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Volume No. 21, Issue No. 7

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Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

May 2013

## Freshman legislator Jennifer Williamson reports to constituents on current session

By Lee Perlman  
*The Southwest Portland Post*

One of the duties of a politician is to report back to his or her constituents and get their feedback. Freshman State

Rep. Jennifer Williamson performed that task last month at a morning meeting at South Waterfront's Rilassi Coffee House.

About 30 people turned out, some with very definite opinions on what their representative should be doing.

A Democrat, Williamson represents House District 36, which extends from "Good Sam[aritan Hospital] to Willamette Park, the river to the county line," as she put it.

"It includes some of the nicest neighborhoods in the state, and the poorest census tracts," she said. Williamson's own priorities include ensuring that public schools do not have to reduce their service levels.

Another is to obtain funding for a new School of Business at Portland State University and renovation of the Stott Center [gymnasium] at PSU for a total of nearly \$100 million. Yet another is to upgrade or replace the Multnomah County Courthouse.

One particularly aggressive questioner was Robert Nunn. He argued for Senate Bill 822, which would make major modifications in the Public Employee Retirement System.

Told that the bill might not survive a court challenge, Nunn retorted, "Why not try it and see if it works?"

Williamson replied that if the courts struck down the measure, it would force the state to deal with \$800 million in budget cuts. "I don't like telling school boards they'll have this money to spend and then not give it," she said.

Asked about sequestration (shrinking the General Fund to pay for new tax levies), Williamson said, "There are conversations occurring above my pay grade."

There will be major budget reductions this year, including a \$1 million cut in the state Corrections budget, Williamson said.

Current plans call for a cap on inmates, with more people diverted to substance abuse and other community rehabilitation programs.

"But to do that, we have to invest in more treatment programs, and we haven't done that," Williamson said.

Williamson quoted a Portland police officer as saying he takes people needing mental health care to jail "because I have no other place to take them."

Asked about the Wapato Jail, the expensive and unused prison, Williamson said it was designed for County use to house prisoners incarcerated for a year or less, rather than for long-term prisoners. "Running prisons after you've built them is what's expensive," she said.

Asked about gun control legislation, Williamson said there are four bills related to this in the current session, including stricter requirements for

*(Continued on Page 3)*



Rep. Jennifer Williamson (D-36) spoke to constituents including Kevin Countryman of South Portland at Rilassi Coffee House in South Waterfront on April 20. (Post photo by Lee Perlman)

## Landslide mitigation work to finish soon; County considers alternative trail route

### SELLWOOD BRIDGE

By Lee Perlman  
*The Southwest Portland Post*

Work continues on several fronts on construction of the new Sellwood Bridge.

According to Multnomah County spokesperson Mike Pullen, crews should be finished by early May with "landslide mitigation" – the installation of underground anchors near the bridge on the west side designed to halt a persistent landslide threat.

The situation had caused County officials to place a weight limit on vehicles crossing the bridge that excluded TriMet buses.

Other crews are working on removing part of the hillside to the west of Highway 43 to make way for the reconfiguration of the road – and they have some surprises.

Based on borings taken earlier, engineers had expected the hillside to be mostly solid rock and large boulders. Instead, they have encountered much rubble and soft earth.

"On one hand, there'll be less blasting needed," Pullen told *The Post*. "On the other hand, we'll have to do more work to retain the slope." Pullen didn't know, at press time, how great an impact this will have on the project budget.

The highway's southbound lanes will probably be moved into their new configuration by the end of this year, Pullen said, and the northbound lanes early next year.

Meanwhile, crews are removing the concrete piers of the old bridge, and building temporary work bridges that will extend about a third of the way into the river and provide access for work on the new structure, Pullen said.

On the east side, they are building the inland supports for the bridge; due to modern techniques, just five of these supports will be needed, as opposed to 20 for the previous bridge.

