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The Southwest Portland Post

Southwest Portland's Independent Neighborhood Newspaper

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Volume No. 19, Issue No. 9 www.swportlandpost.com Portland, Oregon Complimentary July 2011

History comes alive in walking tour of Maplewood

By Polina Olsen
 The Southwest Portland Post

"You are standing in what was the first homestead in Maplewood," Karen Williams said as she coaxed the crowd of 24 "tourists" away from the table laid out with lemonade and apples. It was time to start the Maplewood History Tour.

Sponsored by the Maplewood Neighborhood Association, the June 12 event started in April Hill Park and included nine stops ranging from the site of a five million year lava flow to recent triumphs of community activism. Everyone received a map and walking tour guide.

The first homestead, Williams continued as she looked around the park, started right here when Francis and Caroline Nieber received a donation land grant of 320 acres in 1873. "Western settlers, of course, were not the first inhabitants," she added. Settlers found Native American artifacts from earlier times.

As the tour meandered through

woody paths and winding streets, Williams held up geological maps and referred to Marjorie E. Hoffman's *Maplewood Centennial 1875 - 1975* for historic information. Marjorie and John Hoffman's families lived in Maplewood since 1885. Stop #5 showed the site of the Hoffman homestead.

"J.P. Hoffman bought this land in 1885 and built a successful dairy," the handout read. "Chinese laborers lived in a log cabin near SW 55th and Texas."

In addition to building Hoffman Road, "They cut down trees and burned them into charcoal in a pit located near SW 53rd and Texas."

Generations of the Hoffman family remained at the ancestral home where Southwest 53rd Avenue intersects with Vermont Street.

History came alive as the tour continued. The building at 5206 SW Custer St. housed the Maplewood Grocery and post office beginning in 1911.

Elderly neighbors remember the 1962 burglary; owner Myrtle H. Rogers reported no missing postage stamps. When the store closed in 1976, an Oregonian advertisement read: "Maple-



Karen Williams used a geological map to point out the site of an ancient lava flow, during a historic tour of Maplewood. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

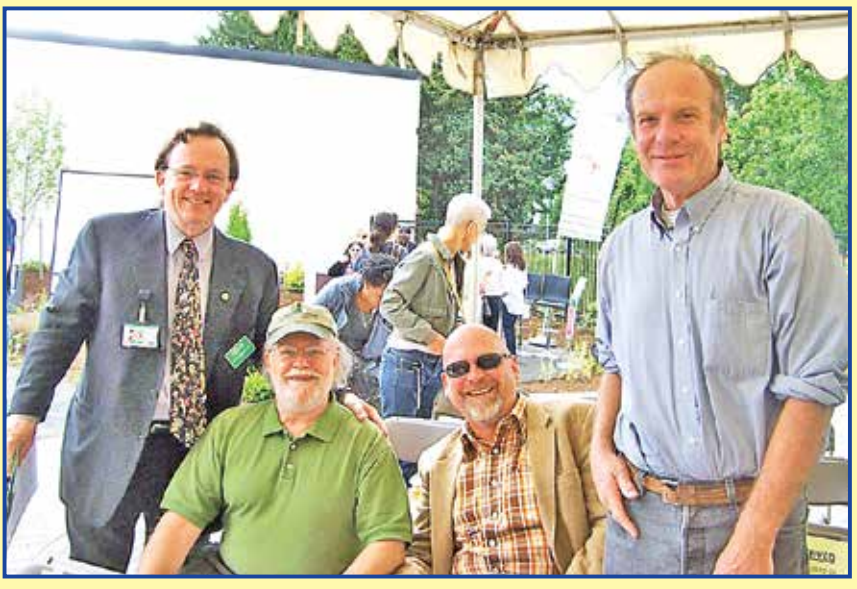
wood, Grocery Store with Living Qtrs and Basement; \$22,500 for BLDG & Land, Good Contract Terms."

The Oregon Electric railroad station on the south side of Maplewood Road was Stop #9. Its 1908 arrival prompted a flurry of interest in the area, which at that time was called Kusa. One November 1908 *Oregonian* notice posted

by "R.H. Fay, Hillsdale" read: "Twenty acres suitable for milk and/or gardening, with suitable buildings, near Kusa. 25 minutes from Portland on Oregon City Electric."

