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August 2016

Neighbors concerned about proposed amphitheater in Spring Garden Park

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Groundbreaking is just months away for improvements to Spring Garden Park, five acres between Southwest Dolph Court and Spring Garden Street, yet controversy plagues the project.

Neighbors living closest to the park have learned that a paved amphitheater, along with electricity hookups, have been added to the plan.

Park officials beg to differ and have claimed they have vetted the process with the parks advisory committee, neighbors, and community members over the last year.

The site was originally a meadow for dairy cows and then purchased by Portland Public Schools for a proposed school. The park bureau then acquired the property in 1999 from the school district which was disposing of surplus lands.

Friends of Spring Garden Park won

a \$10,000 grant from Umpqua Bank in 2011 to install a nature play area at the undeveloped park site.

Additional funds, up to \$3.4 million, were granted from Portland Parks and Recreation to expand and develop the natural play areas. Plan components include a sand box, logs and boulders, and natural meadows.

The additional funds will add picnic tables, benches, a covered park structure, play structures, and a Portland loo (toilet). Native plants



Dr. John Minahan (left, shown with neighbors Ken Boltz and Cathy Frost) has canvassed the Multnomah neighborhood with a petition asking Portland Parks and Recreation to remove the proposed amphitheater from plans for Spring Garden Park. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

will be retained and other landscaping added.

But according to neighbors, original plans did not include an amphitheater

let alone hookups for amplified music.

Ken Boltz, who lives directly across the street, can easily see the proposed
(Continued on Page 3)

Park bureau and school district continue to test lead levels in drinking water

By Jack Rubinger
The Southwest Portland Post

Mark Ross, a spokesman for Portland Parks & Recreation, said lead test results of drinking water at the Multnomah Arts Center in Southwest Portland are encouraging.

Over the past two months the park bureau found 11 instances of

elevated lead levels at the center, and have been working with a certified industrial hygienist to determine how to fix, repair or otherwise mitigate the drinking water there.

Currently, said Ross, one water fountain with bottle filler is open for use, and drinking water service is also provided. Visitors can fill up their own water bottles to reduce the use of plastic. Other fixtures at MAC,

including sinks in individual rooms, are marked "Do Not Drink" or shut down.

Multnomah County Health Department authorities say they have conducted more than 15,000 blood tests over the last three years on children and teens. According to the county, elevated blood lead levels were found in 188 people, but none of the cases were traced to lead in drinking water from any source.

Ross pointed out that there are no federal, state or local regulations requiring water testing for parks facilities. Ross explained that as soon as the park bureau became aware of the community conversation around lead, officials quickly sought to determine if any testing had been done in park bureau facilities.

"As soon as the director and commissioner-in-charge realized there had been testing done, the park bureau closed off access to Multnomah Arts Center drinking fountains and provided bottled water, issued communications to staff, the public, and media, and began a

review," said Ross.

The preliminary review initiated by the park bureau revealed the need for improved protocols on reporting and mitigating such problems.

At the Multnomah Arts Center, water fountains were closed off, signs were posted, bottled water was provided, and a plan was launched for testing for lead using guidance from the Portland Water Bureau, Multnomah County, Oregon Health Authority and a certified industrial hygienist.

On June 20, the park bureau sent out a water quality testing update on what had been completed to that point. "We are conducting lead testing to ensure we are not contributors to lead in drinking water," said Ross.

"The most important takeaway for people regarding lead testing at Portland Parks & Recreation sites is that if anyone has a concern about potential exposure, they should get a test through their physician or through the county. We continue to do testing at other PP&R facilities so that our community and staff can be assured."

(Continued on Page 3)

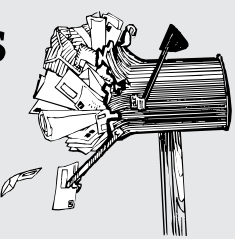


Bottled water is being provided at the Multnomah Arts Center while fountains and sink faucets are shut down for lead inspections.
(Photo courtesy of Portland Parks and Recreation)

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Letters to the Editor



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Giant cedar tree in Multnomah Village cut down in July

Thought you might want a few photos of the removal of the Deodar Cedar (Himalayan Cedar) at 7316 SW 33rd Avenue. The tree was partially cut down on July 19, more on July 20, and then to the ground on July 21.

I counted 59 tree rings on one of the downed trunks—the tree had two major trunks. I believe that the diameter at breast height (a standard measure of

tree size) was about 69 to 71 inches. I thought the tree was older than that—but the house that was torn down was built in 1953 according to Portland Maps, so an age of about 59 years or a few more is consistent with the age of that now-demolished house.

If you need more details, don't hesitate to contact me or folks at the Multnomah Neighborhood Association.

Lesson for me: Portland's tree canopy—which is a distinctive characteristic of the city and of Multnomah Village—needs better protection.

These grand old trees are a wonderful feature of this place. My parents were in town for a visit this last week, and my dad kept remarking on the wonderful and huge trees.

We should not take these things for granted. Sure, they grow back, but these stately old trees provide shade and habitat and heck—they're just pleasant to enjoy and allow us to marvel at their majesty. I will miss this great tree. It was one of my favorites in this area.