### County investigates Willamette Shore Trolley right-of-way for regional trail

In a related matter, at the request of residents, the County is re-investigating the possibility of placing a regional bicycle and pedestrian trail along the Willamette Shore Trolley right-of-way instead of Southwest Miles Place.

Residents of Miles Place had originally favored the use of the street as the place for the trail.

However, they were dismayed when City and County planners said it would be necessary to install a sidewalk on the west side, removing some parking and cutting down some mature trees.

This would be necessary, planners said, to provide for pedestrian safety in the face of up to 9,000 bike riders a day passing through.

At press time, a display of public art commissioned for the new bridge was scheduled to be exhibited May 1, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., at SMILE Station (Southeast 13th Avenue near Tacoma Street) in Sellwood. For more information, visit [www.sellwoodbridge.org](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org).



Crews excavate the west side of Highway 43 in preparation for the new Sellwood Bridge. (Photo courtesy of Multnomah County)

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The Southwest Portland Post  
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# Letters to the Editor



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## Barbur Concept Plan approves unmuffled jake brake noise

Thanks for your involvement in the Barbur Plan as a citizen.

Unfortunately Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) have chosen not to address the extreme and unnecessary noise from *unmuffled jake brakes* on Interstate 5 and more recently on Barbur Boulevard by container trucks.

One could view this as the lowest hanging fruit for improvements conducive for private development.

You may have seen the UNMUFFLED BRAKE signs as you enter small communities throughout Oregon.

Only through the Freedom of Information Act was I provided information of the South Portland neighborhood signing many petitions brought to ODOT to stop.

This is what I was told to do again even though ODOT refuses to put up

signs in the corridor-- ignoring citizen concerns or safety.

I have complained many times and had tried to voice concerns of unmitigated loss of over 1000 trees during the logging for the Iowa Street overpass on Interstate 5.

New trees have been planted so that ivy has a trellis to grow on since no removal of ivy or other invasives were done. Without proper remediation the trees will simply be infested with ivy and need to be replanted and deferring relief.

You may witness the ivy sails that still remain in the trees.

I have witnessed elk, bald eagles, deer herds, coyote, cougar, vultures and chicken hawks in "The Woods".

As a resident of "The Woods" I have seen the recent loss of songbirds because of this noise and suspect the raptors and I will soon follow.

I have copied the e-mail participants in the Barbur Concept Plan.

Interestingly only 130 citizens received e-mails, while 50 non-profits were e-mailed.

Unlike a public vetting, I'm sure they were set up as an exhibit, effectively removing any other public from hearing opposite view points or contention.

I was one on the list that did not attend and could not find answers from the City as to when and where these meetings were to take place. (Any of my time and contributions were not included).

If you were not in attendance, your feedback and any other observations you wish to share would be greatly appreciated.

I hope that you are all outraged

that citizens can be bullied and manipulated by the public agencies and attended the City Hall meeting regarding the approval of this flawed process the 24th of April.

Tell these agencies we deserve a little sleep.

*Kris Schade  
Southwest Portland*

## House Republicans block bill to raise \$275 million from richest Oregonians

Yesterday [April 24] the House Republicans, working with special interest groups, attempted to block a vital component of our state budget: the \$275 million in revenue we need in order to stabilize schools and other vital services.

This money would be raised by reducing certain tax breaks for the richest 2.4 percent of Oregonians and fewer than 3 percent of corporations.

Instead of giving our children the quality education they deserve, keeping our streets safe and our safety net intact, House Republicans decided to protect wealthy campaign donors and big business.

Because of their opposition, we were only able to move ahead with a small, but vital, component of our tax plan: a provision that ends the practice of hiding money in offshore

accounts in the Cayman Islands and other offshore "tax havens."

This will raise about \$18 million over the next two years - not nearly enough to reverse the brutal cuts our schools and critical services have been facing.

But we are not going to give in or give up. We are now about halfway through the session, and no matter how many votes it takes, I am determined to find the money to fund our schools.