A Feb 27, 1910 *Oregonian* announcement predicted further development: "Kirchner & Hanno have purchased" (Continued on Page 3)

Four Guys in the Healing Garden



National College of Natural Medicine president David Schleich with South Portland Neighborhood Association board members Jim Gardner, Bill Danneman and Lee Buhler at the dedication of the college's new Min Zidell Healing Garden, June 24. Additional photos on Page 5. (Post photo by Lee Perlman)

City prepares to study Barbur corridor between PSU and Sherwood

By Lee Perlman
 The Southwest Portland Post

The City of Portland is about to embark on the Barbur Corridor Concept Plan, a venture that involves far more than its name implies.

As City planner Jay Sugnet told the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission, the multi-jurisdictional project is expected to look at everything within a half-mile of Southwest Barbur Boulevard between Portland State University and Sherwood.

It will consider making the state highway the next light rail route. It will consider such local issues as the 140 miles of arterial streets without sidewalks, long a priority for the area. The venture will not even be limited to transportation issues.

"The idea is that land use should inform transportation decisions," Sugnet told the Commission. "We're not just focused on transportation, but on building great places."

In addition to the Barbur corridor the study will look at the Portland Community College Sylvania campus, Multnomah Village, Hillsdale, Oregon Health and Sciences University, the South Waterfront and River Place, he said.

Sugnet said that Washington County, the City of Tigard and Metro would be involved in addition to Portland. The



The crossroads of Barbur Boulevard, Capitol Highway, and Interstate 5 on June 29. (Post photo by Leslie Baird)

project will have a large and diverse Citizen Advisory Committee, and this will be the "glue" that keeps its participants connected, he said.

Other plans for community involvement include a series of community "walks" in September and an open house in October.

Sugnet said the study area contains "major regional destinations" where Metro expects an employment growth of 47 percent and a population increase of 54 percent in the next 25 years, and "twenty-five miles of one of the most congested transportation corridors in the region."

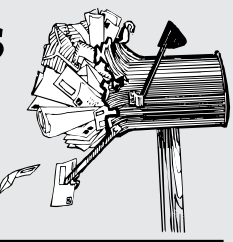
Commission member Mike Houck asked that the study include consideration of Southwest Portland's trail network and its potential as a commuter route.

(Continued on Page 8)

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Letters to the Editor



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email: news@multnomahpost.com

Disparaging remarks about cyclists not helpful in Capitol Highway discussion

I'm the Multnomah Neighborhood Association's secretary. In the year and a half I've volunteered on the board, many exciting and controversial land use decisions have been made.

During this time, I have felt discouraged by numerous disparaging remarks about cyclists. I write today to remind you that the very same kinds of people who ride bikes, also drive cars, and cross streets, meaning some of them are considerate and some are not.

Personally, I am multi-modal. In my business and personal life, I may walk; bike; take the bus, train, or plane; or drive one of my two vehicles. I am grateful for infrastructure throughout the city, state, and country that allows me to live a lifestyle with so many choices.

At this month's meeting, we discussed the proposed improvements

for Capitol Highway that I believe will make it safer for walkers, bikers, and drivers.

Due to our slope-challenged street system, pedestrians and cyclists have few alternatives to move between the Multnomah Village business district and Barbur Blvd. These "alternative transportation" users aren't going away just because we didn't build anything.

As one neighborhood association member has mentioned a few times, there are kids out there trying to get to school. I invite you to remember as you travel around that the other people around you are someone else's loved one.

I hope you treat them with the same respect that you hope others are treating your loved ones as they travel around. When I get behind the wheel, the significant difference in mass/weight between a pedestrian or a cyclist and a car inspires me to think of my car more as weapon, able to kill as efficiently as a gun.

For a healthier and safer community, I hope you will both be at your best when behind the wheel and support projects, such as the pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular improvements proposed on Capitol Highway, so that we are better able to protect the health and welfare of everyone in our neighborhood.

If you've made it this far, thanks for reading. I look forward to seeing you at a neighborhood meeting sometime in the future.

Maria Cahill
Multnomah

Correction: New Safeway will be at Barbur Blvd and Capitol Hill Rd

I am a regular reader and enjoy the focused information that you provide regarding Southwest Portland.

But your story about the proposed Safeway ["Multnomah residents consider Safeway traffic impacts" by Lee Perlman, June 2011] is very confusing.

