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The Southwest Portland Post

Southwest Portland's Independent Neighborhood Newspaper



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Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

July 2009

Parachute unveiling reveals new play structure at Dickinson Park



A parachute covered the new play structure until opening moment. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

By Polina Olsen
 The Southwest Portland Post

More than 30 neighbors and friends celebrated the official opening of the Dickinson Park play structure on Saturday, June 6. Culminating 10 years of work, organizers decked out the 15.81 acres on Southwest 55th Avenue and Alfred Court with colorful booths and live music from Gypsy Jazz West. A parachute covered the new play structure until the grand opening moment.

Children blew giant soap bubbles and adults gazed across the stunning vista as Crestwood Neighborhood Association President John Prouty addressed the group. "It's a day to celebrate and reflect on the hopes and work that got us here," he said.

The project began in 1999, when the city bought property from Portland Public Schools. The Parks Bureau organized a citizen's advisory committee and, by 2001, adopted the Dickinson Park Master Plan.

"Since there was no city budget for improvements, the Crestwood
 (Continued on Page 6)

MULTNOMAH NOTEBOOK

By Allison Voigts
 The Southwest Portland Post

Capitol Hill Road speed bumps approved in 15-4 vote

The Capitol Hill Road traffic calming project will proceed full speed ahead since overtaking the final obstacle in its course—a supporting vote from the Multnomah Neighborhood Association. After a failed quorum at the MNA's May meeting stalled the project's rapid progress, 15 MNA members gave their support on June 9, while four members voted against it.

Though the calming project had already achieved approval from the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association and signatures of support from 74 percent of the road's residents, it needed MNA support to continue. The plan to install 11 speed tables (a gentler version of a speed bump) on the road has raised heated arguments on both sides, leaving the outcome of the vote in doubt until the last minute.

City transportation planner Will Stevens and local resident Mellani Calvin,

who helped initiate the project, answered questions during the meeting. Public comments about the project took the majority of the meeting time, with both MNA members and non-members allowed to contribute their opinions (However, only MNA members could vote afterwards).

Those who opposed the project objected not to the idea of slowing traffic on the neighborhood street but to the suggestion that speed tables will fix the problem.

Elaine Saunders, who lives on the Multnomah side of the road, argued that emergency vehicles will be forced to slow down when responding to calls on the road and that noise and pollution would increase as cars accelerate after each speed table.

"This just isn't a safe street to walk on, even with speed bumps," she said. "I cringe when I see people walking their dogs on it, trying to get to the park."

Many of the residents who attended the meeting shared stories of witnessing drivers swerve into ditches and front yards after taking curves too fast or when trying to avoid pedestrians on the road's inadequate shoulder. At least three people wondered if a car would come through their living rooms

someday.

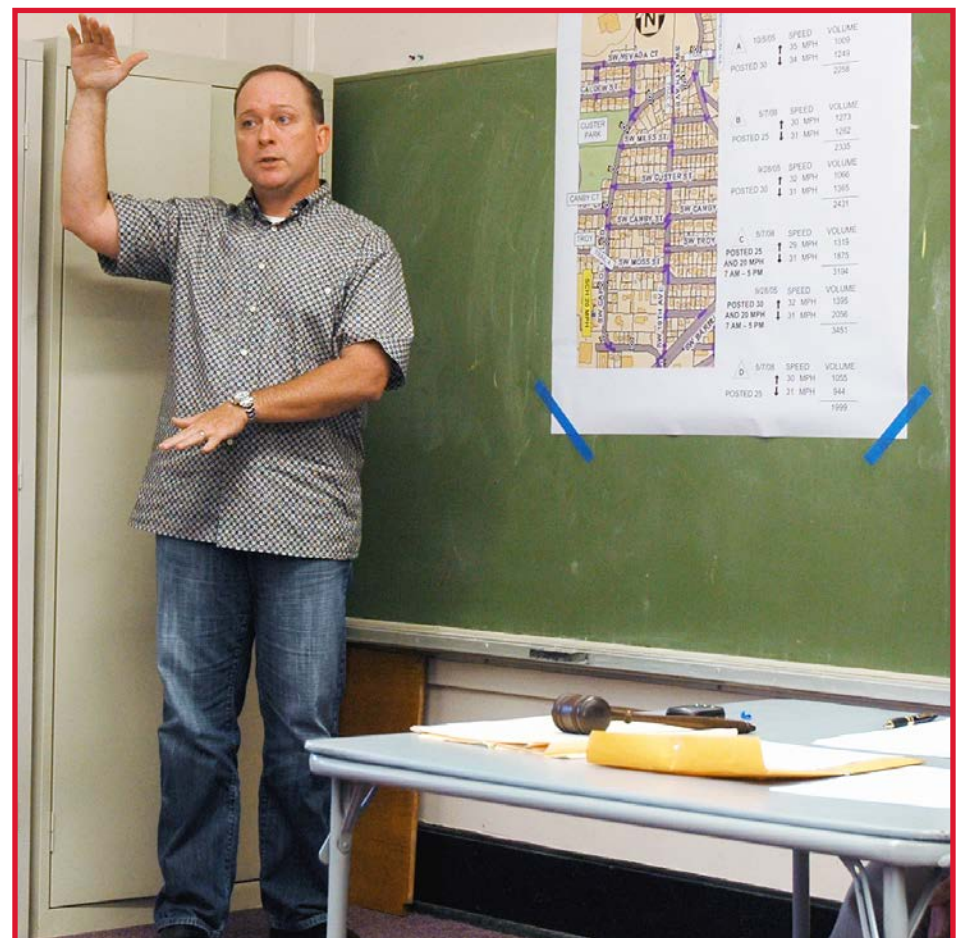
The project's supporters, like Scott Miller, agreed that "speed bumps won't fix everything," and that sidewalks would be the preferred project. However, speed bumps are the only affordable option at this point since the City has no funds to aid the neighborhood's traffic problem. Each speed table has a price tag of \$2,200 and will be paid for on a voluntary basis by the street's residents.

Editor's Note: In a June 10 e-mail, Calvin summarized her feelings about the Capitol

Hill Road traffic calming vote. "At last night's meeting there was much discussion about needing to actively work on clearing our individual properties on CHR to make pedestrian and bicycle traffic safer" said Calvin.

