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INSIDE:

Southwest elementary school students get increased arts funding – Page 3

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Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

October 2013

OHSU students share community needs assessment of Multnomah

By Erik Vidstrand The Southwest Portland Post

Oregon Health Sciences University nursing students spent this past summer conducting a needs assessment in order to identify strengths and weaknesses of the Multnomah area.

Utilizing U.S. Census data, along with interviews of local leaders and community stakeholders, the students- Marcus Benton, Samantha Leeds, Heather Peterson, and Aubrey Spring- participated in a number of community activities to witness, experience, listen, and take notes.

With a population of 5,000, Multnomah is often overlooked as an area impacted by social and environmental health issues despite a higher median income and education level than most other areas of the city.

Prior OHSU students have focused on medication management with seniors, but no overall community assessment was ever produced.

"This is Phase I," said Benton. "Our project will provide a basis from which future OHSU students can begin partnering with community agencies to generate interventions."

The four main themes found were limited healthcare access; nutrition and food insecurity; transportation issues; and social isolation.

Healthcare access

Multnomah has only one safetynet clinic where the uninsured can receive basic care. The Southwest Community Health Clinic, however, has limited hours, and is also at maximum capacity.

Many choose to not seek health care because of costs. As well, the Multnomah County Westside Clinic closed and moved to Southeast causing more travel time for Southwest residents.



OHSU nursing students featured on the 2012-13 catalog. (Photo courtesy OHSU)

Additionally, many older minority adults, Hispanic, Somalia, and Russian individuals are not comfortable or aware of how to navigate the complex medical system.

Nutrition and food insecurity

Most residents are unaware of the needs for those at greater risk of food issues. Food insecurity is

(Continued on Page 7)

Grants would help pay for new bridge, boardwalk for April Hill Park

MAPLEWOOD NOTEBOOK

By Melinda Hasting Special to The Southwest Portland Post

April Hill Park, located on the corner of Southwest 58th Avenue and Miles Street, is poised to receive a much-needed upgrade to integrate local species (amphibians, birds, and humans alike) due to a recent grant awarded by the Metro Council in May.

The project will also allow stu-

dents of Maplewood Elementary School to use the space as an outdoor science classroom.

The park remains a mystery to most visitors who don't wade through mud and muck to reach Wood Creek, which flows west toward Beaverton.

The unique area located to the south of the park features chorus frogs, long-toed salamanders, rough-skinned newts, and a host of bird species.

The park is ripe for observation and enjoyment by students and

grown-ups alike, yet it lacks general access due to the danger of trampling its sensitive inhabitants.

The Maplewood Neighborhood Association expects that Maplewood Elementary students will be able to access the park and its vast array of species as early as fall 2014.

Friends of April Hill Park, a collaborative that includes The Maplewood Neighborhood Association, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and Southwest Watershed Resource Center, convinced Metro Council to approve a grant of \$83,059.

The grant would help create a boardwalk, observation deck, and bridge for the popular park, but the race is on to raise \$33,000 in local matching funds by Nov. 1 in order to meet permitting deadlines for the dry season construction period in 2014.

Though Metro's matching grant will not be rescinded if the November 1 deadline passes, the need to achieve local support is pressing due to bureaucratic constraints.

Permitting for the project could take six months, according to experts involved in the project's design. The construction schedule will be contingent upon weather; the park's marshy section where the boardwalk and bridge will be erected requires mild weather conditions for builders to gain access.

The project's total cost is \$250,000. In-kind contributions for engineering, architecture, and project management have been secured for \$134,000. Construction is slated to begin next summer. Metro's release of the grant is contingent upon the community's matching contribution of \$33,000.

(Continued on Page 7)



(Post photo by Melinda Hasting)

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The Southwest Portland Post 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509 Portland, OR 97206

Portland suicide rate is more than twice the national average

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Melinda Hasting Special to The Southwest Portland Post

Officer Scott Foster of the Portland Police Bureau attended the Maplewood Neighborhood Association meeting in September and made remarks about the increase in suicides in Southwest Portland this last year.

There were three or so in the last month on his beat and I spoke with him afterwards to get details.

He said usually Portland Police Bureau gets spikes during the holiday season but this year the numbers have remained high city-wide and haven't dipped back down to the usual levels.

Officer Foster said he is seeing a trend with older people and gunshot wounds. If you want to pursue something like this, please let me know and I'd be happy to dig deeper and look at the comparative numbers from year to year.

