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Southwest Portland's Independent Neighborhood Newspaper

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Volume No. 17, Issue No. 10

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Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

August 2009

A Hillsdale neighbor, a city official, and the trail liability issue

By Lee Perlman
 The Southwest Portland Post

Since our last issue, *The Post* has found two people willing to talk to us for the record about trail liability: a trail neighbor and a City of Portland official.



Larry Sloan is concerned about liability for accidents that might occur along this trail adjacent to his property. (Post photo by Lee Perlman)

Larry Sloan's house in Hillsdale sits next to a trail. It is an unusual situation in that in his case the land the trail sits on is not an "easement," part of his and his neighbor's private property through which the public has a right to travel according to conditions imposed at the time the property was subdivided. Rather, it is a right of way for the elec-

tric power and utility lines that run overhead.

Still, Sloan shares this in common with other trail neighbors: he is liable for injuries suffered by passers-by who use the trail. The right of way "was there before I bought the house," Sloan told *The Post*. "Somehow it morphed into a trail."

It was improved, with steps made from railroad ties secured by rebar, by volunteers of the Southwest Trails Committee headed by Don Baack; Sloan met Baack during the course of a Trails work party. "I couldn't say 'no' to what they were doing, and I had no reason to anyway," Sloan said.

The steps have not been maintained since they were installed, he said; the rebar has worked itself up through the wood, creating some potential stubbed toes, (Sloan himself has periodically pounded them back down), and the steps show signs of splitting away.

Still, he did not perceive that he had a problem until informed of the liability issue. "This was never designed as a trail, it isn't a street or a sidewalk, it doesn't belong to me, I can't sell it or make improvements in it, yet I am responsible for liability and mainte-

nance," Sloan complained.

Bureau of Transportation pedestrian coordinator April Bertelsen confirms this. Under City code, "Unimproved rights of way are the responsibility of the abutting property owners until they're improved to City standards," she told *The Post*.

This includes everything from totally unimproved easements to partially paved streets that lack sidewalks and curbs, she said. "Our position is that if you keep things in good order you're reducing your liability."

The code also says that if you build something in a right of way, whether it is a retaining wall or "things like stairs," you are required to secure a building permit for it first, Bertelsen said. Conceding that this hasn't always happened she said, "The events of the past year have increased the City's attention to this; we have more interest in inspection" of the trails.

Baack and the Trails Committee have called on the City to take on responsibility for trail liability. As we reported last month, the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. board of directors adopted this position at their June meeting and sent a

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South Portland neighbors ponder future streetcar extension

TRANSPORTATION

By Lee Perlman
 The Southwest Portland Post

City and regional officials are nearing a decision point on the exact route of a Portland Streetcar extension to Lake Oswego through the Macadam Corridor. Developer and condominium owner Verne Rifer is seeking to unite South Portland groups around a common position.

There are two principal routes upon which the streetcar could proceed south from its current terminus at Southwest Lowell Street: Southwest Macadam Avenue or an old railroad right of way currently used for sight-seeing by the Willamette Shore Trolley.

Transportation planners strongly favor the Willamette Shore route because it would involve very little property acquisition and would allow the car to achieve high speed traveling through areas where it does not have to co-exist with cars.

However, in places the right of way comes within a few feet of bedroom windows of houses constructed while the rail line was dormant. Residents have grudgingly learned to live with the Willamette Shore Trolley, which operates hourly on summer weekends, but serious transit service would have far greater impact.

Planners are looking at hybrid options that could wed the best of each route and still be acceptable to neighborhood interests.

Rifer told the South Portland Neighborhood Association that he is trying to unite support around a route that would go south to Southwest Boundary Street, move over to Macadam as proceed south to Carolina Street, then return to the Willamette Shore route. For any Willamette Shore route between Boundary and Carolina, "We'll fight them block by block and house by house," he said.

South Portland board member Bill Danneman raised a different objection: having the route along any part of the Willamette Shore right of way would deprive Macadam businesses

of the benefits of having the streetcar stop near them. He proposed that the route continue along Macadam as far as Southwest Nevada Street. This position was ultimately adopted by a bare majority of the board.

Rifer argued against Danneman's proposal, but accepted the result. The north end was more critical, he said; a position that the line switch to Macadam before Boundary would be "dead in the water," he said.

Another South Portland board member, Jim Gardner, raised concerns that having a streetcar on Macadam would increase traffic congestion on a street that many fear will soon be overloaded. Rifer downplayed such concerns. Gardner replied, "I've heard the same

(reassurances) about the streetcar downtown, and when I'm behind one, it's a lot slower."