"This is important to all of us so we would like to convey that request from the attendees last night. There has been discussion, as well, on developing work parties to help clear more walking spaces."

Next steps for the CHR folks include obtaining an account through SWNI for
 (Continued on Page 3)



City transportation planner Will Stevens answers questions about the Capitol Hill Road traffic calming project during the Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting, June 9. (Post photo by Allison Voigts)

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Letters to the Editor



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Fax: (866) 727-5336
email: news@multnomahpost.com

Neighborhoods request mitigation for Multnomah Blvd sewer construction

The City of Portland is improving the Fanno Pump Station and Pressure Sewer Line along Multnomah Blvd. for the second time in less than 10 years. This project directly affects at least five of the seventeen neighborhood associations within the Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) coalition.

We have been meeting with Bureau of Environmental Services staff about the many impacts this large construction project will have in our neighborhoods—fresh on our minds from the last round of construction—and ask the City to do a better job and improve neighborhood livability.

We request that the City of Portland, through a combined effort of the Bureau of Environmental Services and Portland Bureau of Transportation, take the fol-

lowing actions to minimize the negative impacts of construction and create a safer and healthier community:

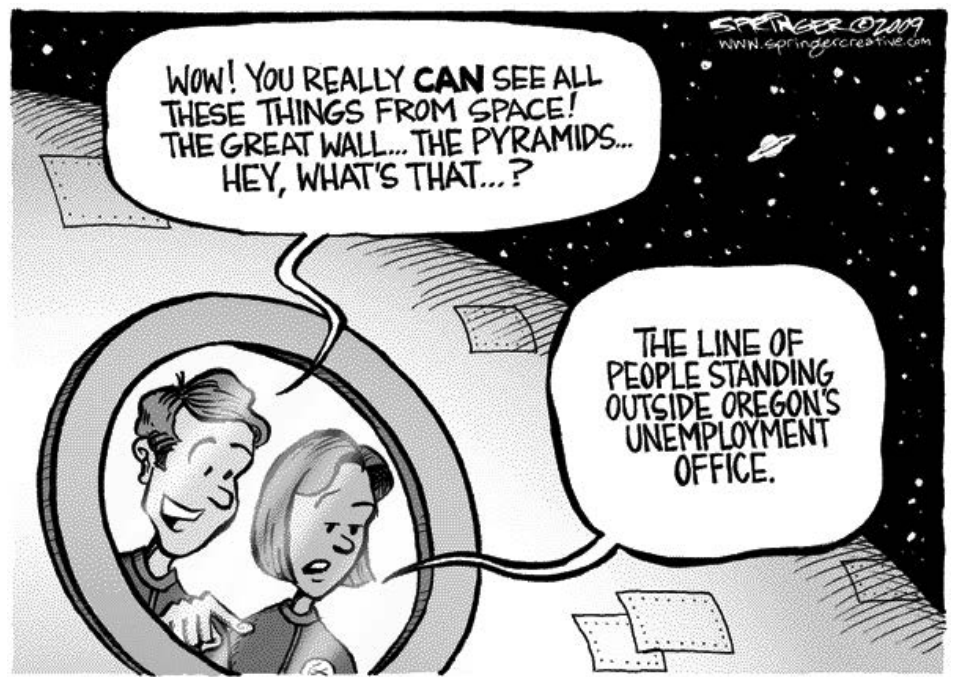
1. Noise and pollution must be minimized. The city must incorporate the draft City of Portland/Multnomah County Clean Diesel Contracting Policies into the construction contracts to minimize diesel emissions and limit idling. The city should seek funding for diesel engine retrofits for all on-road and off-road construction equipment that does not meet current EPA standards; require the use of ultra-low sulfur fuels, and limit idling;

2. Noise and pollution must be minimized not just in the Multnomah Blvd corridor but also on haul routes on SW Bertha Blvd, SW 45th Ave, SW Vermont St, and SW Oleson Road, and on the detour routes. The city must require haul trucks as well as construction equipment to minimize noise, diesel emissions and dust as they travel through and work in our neighborhoods. Roadway damage on haul routes and detour routes must be repaired and restored;

3. The bike lanes and shoulders along Multnomah Blvd. must be left in a better condition after construction than before, with sidewalks and bike lanes, or at minimum, wide, walkable bike paths; and

4. Garden Home Road (from SW 45th Ave to Multnomah Boulevard at SW 69th Ave) should not be used as a detour. Our concern is that even if this street is not designated as a detour, it will receive extra traffic from SW Portland residents and our neighbors from Washington County. The hilly, wind-

(Continued on Page 3)





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Letters to the Editor

(Continued from Page 2)

ing design with multiple driveways and lack of shoulders makes Garden Home Road unacceptable for detour traffic. Signs should be placed at both ends of this road segment discouraging traffic from using this route when the corresponding section of Multnomah Boulevard is closed.

Stephen Sykes of the Bureau of Environmental Services has done an excellent job communicating with our neighborhood associations about the project. We appreciate his efforts to be responsive to our comments, but want to be sure that the decisionmakers for this project understand our concerns regarding the environmental impacts and transportation needs and incorporate them into the project design and contracts.

Brian Russell
President,
Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

Capitol Hill Road

(Continued from Page 1)

donations and begin developing strategy on fund raising efforts. "The wheels have begun churning with fund raising ideas so please don't be shy with your suggestions," said Calvin.

Stevens later said that he "wanted to let everyone know that the Multnomah N.A. vote has been officially recorded in the City's project file as 80 percent in favor. The two hand counts of the vote I took resulted in 16 in favor, 4 opposed, thus the 80-percent."

"And, according to Stevens, "Thanks should go to Lisa (Brotten) and Mellani (Calvin) for their many hours of hard work in making this a successful project -- a project that would have undoubtedly failed without their dedication."

-Don Snedecor

Letter to Sen. Wyden endorses Hoot Owl Corner redesign

On another traffic issue the same evening, MNA members voted unani-

mously to send a letter to Senator Ron Wyden endorsing the City of Portland's 30th/Vermont Avenue/Capitol Highway Intersection Improvements project, which he submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee for funding for 2010.

The project aims to make the "Hoot Owl corner" intersection safer for pedestrians, bikers, and cars by eliminating the "slip" lane and creating a traditional "T" style intersection.