I talked with Mark Marshman, public information officer for Portland Police (he returned my call asking for Scott Foster's contact info), who said that Portland has a much higher rate of suicides than the national average.

He also believes that our summer numbers are strange, given the weather being better. He referred me to Lt. Cliff Bacigalupi, head of the department's Behavioral Health Unit

that was formed to address the issue (I didn't ask when it was formed).

The national average of suicides is 17 per 100,000, whereas Portland's is 40 per 100,000. (Our 40/100,000 rate now exceeds Las Vegas.) Moreover, there seems to be no sub-par economic correlation; most of them here are white men between the ages of 45 to 55 years.

He said Cliff would give me the rates on SW Portland, but believes that the spike Foster was referring to was reflective of an overall pattern in Portland that spans years.

He said the suicide rates are taking a toll on first responders. He said NW Portland has the highest rates of suicide conventionally, but that there could well have been a recent rash in SW Portland and that Lt. Baciagalupi would give me the recent stats.

Left a message with Cliff and will prepare questions for his return call. Marshman said that Cliff would give me more details about Vista Bridge.

I know that Foster told the group last month that the (temporary) fence around the bridge was largely ineffective because people can simply go around it and enter the area.

Update: Lt. Bacigalupi stated the police bureau would hold a press conference on Monday (Sept. 30) to release new figures on Portland suicide rates. He said he wasn't sure what the 40/100,000 rate Marshman was referring to, but I left a message for Marshman asking for some clarification. We'll see.

Letters to the **Editor** $^{\varnothing}$

The Southwest Portland Post 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509 Portland, OR 97206 Fax: (866) 727-5336

email: editor@multnomahpost.com

Local filmmakers looking for \$20,000 kickstart to finish comedy

I'm writing to see if you would be interested in publishing a story about Bad Exorcists, the independent film we shot in Portland earlier this

You may remember leaving me a voicemail when we were filming at Riverdale High School. I apologize for not returning your call, but things were a bit hectic at the time as I was handling dozens of extras for the school scenes.

If you're interested, please check out the Kickstarter campaign we launched yesterday (September 4). We've had a terrific response so

http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/573714290/bad-exorcists

Correct, we have completed shooting the movie and are now in the post-production stages. However, we have publicity stills from our numerous locations across Southwest Portland including Riverdale High

Essentially, I think Bad Exorcists

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because its creators were born and raised in SW Portland, and returned to Portland to make the production The core cast and crew members

is a good story for the SW Post

began making movies together at Wilson High School before going their separate ways for film school and work in the industry.

Our writer/director Kyle Steinbach was able to bring everyone back together from across the country to rally around his terrific script and shoot the movie on a remarkably small budget.

Kyle is currently living in Multnomah. Please let me know if you'd like to interview him or request any more information about the project.

Louie Sloss Producer

Thank you from Spring **Garden Park**

RE: "Volunteers support Multnomah's Spring Garden Park and its natural play area, "by Erik Vidstrand, The Post, September 2013.

Thank you very much for the great coverage of National Night Out. We really appreciated our spot on the cover and hope that it attracts more great families to our project.

Lori Howell Chair Friends of Spring Garden Park



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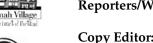


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Southwest elementary school students get increased arts funding, more classes

ARTS EDUCATION

By Melinda Hasting Special to The Southwest Portland Post

Opportunities for arts instruction for students in Southwest Portland increased in each public elementary school in the Portland Public Schools (PPS) system this fall.

The controversial Portland Arts Tax passed by voters last November has survived legal challenges, thus allowing the distribution of approximately \$4.5 million for PPS to hire arts teachers this year.

Local elementary schools were informed of the new funding just before the onset of fall classes. All elementary schools were to be impacted, according to PPS.

The \$35 per person tax generated between \$9.9 and \$10.8 million in collected revenue by the City, according to Mayor Charlie Hales' office, an amount that was over \$1 million less than officials had projected.

The Portland City Council agreed to disburse the originally budgeted funds for the Art Education Access Fund to local school districts. PPS, the largest school district in the Pacific Northwest, will receive the bulk of the revenue.

Here in Southwest, Maplewood Elementary School received funding to hire one half-time music teacher to teach students in grades K-5. The teacher hired by Maplewood Elementary also teaches half time in Southeast Portland's Kelly Elementary.

Maplewood Principal Annie Tabshy said she is grateful. "We feel blessed to provide all 330 of our students with the opportunity for music instruction twice a week," she said.

