campus.

Residents in that neighborhood have generally opposed a tunnel which would also add more than \$300 million

to the overall cost of light rail in the corridor.

Without a tunnel, the closest light rail to the campus would be a station a half-mile away at Barbur Boulevard and 53rd Avenue.

As the leaders prepare to make a decision this spring, members of the public have been weighing in with their thoughts. A month-long online survey ended in February and attracted more than 2,400 responses.

"The survey results aren't necessarily representative of public opinion overall," Dobson said, "but they do give some insight into the factors residents think should drive the mode decision."

Among people taking the survey, light rail was a clear preference over bus rapid transit with two-thirds of respondents saying they moderately or strongly prefer light rail.

"This is the last major leg of the MAX system," wrote one respondent who strongly prefers light rail. "Not completing the system would be unfair to the thousands of daily (Southwest) commuters who have so far supported light rail in every other part of the metro area."

Another respondent who strongly prefers bus rapid transit disagreed.

"Expanding the light rail system is prohibitively expensive to build and operate, impractical and inflexible for changing transportation needs," he wrote.

Others commented that the project must include housing and development components, and the need for safer ways to walk and bike to transit. Growing congestion was a common theme and a need for better transit overall. The most frequently selected factors included shorter travel time, enough capacity to serve rush hour



This montage shows a bus rapid transit vehicle from Eugene's EmX system (left) and a more-familiar Portland MAX light rail train. (Photos courtesy of Metro)

demand in the future, higher ridership, and greater reliability.

By early April, Metro will release staff recommendations to the steering committee regarding which mode is the preferred choice for the corridor and whether to continue a study of an underground light rail tunnel to serve PCC Sylvania.

Assuming the steering committee moves forward with these two decisions, then as scheduled on May 9, the shift moves the conversation back to the Southwest Corridor Plan as a whole.

In June, the steering committee will review and confirm the preferred package of high capacity transit alignments, terminus, and mode to be studied in the federal environmental impact statement.

*Editor's Note: In addition to an underground tunnel to PCC Sylvania, a number of options are being considered. Among them are driverless cars, shuttle buses from the light rail station and an ariel tram, much like the OHSU Tram. More information can always be found at <http://www.swcorridorplan.org>.*

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## COMMUNITY LIFE

By KC Cowan and Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post



April is Print Art Month. Ruth Ross' "Portrait of Eli" will be among many prints shown at the MAC.

**1 April is Print Art Month!** "Past & Present Instructor & Student Show," an exhibit of prints from the Trayle Print Studio, will be on view at Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy., beginning April 1. The prints will include letterpress, polyester plate, solar plate, screenprint, etching, lithograph, and more. The show will be up until May 3. For more information, contact Jaye Campbell at 503-823-2787.

**2 The 36th Annual Trillium Festival & Native Plant Sale:** For 36 years, Tryon Creek State Natural Area has celebrated the return of the Trillium, an early season perennial of the lily family. Celebrate the awakening of this beautiful flower by joining in this popular family event. You'll find nurseries, roving stations along the trail, and *plein aire* painting on Saturday, April 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, April 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The park is located at 11321 SW Terwilliger Blvd. For more information visit [www.tryonfriends.org](http://www.tryonfriends.org).

**Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary:** Come and animate your own mouse on a motorcycle adventure, inspired by the book, *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Portland's own Beverly Cleary. Learn simple techniques and methods to make your flip book animation. Both beginners and experienced artists are welcome. Best for kids in grades 3 and up. Saturday, April 2, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Capitol Hill Library, 10723 S.W. Capitol Hwy. For more information, call 503-988-5385.

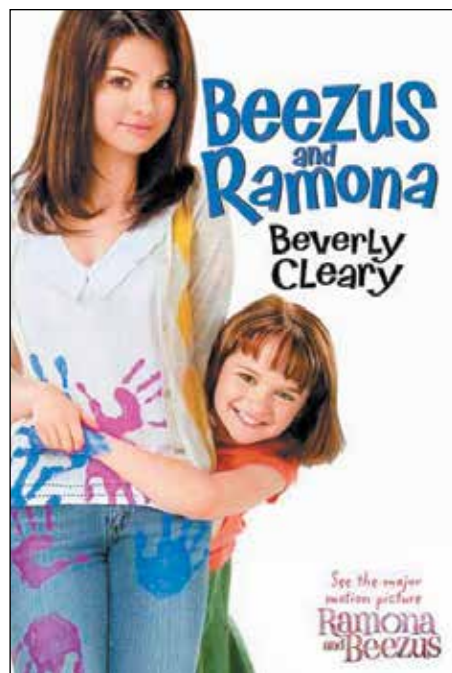
**3 Who needs more books?** If the answer is you, come to the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., for the annual used book sale with prices starting at a dollar! Three days: Sunday, April 3, 1—5 p.m., Monday, and Tuesday, April 4 and 5, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Portland Jewish Academy Library and the MJCC family facilities. Be prepared to show identification upon entering the community center.

**9 Monthly Neighborhood Hike:** Explore a new area of town in a relaxed, dog-friendly walk. Saturday, April 9, meet behind the bleachers, near

the food carts, at Wilson High School, SW Sunset Blvd. and SW Capitol Highway. From there, you'll be guided five miles to Riverview Cemetery and back through the South Burlingame neighborhood. Well behaved dogs are allowed if on leash. For more information, contact Sharon Fekety, [fekety@hevanet.com](mailto:fekety@hevanet.com) or visit [SWTrails.org](http://SWTrails.org).

**15 Watch a film, meet the filmmaker:** Dustin Morrow screens his film, "Everything went Down," Friday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Home Community Store, 7306 SW Oleson Road. The film is a contemporary, realist "dramedy musical" (similar to the Irish film, *Once*) but set in the Pacific Northwest. Running time: 86 minutes. Free.

**17 What makes us human?** Religious scholars and philosophers have debated what makes humans unique in the animal kingdom. How might science and technology challenge and reshape our understanding of what it means to be human? Join Prakash Chenjeri, associate professor of philosophy at Southern Oregon University, in a thoughtful conversation about these questions and more. This event takes place on Sunday, April 17, 2:30–4 p.m. at the Capitol Hill Library, 10723 SW Capitol Hwy. For more information, call 503-988-5385.



**Beezus and Ramona:** Come see the movie based on the beloved Ramona series of children's books by Beverly Cleary. Ramona Quimby (Joey King) is a plucky youngster with an irrepressible sense of fun and mischief — a fact that keeps her big sister, Beezus (Selena Gomez), on her toes. Great for the whole family. Free tickets for seating will be available 30 minutes before the program. Hillsdale Library, 1525 S.W. Sunset Blvd. Sunday, April 17, 2:30–4:30 p.m. For more information, call 503-988-5388.

**23 Birthday Bash for the Bard:** Celebrate the birthday of William Shakespeare. Festivities include an armor and sword demonstration by NW Arzimate; a Shakespearean insult game (with prizes); a Shakespeare reading by Portland Actors Ensemble; plus a reading by 2016 Agatha Award nominee Cindy Brown of her marvelous mystery, *Macdeath*. Readings in between of Shakespearean sonnets and soliloquys. Saturday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Garden Home Community Store, 7306 SW Oleson Road. Free and open to anyone. For information call 503-245-9932 or visit <https://gardenhomelibrary.wordpress.com/>.



The 36th Annual Trillium Festival & Native Plant Sale is April 2-3 at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. (Photo courtesy of Friends of Tryon Creek)

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