Stewart Rounds
Multnomah

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Why do environmentalists consider Hawaii "ground zero" in the fight against genetically engineered crops?

— Michael Van, Poughkeepsie, New York

Most of us think of beaches, surfing and luaus when we think of Hawaii. But the constantly warm and moist climate actually provides some of the most productive land in the world with a never-ending growing season.

As a result, Hawaii has become a major player in commercial agriculture, and is frequently used to test new farming techniques.

Large agricultural companies moved

in on this productivity by using Hawaii for trials of new genetically engineered crops.

Monsanto and Dow Chemical both produce huge numbers of genetically modified seeds in Hawaii for distribution around the world. Some of Hawaii's more common GE crops include corn, sugarcane, and papaya, among others.

But not everyone appreciates how widespread GE crops are in Hawaii. Many local Hawaiians are upset that their homeland, otherwise a natural paradise, is used for such risky activities.

Most GE crops are designed to resist intensive chemical pesticides that kill most other plants. Around the state, vulnerable populations, including kids and the elderly, have suffered the effects of this type of chemical exposure resulting from the over-spraying of pesticides.

These issues aren't unique to Hawaii. People all over the world are increasingly wary of GE products, even as the chemical companies insist they are safe.

However, the information on long- (Continued on Page 7)



(Photos by Stewart Rounds)

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Neighborhood to appeal comp plan amendment that allows residential infill

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Multnomah neighborhood association leaders have hired a lawyer to appeal a Portland Comprehensive Plan amendment (P-45) which allows residential infill projects with middle housing. The unnamed attorney has been successful in other similar cases, according to chair Carol McCarthy.

"The plan is to write an objection to the comp plan," McCarthy announced at the July 12 association meeting. "There are several issues that need to be addressed by the city before the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development approves the plan."

Jim Peterson, land use chair, said the association will appeal three items: requesting neighborhood associations to be inserted back in the comp plan, truth in zoning, and changing the neighborhood "center" designation to a neighborhood "corridor."

McCarthy said that the 2035 Comprehensive Plan does not adequately recognize the importance of neighborhood associations and coalitions on issues affecting the community.

"These are democratic organizations at their finest," McCarthy said. "The city would rather promote special interest groups that are different from those of Portland's residents."

The second objective proposes truth in zoning. This means that only single-family residential dwellings are permitted in single-family residential zones.

"If the state allows this (Policy 5.6) to be included in the comp plan," McCarthy explained, "there will be no truth in zoning."

The final objective is to return Multnomah Village to a corridor.

"Being a center," Peterson commented, "will allow 'middle housing' essentially everywhere in Multnomah a quarter mile from the neighborhood center. This will allow more infill projects and more demolitions."

Long time Multnomah resident Frank Barbour is already being affected by these issues. He came to the July meeting specifically to share photos and a list of grievances about an infill project right next to his home.

"Actually two infill projects are on either side of my house," Barbour said.

On the east side of his property, a 2,500-square-foot house is being developed on a tiny flag lot. To the west is a proposed project of three row houses which is still gathering permits.

"Originally," Barbour said, "neighbors were notified that the flag lot was going to have a tiny mother-in-law's suite with at least a ten-foot setback from the adjacent property."

"What is being built is not what we were told," said Barbour. "What we thought was going to be a quaint, little cottage has turned into a McMansion."

According to Barbour, the Bureau of Developmental Services gave the builder a variance for major modifications and a new setback of three feet and never notified him.

"What makes us most irate," Barbour exclaimed, "is that the city does not communicate with us and the developer does not abide by best practices."

As Barbour spoke, he passed around photos of the construction.

McCarthy thanked Barbour and warned that this could just be the beginning of destroying the village's charm. She said a website is in the works that basically says, "Don't Rezone Us."

The committee agreed to replace concrete with a pervious surface. Ross said that after that meeting, a follow-up email was sent to this group with no response.