Hillsdale, South Portland seek road compensation

At the suggestion of Southwest Trails Committee chair Don Baack, the South Portland Neighborhood Association voted to join Hillsdale in seeking a better pedestrian connection across Southwest Boones Ferry Road.

The improvement would be "mitigation" for a pending ODOT project in which an overpass on Southwest Barbur Boulevard at Iowa Street will be replaced; the project will begin next

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Willamette Shore Trolley headed toward Lake Oswego at the Riverplace terminal.

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Trail Liability

(Continued from Page 1)

letter to this effect to the City Council. At press time in mid-July Bertelsen said she had just received the letter and could not specifically comment on it at this time; in any event, an official response would have to come from Mayor Sam Adams, who oversees the Portland Bureau of Transportation, she said.

However, the City has resisted taking on this responsibility in the past. Bertelsen noted that budget cuts have forced her bureau to reduce its routine maintenance of improved local streets.

"There was discussion during this year's budget process of whether we can even maintain what we already have responsibility for," Bertelsen said. She added, "I am sympathetic to the Southwest volunteers; I understand what an investment they've made in the trail network and what a freeze this can put on things."

The City's response so far has been to make trails exempt from liability. In the last legislative session, HB2003 made cities exempt for civil claims for injuries suffered by people tending community gardens. Portland lobbyists tried to amend the bill to make it apply to trails. The bill's sponsors, fearing this could endanger their chances of passage, refused to accept the amendment.

Bertelsen said that City officials feel a second try during a special session next year would be "the most elegant, robust solution." If successful, would it make trail neighbors happy? For some

it would solve the problem; others simply don't want trails going by their property.

Sloan is somewhere in the middle. He noted that neighboring children regularly use the trail to catch the school bus, and that it is far more direct and safe than negotiating the street system.

"This is a lot different from having people handing out trail maps," said Sloan, and the "circus" he feared that would bring. Trail advocates say that since the trail system is a public resource, it makes sense to let the public know about it. However, his main concern is liability. "I'm not a bad guy," he said. "I just don't want process servers coming to my house."

Southwest Volunteers

(Continued from Page 3)

Council understand that in these hard times citizen involvement support is not something you cut," she said.

Regarding her own election as a Voter-Owned Candidate, by which Fritz's campaign received \$150,000 in City funds after collecting a thousand \$5 contributions, she said, "All I had to do was know a lot of hard-working people who could help me knock on doors. I didn't have to know people who could write me big checks."

Regarding her time on the Portland City Council she said, "Being on the other side of the door, I learned things I never imagined, some of them great." She praised her fellow city commissioners including Dan Saltzman for being "very upfront about how he makes decisions," and Nick Fish as being "really good-hearted."

Letters to the Editor



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Multnomah Village Farmers' Market canceled for season

With great regret, the last market session for Multnomah Village Farmers Market was held on July 9, 2009. Simply put, sales were not high enough for the farmers and food vendors to cover their expenses. We were also unable to attract vegetable farmers, limiting the variety of produce available for customers.

Below is a list of the vendors who attended. You can find them at other Portland-area farmers markets including Hillsdale and OHSU here in Southwest. Draper Girls Farm, Graceful Blades, Greenville Farms, Herr Family Farm, Unger Farm, Missionary Chocolates, Wandering Aengus Ciderworks, Savory et Sweet, Nature's Choice, The Honey Pot, and Red Dragon Nursery.

Once the summer market season is over, we will talk to farmers and determine whether or not a market in Multnomah Village might work for them. We will be asking if different days or different times or both will be more beneficial. Thank you to all the customers who did come to the market.

*Eamon Molloy
Manager, Hillsdale and
Multnomah Village farmers markets*





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Editor & Publisher: Don Snedecor
Reporters/Writers: Kate Bennett, Polina Olsen, Lee Perlman, Allison Voigts
Retail Advertising Manager: Harry Blythe
Graphic Design: Leslie Baird Design
Printing: Oregon Lithoprint



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The Post has a circulation of 10,000 in Multnomah Village and the surrounding neighborhood business districts including Burlingame, Capitol Hill, Garden Home, Glen Cullen, Hillsdale, South Portland, Raleigh Hills, West Portland and Vermont Hills. The Post is published on or about the 1st of every month. Subscriptions are \$14 per year. Back issues are \$2.50 each when available. All major credit cards accepted.