Other neighborhood elementary schools, Stephenson and Capitol Hill, both received additional funding for arts teachers from the Fund. Stephenson has a music teacher and also offers orchestra and choir; Capitol Hill now has a full-time art teacher.

Southwest is also home to the high-performing Jackson Middle School, whose focus on arts and music through the implementation of The Bernstein Artful Method of Learning is highly regarded.

Though middle schools will not receive additional funding from the arts tax, elementary schools like Maplewood will now have opportunities to instill passion for the arts in the primary grades.

Markham Elementary School received funding to hire music instructor David Erickson full time.

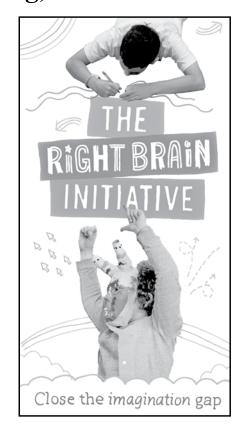
In addition, the school will partner with local puppet theater, Tears of Joy Theatre Company, to provide kindergarten through second graders with puppet making and performance instruction. Older students will participate in a ten-day intensive performance residency.

Markham School is a participant in The Right Brain Initiative, a program launched in 2008 in response to arts funding cuts in local public schools. The initiative incorporates the arts into children's daily learning processes through the core curricular subjects.

Both Markham and Jackson schools' programs seek to improve students' performance in the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and math) by weaving arts activities into the hard sciences (STEAM).

The idea is gaining ground throughout the country as private sector employers claim shortages in American STEM job candidates.

The National Science Foundation and National Endowment for the Arts, along with members of Congress, have expressed support for the concepts of ingenuity and creativity as important components for the future economy.



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Help Wanted

Freelance Reporter

The Post is seeking a freelance writer/photographer to cover Southwest neighborhood meetings, happenings, etc. E-mail cover letter, up to three clips, and current resume to: Don Snedecor, Publisher, The Southwest Portland Post, don@multnomahpost.com. Snail mail or fax OK. No phone calls, please.



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Wilson Cross Country Spaghetti Feed



Local residents Stu and Judy Ellis hosted Wilson High School Cross Country Team's first spaghetti feed on September 9. Over 100 carbohydrate-eating youth attended and came in second at the invitational meet held the next day in Hood River. "They were all very well behaved and hungry! We cooked over 16 pounds of spaghetti and over 300 meatballs," said Stu Ellis. (*Post photo by Erik Vidstrand*)

Multnomah Arts Center Gallery receives \$118,000 makeover by local businesses

A major gallery renovation at Portland Parks & Recreation's Multnomah Arts Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy) was completed in mid-September thanks to significant donated work and in-kind support from area businesses and partners.

After three decades of heavy traffic in the gallery, the Multnomah Arts Center Association (MACA), an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that supports the mission of MAC, made it a priority to renovate the popular gallery space into a beautiful state-of-the-art venue that is flexible, professional, and displays a wide variety of art in different forms.

SERA Architects, Mortenson

Construction, and Cascade Acoustics each committed generous contributions of funds and labor to make the gallery restoration possible.

"SERA is committed to helping non-profit organizations that positively impact Portland in the fields of arts, culture

and education," said Gauri Rajbaidya, who led this project at



The newly refurbished Multnomah Arts Center Gallery. (Photo courtesy of Portland Parks and Recreation)

SERA Architects.

"The gallery renovation for Multnomah Arts Center was a perfect opportunity for us to make a contribution to our community. The Arts Center didn't have the capital for the project, so we were happy to bring together design and construction professionals to provide the probono work needed to make the vision a reality, "said Rajbaidya."

Additional support has been provided from Rosendin Electric, Fine Painting, Performance Abatement Services, Temp Control Mechanical, Viking Automatic Sprinklers, KPFF Structural and Civil Engineering, PAE Consulting Engineering, Solus Lighting, and Northern Illumination Company.

There will be a reception at the Gallery for the MAC Instructor Show on Friday, Nov. 1, from from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This will include the dedication of a permanent gallery plaque recognizing the generous supporters of the renovation.

During the past 30 years, the Park Bureau's MAC Gallery has showcased the artwork of more than 300 regional artists, arts collectives, and group shows. In that time, more than 100,000 visitors have enjoyed the creativity of emerging and established professional artists from the region.

"Collaborations such as this between Portland Parks & Recreation and our valued area partners make it possible to enhance Portlanders' quality of life in a time of limited public resources," said Parks and Recreation Commissioner Amanda Fritz.