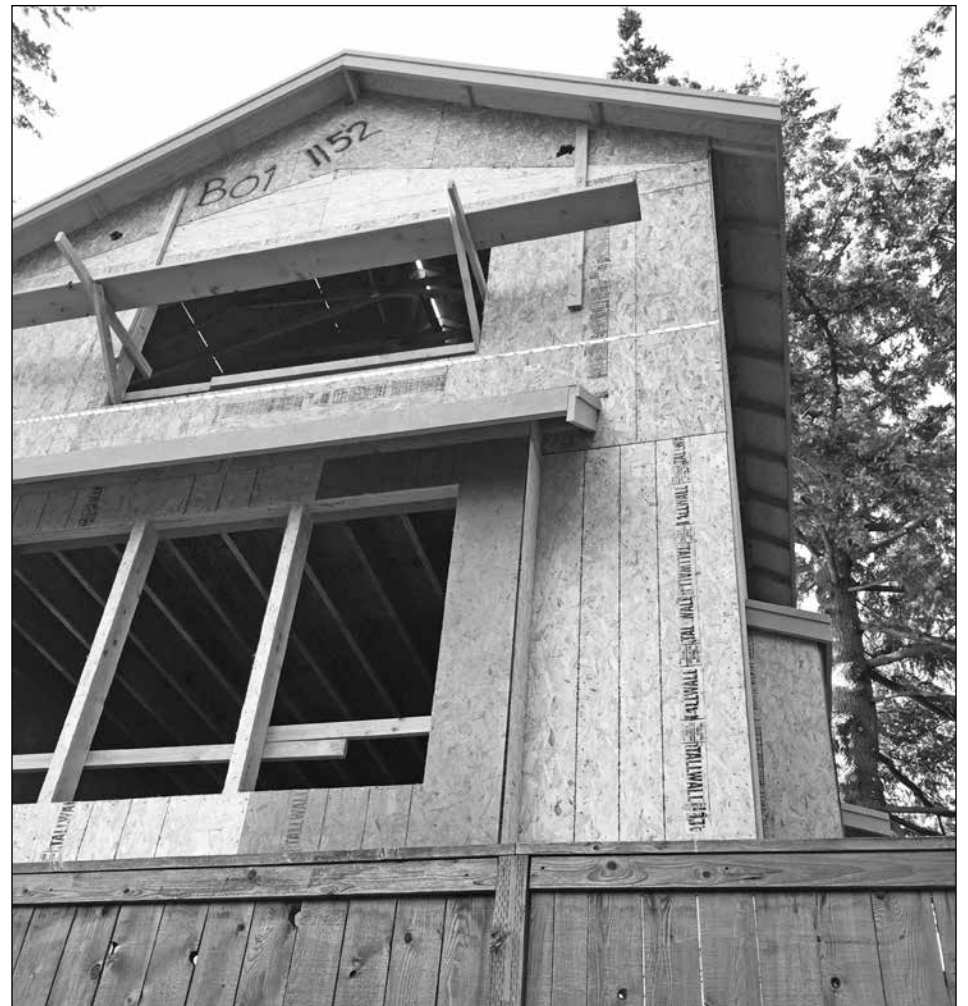
"On the contrary," Davidson said, "there is considerable community support against any built environment in the lower park area. The PAC agreed to a series of boulders to be in this area."

"We hear your concerns about increased noise, traffic and pedestrians," said Hun Taing, community engagement coordinator for the park bureau. "We are mindful in our design to mitigate those conditions where we can."

"At the same time," Taing continued, "we are also obligated to build a park that is inclusive of all ages to enjoy. We anticipate that most of the noise that emanates from the park will come from the playground area."

Ross defended the planned park improvements. "The Project Advisory Committee feels strongly that we had a solid, extensive and inclusive process with an outcome which is satisfactory to the vast majority of park stakeholders. It's unfortunate that a small group of neighbors are not in support of this program element for the park."

National Night Out festivities, including pie and music, will be held at Spring Garden Park on Tuesday, Aug. 2, from 6—8 p.m.



A new flag lot development is just feet from the neighbor's property. (Photo courtesy of Julie Barbour)

Peterson added that the association is printing up signs to inform the neighborhood of the impending changes.

"We found out about all of this because we are watching," McCarthy

concluded. "We do not think other neighborhood associations are aware of these changes even now."

For more information and documents, please visit <http://swni.org/multnomah>.

Spring Garden Park

(Continued from Page 1)

site from his front yard. He was so upset that he, and his wife, Cathy Frost, came to the July Multnomah Neighborhood Association to voice their concerns. "The online discussion does not have any mention of the amphitheater," Boltz told the association.

Friends of Spring Garden Park representatives at the meeting explained that teenagers were involved in the planning of the park and that the committee wanted a place for them to hang out.

Boltz said that boulders were proposed for that purpose. "Suddenly," Boltz responded, "a 400- square-foot paved amphitheater is proposed with plans to allow amplified music."

Hannah Davidson, a member of the project advisory committee, said "The inclusion of an amphitheater in Spring Garden Park turns a very small neighborhood park into a regional, destination park."

According to Davidson, "There is no documented community support for an amphitheater or any other hard or softscape development for the lower part of the park."

Mark Ross, a spokesman for the park bureau, said, "Planning for the park was completed in February 2016. At that time, the advisory committee approved, by consensus, the final plan for the park."

Lead Found in Drinking Water

(Continued from Page 1)

Officials at Portland Public Schools have recently tested for lead in the water in all PPS buildings, including Bridlemile, Gray, Jackson, Maplewood, Hayhurst, Stephenson, Rieke, and Capitol Hill schools which all feed into Wilson High School.

"So far we have found evidence of lead in about 30 schools and are awaiting results for the remaining schools. Our immediate reaction is to ensure that students have safe water to drink. We have arranged to deliver (bottled drinking) water to all of the schools in PPS this summer and throughout the next school year," said Yousef Awwad, chief financial officer of Portland Public Schools.

The Portland school district contracted with TRC Solutions to conduct district-wide water testing in all PPS buildings this summer. Testing is now complete and the school district is awaiting results from the state-certified labs.

For those with health concerns, there are a few lead screening options available to students and staff at no cost.

Onsite lead level screenings are being conducted on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the summer at Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon St. Go to pps.kadalyst.com to reserve your slot or call 503-916-3122.