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



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Commissioner Fritz presents awards to Southwest community volunteers

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

This year the theme was "Our Garden of Volunteers," and small packets of seeds were distributed around tables at the Multnomah Arts Center, as Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) held its Volunteer Recognition Party on June 30 at the Multnomah Arts Center.

Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz presented awards to outstanding volunteers nominated by local neighborhood associations and other community groups. This year those so honored were:

Sharon Keast, Arnold Creek Neighborhood Association and NET Team. Audrey Metcalf, Bridlemile Neighborhood Association.

Gary Miniszewski, Ash Creek Neighborhood Association and SWNI Land Use Committee. Darien Reece, Crestwood Neighborhood Association.

Don Baack, Hillsdale Neighborhood Association and Southwest Trails

Committee. Susan Jaeger, Homestead Neighborhood Association.

Maureen Diamond, Collins View Neighborhood Association. Gene Hammond, Far Southwest Neighborhood Association. Gary Hoselton, Hayhurst Neighborhood Association.

Chris and Dianne Mays, Maplewood Neighborhood Association. Lee Buhler and Bill Danneman, South Portland Neighborhood Association.

Dona Hippert, West Portland Park Neighborhood Association. John Gibbon, West Portland Park Neighborhood Association, SWNI Land Use and Transportation committees.

Mike Duffield, Marshall Park Neighborhood Association and Multnomah Historical Association. Mary Verghies, Multnomah Neighborhood Association.

Simone Goldfeder, Southwest Hills Residential League. Lynn and Sam Pearson, South Burlingame Neighborhood Association.

Ken Love, South Portland Neighborhood Association and SWNI Parks



Southwest community volunteers were honored by the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition, June 30, at the Multnomah Arts Center. (Post photo by Lee Perlman)

Committee. Steve Mullinax and Greg Schifsky, Bridlemile Creek Watershed Stewards.

In addition, SWNI presented a Lifetime Achievement award to Keith Claycomb. Although he has moved out of the Homestead neighborhood, he performed faithful volunteer service there for more than 30 years, including several as neighborhood association chair.

Commissioner Fritz, who had served

as a volunteer for 23 years, including 17 in West Portland Park and three on the SWNI Board, before her election to City Council last year, said, "It's good to be home. I learned a lot in my time at SWNI. I know how hard you work day in, day out, year in, year out."

Fritz thanked volunteers for supporting her Right Budget for the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, the principal funder of SWNI. "You helped

(Continued on Page 2)

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- **COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP 2**
Tuesday, August 18, 5:30 to 8:30 pm
- **OPEN HOUSE**
Summary prior to HOPE VI grant submittal
Tuesday, October 6, 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Events will be held at Hillsdale Terrace, 6775 SW 26th Avenue (across the street and down the hill from MJCC).

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Mary Jane Sim Boone 08/23/1916 - 07/03/2009

OBITUARY

Mary Jane Sim Boone born of Scottish descent on August 23, 1916, and passed away on Friday, July 3, 2009 at age 92. Family and friends will remember her for her talent as a family writer, poet, piano player, composer, lover of all music, beautiful seamstress, and for her gifting of homemade "Scottish Shortbread."

Mary was one of three daughters, all born in America. She graduated from Collins View Grade School at 12 years old and at 16 graduated from Commerce High School (Cleveland). Mary went to work very young for the main branch of the Multnomah County Library, followed by a Portland bank, Reingold Jewelers and Hess and Butchart's Investments.

On January 16, 1943 Mary married Donald Luther Boone a descendant of the famous frontiersman, Daniel Boone. Don was born in Portland, Oregon on October 5, 1913 and passed away at age 73 on July 12, 1987. He also graduated from Collins View, and attended Benson High School. Together Mary & Don built a life raising their two girls in Multnomah Village.

Early in their marriage Mary worked as manager for Perry & Carrie Williams who owned the Wildwood Apartments in Multnomah (converted during World War II from a roller skating rink into "government housing").

Mary was an excellent homemaker, giving to her community in church,



Don and Mary Boone

youth groups, PTA, Campfire, and Bethel. She was a Scottish Rite member, Bosco - Milligan Foundation member, Boone Society, Inc. member, and Multnomah Historical Association member.

As a team Don and Mary exposed their children to family heritage, boating, ballet, music and horses and really enjoyed entering all sorts of contests. In 1957 they won a "cabin cruiser" that slept six plus dingy for naming them "Tranquil" for the boat and "Liza" for the dingy.