You sent me here to fight for our children, and that is what I am going to do.

I call on members of the Senate and House from both sides of the aisle to join with me and show the leadership needed to ensure that corporations and the wealthiest Oregonians are paying their fair share for schools and the services we all rely on.

Because if we don't, we are all going to pay the price in the form of bigger classes, worse roads, and fewer police officers. And I am not going to settle for a less educated, less connected and less safe Oregon.

Our state deserves better than that, you deserve better than that.

*Margaret Doherty  
Tigard*

Editor's Note: Rep. Margaret Doherty (Democrat-35) is one of three legislators representing the Multnomah neighborhood in the Oregon House of Representatives.

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**Editor & Publisher:** Don Snedecor  
**Reporters/Writers:** Lee Perlman, Erik Vidstrand  
**Advertising Sales:** Don Snedecor, Harry Blythe, Josephine Newport  
**Graphic Design:** Leslie Baird Design  
**Printing:** Oregon Lithoprint





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Deadline for news and advertising is generally the 20th of the month prior to publication. Please call for current deadline information. Advertising rates are available upon request.

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.




The Post is printed on recycled newsprint using soy-based inks. 

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# Emergency response center planned for former Sears Armory

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

The Humvees are long gone; so are the weekend Army Reserve units. The grass needs mowing and the large concrete barriers still remain.

The process of transforming the former SFC Jerome F. Sears Army Reserve Center on Southwest Multnomah Boulevard is proceeding slowly.

A community process involving countless hours of input and meetings took place for years. Letters were written; community based organizations weighed in with their vision of the property, and City of Portland officials presented their wish lists.

"The main reason the community's vote [to have affordable housing] was rejected was that the city had no money to proceed," stated longtime resident Stu Ellis, whose property is a stone's throw from the center.

"In the end, the mayor made the final decision," recounted Ellis.

And what happened next was decided by five City Council members: an emergency response center would have a new home at the decommissioned reserve center.

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) then gave up ownership of the property in September 2012. It was donated to the city.

Fast forward to 2013. Architects hired by the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) presented renditions of the new facility at the April meeting of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association.

"Transforming the 3.7 acre campus," said PBEM Director Carmen Merlo, "involves many steps. First, there needs to be a budget attached. Second, the money needs to be allocated."

Finally, the property needs to have a formal process for applying for rezoning. It currently is R-1 (residential). The City would like to have it rezoned to EG-2 (general employment).

Since the DOD was exempt from the permitting process, the city needs to apply for its own permits. When asked about a timeline, the answer was anyone's guess.

In the meantime, preliminary architectural renditions were shared.

Outside, the metal fabricated

## Jennifer Williamson

(Continued from Page 1)

background checks for purchasers and mandatory training as a precondition for concealed weapons permits.

Getting the votes for any of these will be difficult, she said. Williamson quoted rural law enforcement officials as saying that cuts in their budgets made private gun ownership necessary. "They're saying, 'Don't take people's guns away because we have no public sector backup,'" she said.

building located on the west side of the property will be moved to the other side of the main building. In its place, a parking lot and area for mobile media units will be installed.

In the large parking lot, emergency road equipment will be stored along with sand, gravel bins, and de-icing material.

A commercial fueling station will have different grades of gasoline, diesel, and bio-fuels.

The 1960s-era main building needs to be remodeled and upgraded to code but architects say not much construction needs to happen. "A few walls to be moved and ADA accessible restrooms added," explained one of the architects.

A large auditorium will be retained for large deployment gatherings. Meeting rooms, a full size kitchen, and 'situation' room for the mayor and other top city officials will be designed.

Finally, a press room, a new elevator, and rooms for city tenants will be designed. If possible, City of Portland Water and Transportation bureaus will have offices here.

One of neighbors' concerns seemed to focus on a long six-foot high wall that would run the length of Multnomah Boulevard.