Kadalyst Health Partners will perform the finger prick test and results will be available while you wait. A physician will privately advise anyone with an elevated lead level. Families will be asked to provide the name of the student(s), school

and grade. Staff will be asked to provide their school district employee identification.

Portland Public Schools retained the law firm of Stoll Berne to investigate and report on current systems, procedures and protocols regarding water testing.

The Stoll Berne report said that infrastructure and maintenance has been a lower priority than direct educational services due to budget constraints.

Lead in water has not been viewed by the Portland Public Schools board or administration as a significant issue.

The Portland school district lacks clear policies or protocols in place for testing for lead in drinking water or keeping track of which sources have or for remediation of sources that tested, the report said.

The school district does not have a clear reporting system internally for water issues and does not have systems in place to communicate with parents, the public or the media relating to those issues, the report said.

Finally, PPS Superintendent Carol Smith, who has been criticized by several newspapers about her handling of the presence of lead in the water in several schools, announced her retirement on July 18, a year earlier than she had originally planned.

In a written statement, Smith said, "I have provided the school board with a memo of recommendations to address the health and safety of our schools, as well as systems and operational concerns we have identified over the last few weeks that align with many of the issues outlined in the report."

Pendergrass is 'meadowscaping' with natural grasses and prairie plants

By KC Cowan
The Southwest Portland Post

At first glance, it's easy to understand why people who walk past Kathy Pendergrass' home on Southwest Evans Street might not appreciate her garden.

But if you look closer, you'll notice a sign that reads: Backyard Habitat Certification Program. Certification in Progress.

Pendergrass is "naturescaping"—a growing trend where people replace water and fertilizer-dependent lawns with native plants and shrubs.

More specifically, she is "meadowscaping," which focuses on planting an urban meadow of native, drought resistant plants to improve pollination and stormwater runoff. It also creates a habitat of beneficial insects to feed birds.

Pendergrass is recreating something that, hundreds of years ago, was seen in abundance in Oregon. A botanist, she researched native Willamette prairie for a masters' thesis several years ago.

According to Pendergrass, vast prairies once were common in the Willamette Valley. Hundreds of native species could be seen on a five-acre site.

"Those native prairies are all but gone from the valley," she explained. "It used to be extensive prairie and oaklands, but we have less than one percent of that prairie left."

Instead of a valley ecosystem full of wildflowers that supported birds and wildlife, modern agriculture and development has created a monoculture.

There are still a few natural meadows in the Willamette Valley, and some in the Puget Trough in Washington.

But Pendergrass said Portland is a large "dead space" between those wild meadows. By building a small urban meadow in your own yard, she said you can help create "gene flow" to preserve the species.

"Any opportunity I get I'm telling people there's less than one percent of this left. So if we had our ideal scenario, we'd have stepping stones or corridors (of urban meadows) to connect these pieces of what's left of those native habitats," Pendergrass said.

She has grown many native plants in her yard—Showy Tarweed and Clarkia just to name two. They're not easy to come by, but are still available through special native plant sales.

Pendergrass consulted on the Meadowscaping Handbook just released by the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mary Logalbo, with the district, said they already had a naturescaping book about shrubs and trees. The meadowscaping book came about after many requests for a way to landscape with natural grasses and prairie plants.

"A lot of people want something different in their landscape," Logalbo says. "Some people want to provide more wildlife habitat and others just don't want to have to water anymore. Some might want lower maintenance."

The book defines the different kinds of urban meadows you can build—from a wet meadow to an upland meadow. It provides step-by-step instructions for soil testing and site preparation, and



Kathy Pendergrass in her meadowscaped garden. (Post photo by KC Cowan)

provides a comprehensive plant guide.

"It's a little tricky," Logalbo says, "which is why our 'short handbook' ended up being almost 100 pages. You do need some guidance."

And if you don't like the rough and wild look of some meadows, the book even shows you how to design it so it looks more "intentional."

The book can be downloaded off the District's website, or you can pick one up at their office at 2701 NW Vaughn Street. It's free of charge, adding more incentive for urban dwellers to meadowscap.

Pendergrass is glad she tried it. It took her just two years to change her yard from one that was dominated by big Doug Fir trees, lawn, and ivy, to one that is light and airy and filled with

color and honeybees.

Her advice is to start with a small portion of your yard, or a strip in the front. In doing so, you are retrieving a tiny bit of the land's history.

"We had this historic landscape that must have been incredible," she said. "I wish I could go back in a time machine and see what it must have been like."

For more information about meadowscaping visit the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District website: www.wmswcd.org.

Editor's Note: Zumwalt Prairie, a 33,000-acre nature and wildlife preserve in eastern Oregon's Wallowa County near Joseph is a must-see for those interested in historic prairies. It's owned by the Nature Conservancy of Oregon. Search online for more information.



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Transition Projects

Thank You Multnomah Village!

From all of us at Transition Projects, thank you for your generosity volunteering and providing meals and resources. Hundreds of women and couples, with nowhere else to turn, were supported through your deep community spirit from November 2015–May 2016.