Mary was a devoted wife and mother. She had an undying faith, lived her religion daily and was recently described in a sympathy card to the family as the, "ultimate lady, with the sweetest manner who treated everyone with kindness and respect."

Mary is survived by her eldest sister, Mabel S. Ruffner, daughters Janet Boone McGarrigle and Carolyn Boone Grenfell, granddaughters Kellee & Richelle, six great-grandchildren. Both Mary and Don enjoyed their childhood memories on Tryon Creek and enjoyed residing in Multnomah in their adult life. Their house is a four-generation family home (57 years).

Private burial at sea is scheduled for August 23, 2009. Arrangements by Wilhelm's Portland Memorial Funeral Home. Contributions may be made to Friends of Tryon Creek & the Multnomah Historical Association.

Transportation

(Continued from Page 1)

year, take two years to complete and cost \$3.5 million.

"That will mean noise and traffic impact for you, and you should decide how it should be mitigated," Baack told the South Portland board last month. However, the Boones Ferry crossing would "complete" Trail Three Hillsdale to Lake Oswego, "the best long distance walk we have in southwest," he said. Regarding any sort of mitigation from ODOT, Baack said, "You should figure out what's reasonable and ask for it rather than wait for them to make an offer."

Baack proposes pedestrian/bicycle demonstration project

Southwest Trails Committee chair and pedestrian advocate Don Baack has proposed a demonstration project for potential federal funding that would address many long-unmet southwest pedestrian and bike needs.

Baack's proposal, as outlined in an e-mail to Jason Tell of the Oregon Department of Transportation, would be centered on Southwest Barbur Boulevard, but also take in parts of feeder streets such as Boones Ferry Road, Palatine Hill Road, Taylors Ferry Road, Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway, and the Red Electric Trail.

The resulting system would serve the Oregon Health and Sciences University and Lewis and Clark College, among others.

Tell responded that the idea was an "interesting concept," but that the support of local jurisdictions was "critical" to its consideration. Another official, April Bertelsen, pedestrian coordinator of the Portland Bureau of Transportation, said her bureau would initiate a detailed investigation of the feasibility of Baack's ideas.

Shakespeare in the Park



Errant Prince Hal (Butch Flowers) is brought to task for his wild lifestyle by his father the king (Chris Porter) in Portland Actors Ensemble's production of "Henry IV, Part One." The play's the thing at 3:00 p.m. August 15 and 16 in Gabriel Park, near the tennis courts. Performances are free and open to the public. (Photo courtesy of staggerightphoto.com)

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Multnomah Days Festival includes parade, music, and vendors galore

By Polina Olsen
The Southwest Portland Post

Welcome to the 2009 Multnomah Days Festival, where the street fair is bright, the parade is unbeatable, and everyone enjoys a grand day out. This year's celebration runs Saturday, Aug 15 from 8:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. Sponsored by the Multnomah Village Business Association in partnership with Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., 100 vendor booths, a food court, and friendly police horses are only some of the attractions planned.

Events kick off with Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at the Key Bank parking lot (3515 SW Troy St.). Dogs lead this year's parade and are rewarded with a \$5 shampoo at the Lucky Labrador Public House, a benefit for the DoveLewis blood bank.

"The Southwest Community Center has donated a bouncy house for the kid's zone at the Multnomah Center's basketball Court," said festival volunteer Gail Anderson. The zone also features police horses and drug sniffing dogs. The Multnomah Arts Center's arts & crafts sale will cover the center's front lawn, and everyone can stop by and help paint the new 175-foot mural.

"The main entertainment station will be at the intersection of Southwest Capitol Highway and 35th Avenue outside Pagenwood," Anderson said. "After the parade, we'll have chairs and a food court. There's plenty of space to sit and have lunch."

Jill Crecraft of Sip D'Vine, led the entertainment committee. "The Steve Bradley band with Scott Cronin, the best surf music in Portland, plays 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the main stage," she said. Street performers, musicians, and dancers will also contribute. Starting at 4:30 p.m., the venue shifts to the Key Bank parking lot. Thad Beckman plays guitar blues and sings until 6 p.m. Then, blues artists Paris Slim and the Parasites with Frank Goldwasser takes over until 10 p.m.

To join the dog parade, bring your pooch to Handy Andy's at SW Capitol Highway and SW Garden Home road by 9:30 a.m.