First, why do you not identify the existing store that Safeway would be replacing. At the intersection of Capitol Highway and Barbur Blvd, that seems to be either that Castle Adult store, or World Foods.

Huge piece of information, and when writing for an inverted journalistic style, such a weighted piece of information should be right there in the lead. Why you don't identify the store besides by "an existing store" is a complete mystery to me.

OK, now I figure it out. You incorrectly said Capitol Highway in the lead, and then you correctly say Capitol Hill Road further on. Better luck on proofing next time.

[Editor's Note: That was my mistake. Sorry for the confusion. -Don Snedecor]

No problem, thanks for the reply. Still think mentioning that they were

(Continued on Page 3)



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New Safeway (Continued from Page 2)

going to replace the existing Safeway store would have been one word worth adding.

And it seems like a no-brainer. That store has been frozen in history for at least 30 years (same as the Raleigh Hills Safeway, but there they are surrounded by competitors).

But if they really wanted to update the Barbur Safeway, seems like somebody really dropped the ball in not having the grand re-opening coincide with the closing, although temporarily, of the Burlingame Fred Meyers.

David Martin
Southwest Portland

EarthTalk column on cannabis contained unverifiable statements

I sincerely hope that as a free and responsible press, The Post publishes counter information to the pro-legalization article on cannabis, which I found loaded with plenty of statements that are not verifiable.

How about getting comment from a rehab counselor from the local, county, state and federal level to respond to the erroneous statements of improvements to society that the the article claims.

How about talking about DNA stranding and marijuana use amongst teen users, the 600 compounds identified in cannabis that are toxic including 24 or more that are found in tobacco and listed as more toxic?

How about the activation of opiate receptors and use of marijuana as contributing to more intensified use of cannabis?

And does anyone really believe that the money incentive for illegal growers, transporters, and cartels will shrink away when so much money is being made?

Reduce the demand for drugs. Then talk about legalization.

Greg Schifsky
Southwest Lee Street



Hoffman house and barn, 1886, looking southwest from present day Vermont Street at about 52nd Avenue. (Photo courtesy Multnomah Historical Association)

Maplewood Walking Tour

(Continued from Page 1)

for platting purposes 44.4 acres of improved land on the Oregon Electric Line at Kusa Station, four miles south of Multnomah County courthouse.

"The property was purchased from John P. Hoffman and John Zneifel for \$26, 665. The land is adjoining the electric line and has all been cleared and cultivated."

"The new owners will plat the land into tracts of from one to 10 acres and will place it on the market through the agency of the Bromley-Constans Company in a few weeks. The property is so located as to have a fine view of the valley and of Council Crest."

Along the route, Williams pointed out restoration success stories. Debbie Benke led the effort that turned an ivy-

choked tunnel into a delightful walkway filled with native plants.

MNA Schools Chair Ronda Zakocs discussed the Maplewood Road Greenway Project, which will make the road safer for walking.

The neighborhood nearly lost public bus service before MNA activists led by Bill Rector convinced TriMet and the City of Portland staff to change their minds.

The tour took about two hours. While most preferred walking, bicycling or riding in the van provided by the Neighborhood House Senior Center were also options.

Those who couldn't make the June 12 date will find the guide and map posted on the MNA website. Visit maplewood.swni.org or email maplewood@swni.org for more information.

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Public Notice of Water Construction

Starting in July, a contractor for the **Portland Water Bureau** will install 5,000 feet of 36 inch diameter steel mains to replace an aging supply pipeline that is critical to the city's water system.

Working from north to south, the 12 month open trench construction project, with some work at night, affects the following streets:

- **SW Naito Pkwy.**, between SW Clay St. and SW Caruthers St.;
- **SW Caruthers St.**, between SW Naito Pkwy. and SW Water Ave.;
- **SW Water Ave.**, between SW Caruthers St. and SW Baker St.;
- **SW Baker St.**, between SW Water Ave. and SW Water Ave.;
- **SW Water Ave.**, from SW Baker St. under SW Kelly Ave. to Hooker;
- **SW Hooker St.**, from under SW Naito Pkwy to SW First Ave.; and
- **SW First Ave.**, between SW Hooker St. and SW Porter St.

Other work includes boring under sections of SW Naito Pkwy, SW Kelly Ave. and SW Harrison St. to install casing to protect pipe.