To all the volunteers in Multnomah Village, I want to thank you for all your dedication and hard work. Because of you my fiancé and I were fed, bed and taken care of. Thank you so much for giving us hope and giving us a place to live.
James B., Sears Shelter Participant



It has been such a blessing to have people like you give so much to someone like me, and the other people in need at the Sears Shelter. You come and give so much and ask nothing in return. I have enjoyed your warm attention you have given to us. The food was wonderful—taking the time out of your lives to make sure the ones in need were fed. Also, you gave us a warm, dry and safe place to lay our needed bodies. I don't know how to repay you but with a big THANK YOU!
Terry R., Sears Shelter Participant



To all the volunteers that have provided us with food, goodies and bright smiles. You have all been a blessing and a joy for us. Also, I would like to send out a big "Thank You" to the neighbors around the Sears Shelter. I could see and understand at times how very stressful it might be.
Sears Shelter Participant



Karen Story examines pottery at the Multnomah Arts Center's summer arts and crafts sale last August. (Post file photo by KC Cowan)

Trail which takes you up to Fairmont Boulevard. Meet behind the bleachers, near the food carts, at Wilson High School, Sunset Boulevard and Capitol Highway at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Sharon Fekety (fekety@hevanet.com).

13 For Your Health: How can you learn about health or drug information online? A hands-on computer class Saturday, Aug. 13, 2-4 p.m. at the Hillsdale Library (1525 SW Sunset Blvd.) will help you get online to find resources and

information on health-related issues. This class is taught by a computer instructor, not a health expert. This class is for beginners, but you must be comfortable using a keyboard and a mouse. Registration required; register online, in the library or by calling 503-988-5234.

14 In a Pickle! Learn all about fermentation to preserve your summer veggies. Get the basics of salt-based pickling, and go home with some kraut, pickles, or other homemade goodies! 11 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy. For more information: 503-244-0111. \$10.

18 Jaws: Portland Parks and Recreation will show the 1975 classic horror flick "Jaws" at Caruthers Park, 3508 SW Moody Ave. on Thursday, Aug. 18. Bring a jacket and blanket in case it gets chilly, and arrive by 6:30 for the pre-movie live entertainment, Jellyroll Society. Free popcorn, too!

20 Arts & Crafts Sale: Peruse the work of more than 50 artists and support the Multnomah Arts Center. This summer sale is held in conjunction with the Multnomah Days festival on the front lawn of the MAC, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy, and the early bird gets the best pick of the art. Saturday, August 20 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Affordable and beautiful.

26 Pirates of the Caribbean: Portland Parks and Recreation will screen "Pirates of the Caribbean - The Curse of the Black Pearl" on Friday, Aug. 26 at Hamilton Park, Southwest 45th Avenue and Hamilton Street, at 7 p.m. Pre-show entertainment will be Echoes of Yagurs at 6:30. Free.

30 Giselle's Village: Giselle Bawnik is the author of *My Little French Village* and will read from her book and talk about her experiences in France. This event is Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. at the Garden Home Community Store, 7306 SW Oleson Road, located across the street from the library. For more information, call 503-245-9932.

COMMUNITY LIFE

By KC Cowan
The Southwest Portland Post

3 National Night Out: Get to know your Hillsdale neighbors during National Night Out on Wednesday, Aug. 3 from 6 - 9 p.m. Come to DeWitt Park across the street from the Hillsdale Library and bring something for the potluck. Enjoy activities for young and old and a chance to strengthen your neighborhood.

5 Places You've Been an exhibit of acrylic on etched wood board by Jennifer Urquhart, and "Inteks," mixed media by Will Hathaway, will be on view at the Multnomah Arts Center Gallery, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy., beginning on First Friday. An opening reception will be held in the gallery Friday, Aug. 5, 7 - 9 p.m. The two person show continues throughout the month of August.

Hairspray Junior: This is based on the classic musical about a social outcast who becomes a sudden star through a teen dance show. It opens at the auditorium in the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy., on Friday, Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. Family friendly with toe-tapping tunes, the original "Hairspray" won eight Tony awards on Broadway. Two other performances, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 7 at 3 p.m. Call 503-823-2787 for more information.

9 Doc Chapeau meets the Gill Man: Oregon Shadow Theatre performs the story of the marine scientist Doctor Jack Chapeau employing submarines, diving suits, and more to make a most amazing discovery. Colorful puppets, live music and good humor create an informative and hilarious family entertainment. Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2:30-3:15 p.m. Capitol Hill Library, 10723 S.W. Capitol Hwy. You can also catch this at the Hillsdale Library on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 3-3:45 p.m. Free tickets available 30 minutes in advance. For more information, call 503-988-5385.

13 SW Trails PDX: The monthly walk for August is Saturday, Aug. 13 and will take you six miles along Southwest Terwilliger Boulevard. Then you'll cross onto the Marquam Trail to the Flicker Trail and Warbler



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Board-certified veterinary surgeon opens clinic in Multnomah Village

THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

A specialty veterinary clinic providing advanced surgical care for cats and dogs recently opened in Multnomah Village.

Board-certified veterinary surgeon Dr. Alon Kramer and wife Orit Kramer, his business and marketing manager, established OREV in 2012 in Tualatin and moved the business to Multnomah Village in June.