Barbed wire fencing would re-



Moss Street neighbors, Martin and Marcia Waugh along with Judy Ellis, discuss the City's plan to redesign the Sears Armory. Their properties butt up against the back of the campus. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

main along with added shrubbery around the back perimeter.

"We understand that there are lots of questions still," architects explained. "The fence can include art or other aesthetic qualities. Or we can remove the fence completely. The process has just begun."

The community will have plenty of opportunity to weigh in on development. "We plan to come back to these [Multnomah Neighborhood Association] meetings,"

Merlo assured.

"I've been very pleased with the communication of this project," said Ellis. "But in the end, we're the people that live here and will have to deal with the commotion."

For information on the planned Emergency Response Center, see [www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem). Stay in touch with the Multnomah Neighborhood Association meetings via Facebook or [www.swni.org/Multnomah](http://www.swni.org/Multnomah).

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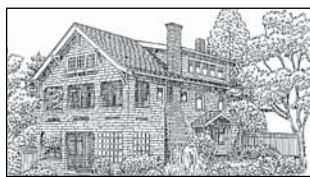
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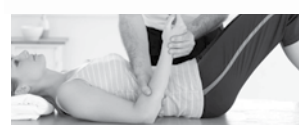


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# Construction finally begins on Multnomah Village Green Street

## THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

While the Multnomah Village Business Association met inside O'Connor's, about a dozen city workers in orange vests milled around outside.

With clipboards and coffee, city crews were planning the first phases of the stormwater and streetscape project.

To the chagrin of the business owners assembled, construction delays have taken place due to permit and insurance issues.

Work was originally supposed to start in January then was pushed to March.

According to Susan Terzo, public works inspector for the Bureau of Environmental Services, the new start date was scheduled for April 8 and even then, that date was delayed.

"Issues come up. We're working with a variety of contractors and

we need everything to be in place," explained Terzo.

As of this printing, gas company work has been completed, sewer work has begun, and large equipment and fencing have been brought in.

Signs for additional parking were delivered for posting courtesy of Environmental Services. The City has also placed ads in local newspapers (including *The Post*) announcing the green street project.

Village merchants are adamant about parking availability. Customers may park at the Multnomah Center's lower lot, a block and a half east. "We're asking all workers to park across from Multnomah Boulevard," another City employee insisted.

Employees are encouraged to park off main arteries or take public transportation.

Merchants are holding "Construction Wednesdays" which will offer a variety of discounts and promotions every Wednesday until the project is finished.

Completion is slated for June. "We hope so," said a business owner whose sidewalk will be torn up shortly.



Business owners Joan Steinbach of Thinker Toys and Michele Cassinelli of Village Beads post the OPEN sign in Multnomah Village. (Photo courtesy of Anne Bocci)

"I will be on the construction site most days," Terzo stressed. "Please speak with me if anything arises." Terzo can be reached at 503-823-6630 or susan.terzo@portlandoregon.gov.

*Editor's Note: The Green Street project will include new street trees, benches and wider sidewalks between Southwest 35th and 36th avenues along Capitol Highway. Parking will be reoriented.*

## Riversgate Church seeks input on building to be redeveloped

Riversgate Church officials are planning to redevelop an existing facility and are asking for the community's participation.

Project coordinators recently unveiled design plans for their existing structure located at 7630 SW Capitol Hwy, at the east end of Multnomah Village.

Purchased several years ago, the now empty building is ready to be developed. Construction is scheduled for late spring or early summer 2014.

Riversgate has been conducting services in the Multnomah Center auditorium for the last ten years and envisions a multi-functional space that would be shared with the community.

"We need to bring the building up to code," stated Pastor Jeff Golden. "Now is the time for individuals to weigh in on creating spaces most useful for the community's needs."

Preliminary plans call for a large auditorium, several classrooms, full-size commercial kitchen, multi-use rooms, and lobby area.

Suggestions were offered to Riversgate project coordinators at the April meeting of the Multnomah Village Business Association.