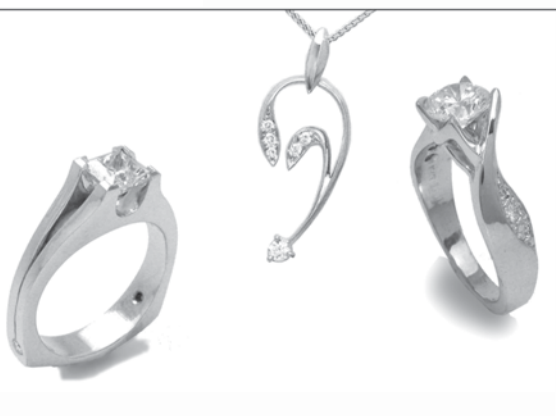
The Portland Water Bureau encourages motorists and bicyclists to avoid these streets when work is underway. The public's cooperation is appreciated.



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Portland park bureau offers summer concerts and movies

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

South Portland now has the distinction of being the only Portland neighborhood to host two free summer parks concert series. Willamette Park will be host to concerts by **Tony Furtado** on July 6; **Linda Hornbuckle** on July 13; **Dirty Syncopators** on July 20, and **Lisa Mann and Her Really Good Band** on July 27.

Meanwhile, the newly-minted Elizabeth Caruthers Park in South Waterfront will have concerts with the **Water Tower Bucket Boys** August 19, and **Blue Cranes** August 26. The Willamette Park concerts start at 6:30 p.m., the Caruthers Park events at 6 p.m.

The Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation is the main sponsor of the concerts, but it requires that local community groups come up with part of the financial backing, an increasingly challenging task in these economic times.

South Portland Neighborhood Association by now has the advantage of experience and past successes in gathering support, while those associated with the South Waterfront include individuals and groups with

deeper than normal pockets.

Elsewhere in southwest, the park bureau is offering free movies, in every case preceded by some sort of live entertainment until the night gets sufficiently dark.

The schedule is as follows: *The Social Network* will be shown at the Multnomah Arts Center on July 1. *Imagine That* will be shown at Dickinson Park on July 3.

Ferris Bueller's Day Off will be shown at DeWitt Park on July 29. *Free Willy* will be shown at Holly Farm Park on July 30. *E.T.* will be shown at Caruthers Park on August 11.

James and the Giant Peach will be shown at Dickinson Park on August 13. *North by Northwest* will be shown at Caruthers Park, September 8.

Toy Story 3 will be shown at Multnomah Arts Center on September 9. *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* will be shown at April Hill Park on September 10. Music begins at 6:30 p.m. and the movies will start at dusk.

At each of these events the park bureau will have vendors on hand from whom you can purchase food, or you can bring your own along with a blanket and/or lawn chair. Patrons are asked to be courteous and helpful to those around you, and otherwise enjoy the shows.

MULTNOMAH NOTEBOOK

Friends of Spring Garden Park wins \$10,000 grant from Umpqua Bank

By Moses Ross

The July meeting of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association will be held on Tuesday, July 12 at 7:00PM at the Multnomah Arts Center, Room 30. Please join us!

Congratulations to the Friends of Spring Garden Park for being chosen as the recipients of a \$10,000 grant to build a nature playground at the park. The grant was the grand prize of Umpqua Bank in Multnomah Village's Build Your Block Challenge.

Spring Garden Park's Nature Playground was one of three projects that had made it to the final selection stage of the contest. The other two projects were a community mural and installation of benches throughout the neighborhood.

The community mural and the benches projects received much support in the voting and so the neighborhood association would like to "adopt" these projects to make sure they are followed up on and implemented. If you would like to assist us in implementing these projects, please contact Moses at mnachair@gmail.com and I can give you more details.

Do you live on a street that is unmaintained? Your chair is working on a project to identify and map

all the unmaintained streets in the Multnomah neighborhood. If you live on an unmaintained street, please help out by emailing me at mnachair@gmail.com and let me know the location of the street.

Its summertime in Multnomah and that means its time for the Multnomah Outdoor Cinema. Sponsored by the MNA and our friends at SW Neighborhoods, Inc, O'Connor's Restaurant, Food Front Grocery and Portland Parks and Recreation, this has become a summertime tradition in our neighborhood.

Come join everyone at this free community event on Friday, July 1 starting at 8PM with live music courtesy of the Shannon Tower Band. At dusk, the PG-13 rated movie "The Social Network" begins.