The clinic offers orthopedic, soft-tissue, abdominal and thoracic, reconstructive and oncological surgeries along with comprehensive anesthesia services and monitoring.

Dr. Kramer's certification involved several additional years of rigorous training beyond veterinary school. Kramer is able to provide advanced diagnostics and treatments that extend what a regular veterinary office can provide to its animal patients.

Orit explained that OREV was started with a strong notion of maintaining a local and privately-owned small organization that is involved with and supports its community.

"We regularly provide volunteer surgical work to the Oregon Humane Society, Multnomah County animal shelter, and the Washington County animal shelter," Orit Kramer told The Post.

"We're planning on other specialty fields in the future," Dr. Kramer added.

The couple met years ago during military service. After working and living in Europe for two years, backpacking in East Asia, U.S., and Canada for a year, they settled in the



Orit and Dr. Alon Kramer recently opened up OREV Specialty Vet Care in Multnomah Village. (Photo courtesy of Orit Kramer)

Pacific Northwest. They have three children.

"Our family has resided in the village since 2008 and is excited to live and work in this community," Orit Kramer said.

OREV is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The clinic is located at 7637 SW 33rd Ave and provides on-site overnight care for surgical patients.

For more information, please visit <http://oregonexpertvets.com> or call (503) 477-7122.

History of Multnomah Days festival goes back to 1920s

Although some have labeled the upcoming Multnomah Days festival its 108th, it is actually not. According to the Multnomah Historical Association, the annual Multnomah Days celebration began in the 1920s when Multnomah merchants decided to have an annual city-wide sale.

"The annual parade and celebrations were on Independence Day then," commented Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen, a longtime member of

the historical group.

"In the 1950s the event was renamed Chief Multnomah Days," she said. "Then, as it is now, the pet parade was a big part of the celebration."

With the opening of Washington Square mall in the 1970s, Multnomah went into decline. The annual street fair stopped but was revived in the late 1980s when Portland Mayor Bud Clark served as grand marshal, riding a fire engine in the parade.



(Photo courtesy of the Multnomah Historical Association)

Regional trail segment along Willamette River (west) now open to peds and bikes

SELLWOOD BRIDGE

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

The regional trail between the west end of the Sellwood Bridge and Willamette Park recently opened. The old path along the east shoulder of Highway 43 (Southwest Macadam Avenue) between the bridge and

Freeman Motors is now closed.

This reporter recently walked the new trail and provided these observations.

Parking at Willamette Park is the easiest place to begin walking. Be sure to pay for parking. The trail follows Southwest Miles Place filled with quaint homes.

The Portland Water Bureau is constructing a new pumping station and the trail will eventually connect

with Nevada Street when this is complete. The regional trail continues north to downtown Portland along the Willamette River.

The trail winds south around the back of Freeman Motors, under a large power line structure, and along the Willamette Moorage Park, a group of floating homes. Their access has been disrupted for years.

Construction of a large bioswale to
(Continued on Page 7)

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SELLWOOD BRIDGE

(Continued from Page 6)

treat stormwater from the west half of the bridge and the interchange is still in progress. The swale has been excavated and a liner installed.

The trail takes an abrupt right turn and wanders up a slight incline to the new bridge. It will eventually continue south on an underpass below the bridge. Piers are in place.

On this particular day, the bridge was only open to pedestrians and bicyclists. A concrete pour and cure for the deck was needed without bus or auto traffic.

The auto underpass is now open for those heading to or from Lake Oswego without getting tangled in the old cloverleaf interchange.

Bridge sidewalks are almost complete. Pedestrians should be alert to bicyclists as they share the sidewalk on the north side of the

bridge. Viewing parapets have nice new displays outlining the history of the area, the river, and of all the bridges in Portland. Peering over the bridge, two trusses of the old bridge were sitting on a barge.

"The truss pieces will be recycled after they float down the river," said Dave Austin, Multnomah County spokesperson. "Each large segment weighs about 400,000 pounds. We did offer the bridge for re-use, but there were no takers."

Heading back, grading is underway for the historic trolley track lines where they eventually will be reinstalled. Trolley crossing signs are awaiting placement.

The entire walk is about three miles from Willamette Park to the east end of the bridge and back.

To learn how contractors safely removed the old bridge, check out the story and photos online at www.sellwoodbridge.org.



A large taro field sits at the bottom of a mountain in Kauai, Hawaii. (Photo by Rod Ramsey / FlickrCC)

EarthTalk

(Continued from Page 2)

term effects is still inconclusive. Consumers want to know what's in their purchases.

Chemical companies are denying them this right by refusing to label those products containing genetically modified ingredients.

Unfortunately, the state of Hawaii has hesitated to enact any legislation banning some of their most lucrative business ventures. Responsibility has fallen to the counties.

Three Hawaiian counties initiated ordinances and moratoriums against additional GE crops and pesticide use in 2014.

However, large companies like Monsanto and Syngenta sued to prevent these measures from being implemented, temporarily postponing these bans.

While the companies did win their initial suit in late 2014, the counties have appealed the decision through the federal 9th circuit court of appeals in a trial which started this past June.