"We are proud of the steadfast support these community businesses have-provided. This initiative has resulted in a beautiful gallery that generations of Portlanders will enjoy," said Fritz.

MAC serves over 1,500 students of all ages and abilities in the visual, performing, and literary arts each term. "A program of the Park Bureau, its mission is to provide accessible, high-quality instruction & participation in the arts to all interested persons at an affordable cost. Programs run year-round, and scholarships are available.

For more information, call MAC Director Michael Walsh at 503-823-2284 or email Michael. Walsh@PortlandOregon.gov.







The Craft Factory opens creative space for children in Multnomah Village

THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand The Southwest Portland Post

From the second floor space above Topanien and Sweets, etc. (7832 SW Capitol Hwy), a child factory, of sorts, has opened. No, not a sweat shop, but a creative craft space for children and adults alike.

Designed for toddlers, as well as the child in all of us, the Craft Factory has successfully produced a place where everyone can be creative.

As owner Melissa DeMartini explains, it was the idea of her and husband, Ed Biden, after being inspired by the creativity of their two children, Lola and Finn.

"Lola and Finn would turn beach litter into memorable pieces of art from their trips to the coast,' DeMartini said.

The Factory's space is newly remodeled. The most recent office tenant was Head Start, which moved to the old interior design space at the east end of Multnomah Village.

Upon arriving upstairs, the charm of an old factory complete with adding machine, work tables, galvanized air ducts, and conveyor belts, greets the visitor.

Encouraged to "punch in" using timecards with a time clock, the "workers" gather their supplies and equipment after selecting a base. (Punching in allows for credits for future visits.)

Armed with a glue gun, creativity

is unveiled. Part art studio and part hardware store; there are a variety of objects to choose from: old door knobs to buttons; PVC pipes to wire; plastic dinosaurs to feathers. It's all here, and all recycled and repurposed.

Partnering with the ReBuilding Center, on Mississippi Street, items have been donated and pulled from old building projects. Community members are encouraged to donate any old small craft items they wish to remove from cupboards or closets.

"Crafting is traditionally done by girls and women," DeMartini explained. "But here, the rules are bent." As she spoke, a seven-yearboy fiddled with a display of circuitry making a robot, while an older girl was busy with wood and bolts.

It repurposes discarded items; it's a safe place to create and hang out; and parents can drop their kids off on First Friday and visit the Village. And stay tuned for Adults Only evenings!

Finally, the Craft Factory partners with other family-friendly venues in the village. Discount coupons for Nectar and Thinker Toys are shared. Annie Blooms Books will be sponsoring a book-of-the-week story time for toddlers to kindergarten every Friday from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. followed by a short craft project.

The Craft Factory is open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Birthday parties are available in evenings and weekends by appointment. A portion of all profits benefit beach clean-ups.



Craft Factory owner Melissa DeMartini is ecstatic to be able to offer creativity to local children in a factory-type setting complete with timecards, timeclock, and work buckets. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

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PALOMA CLOTHING

Korkage Wine Bar transitions into new Hillsdale location with Sunday brunch

With a remodel, hundreds of bottles of local wines, and a new dining room, Korkage Wine Bar has re-opened for business at the former location of Three Square Grill (see footnote, 6320 SW Capitol Hwy) after needing more room than it had across the street.

According to co-owner and executive chef Earl Johnson, the foot traffic and visibility is better in the Hillsdale Shopping Center. The bigger location allows for a full menu which is something that the owners had wanted to do for some time.

Established in 2010, Korkage prides itself on pro-

viding 90 percent local wines with sampling, pairing with Northwest cuisine, and purchases all in one.

"The 'wine friendly' menu consists of small bites," said co-owner, Tamairah Boleyn. "Our servers and chef are experts in suggesting pairing the right wine with the right meal."

Beginning Sunday, Oct. 6, brunch will be served from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. "We are so happy to remain in Hillsdale, "explained Boleyn. "I quite my day job of 20 years in marketing to fulfill a dream come true!"

Boleyn is no stranger to Hillsdale. In July 2013, Hillsdale Main Street awarded her Volunteer-of-the-Year



Server Lori Brennan strikes a pose in the new Korkage Wine Bar. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

for her years of devoted service on Main Street committees and chairing the annual Wine About Winter event held in January.

Korkage is open every day except Monday. Happy Hour is from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., and private parties and events are always welcome.

After 18 long, glorious years, Three Square Grill is no more. With a new baby and path, Chef David Barber decided to close its doors last Mother's Day. For those who still want to keep up on Barber's whereabouts, check out the Bingo sandwich and Picklopolis stand at the PSU Farmers Market or visit www. picklopolis.com.