MNA members voiced concerns that all of the businesses and residents near the intersection should be consulted before designers finalize the plan. Some members felt uncomfortable supporting a project they had not examined thoroughly, and many were unsure what the proposed design looked like.

But Chairman Randy Bonella encouraged the group not to delay their vote about the letter because endorsements from each neighborhood affected by the redesign are crucial to its progress as a "shovel-ready" project. In the end, the association agreed to send the letter

with the addition of language requesting public participation in the project prior to its final design.

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City of Gresham Oregon

Project No. 13466-000

Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Competing Applications

(June 9, 2009)

On May 15, 2009, the City of Gresham (permittee), filed an application for a three-year preliminary permit under Section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA)¹ to study the feasibility of the proposed 50-kilowatt (kW) City of Gresham Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Hydroelectric Project No. 13466. The project would be located in Multnomah County, Oregon. The existing City of Gresham Wastewater Treatment Plant (plant) and outfall is owned by the permittee. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

Under current operating conditions, treated wastewater (effluent) from the plant is discharged into three parallel outfall pipes. These three pipes combine into a single pipeline before discharging the effluent into the Columbia River. Under the permittee's proposal, effluent in one of the existing three parallel pipes would flow into a powerhouse to generate electricity before returning to the existing pipeline system. The project would consist of: (1) an existing 3,650-foot-long, 4-foot-diameter outfall pipe directing effluent from the plant to the powerhouse and from the powerhouse to the final outfall pipe; (2) a new 12-foot-high, 16-foot-long concrete powerhouse; (3) a new single turbine/generator unit with an installed capacity of 50 kW; (4) a new 10-foot-long, 10-foot-wide concrete building to house additional controls and equipment; (5) an existing 650-foot-long, 4.5-foot-diameter outfall pipe discharging flows into the Columbia River; (6) a new 100-foot-long, 12.47-kilovolt transmission line extending from the powerhouse to a proposed intertie with a Portland General Electric power line; and (7) appurtenant facilities. The plant and portions of the outfall that are not directly affected by the project are not included as project features. The proposed project would generate about 413 megawatt-hours annually.

Applicant Contact: Michael Nacrelli, Department of Environmental Services, City of Gresham, Oregon, 1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, OR 97030; phone: (503) 661-3000.

FERC Contact: Jennifer Harper, (202) 502-6136.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website under the "e-Filing" link located at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. If unable to be filed electronically, documents may be paper-filed. To paper-file, an original and eight copies should be mailed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. For more information on how to submit these types of filings please go to the Commission's website located at <http://www.ferc.gov/filing-comments.asp>. More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number (P-13466) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, call toll-free 1-866-208-3372.

¹16 U.S.C. § 797(f). Three years is the maximum term for a preliminary permit. See FPA Section 5, 16 U.S.C. § 798

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Lul Abdulle is director of the Portland Somali Women's Association. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

Somali refugees struggle with isolation, language, and cultural barriers

By Polina Olsen
The Southwest Portland Post

In this African nation more than one million displaced people scavenge for food. More than 10,000 have been killed. As Islamist militias extend control throughout the country, Somalia enters its 19th year without a functioning government, according to Newsweek. With help from the United Nations, thousands have fled their homeland. About 6000 came to Portland. Many live in here in Southwest.

"There's nothing to miss," Somali refugee Lul Abdulle said, remembering life in the East African nation that borders Kenya, Ethiopia and the Indian Ocean. "The refugees have seen bloodshed, rape, starvation, family members killed. Women delivered babies while running and hiding from warlords."

As outreach coordinator for Central Northeast Neighbors and Director of the Portland Somali Women's Association, Abdulle helps integrate the traumatized new immigrants into the local community. The biggest problem is isolation," she said.

Here in Southwest, Somalis live in apartment complexes near Markham Elementary School or Dickinson Park. Like 99.9 percent of the 8.8 million people in their native country, Somalis in Portland are Muslim. In Somalia, 49.7 percent of men and only 25.8 percent of women are literate according to U.S.

State Department statistics.

In Portland Somali men work as taxi drivers or warehouse workers but women traditionally stay home with children. This can increase the women's isolation and make learning English difficult.

Abdulle stressed the need for Somali outreach workers who can build trust and relationships. "Someone who understands how the system works can engage Somalis in a culturally appropriate way in a language they can understand," she said. "And, they need a meeting space where they can learn about the community and available services."

Misunderstanding contributes to the children's isolation. Without adequate information, parents just say no. "The parents get flyers from their children's school, but they don't understand them," Abdulle said. "And, people from the school come to speak to the parents without a translator."

Syliva Bogert, executive director of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. agrees. She's worked with Abdulle and others on cultural outreach programs for years. "It started with a small grant," she said, referring to the the Neighborhood Initiative for Community Engagement (NICE), a partnership of the Somali Women's Association, Southeast Uplift Coalition and SWNI. "Lul went door to door finding out what Somali people need."

The resulting Somali Resource Fair at the Markham Elementary School in December 2007 included representatives from refugee, health, employment, library, legal and other services along with a Somali-catered feast. NICE developed a resource guide pamphlet and a cultural awareness program that Abdulle presented to neighborhood and other organizations.

"It's all about relationship building," Bogert said, echoing Abdulle's emphasis on Somali outreach workers. Over the years, Bogert remembers striking examples of cultural misunderstanding, for example, parents can find using children as interpreters disrespectful.

"One child brought home a permission slip from school--maybe it was summer camp, I'm not sure," Bogert said. Apparently, the mother signed the form but thought her daughter was permanently leaving home when the school bus came to pick her up.

"Funding remains a constant issue," Bogert said. "I hope we can keep a position for Lul." Bogert also noted the Somali Community Services Coalition on Southwest Barbur Boulevard. Here Executive Director Bashir Warsame and others help settle new immigrants, provide translation services, and even have computers children use for homework.

Other successful programs included a one-year sewing class grant. "The Capitol Hill Library wanted Somali children to come to afterschool programs," Abdulle said. She explained Somali women's reluctance to separate parents and children. "The library thought that if they give the moms space, they will bring children with them. We have to be together in one place."