The cases hinge on the concept of preemption, i.e. does the county legislation conflict with state rulings?

The counties believe that the state's acceptance of genetically engineered products does not mean that the counties cannot implement their own harsher regulations.

Whichever way the federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decides will set an important precedent. If the court decides the federal law allowing GE products preempts the rights of the Hawaiian counties, any future GE bans would likely experience a similar ruling.

However, the converse is also true. The judge allowing the counties to construct their own regulations regarding genetic engineering would pave the way for other counties and states to do the same.

The cases will hopefully be resolved before the end of 2016. Safe to say, Hawaiians, chemical and agricultural companies and the rest of the nation will be watching.

Contacts: Dow Chemical, www.dow.com; Monsanto, www.monsanto.com; Syngenta, www.syngenta.com.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of the nonprofit Earth Action Network. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



A new trail along the Willamette River will eventually continue south beneath the new Sellwood Bridge. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

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Multnomah Days festival to include parade, street fair, live music, kid zone

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Multnomah Days will be held the weekend of Aug. 20-21 in the heart of Multnomah Village. Nearly 10,000 people are expected to attend.

Co-chairs Luke Huffstutter (Annastasia Salon) and Jason Lensch (Switch Clothing) have been busy coordinating activities along with the Multnomah Village Business Association.

Events kick off with the traditional Kiwanis pancake breakfast at the Key Bank parking lot beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20 and will be followed by the "biggest little parade" in Portland. The traditional "Pooch Parade" will lead.

Editor's Note: Tye and Joan Steinbach are organizing the parade again this year. Parade entries of all types are welcome, the more creative the better. Music, costumes and decorated vehicles are always a big hit. Meet at Handy Andy's at 9:15 a.m. with a donation for charity and two printed copies of your "commercial," a short blurb that describes your event for announcers. For more information email multnomahparade@gmail.com.

This year's grand marshals are Bill and Anna Radakovich. They have been active in one way or another in the village since 1932. They are the parents of Mike Radakovich, the owner of Summit Advisors NW.

"My grandparents owned the Multnomah Shoe Shop at the corner of Southwest 36th and Capitol Highway," Mike Radakovich explained. "My parents bought the building from them in the early '70s."

"They have rented to many businesses over the years including Thinker Toys," he said.

There are plenty of activities for all ages. The Kid Zone will be back at the Multnomah Arts Center. Over 120



Southwest Kiwanis Club member Tim Mayfield pours the batter at the annual Multnomah Days pancake breakfast. (Post file photo by KC Cowan)

vendors are expected along Capitol Highway, which will be closed between Garden Home Road and 31st Avenue. A food court, arts and craft sale, and dog wash will also take place.

"There will be a wine/beer garden in the lower parking lot starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday," said Lensch. "The blues band Lloyd Jones and Friends

will play."

Renner's Grill will have their traditional beer garden open from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

In addition, there will be a main stage located also at the arts center lot featuring the Gypsy Jazz West, a four-member jazz band, beginning at noon. Palante PDX, a five-piece Latin jazz and salsa band, will play at 2 p.m.

Another stage will be located near the viaduct where Portland Opera's mobile production, Opera a la Cart, will perform. This unique opera company has retrofitted an old ice cream truck into a stage and brings operatic performances out into the community.

Designed and built by architecture students at Portland State University, the cart features a fold-out stage and a "menu" of operatic specials du jour.

The Multnomah Village Vine and Dine event will take place on Sunday, Aug. 21 from 1-6 p.m. Held each year in the lower parking lot of the Multnomah Arts Center, the afternoon event will

feature over 25 wineries and offer artisan bites.

Tickets can be purchased at vineanddine2016.eventbrite.com. Proceeds benefit the Multnomah Village Bloc's Initiative which helps merchants with community development.



Marianne Snow and William Hermens, along with their two whippets, line up for the 2015 Multnomah Days Parade. (Post file photo by Erik Vidstrand)