Enjoy bottomless bags of popcorn, the good company of your neighbors and friends as well as music and movies under the stars. The event is held outside under cover at the Multnomah Arts Center so bring a blanket and make an evening of it! We'll see you there!

The Oregon Legislature recently tackled the redistricting of House and Senate districts, as mandated every ten years due to the census and adjustments for where people within Oregon live.

The Multnomah neighborhood was dramatically affected by this shifting of boundaries. Previously, the entire neighborhood was within the bound-

(Continued on Page 6)

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Morning in the Healing Garden

Post photos by Lee Perlman



Drummers entertain at the dedication of the National College of Natural Medicine's new Min Zidell Healing Garden in South Portland, June 24.



Min Zidell, longtime patron of naturopathic medicine and namesake of the new Min Zidell Healing Garden, at its June 24 dedication. The Zidell family donated \$150,000 toward the garden's creation.



A statue of ancient Chinese physician Sun Simiao, sitting on a tiger (depicting strength) and treating a western doctor. The statue, intended to symbolize the blending of western and eastern natural medical practices, was donated by Huo Baozhu for the new Min Zidell Healing Garden.



David Schleich, president of the National College of Natural Medicine and Patrick Quinton, executive director of the Portland Development Commission at the dedication of the new Min Zidell Healing Garden in South Portland, June 24.

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Dear EarthTalk: I heard that some reusable bags contain lead. Is this a major health concern? Can't these bags be made to avoid such contamination?

-- Donald Young, Cincinnati, OH

It's true that some reusable shopping bags for sale in U.S. stores have been shown to contain lead-- a neurotoxin linked to developmental, brain and kidney problems.

The non-profit Center for Environmental Health (CEH) found that about 10 percent of the reusable bags it tested last year contained at least minute levels of lead.

Disney's "Toy Story" and "Cars" plastic reusable shopping bags topped the charts with excessive levels to the tune of 15 times the federal limit for lead in children's products. Tests by other groups confirm CEH's findings.

A November 2010 report by the Tampa Tribune newspaper found elevated levels of lead in reusable bags purchased at Winn-Dixie, Publix, Walmart and Target stores--and prompted an ongoing investigation by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) into whether or not reusable shopping bags could be leaching lead into food items that people later eat.

And earlier this year, the Center

for Consumer Freedom, a trade group that opposes bans on plastic bags, reported that some 21 different polypropylene reusable bags sold at Safeway, Walgreen's, Bloom and other stores had lead content above 100 parts per million--the highest level that many states allow in consumer packaging.

While the stores in question have pulled any such questionable bags from their shelves and in some cases stopped patronizing offending suppliers, consumers should take matters into their own hands with regard to selecting safer reusable shopping bags.

While plastic reusable shopping bags are a step in the right direction compared to disposable plastic or paper bags, they are still derived from petroleum, even if partly recycled, and may contain other contaminants, especially if they feature ornate designs or patterns.

The safest bet, according to CEH, would be cloth bags: Not only are they usually free of lead or any other potentially hazardous substances, but they also last for years and are



Plastic reusable shopping bags are petroleum-derived and may contain other contaminants, including lead, especially if they feature ornate designs or patterns. The safe bet is to use cloth bags, like the one pictured here from Eco Bags, because they are free of lead, they last for years, and they are easy to wash. (Photo courtesy of Eco Bags)

every few uses at least to ward off contamination.

A 2008 Environmental and Plastics Industry Council of Canada study found mold and bacterial levels in reusable bags 300 percent greater than Canadian health standards allow.

And a 2010 joint University of Arizona and Loma Loma University study found that 97 percent of users did not wash their reusable shopping bags--which can harbor bacteria from repeated exposure to meats and vegetables. Half of the 84 bags studied contained coliform, a bacterium found in fecal matter, while

easy to wash. One quality, reliable source for cloth bags is the Ossining, New York-based Eco Bags, from which you can order conveniently online and pay no shipping costs on any order of \$100 or more.

Regarding washing to reduce or eliminate contaminants, public health experts worry that reusable shopping bags could become a breeding ground for impurities that lead to food poisoning, and recommend washing them

12 percent tested positive for E. coli. The moral of the story is to make sure your reusable shopping bags can go through the clothes washer--and then wash them a few times a month. This way you will steer clear of contaminating the food you and your family eat with trace amounts of lead, and as such you will sleep easier each and every night.