"People donated sewing machines and materials, and we had volunteer teachers from the mainstream," Abdulle said. As a by-product of sewing classes, the women discussed issues

(Continued on Page 5)

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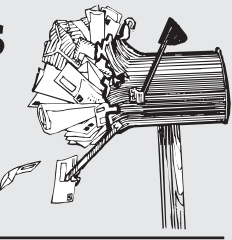
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BES director responds to letter regarding Multnomah Blvd sewer project

Dear Mr. Russell,

Thank you for your June 10, 2009 letter outlining SWNI's concerns about the upcoming Fanno Basin Pressure Sewer replacement projects.

The Bureau of Environmental Services works hard to minimize the impacts of our construction projects on neighbors, as well as people driving through the affected area. The Bureau will take the steps summarized below to address SWNI's concerns.

1. Noise and pollution must be minimized. The Portland Noise Review Board regulates noise from construction projects to protect people from excessive loud noises. The Board has granted a noise variance, which allows night work on 150 nights during work on the Multnomah segment of the pressure sewer replacement project.

The variance establishes limits on noise during night work from 6:00 p.m. to 7 a.m. The variance requires the contractor to maintain construction noise below 68 dBA at 50 feet from construction during night work.

The requirement does not include any specific diesel engine retrofits. Instead, by setting a maximum sound level the contractor will be required to use newer vehicles and equipment that have been, or can be, retrofitted with the most current muffling devices.

The retrofitted equipment will also reduce exhaust emissions. Environmental Services also requires its contractors to use vacuum street sweepers to control dust in work areas.

2. Noise and pollution must be minimized not just in the Multnomah Blvd corridor but also on haul routes on SW Bertha Blvd, SW 45th Ave, SW Vermont St, and SW Oleson Road, and on the detour routes.

The Noise Board did designate a haul route that will keep trucks off smaller residential streets. Our construction inspector will also document roadway conditions in and around the project area before construction starts to assess equipment impacts on road surfaces.

Environmental Services will restore any damage to street surfaces caused by project equipment after sewer construction is complete.

3. The bike lanes and shoulders along Multnomah Blvd. must be left in a better condition after construction than before, with sidewalks and bike lanes, or at minimum, wide, walkable bike paths.

The project scope does not include adding sidewalks or widening pathways. The contractor will be required to restore the roadway, including bike lanes, at the end of the project. This work will impact Multnomah Boulevard bike lanes, so we will rebuild and restripe them.

This project also includes construction of stormwater management features along Multnomah Boulevard from SW 30th Avenue to SW 69th. Some of the stormwater features include improvements that will upgrade pedestrian safety along Multnomah Boulevard.

4. Garden Home Road (from SW 45th Avenue to Multnomah Boulevard at SW 69th Ave) should not be used as a detour.

During daytime construction, the contractor will keep one lane of SW Multnomah Boulevard open with flaggers directing traffic through the work zone. When Multnomah Boulevard is closed to through traffic between 45th and 69th Avenues during night work hours, the des-

ignated detour will be SW Vermont Street via SW 45th and SW Oleson Road.

SW Garden Home Road will not be used as a detour for this segment of work.

In response to a request from area neighborhood associations, Environmental Services will use variable messaging signage (VMS) at key intersections outside the project area to give motorists advance notice and reduce vehicle traffic in the area. These measures will reduce impacts to residents on and near Garden Home Road.

Construction impacts for a project of this size are inevitable, but Environmental Services is committed to minimizing them as much as possible. Stephen Sykes, with the Bureau of Environmental Services, will continue to provide regular construction updates to inform southwest Portland residents of construction impacts before they occur. I think you will find him to be an excellent point of contact.

Thank you for taking the time to contact me about your concerns.

Dean Marriott
Director
Bureau of Environmental Services
City of Portland

Somali Community

(Continued from Page 4)

like health, domestic violence, gang prevention, and spring cleaning. "We brought speakers and taught women about resources available to them," Abdulle, said.

More projects are in the works. SWNI and Portland Community Media hope to complete an instructional video tailored to Somali immigrant needs this summer. It will model a Somali family receiving financial, health, food stamp, childcare, and other assistance complete with photographs of the bus stop and agency buildings. Since Somalis often mistrust photography, finding a family to film presents a challenge.

"And, we're thinking of doing another sewing project," Abdulle said. "We need sewing machines, fabric, and space for the classes." Abdulle hopes people with resources and ideas will join their monthly Somali leaders meeting at CNN. "We meet the first Saturday of every month," she said. "People are welcome to come and bring resources. Tell us what is available. How can they engage the community?"

For more information contact the Somali Women's Association swaofpdx@yahoo.com; Central Northeast Neighborhoods, 4415 NE 87th Ave, Portland, (503) 823-2780, lula@cnncoalition.org, www.cnncoalition.org; Somali Community Services Coalition of Oregon 9123 SW Barbur Blvd Portland, (503) 595-0368, www.scscoregon.org; or Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. 7688 SW Capitol Hwy Portland, 503-823-4592, www.swni.org.

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Dickinson Park

(Continued from Page 1)

Neighborhood Association formed the Friends of Dickinson Park," Prouty said. "We held auctions and events, sold t-shirts and wrote grants. By 2006, we had raised about \$16,000."

Without enough to cover earth-work on the challenging site, the neighborhood association went back to the city. Southwest Neighborhoods Incorporated and the Portland Parks Southwest zone manager helped raise the project's priority. In May, 2007, the city allocated \$186,000.

"We started to work with Parks Planning in November 2007 and went through design reviews and open houses," Prouty continued. "Construction began in Fall 2008, and the structure was in place by Thanksgiving."

After thanking individuals and organizations for their help, Prouty and neighborhood activist Brenda Jamsgard presented Darien Reese with a bright bouquet of flowers. "Without Darien, this playground wouldn't be here," Jamsgard said. "She called all the meetings; when we got tired she kept going. In my heart and mind this will always be the Darien Reese Park."

Neighbors enjoyed hearing the history and chatting about their connection to the park. "My older son was involved when he was in second grade," Leslie Baird said, referring to the display of children's drawings. Over the years, Markham Elementary School teachers had children draw their visions of the park.

"And, in the summer, we show movies here," Baird added. "This year we'll have 3-D movies."

"During the big winter storm, Prouty said, "the playground became the neighborhood gathering spot for sledding. Now we see people here every day, -- playing, picnicking, or enjoying the sunset."

So what comes next for Dickinson Park? With more money waiting in the Dickinson Park fund, the neighborhood association needs suggestions. "Do we want more trees, picnic tables, a water fountain, a community garden?" Prouty said. Please consider getting involved."