One idea was to have space dedicated for authors to speak as Annie Bloom's Books is too small to hold a sizable audience.

As in any construction project, parking was brought up. Arrangements are being made with Loaves and Fishes according to church leaders.

According to Multnomah historian Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen, this building used to be an old car dealership in the 20s and has been most recently utilized as industrial manufacturing.

"We are working with our design (Continued on Page 6)



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Brian Rainka, Tom Barker, and Curt Lemrick of Riversgate Men's Group volunteer their Saturday on a demolishing assignment. (Photo courtesy of Tom Barker)

**Multnomah Village**  
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**Businesses are open during construction.**

**Additional parking is available at Multnomah Arts Center Lower West Lot.**

Ad paid for by Environmental Services, City of Portland. WS 1318



# EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

**Dear EarthTalk:** My kids just want to play videos games and watch TV all day. Do you have any tips for getting them outside to appreciate nature more?

— Sue Levinson, Bowie, MD

Getting kids away from computer and TV screens and outside into the fresh air is an increasing challenge for parents everywhere.

Researchers have found that U.S. children today spend about half as much time outdoors as their counterparts did 20 years ago.

The Kaiser Family Foundation reports that kids aged eight to 18 spend on average more than seven and a half hours a day—or some 53+ hours per week—engaging with so-called entertainment media.

Meanwhile, the Children & Nature Network (C&NN), a non-profit founded by writers and educators concerned about “nature deficit disorder,” finds that, in a typical week, only six percent of American kids aged nine to 13 play outside on their own.

According to Richard Louv, a founding board member of C&NN and author of the book, *Last Child in the Woods*, kids who stay inside too much can suffer from “nature deficit disorder,” which can contribute to a range of behavioral problems including attention disorders, depression and declining creativity as well as physical problems like obesity.

Louv blames parental paranoia about potential dangers lurking outdoors and restricted access to natural areas—combined with the lure of video games, websites and TV.

Of course, one of the keys to getting kids to appreciate nature is for parents to lead by example by getting off the couch and into the outdoors themselves. Since kids love being with their parents, why not take the fun outside?

For those kids who need a little extra prodding beyond following a parent’s good example, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), a leading national non-profit dedicated to preserving and appreciating wildlife, offers lots of suggestions and other resources through its Be Out There campaign.

One tip is to pack an “explorer’s kit”—complete with a magnifying glass, binoculars, containers for collecting, field guides, a notebook, bug repellent and bandages—into a backpack and leave it by the door to facilitate spontaneous outdoor adventures.

Another idea is to set aside one hour each day as “green hour,” during which kids go outside exploring, discovering and learning about the natural world.

NWF’s online Activity Finder helps parents discover fun outdoor activities segmented by age. Examples include going on a Conifer Quest and making a board displaying the different types of evergreen trees in the neighborhood, turning an old soda bottle into a terrarium and building a wildlife brush shelter.

Another great source of inspiration is Children and Nature Network which, during the month of April, is encouraging people of all ages to spend more time outdoors at various family-friendly events as part of its nationwide Let’s Get Outside initiative.

Visitors to the C&NN website can scroll through dozens of events within driving distance of most Americans—and anyone can register an appropriate event there as well.

Researchers have found that children who play outside more are in better shape, more creative, less aggressive and show better concentration than their couch potato counterparts—and that the most direct route to environmental awareness for adults is participating in wild nature activities as kids. So do yourself and your kid(s) a favor, and take a hike!



Researchers have found that children who play outside more are in better shape, more creative, less aggressive and show better concentration than their couch potato counterparts. (Photo courtesy of iStockPhoto)

**CONTACTS:** Richard Louv, [www.richardlouv.com](http://www.richardlouv.com); NWF Be Out There, [www.nwf.org/Be-Out-There.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/Be-Out-There.aspx); C&NN, [www.childrennature.org](http://www.childrennature.org).