The parade starts at 9:45 a.m. To volunteer contact Tye Steinbach at 503-245-3936 or toys@easystreet.net. Vendors should contact Luke Huffstutter at 971-219-4044 or lukehuf@gmail.com. Join the parade by contacting Joan Steinbach at 503-245-3936 or multnomahparade@gmail.com. Get in touch with your inner artist and help create a fantastic 175-foot mural project in the lobby of the Multnomah Arts Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you can make a dot with a q-tip, you can help complete the mural - that's all it takes! Contact Aimee Erickson or Mike Walsh for more info 503-823-2787. Be sure to check www.multnomahvillage.org for updated Multnomah Days Festival schedules and other information.

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This year's Multnomah Days Festival will of course include the street fair along Capitol Highway, all day on Saturday August 15. (Post file photo by Don Snedecor)

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

National Night Out picnics and potlucks slated for August

August 4 is National Night Out, a time when individuals and groups are encouraged to hold gatherings in parks and public spaces after dark. The idea is to symbolically reclaim these public spaces as safe and comfortable for wholesome activities.

Several such gatherings are scheduled in southwest Portland, mostly on the official date but a few a few days before or after. All the following are on August 4 unless otherwise indicated.

Arnold Creek – a potluck picnic 6 to 9 p.m. at Antioch Christian Fellowship Church, 10558 S.W. 35th Ave. **Bridlemile** – a potluck 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Hamilton Park. **Crestwood** – a potluck 6 to 8 p.m. at Dickinson Park.

Far Southwest – a potluck with Hawaiian music 1 to 4:30 p.m. August 8 at Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave.

Homestead – a potluck (the neighborhood will supply hot dogs) 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Duniway Park lilac garden.

Maplewood – an ice cream social with live music 1 to 4:30 p.m. August 2 at Maplewood School, 7452 S.W. 52nd Ave.

Marshall Park – a potluck 6 to 9 p.m. at Marshall Park. **South Portland** – a potluck, with food available for sale courtesy of the Ross Island Grocery, and music by the Wicki-Pickers, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Willamette Park.

West Portland Park – a potluck 5:30

to 7:30 p.m. at Holly Farm Park.

For a more complete list of Night Out events large and small, contact the Southwest Neighborhood Office at 503-823-4592. If nothing is going on in your area, or if you would like to organize a block party of your own, the Neighborhood Office can help you obtain street barriers and temporary insurance.

You will need the consent of all affected residents to block the street. Or, you can have a smaller gathering of friends



Crestwood National Night Out (Post file photo by Darien Reece)

on your yard or porch. If nothing else, leave your porch light burning to help your neighbors get home safely.

'Movies in the Park' coming soon to your neighborhood

Portland Parks and Recreation is offering free movies in selected parks in Southwest this month. The schedule is as follows: On Friday, August 7, "Hair-spray" will be shown at Willamette Park, and "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" will be shown at the Multnomah Arts Center. On Sunday, August 9, "Monsters Versus Aliens" will be shown at Dickinson Park.

The movies will begin at "dark," probably 8 to 9 p.m., and will be preceded by live entertainment. Food will be available for purchase, but feel free to bring your own (non-alcoholic) picnics, together with blanket or lawn chairs.

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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What effects do fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides used on residential lawns or on farms have on nearby water bodies like rivers, streams—or even the ocean for those of us who live near the shore?

-- Linda Reddington, Manahawkin, NJ

With the advent of the so-called Green Revolution in the second half of the 20th century—when farmers began to use technological advances to boost yields—synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides became commonplace around the world not only on farms, but in backyard gardens and on front lawns as well.

These chemicals, many of which were developed in the lab and are petroleum-based, have allowed farmers and gardeners of every stripe to exercise greater control over the plants they want to grow by enriching the immediate environment and warding off pests.

But such benefits haven't come without environmental costs—namely the wholesale pollution of most of our streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and even coastal areas, as these synthetic chemicals run-off into the nearby waterways.

When the excess nutrients from all the fertilizer we use runs off into our waterways, they cause algae blooms sometimes big enough to make waterways impassable. When the algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic species can't survive in these so-called "dead zones" and so they die or move on to greener underwater pastures.

A related issue is the poisoning of aquatic life. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Americans alone churn through 75 million pounds of pesticides each year to keep the bugs off their peapods and petunias. When those chemicals get into waterways, fish ingest them and become diseased. Humans who eat diseased fish can themselves become ill, completing the circle wrought by pollution.