For more information on Dickinson Park planning contact John Prouty at 503-246-7366, johnprouty@qwest.net or visit <http://crestwood.swni.org>.



Crestwood Neighborhood Association president John Prouty addresses friends and neighbors at the play structure dedication at Dickinson Park, June 6. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)



Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz talks with Crestwood neighborhood activist Darien Reese at Dickinson Park, June 6. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

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PORTLAND DENTIST RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP FROM ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) is pleased to announce that Steven J. Little, DMD, FAGD, of Portland, Ore., received the prestigious Fellowship Award during the AGD's Convocation ceremony, a commencement celebration that recognizes AGD member's to excellence in dental education. Held at the AGD's Annual Meeting & Exhibits on July 19, 2008 in Orlando, Fla., Dr. Little accepted this award along with more than 200 other recipients.

The Fellowship Award is presented to dentists looking to provide the highest quality of dental care by remaining current in their profession. In order to receive this award, Dr. Little completed 500 hours of continuing dental education, passed a comprehensive written exam and fulfilled three years of continuing membership with the AGD. As a recipient of this award, Dr. Little has joined an elite group of more than 14,000 members of the dental community who understand that great smiles and good oral health for their patients are the result of going above and beyond basic requirements. The Fellowship Award symbolizes excellence in the dental profession and a commitment to providing exceptional patient care.

"Dr Little's accomplishment shows his allegiance to the profession and commitment to ensuring his patients receive excellent oral health care," says AGD President, Paula Jones, DDS, FAGD. "The challenging process of becoming a Fellow exemplifies Dr. Little's dedication to continuing education and distinguishes him professionally in the dental community."

Dr. Little graduated from the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center School of Dentistry in 1993 and currently practices dentistry in Portland, Ore. In addition to the AGD, Dr. Little is a member of the American Dental Association, Oregon Dental Association, American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, American Dental Society of Anesthesiology and the International Association of Orthodontics.

Dr. Little has two children, Ty and Dain.

The AGD is a professional association of more than 35,000 dentists dedicated to staying up-to-date in the profession through continuing education. Founded in 1952, the AGD has grown to become the world's second largest dental association, which is the only association that exclusively represents the needs and interests of general dentists.

More than 786,000 persons are employed directly in the field of dentistry. A general dentist is the primary care provider for patients of all ages and is responsible for the diagnosis, treatment, management and overall coordination of services related to patient's oral health needs.

For more information about the AGD, please visit www.agd.org.



Vincent Mayher, Jr., DMD, FAGD, (left) congratulates Steven J. Little, DMD, FAGD on receiving the Academy of General Dentistry's Fellowship Award.

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OHSU nursing student projects aid Southwest community

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Once again, one of Lorna Mae Mathews' School of Nursing classes has aided a southwest community while providing first-hand experience to future medical providers.

Half of this year's class of eight from the Oregon Health and Sciences University studied health matters related to families, while the other staff looked at issues relating to "aging in place" – making it possible for seniors to continue to live independently in their homes.

The first group worked with tenants of the Housing Authority of Portland's Ruth Haefner Plaza, Loaves and Fishes, at a forum co-sponsored by the Southwest Hills Residential League (SWHRL). A key part of the picture, Mathews said, is proper medication management. If this is not done well, she said, "Many seniors wind up in emergency rooms or in long-term care."

The second group worked with residents of two other HAP projects, Hillside Terrace and the Watershed, and provided blood pressure readings, blood sugar screenings and dental assessments for some 50 people at a Cinco De Mayo Health Care Fair. The class also participated in a Bike Rodeo in cooperation with Emanuel Hospital's trauma nurses during which they gave away 43 bicycle helmets to children.

Both groups worked with local nail salons. "They're a wonderful opportunity to provide health facilities," Mathews said, adding that there are thoughts of utilizing such establishments on a regular basis.

Over the years, she said, she has found HAP, Neighborhood House and neighborhood associations to be "very welcoming, great partners." It has also been beneficial for the students, she says. "It's a great opportunity for student nurses to learn about health care issues," she said. "They learn things that change their thinking and careers."



OHSU nursing students Miriam Rosenberg and Ginger Bradley.
(Post photo by Lee Perlman)

PARKS & RECREATION

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Willamette Park parking meters disturb residents

The Portland Bureau of Parks informed the South Portland Neighborhood Association last month that they plan to install parking meters in Willamette Park, the first Portland park to receive this treatment. The news was not well received.

Parks spokesperson Terri Davis noted that the bureau has charged for admission to the parking lot for several years through Wackenhut Security Services. The current system is not very effective

and costs the bureau \$30,000 a year, she said.

"We felt we needed to do it in a more effective way," said Davis. Davis said the meters should be operational by July 6. "We hope to have net revenue, and whatever we get will go to park improvements."

South Portland Parking Committee chair Bill Danneman said that the change could cause visitors to park in front of people's homes in the adjacent neighborhood. "It's irresponsible of the City to come in, institute pay for parking, and say, 'We know parking in the neighborhoods is coming, but it's your problem.'"

"We've adjusted our hours to address neighborhood concerns," Davis replied. "We don't know if it will solve the problem, but we're dealing with it

as we go." In response to questions she said that Willamette would be the only City of Portland park so far with parking meters in its parking lot.

South Portland chair Ken Love noted that Southwest Macadam Avenue businesses regularly use the lot for employee parking. "From September to Memorial Day, all the parking spaces around the tennis courts are filled, and no one's playing tennis," he said.

Willamette Park to feature five free summer concerts

As noted last month, the Portland Bureau of Parks and the South Portland Neighborhood Association will be co-sponsoring free concerts in Willamette Park again this year. The concert schedule is as follows: July 8 – Reggie Houston. July 15 – Sarsaparilla. July 22 – Rhythm and Culture. July 29 – The Troublemakers.

A fifth concert, featuring the Wickie Pickers, will be August 4 as part of National Night Out. All concerts will be 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Ross Island Grocery will have food available for purchase, but feel free to bring your own picnic.

Outdoor movies at MAC + Dickinson, Holly Farm, Willamette parks

This summer there will be free movies in three parks and one outdoor basketball court. The following is the schedule: July 3 "Madagascar – Escape 2 Africa," will play at the Multnomah Arts Center.