CONTACTS: CEH, www.ceh.org; Arizona/Limo Loma Study, www.uanews.org/pdfs/GerbaWilliams-Sinclair_BagContamination.pdf; Eco Bags, www.ecobags.com.

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MULTNOMAH NOTEBOOK

(Continued from Page 4)

aries of House District (HD) 36 and was represented in Salem by State Representative Mary Nolan.

The new redistricting has divided up Multnomah into three house districts, HD 36, represented by Nolan, HD 35, represented by State Rep. Margaret Doherty and HD 38, represented by State Rep. Chris Garrett.

The Multnomah Neighborhood Association has invited all three state representatives to speak and meet their new constituents at our July meeting so please plan to attend to meet your new legislators and ask them questions about the process.

Editor's Note: Moses Ross is chair of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association. He can be reached via e-mail at mnachair@gmail.com.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Neighborhood coalition elects new officers



Marianne Fitzgerald (Photo courtesy of SWNI)

The Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. board last month elected Marianne Fitzgerald of the Ash Creek neighborhood as their president. She succeeds Brian Russell of Multnomah, who is moving out of state.

Fitzgerald, who had chaired the SWNI Transportation Committee, outpolled Don Baack, former Hillsdale Neighborhood Association chair and chair of the SWNI Trails Committee, in a written ballot. Baack joined in the applause when the result was announced.

In another contested election, Jim McLaughlin of West Portland Park unseated incumbent Ken Love of South Portland for the First Vice President position. McLaughlin had originally announced that he would run for president, but later switched.

Sharon Keast of Arnold Creek won the Second Vice President position by default when Moses Ross of Multnomah,

who had also declared for the post, withdrew his name at the last minute.

Sharon Troutman of Marshall Park was unopposed as Treasurer, where she replaced Tom Schaper, as was Lee Buhler of South Portland, who was re-elected as Secretary.

Spirit of Portland Award nominations due

The Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement is once again accepting nominations for Spirit of Portland Awards. Given annually, these recognize groups or individuals who have contributed to the city's livability.

A citizen jury, under the direction of ONI, selects the winners from nominations submitted by the public at large.

The award categories are large or small business; community policing and public safety; emerging community leader; humanitarian; non-profit organization.

Additional categories include public involvement; community harmony; emergency preparedness; City employee of the year; independent spirit; outstanding partnership; Sandy Diedrich environmental stewardship; youth volunteer; and neighborhood of the year.

Nomination forms are available from ONI in City Hall or from the Southwest Neighborhood Office. The deadline for submissions is 4 p.m. August 5. For more information call 503-823-3881 or e-mail patrick.philpot@portlandoregon.gov.

Water tanks approved; Ash Creek neighborhood appeals

Hearings Officer Gregory Frank has approved a plan by the Tualatin Valley Water District to install a two million

gallon water tank at 6217 S.W. Garden Home Road, replacing two 500,000-gallon tanks at the site. The Ash Creek Neighborhood Association, which opposed the request, has appealed the decision to the Portland City Council. A hearing will be held at 2 p.m. July 14.

The Water District argued that the

proposed new tank would have little impact on its neighbors beyond the facilities already there. Ash Creek and immediate neighbors argued that the proposed tank would take up the entire property, loom over its neighbors, and affect their livability and property values.

Southwest Hills NA opposes land partition of PDC leader Scott Andrews

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

A minor land partition is normally a very routine procedure. A pending request for one in the Southwest Hills has been anything but.

Scott Andrews is requesting a partition for his property at 1205 S.W. Myrtle Drive in order to create a new home site that he can sell.

The property comprises 28,000 square feet, and the R10 zoning allows one dwelling unit per 10,000 square feet of lot area, so the request would seem doable legally.

However, Andrews is proposing a second lot that is only 7,800 square feet, far less than the minimum the code demands.

Moreover, the parcel straddles a creek that Andrews proposes to fill, diverting the water into a new sewer pipe. He also plans to clear-cut most of the dense tree growth on the property.

"This goes against all the protections for land use in the City code, for natural resources in particular," Nancy Seaton of the Southwest Hills Residential League (SWHRL) told *The Post*.

SWHRL officially opposed the project. They suggested alternative ways to develop the property and held some negotiations with Scott's attorney, Bob

Evanson, including one at a SWHRL general meeting.