**Dear EarthTalk:** I’m getting my roof redone and have heard about solar shingles. Are they available—and are they practical for the Northeast?

— John Denson, Glastonbury, CT

Solar shingles are photovoltaic cells designed to look like and integrate with conventional asphalt roof shingles.

First commercially available in 2005, solar shingles were much more costly than traditional “bolt-on” photovoltaic panels, and thus were used mainly by those wanting to go solar but maintain a traditional roofline.

But more recently solar shingles have become price-competitive with bolt-on panels, and are getting much more popular accordingly.

Eco-conscious home and building owners might find solar shingles especially attractive when they are re-shingling anyway since the solar shingles also double as functional, protective and weatherproof roof shingles in their own right.

The biggest name in solar shingles is Dow’s Powerhouse line, which uses cutting edge Copper Indium Gallium Selenide solar cells (aka “thin-film” solar) to turn sunlight into electricity via a supplied inverter box.

The Powerhouse shingles generate 12 watts per square foot and are “grid-tied,” meaning they’re designed for structures already connected to the power grid and can send excess power back to the grid.

They are wireless, snap together and can be installed by regular roofing contractors just like (or alongside) conventional asphalt shingles (an electrician needs to set up the inverter box).

Dow reports that a typical residential cluster of 350 solar shingles on a roof could slash one’s household electric bill by 40-60 percent.

Such an installation can cost a homeowner over \$20,000, but federal, state and local incentives can bring the cost to half that in some areas.

Powerhouse shingles are currently available (from Dow-authorized contractors) in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Texas and Washington, D.C.

(Continued on Page 7)



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# Design Commission considers plans for 200-unit building in South Waterfront

## SOUTH PORTLAND NOTEBOOK

By Lee Perlman  
The Southwest Portland Post

The Portland Design Commission last month had its second hearing on a proposed development on the South Waterfront's Block 43, bounded by Southwest Abernethy and Lane streets and Moody and Bond avenues.

Here Wade Johns of Dallas, Texas, plans to build a six-story, 200-unit building.

The structure will include 199 parking spaces and storage for 304 bikes.

It will also have club and fitness rooms, an interior courtyard with a fire pit and water feature, a roof deck, and 1500 square feet of retail facing Bond.

Architect David Hensley said that spaces facing Moody, which are now designated for the fitness and club rooms, could be converted to retail when there is a stronger market for this, and the resident

facilities moved elsewhere.

At a previous session Commission members called on the design team to simplify its palette of materials and colors.

Last month they made clear the team did not go far enough; they were particularly unhappy with the use of hardi-plank, and suggested they stick to concrete, stucco and brick.

"There are many strong buildings that use one material, at most two," Commission member David Keltner said.

Commission members also called for a clearly-designated main entrance, and for use of front stoops instead of thin landscaped buffers facing the street. "Dogs will go to the bathroom on it, and it will all die anyway," Commission member Jane Hanson said.

Commission chair Gwen Millius questioned plans to have bikes stored in the living units. "It's true people get a little precious about their bikes, but taking it across the hall carpet will be a bummer unless the carpet is charcoal gray," she said.

Several Commission members pointedly said the design team

shouldn't use their nearest neighbor, the Matisse, as a positive model. "It must have been really late at night when we approved that," Millius said.

The project will have another hearing the afternoon of May 16 at 1900 S.W. Fourth Ave.

### Plans revised for Lair Hill condominium development

Bruce Vincent of Consolidated Land and Cattle presented revised plans in April for five housing units at 3314 S.W. First Ave., in Lair Hill, and South Portland Neighborhood Association land use chair Jim Gardner pronounced them a "vast improvement" over the original design.

Instead of row houses, the units are now consolidated into two structures containing three and two units, rather than "one continuous wall," Gardner said.

The site was last occupied by a 19<sup>th</sup> century building that was initially a church and was last home to the Great Northwest Bookstore before being destroyed by fire in 2010.