On July 18, "Journey to the Center of the Earth" will play at Dickinson Park. On July 23, "E.T., the Extraterrestrial" will play at Holly Farm Park. On August 7, "Hairspray" will play at Willamette Park and "X Men Origins: Wolverine" will play at Multnomah Arts Center. On August 8, "Monsters vs. Aliens" will play at Dickinson Park. On September 11, "Never-ending Story," will play at Multnomah Arts Center.

The films will begin when it gets dark, typically 8:00 to 9:00 p.m., which will get earlier as the season progresses. They will be preceded by some sort of live entertainment. There should be food vendors at most showings, but feel free to bring your own, as well as blankets and lawn chairs. More information is available by searching online using the key words: "Portland Parks and Recreation + Movies in the Park."

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- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
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Picnic made possible in part by an Office of Neighborhood Involvement Small Grant
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Questions? Email: dottierector@att.net



Fresh Oregon strawberries were all the rage June 5 at the Multnomah Village Farmers Market. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

Should property owners be liable for accidents on trails?

COMMENTARY

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Legal liability – what happens if someone gets hurt – has been a thorn in the side of many enterprises. In recent months, it has become a direct threat to the existence of one of southwest Portland’s major volunteer accomplishments – its trail network.

Under the leadership of Don Baack, the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Trails Committee has mapped seven trails through southwest Portland, and gone a long way toward making them a reality through physical volunteer labor.

They have drawn admiration from pedestrian advocates throughout the city and beyond, and they are a particularly important asset in hilly terrain without a grid street system where amenities such as sidewalks often don’t exist.

The trails go along or across streets at points, through parks or other public property, and along the edges of private property where there is a legal easement for a road that doesn’t exist and probably never will.

But what happens if someone is hurt while walking on the trail?

Justifiably or not, on the trail? Current law gives them the right to sue for damages, and as things stand they would sue the adjacent property owners. This has given pause even to people otherwise okay with the trail system. Multnomah Presbyterian Church, which has been asked to allow part of a trail to extend through its property, has balked specifically because of the

liability issue.

Baack thinks the City of Portland should assume liability for the trails. The City, as represented by the Portland Bureau of Transportation, has historically resisted this; at the least, they want assurances that the trails will be built to City standards.

Baack agrees to this, although he has at times taken issue with public agencies over proper standards for public rights of way. As to trail maintenance, he said the Trails Committee would take care of that, and has done so except lately, when they have been faced with the prospect that their work would be for naught.

Baack would expect the City to step in to deal with a major problem, such as a landslide or a large tree fall.

According to Baack, years ago an aide to then City Commissioner Jim Francesconi, Michael Harrison (not the planner of the same name) sought and received approval for the City to assume trail liability, but Francesconi left office before it could be implemented. “The City is speaking with two voices,” Baack complained.

There may be a way around the issue. A measure currently before the legislature, House Bill 2003, exempts owners of land from liability if others are injured while gardening there; an amendment makes the measure applicable to trails and people who walk on them.

At a recent SWNI board meeting, Jim Thayer of the Southwest Hills Residential League, a trail supporter, said of this measure, “The Bill seems like a viable vehicle to bring closure on this. It’s not perfect, but it’s workable.” At the same meeting, Lee Buhler of South Portland said, “Liability is a red herring; some homeowners don’t like people walking

near their property.”

This is certainly true, although it is not a universal sentiment. Several trail neighbors contacted by *The Post* declined to be quoted on the issue, in one case out of fear of retribution. One neighbor of Trail Six commented, “I think a lot of people would prefer that so many people weren’t walking past their property regularly, but the people who use trails generally aren’t the sort of people you have to worry about. At least it means that they’re not driving.”

Others find the experience less benign, and object to the loss of a privacy they thought they had the right to expect.

In one case, on Council Crest, a homeowner purchased the easement to prevent people from walking past his property; in that case Baack was able to find an alternate route for that section of the trail.

Baack notifies property owners of intent to build a trail next to them, and he makes some effort to accommodate them, but he takes the position that they have no right to refuse to have a trail next to them. Easements are either public property or agreed to by owners when the property was subdivided.

To give neighbors a say in this matter, he said, would mean that the City “by default is giving use of the land to adjacent property owners who don’t own it and don’t pay taxes on it.” It would also almost certainly make it impossible to retain the trail network as currently constructed, as a continuous public right of way.

Note: HB 2003 was eventually adopted, but not before specific reference to “trails”



Don Baack and his dog Tasha hike on a trail near their home in Hillsdale. (Post file photo by Polina Olsen)

had been deleted from it; the bill was intended to deal with liability related to community gardens. Is it still relevant to the use, maintenance, etc. of trails? There was some confusion on this point.

At last month’s meeting the SWNI board adopted a letter drafted by Don Baack to City of Portland officials that set out the following points: The City should assume liability for all trails on public right of ways. All trails built on built rights of way will have appropriate permits “as determined by the proper authority.”

Additionally, all permitted trails will be inspected. Such trails will be maintained by the City “with the support of volunteer organizations where such exist or can be recruited.”

The vote was 6-5 with four abstentions. Some of those dissenting and abstaining felt the letter as drafted was too vague. Others felt it would be tactically better at this time to pursue informal discussions rather than issue a formal letter.

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Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: As I understand it, "clean" coal really isn't—yet the Bush Administration gushed strongly for it. What is Obama's take on it?
—John Zippert, Eutaw, AL

Barack Obama and George W. Bush differ in many ways, but both have embraced so-called "clean coal" for providing an ongoing supply of cheap and readily available energy for electricity generation.

The term "clean coal" is loosely defined as coal that is washed or processed to remove pollutants, so as to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the leading greenhouse gas, when the coal is burned. Coal-burning plants emit 40 percent of U.S. CO₂ pollution—half of our electricity comes from coal—so reducing the industry's carbon footprint in any way possible would be a big win for the environment.

Luckily for clean coal advocates, the White House has been and continues to push for its development. George W. Bush's support for clean coal dates back to his first term in office, when he stated that such technologies should be encouraged as a means of reducing dependence on foreign oil. And since taking office, the Obama

administration has committed \$3.4 billion in stimulus dollars to clean coal projects.

But green groups continue to question the wisdom of relying on coal at all. Coal wreaks environmental havoc, from the coal mines that pollute rivers and streams, to the premature deaths of coal miners from accidents and lung diseases, to the release of greenhouse gases, mercury and other toxins at power plants.