A 2007 study of pollution in rivers around Portland, Oregon found that wild salmon there are swimming around with dozens of synthetic chemicals in their systems. Another recent study from Indiana found that a variety of corn genetically engineered to pro-



Synthetic agricultural chemicals became commonplace beginning with the so-called "Green Revolution." (Photo by Roger Smith, courtesy Flickr)

duce the insecticide Bt is having toxic effects on non-target aquatic insects, including caddis flies, a major food source for fish and frogs.

The solution, of course, is to go organic, both at home and on the farm. According to the Organic Trade Association, organic farmers and gardeners use composted manure and other natural materials, as well as crop rotation, to help improve soil fertility, rather than synthetic fertilizers that can result in an overabundance of nutrients.

As a result, these practices protect ground water supplies and avoid run-off of chemicals that can cause dead zones and poisoned aquatic life. There is now a large variety of organic fertilizer available commercially, as well as many ways to keep pests at bay without resorting to harsh synthetic chemicals.

A wealth of information on growing greener can be found online: Check out OrganicGardeningGuru.com and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Alternative Farming System Information Center, for starters. Those interested in face-to-face advice should consult with a master gardener at a local nursery that specializes in organic gardening.


CONTACTS: CDC, www.cdc.gov; Organic Gardening Guru, www.organicgardeningguru.com; USDA's Alternative Farming System Information Center, www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/ofp/ofp.shtml.

SEND YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS TO: EarthTalk, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

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Public painting begins on Multnomah Arts Center's 175-foot mural

By Allison Voigts
The Southwest Portland Post

The artist population in Multnomah Village just got a lot bigger. Over 250 community members, ranging from kindergarteners to stay-at-home moms to seniors, will be moonlighting this summer as painters during the construction of the Multnomah Art Center's (MAC) lobby mural.

The 175-foot creation, entitled "Arts in the Heart of the Community," uses the painting method known as Pointillism to project a cohesive image from millions of dots scattered across the canvas.

Lead muralist Aimee Erickson, along with MAC art teachers, chose this method to allow community members of all skill levels to participate in the painting while still achieving a professional-looking outcome.

Michael Walsh, the Arts Center's

executive director, said his staff had talked about doing a mural for years. "We thought it would be a good way to build community, and we wanted to change the feel of the building when you walk inside," he said.

Early last year, they finally sat down with a dedicated grant writer and last summer sent the request to the City's Regional Arts & Culture Council (RAC). RAC responded by offering a \$4,437 grant; combined with a \$5,000 grant from The Safeway Foundation and \$2,000 from Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., they had everything they needed to move forward with the long-awaited mural.

When Multnomah residents heard about the project last April, they began sending in drawings, photographs, and memories of their encounters with art in the area, whether they took a class in weaving or acted in a community Shakespeare performance.

Erickson, a MAC art instructor who also leads art projects in area schools, poured over the ideas with three other artists until they had a vision for the nine panels that would encapsulate them.

Each panel represents a different artistic discipline—such as photography, painting, literature, or theater—and together they follow the development of art through the ages.

The four head artists painted the outlines for the mural in muted colors, which the community artists will fill with dots in combinations of vivid colors. MAC teachers and alumni posed for many of the scenes that depict people.



Head muralist Aimee Erickson doles out paint and instructions during each public painting session. (Post photo by Allison Voigts)



Kari Offerdal and Amy Whetter, both 14, worked on the mural during one of the first public painting sessions July 17. (Post photo by Allison Voigts)

"Of course, everything in the mural is also being taught here (at MAC)," Erickson said as she directed one of the first public painting sessions inside a MAC classroom July 17.

Erickson doled out paper cups of house paint (chosen for its durability) in colors like Key Largo, Day Lily, and Fire & Ice to prospective painters. After a few minutes forming practice dots on construction paper, each participant was assigned a Q-tip and an area of the painting to fill.

Lynn Lertzman, a resident of Multnomah, applied coffee-colored dots to a section that depicts a man working on a typewriter. "This place could certainly use some color," she said. "It's a beautiful building, but this is going to help a lot."

The panels will be mounted like wall-

paper on the upper half of the lobby walls. This enables them to be preserved in case the layout of the building ever changes, as well as creating a better angle for viewing the painting as a whole without noticing the tiny dots that compose it. After Erickson and her team put the finishing touches on the mural, they will tentatively unveil it November 6.

While most of the 13 sign-up days to work on the painting have been filled, three "drop-in" days remain when anyone can paint: Thursday, August 6, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm; August 7, during First Friday, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm; and August 15, during the Multnomah Days Festival, from 11:00am to 3:00pm. For more information, contact the Multnomah Arts Center at 503-823-2787.

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Vermont Hills \$245,000



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