Although Vincent submitted the proposal in early April, at press time City of Portland staff had yet to declare it "complete" and ready for review.

## THE COUNTRY STORE

### Riversgate Church

(Continued from Page 6)

team to finalize the remodeling so we'd like input as soon as possible," stated Golden.

Golden asked that readers email suggestions to [ian@saltworthyrealty.com](mailto:ian@saltworthyrealty.com) or [jeff@riversgate.net](mailto:jeff@riversgate.net).

Editor's Note: These Southwest Portland restaurants will include a "Dine Around Town" buck slip with the bill during the month of May so patrons can make a donation to Meals on Wheels People: Seasons and Regions, 6660 SW Capitol Hwy; Marco's Café, 7910 SW 35th Ave; and Salvador Molly's, 1523 SW Sunset Blvd.

What's happening at your place of business? Email business news, tips and suggestions for "The Country Store" to [news@multnomahpost.com](mailto:news@multnomahpost.com), fax 866-727-5336 or call 503-244-6933. Write to: The Post, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd, Box #509, Portland, OR 97206.

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**COMMUNITY LIFE**

By Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post

**7 MUSLIM JOURNEYS: The Ornament of the World.** This special book discussion group will explore a new way of understanding the past in which Islam and the West, far from being locked in an endless "clash of civilizations," are seen instead as products of a cosmopolitan and inextricably intertwined history. Professor Emeritus Jon Mandaville of Portland State University will examine the past and reflect on the present.

In *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*, author María Rosa Menocal brings to vivid life the rich and thriving city of Andalusia where – for more than seven centuries – Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived together in an atmosphere of tolerance, resulting in a culture where literature, science, and the arts flourished.

Copies of this book are available at Capitol Hill Library (10723 SW Capitol Hwy), or by placing a hold in the library catalog. This program is presented Tuesday, May 7, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., in partnership with the Muslim Educational Trust. Registration required; register online, in the library or by calling 503-988-5234.

**11 SPRING CLEANUP:** Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) is sponsoring their annual cleanup on Saturday, May 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Portland Christian Center parking lot, 5700 SW Dosch Rd. SWNI will be accepting yard debris, wood items, scrap metal and bulky items. Community Warehouse will be accepting donated furniture and household goods.

No electronics—these will be accepted at Portland Community College's cleanup event on May 18. Suggested donation is \$10 per

trip. If you are a senior or disabled (or for more information) call the SWNI office at 503-823-4592 by May 8 to schedule a pickup.

**21 SPECIAL ELECTION:** While this isn't an election year, there is a special election scheduled for Tuesday, May 21. Voted ballots must be received at the Multnomah County Elections Office (1040 SE Morrison St) or an official drop site location by 8:00 p.m. on Elections Day to be counted.

Ballot measures for folks in Southwest Portland include the following:

City of Portland Measure 26-150 would renew a five-year levy to prevent child abuse and child hunger. Property tax is approximately \$0.40 per \$1000 assessed home value beginning in 2014. The measure is estimated to raise \$10.56 million per year for five years.

City of Portland Measure 26-151 would add fluoride to the City's drinking water to improve dental health. The ordinance requires fluoridation of Portland's drinking water supply by March 1, 2014. The fluoride must meet standards of the American Water Works Association. The measure funds fluoridation through water user fees.

Metro 26-152 is a local option levy to improve natural areas and water quality for fish. This five-year operating levy would cost homeowners \$0.96 per \$1000 of assessed value beginning in 2013 or approximately \$10.2 million in 2013-2014.

Additionally voters can expect to vote for candidates for board of directors for Portland School District, Portland Community College and Multnomah Education District.

Ballots will be mailed on May 3. If you don't receive your ballot by May 9, please call the elections office at (503) 988-3720 to request a replacement ballot. The Voters' Pamphlet and other election information are available on the County website at [www.mcelections.org](http://www.mcelections.org).