According to Greenpeace, burning coal emits 29 percent more CO₂ than does burning oil or natural gas. And coal-fired power plants are the world's largest sources of atmospheric mercury, a known neurotoxin that disperses quickly throughout the environment and into the food chain. Greenpeace says that clean coal technologies will not address this problem, and that there are "no commercially available technologies to prevent mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants." Also, the group says, clean coal will do nothing to mitigate coal mining's damage to wildlife habitat and drinking water sources.

"There is no such thing as 'clean coal' and there never will be," Dan Becker of the Sierra Club told the Grist.org website. "It's an oxymoron." The Reality Coalition, a group of nonprofits that includes the Sierra Club, has been running TV ads seeking to debunk industry claims that coal can be clean. Green groups also worry that pushing clean coal will only delay the transition to a truly cleaner and greener energy infrastructure based on solar, wind and other emissions-free renewable energy sources.

In April of 2009, environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. questioned



Coal wreaks environmental havoc, from the coal mining that pollutes rivers and streams to the release of greenhouse gases, mercury and other toxins at power plants like the one shown here. (Photo courtesy of Getty Images)

the motivations of Obama and other politicians who back clean coal. "The coal industry and the carbon industry in general are the largest contributors to the political process," Kennedy told ABC News. "You don't have politicians representing the American public, but rather the people who finance their campaigns."

Of course, Obama's support for clean coal doesn't negate the fact that he has proposed spending much more on further development of alternative energy sources. He has called for getting 10 percent of U.S. electricity from renewable sources by 2012 and 25

percent by 2025, and has committed upwards of \$32 billion of stimulus dollars to the cause, according to an analysis by the nonprofit Environment America.

CONTACTS: Greenpeace, www.greenpeace.org; Reality Coalition, www.thisisreality.org.

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COMMUNITY LIFE

By Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

4 Independence Day Fireworks

Display at the Waterfront Blues Festival. This will be the largest fireworks display in Oregon. The fireworks start at 10:05 p.m. after the evening's final performance and the National Anthem, sung by Linda Hornbuckle.

The Oregon Food Bank produces the Waterfront Blues Festival, including the fireworks display, to raise food and funds for people who are hungry in Oregon and Clark County, Washington.

The Blues Festival will be held Thursday through Sunday, July 2-5, on the south end of Gov. Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Admission to the festival (including the fireworks show on July 4) is a donation of \$10 and two cans of non-perishable food. To see the exciting list of performers and a complete list of sponsors visit www.waterfrontbluesfest.com.

7 Stormwater Retrofit Workshop

The City of Portland holds free workshops to show ratepayers how to manage stormwater on their property. The next workshop is Tuesday, July 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. For more information call 503-823-1371 or visit www.CleanRiverRewards.com.

11 Multnomah: 100 years of photos

Come stroll along Capitol Highway as it winds through Multnomah in its early days as a station on the Oregon Electric Railroad to the present (1908-2008). Multnomah Historical Association will be presenting a viewing of its "Multnomah Centennial" DVD at the Hillsdale Library on Saturday, July 11 at 2:00 p.m.

MHA is promoting a survey of homes and commercial buildings built before 1945 in Southwest neighborhoods, which they will identify and add to their collection. The Mary Lyman Becker History Center collection is open Thursdays 2-4 p.m. and by appointment at 2929 SW Multnomah Blvd. For more information about MHA visit www.multnomahhistorical.com.

14 Multnomah Neighborhood Association

Interested in the new housing project at the Sears Armory, landscaping in Multnomah Village Park, Multnomah Outdoor Cinema, Capitol Hill Road speed bumps, Multnomah Day Festival participation, or other happenings in the neighborhood? Then don't miss this meeting, Tuesday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. Call 503-823-4592 for more agenda details or more information.

18 Bradley Trio rocks the Buffalo Gap

Will Bradley (guitars, vocals), sister Christie Bradley (percussion, vocals), with Danny Ard on bass guitar, provide the indie rock sound of this three-piece Portland band. They play the Buffalo Gap Saloon, 6835 SW Macadam Ave., on Saturday, July 18, at 9:00 p.m. Listen to some cuts on their website www.myspace.com/thebradleytrio.

Start your own Podcast/Blog Get your story out there! Learn the basics of starting your own podcast or blog with instructors from the Independent Publishing Resource Center.

Saturday, July 18, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd, 503-988-5388. For teens and adults. Registration required; register online or in the library or by calling 503-988-5234.

Wilson Class of 1984 25-Year Reunion Alumni only meet Saturday,

July 18 at MacTarnahan's Taproom, 2730 NW 31st Ave., at 6:00 p.m. Alumni and families meet Sunday, July 19 for a picnic in Gabriel Park at 12 noon. Questions? E-mail Julie Wallace at jwallace@wallacebooks.net. P.S. Faculty and staff are welcome at the picnic as well. What about your reunion? Visit www.wilsonalumni.com for a complete list of upcoming events.



Jim Lynch is author of "Border Songs" (Photo by Cortney Kelley)

23 Author Jim Lynch reading at Annie Bloom's Books

Jim Lynch ("The Highest Tide") reads from his latest novel, "Border Songs," about a dyslexic, bird-watching Washington state patrol officer on Thursday, July 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Annie Blooms' Books, 7834 SW Capitol Hwy. For more information visit www.annieblooms.com.

31 Swing to the sound of Stolen Sweets

Check out this popular Portland jazz sextet at two upcoming events. The Sweets specialize in the Boswell Sisters repertoire of the 1930s. The first concert is part of a burlesque show at 8:30 p.m. at the Mission Theater, 1624 NW Glisan St., on Friday, July 31; the second a free Music on Main Street concert from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. outside the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1111 SW Broadway on Wednesday, August 5. For more information, visit www.stolensweets.com.

Aug. 15 Multnomah Day Celebration

Looking for a terrific community event this summer? Bring the entire family to Multnomah Village on Multnomah Day, Saturday, August 15. Parade starts at 9:30 a.m. with the Dog Parade, followed by the Grand Parade at 10 a.m. Street festival (sidewalk sale, artisan booths, food vendors, and live music), follows until 4:00 p.m.