The neighborhood failed to achieve a meeting of minds, largely because Andrews refused to consider including the high ground of the property, where his own home is located and where development would be the least obtrusive, in the second home site.

"He didn't seem to want anyone muscling in on his home," Seaton said.

Normally, when such an application goes to the Bureau of Development Services, the assigned planner works with the applicant until they reach a proposal the City deems acceptable.

Not in this case. Planner Kate Green denied the application, finding that it failed to meet nearly all the relevant criteria.

Andrews appealed the decision, and in late April it went before a city hearings officer – where there was another anomaly. Rather than use one of the staff of attorneys it regularly employs as a hearings examiner, the city auditor's office contracted to use Beaverton attorney Ken Helm, who had never before performed this function, for the case.

SWHRL members speculated that it might have had something to do with the applicant's status. Andrews is chief executive officer of Melvin Mark Properties, one of the major downtown (Continued on Page 8)

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Officials approve new method for building the Sellwood Bridge's replacement

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

The Multnomah County Commission last month approved a new approach to construction of a new Sellwood Bridge, one that relies on moving the existing bridge to a slightly new location and using it while a new span is built.

Previous plans call for building half of a new bridge immediately north of the existing span, then demolishing the existing bridge and using the new structure for traffic movement while adding to it.

The new plan, as presented by project manager Ian Cannon, calls for moving the existing bridge to a new location a few feet to the north, while the new bridge is built in the old location in a single phase.

Cannon said the new approach could save \$5 to \$10 million in expense and up to a year in construction time.

The technique has been used "half a dozen times worldwide," Cannon said. "It's not a new technology. It just has to be done with care." Another advantage, Cannon said, is that it creates greater separation between through traffic movement and the construction work.

Asked by County chair Jeff Cogen if there are "downsides" or risks to the procedure, Cannon said, "The biggest risk is whether we can get the permits in time to do what we need to do." He later added that it will probably be necessary to condemn and acquire one



This photo illustration shows the deck arch design of the proposed Sellwood Bridge. (Post file photo courtesy of Multnomah County)

housing unit in the River Park condominiums on the east side.

At a hearing last month, only one person spoke against the proposal. Transportation activist Jim Howell claimed that a better and cheaper course would be to pursue a new alignment for the new bridge, taking it to the north.

Cannon responded that adopting Howell's idea would involve reopening the planning process for the project, which would eat up any construction cost savings it might offer. However, at the urging of Commissioner Deborah Kafoury, Cannon agreed to investigate Howell's idea.

Also last month, consultant Mike Acre of David Evans and Associates discussed possible cost savings to compensate for the defeat by Clackamas County voters of a \$5 annual surcharge expected to generate \$42 million.

Most of the savings involve forgoing elements of a new interchange with Highway 43 on the west side of the bridge. Acre said the County is considering using one right-turn lane on the west side off-ramp instead of two-- a change he said was "not desirable but doable."

Another is to adjust traffic signal timing to accommodate the traffic demand at any given time of the day.

Acre said he and other staff have discussed these ideas with Portland and Oregon Department of Transportation officials. "No one said they were fatally flawed," he said.

The County is also seeking a grant from the federal Transportation Improvement Grant for Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. Such grants are typically in the range of \$15 to \$25 million, but can run as high as \$60 million, he said.

Barbur Corridor Planning

(Continued from Page 1)

Commission chair Andre Baugh said, "This is a good time to look at this corridor, and we really need to look at it comprehensively."

Baugh noted that adjacent property, by and large, consists of relatively small parcels rather than "a big set of developments. The key is community involvement."

Baugh said the study should look at potential future open spaces and "how it connects to other communities."

Senior planner Joe Zehnder said the growth estimate is based on projections by Metro, and recent studies say its extent may be exaggerated. "We've never done one quite like this before," Zehnder said. "It should be a lot of fun."

Editor's Note: In December 2010, Metro was awarded a \$2 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration to analyze alternatives for improving transit in the corridor that includes Barbur Boulevard/Highway 99W and Interstate 5.

Southwest Hills partition

(Continued from Page 7)

property owners, and is chair of the Portland Development Commission.

City Auditor LaVonne Griffin-Valade, in response to an inquiry, told The Post that the applicant's status had nothing to do with the use of Helm on the case.

There is a vacancy at this position, she said, and for that reason the City has contracted for the services of Helm, who has since presided at other cases. Helm's decision on the appeal is expected by late June.

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