Recently solar shingles have become price-competitive with bolt-on panels, and are getting much more popular accordingly. Pictured: solar shingles from the Dow Powerhouse line. (Photo by Tai Viinikka, courtesy Flickr)

**EARTH TALK**  
Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment

(Continued from Page 5)

Another leader in solar shingles is building products manufacturer CertainTeed. The company's Apollo line of grid-tied monocrystalline solar shingles and roofing tiles offers efficiency similar to larger "bolt-on" photovoltaic arrays at around the same price (and incentives similar to those for Dow may also apply) but with less bulk.

Each Apollo tile is less than an inch thick and will integrate with, replace, or lay on top of existing asphalt roof shingles or tiles and generate 12 watts of power per square foot.

CertainTeed says a typical installation will save homeowners 40-70 percent on their electric bills. Their Apollo products are available across the U.S. but

the company recommends using one of their authorized roofing contractors to make sure they are installed properly.

Now is an especially good time to go solar—shingles or otherwise—because costs have started to come down and the federal government is still offering 30 percent tax credits with no cap on the purchase of solar electricity equipment.

Twenty-seven states and several cities offer additional incentives that can get pricing on solar gear and installations down even lower.

For more information check out the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE), a free online resource provided by the North Carolina Solar Center and IREC with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.

CONTACTS: Dow Powerhouse, [www.dowpowerhouse.com](http://www.dowpowerhouse.com); CertainTeed Solar, [www.certainteed.com/products/roofing/solar](http://www.certainteed.com/products/roofing/solar); DSIRE, [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org).

*EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine ([www.emagazine.com](http://www.emagazine.com)). Send questions to: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).*

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# Slides and lecture show old South Portland's ethnic history

By Lee Perlman  
The Southwest Portland Post

More than 100 people crammed into the Cedarwood Montessori School last month to hear a lecture and slide show on South Portland's history, especially as it related to the Italian and Jewish communities.

Historian Arnie Panitch provided the commentary to a slide show of both current and historic scenes by Ken Kane. The event was sponsored by the Tuscan Association of Oregon.

The venue was the school auditorium, which was once Oregon's first indoor pool. The building was originally Neighborhood House, built in 1905 by the National Council of Jewish Women as a settlement house. As such, it provided classes.

As such, it provided classes, recreation and activities geared toward immigrants. As one person at the lecture noted, Jews never made up more than 50 percent of the patrons of Neighborhood House, which served a succession of immigrant groups.

Indeed, old South Portland, which Panitch said was bounded by Southwest Columbia and Hamilton streets, Barbur Boulevard and the Willamette River, was a community of immigrants.

Significant structures that stand today include the Lair Hill Market, created in 1912; Failing School (now part of the National College of Natural Medicine); and St. Mary's Academy, the oldest school in Portland.

Others include the former Carnegie Library, now owned by the Portland Bureau of Parks; the former Kesser Israel orthodox synagogue building, originally a Baptist church and now the Church of God; and Italian restaurant Caro Amico.

Panitch noted that many of the area streets were named for Civil War heroes – Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Meade and Hooker. In 1931 came the Great Renumbering, with the City substituting a new uniform set of building numbers to replace the systems of what had been independent villages.

A major part of the area's history was the South Auditorium urban re-



Audrey Perino of the Tuscan Association of Oregon introduces historian Arnie Panitch. (Post photo by Lee Perlman)



Houses in the South Auditorium Renewal Area in South Portland circa 1962. (Photo courtesy City of Portland Archives)

newal district of the Portland Development Commission, which displaced 2,000 residents on 54 square blocks.

The activity was justified at the time by the alleged disrepair and crime in the area. On the day of the lecture, an Oregonian editorial praised the South

Auditorium project.

Panitch provided a different perspective; a 1963 slide showed a sign on a condemned building which said that the political process "makes the Soviet Union look like a constitutional paradise."

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