Please contact Joan Steinbach at 503-245-3936 or at multnomahparade@gmail.com if you have a group that wants to be in the parade. To volunteer please contact Tye Steinbach at 503-245-3936 pr tyesteinbach@yahoo.com. For additional information about the Multnomah Day festival contact Gail Anderson at 503-953-8114 or ganderson@lfcpx.org. Also check out the website at www.multnomahvillage.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

(Continued from Page 12)

of Neighborhood Involvement, with a 10 percent cut in last year's funding levels, rather than a 16 to 18 percent cut as originally proposed by the Office of Finance and Administration.

For the Southwest Neighborhood office, it will mean an allocation of \$249,000, a cut of \$6,300 from last year, executive director Sylvia Bogert told the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. board in May.

The budget preserves the popular Neighborhood Grants Program. Even a \$205,000 cut to ONI's Graffiti Abatement Program proposed under the Right Budget, which would have eliminated graffiti removal by City employees, was restored at the last minute. Also restored was a proposed cut to Metro's voucher program that subsidizes neighborhood cleanups.

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PSU graduate students take a 20-minute walk in West Portland Park

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Five graduate students from Portland State University's School of Urban Planning decided to use West Portland Park neighborhood's town center as a study project.

The students were Ali DeMersseman, Sara Wright, Dana Dickman, Laura Spidell, and Nuin-Tara Key.

As one of the students, Ali DeMersseman, told the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. board in late May, the group was interested in investigating the idea of a "20-minute neighborhood"; a concept currently in vogue with City of Portland planners, it is a community where most social and commercial services can be reached in a 20-minute walk.

By their working definition, such a community should have access to institutions, healthy food, and retail. "The connections need to be safe and comfortable," DeMersseman said.

Such a community should also have opportunities for social interaction, diverse housing options and a sense of place. City planner Brian Sheehan suggested West Portland Park as a subject. The core area was designated as West Portland Town Center, a place for significant residential and commercial development, in Metro's 2040 Plan.

"It's easy to see how the 20-minute neighborhood concept could work in an older streetcar neighborhood," DeMersseman said. "It's harder in a place like West Portland Park." The class did a series of surveys in local coffee shops

and the library. They also held an open house attended by 50 people. And they worked with the neighborhood association.

The group, called Intersect Planning, came up with four major findings. First, the physical environment is not conducive to pedestrian access to destinations. Second, current commercial facilities lack diversity and quality. Third, there are a lack of characteristics that contribute to a sense of place. Fourth, the group found (on the positive side) given the diversity of residents, there is potential for increased "social capacity."

The group also offered some recommendations: improve the pedestrian access, enhance the destinations, establish a business association, explore redevelopment opportunities. Additionally they thought West Portlanders needed to build a neighborhood identity and character, through gateway elements among other things.

Jim McLaughlin, West Portland Park's SWNI board representative, said, "The most striking finding for me was how few people knew this was West Portland Park. With the exception of (the Southwest Hills Residential League), it's probably the same for your neighborhoods. I like what Hillside and Multnomah Village have done, but we need to do better outreach."

Jim Thayer of SWHRL said his neighborhood too has "an absolute dearth of retail. What there is is very separated. Strohecker's could become a shopping center." One of the students said that community groups could work to attract quality retail by "letting businesses know what you have to offer."



PSU graduate students Ali DeMersseman, Sara Wright, and Nuin-Tara Key give a presentation to the SWNI board relating to their study of West Portland Park. (Post photo by Lee Perlman)

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Cedarwood Montessori School seeks expansion

Cedarwood Montessori School, housed in the former Neighborhood House building, is seeking design approval for changes in the building's annex to the north. Built in the 1920s, the building has at times been used as a community center, and contains a pool and gym. Cedarwood wants to convert these into a new gym and classrooms, architect Cory Martin and builder Ben Kaiser told the South Portland Neighborhood Association last month.

Martin said that the improvements would improve the exterior appearance of the building, which he described as "a banal entrance to the main building, a blank wall with no windows." South Portland land use chair Jim Davis said he could take issues with some details of the plan, but that in general, "It's an elegant solution to a problem."

Office of Neighborhood Involvement budgets restored

A crash savings program by City of Portland bureaus, and early economic performances that weren't as bleak as originally projected, allowed the City to restore some cuts proposed for this year.

City Council approved the so-called Right Budget for the Portland Office (Continued on Page 11)

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Portland Heights \$729,000



New Listing! Charming Dutch Colonial. 5 BR, 2.5 BA, hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces. Level yard w/ fabulous patio, outdoor fireplace & garage. Quiet street & private setting. Call Stacy Hawkins-Parker.

Portland Heights \$695,000



Charming Jameson Parker English Cottage in the grid of Portland Heights. 4 bedrooms, fireplace, eating nook, den, hardwoods and loads of built-ins. Partially finished basement. Call Jeff Parker.

Garden Home \$599,500



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Garden Home \$575,000



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Multnomah Village \$395,000



Duplex Townhome w/ 2 BR, 1.5 BA in each unit. Fireplace in living rooms. Deck & storage area in back. Oversized 1 car garage. Wonderful Multnomah Village location. Great investment!

Vermont Hills \$359,000



Quality 1955 classic mid century design. New vinyl windows throughout. Solid oak floors, 2 fireplaces, 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Forced air gas heat and air conditioning. Great location close to Gabriel Park and SW Community Center.

Multnomah Village \$339,000



View of the coast range! 3 BR, 2 BA home. 1,652 sq ft. Light & bright living room w/ woodstove & slider to large deck. 2 kitchens & oak floors. View & private deck from master bedroom. Driveway & garage below.

Vermont Hills \$319,000



Excellent value! Classic Mid-Century Day Ranch w/ sunset views. Living room w/ cozy fireplace. Large kitchen w/ eating area. Lower level offers office / den, family room w/ fireplace, laundry room & full bath. Hardwood floors under carpets.

Vermont Hills \$245,000



Light & bright living room with fireplace. French doors in dining room to back patio. Kitchen with large skylight. Updated bathroom, hardwood floors throughout, newer vinyl windows, tool shed & fully fenced back yard. Large corner lot.

Multnomah Village \$214,900



Cute cottage in Multnomah Village. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Skylights in vaulted living room. New tile and carpet throughout. 2 decks overlooking large back yard. Washer & dryer hookup in basement.

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A donation is made to Neighborhood House, Inc., with each sale!