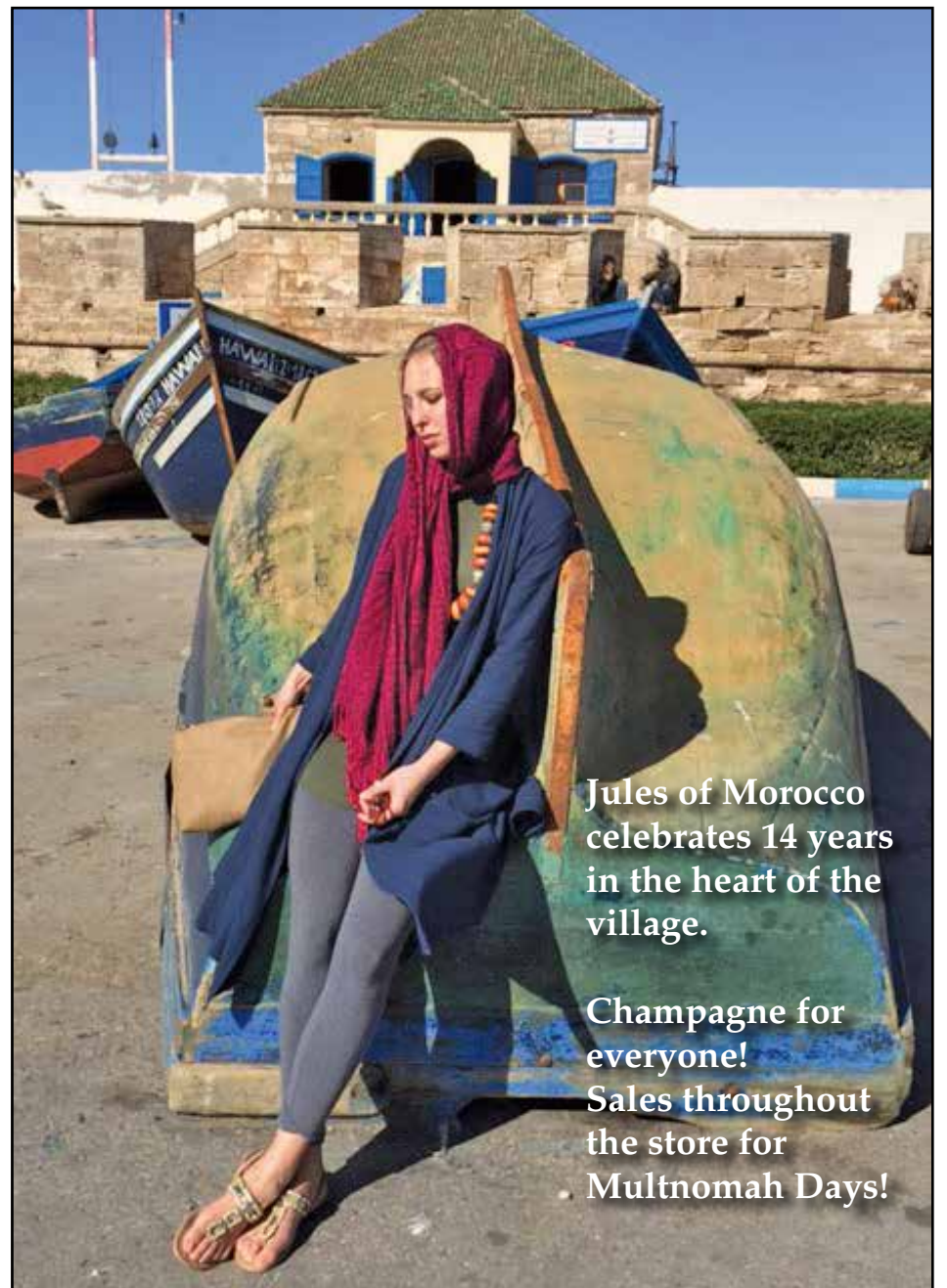
Multnomah Days Street Festival
Sat. & Sun.
August 20 & 21

Visit multnomahvillage.org/events for details.

Saturday, August 20
KIWANIS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
 Key Bank Parking Lot 8:00am - 11:30am
PARADE starts at the bridge 10:00am
 Pooch Parade leads the way! All are welcome to participate with a donation to Neighborhood House (either \$5 or non-perishable food items).
KID'S ZONE @ MULTNOMAH ARTS CENTER (MAC) 9:00am - 4:00pm
 Produced by Multnomah Arts Center (located outside of the MAC main building).
MULTNOMAH ARTS CENTER ARTS & CRAFTS SALE 9:00am - 4:00pm
 In front of the MAC main building.
120 VENDORS * FOOD COURT 9:00am - 4:00pm
 Along Capitol Hwy, from the bridge to the MAC and in MAC lower parking lot.
BEER & WINE GARDEN Noon - 10:00pm
 In MAC lower parking lot, featuring live music by blues band Lloyd Jones and Friends.
TWO LIVE MUSIC STAGES
 Main Stage (MAC lower parking lot), with live music from 12:00 to 10:00pm.
 West End Stage (near Switch Shoes) featuring the Portland Opera's mobile production "Opera a la Cart" from 12:00 to 4:00pm.
SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY
ANNASTASIA SALON CUT-A-THON 10:30am to 4:00pm
 Cut-a-thon professional haircuts \$25. 100% of proceeds benefit Neighborhood House Emergency Food Box program.
LUCKY LAB DOGGIE WASH 10:30am to 2:00pm
 Let your pup cool down and get cleaned up. Fundraiser benefits Dove Lewis Emergency Animal Hospital. \$10 suggested donation.
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE DIAPER BANK LUNCH 10:30am to 4:00pm
 Help start the new diaper bank by bringing donations of diapers to Neighborhood House at 7780 SW Capitol Hwy between 9:00am and 4:00pm.

Sunday, August 21
MULTNOMAH VILLAGE VINE & DINE 1:00 to 6:00pm
 Showcasing over 25 NW wineries and artisan food purveyors. Opens to VIP ticket holders at 1:00pm. General admission at 3:00pm. Buy your tickets at <http://vineanddine2016.eventbrite.com>. Proceeds benefit the Multnomah Village Bloc's Initiative.

Thanks to our Sponsors:
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