COMMUNITY LIFE

By Don Snedecor The Southwest Portland Post

8 Multnomah Neighborhood Association will be electing new officers (chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer) at its next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Multnomah Center, Room 30 (7688 SW Capitol Hwy). Additional agenda items include a guest appearance by Rep. Jennifer Williamson (D-36), and discussion of the Freeman Water Tank property. Contact Moses Ross, chair at mnachair@gmail.com or call 503-309-7995 for more information.

12 The No. 1 Hillsdale Knitting Society meets again on Saturday, Oct. 12, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd, 503-988-5388. Learn basic knitting skills or get help with an existing project. Crocheters welcome too. For children 5 years and older as well as adults.

Second Saturday Family Dance: Fun folk dancing for kids and families with live music with Sherry Nevins with Full Moon (Gordy Euler) calling! Saturday, Oct. 12, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Fulton Park Community Center, 68 SW Miles St. Admission is \$6 adults,



Randy Bonella stands near the Freeman Water Tank property (8625 SW 42nd Ave) in Multnomah in mid-September. The property is adjacent to Woods Park. Bonella made a motion at the September meeting of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association that passed unanimously. Among other things the motion asked the City of Portland Water Bureau to reconsider a pending sale to a developer and consider moving this parcel of land into "Portland Parks Natural Area Inventory." (Post photo by Don Snedecor)

\$5/kids, \$20/family max. For more information call 503-245-5070.

19 Randy Weston's African Rhythms in tribute to Obo Addy. Listen to Randy Weston on piano, Alex Blake on bass, and Neil Clarke on drums. With special guests Thara Memory and the American Music Program, plus Wone and Okropong. Saturday, Oct. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at Lewis & Clark College's Evans Auditorium, 0615 SW Palatine

Hill Rd. 503-768-7000. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for students. Presented by PDX Jazz and KMHD FM.

31 Halloween in the Village: If you visit Multnomah Village on Oct. 31 between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. don't be surprised if you are accosted by thousands of pint-sized ghouls and goblins out trick-or-treating. More information can be found at www. multnomahvillage.org.

ORA Northwest Jewish Artists present their annual Celebration of Art at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy, on Sunday, Nov. 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Twenty-three juried artists from the Northwest will be showing and selling their art.

Many mediums will be represented in the show. All have new and exciting pieces that will appeal to your senses. What a great time to get a head start on your shopping for hostess and holiday gifts. While browsing the aisles, you will be entertained by George Fendel and Rich Garber at the piano. For more information, check out the YouTube video!

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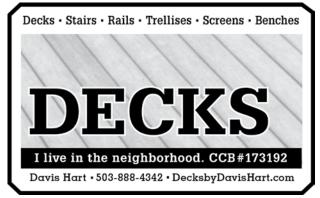
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MAPLEWOOD NOTEBOOK

April Hill Park Improvements

(Continued from Page 1)

Maplewood Neighborhood Association chairwoman Jill Gaddis stated that a mere \$28 donation per household in the localized area would more than cover the matching funds. But the group is constrained by various factors, including costs and potential nuisance, from an all-out direct mail or door-to-door campaign to the neighborhood.

"We want to get the word out that it's not the amount of money you give, it's the giving itself," said Gaddis. "Recently, a young man contributed ten dollars because that's all he could afford, and that means as much to us as a thousand dollar contribution."

The group recently held a fundraiser, "Arf in the Park," on Sunday, Sept. 22 that featured a variety of services and games oriented to the neighborhood's four-legged friends.

The event was geared to dog owners and offered education on new rules related to proper park etiquette for canines, with park rangers present who described leash laws.

The group distributed doggy poop bags, bandannas, and a host of other free gifts donated by local merchants who cater to pets. Despite rain and strong winds, the event was a success according to organizers.

Proceeds raised from the Arf in the Park's sale of raffle tickets were earmarked for the matching funds campaign.

"I realized as we were organizing the event that it fit perfectly within the mission of our Friends of April Hill Park project. We're trying to allow the whole community, including pets, to enjoy this public space,' Gaddis said.

The group is hosting a silent auction on Oct. 26 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Maplewood Coffee and Tea, 5206 SW Custer Street, to raise funds for the project.

Gaddis and the organizers are calling for the community to donate antiques and other items of value for the event. Admission is \$30 for pre-sale tickets and \$35 at the door.

Neighbors can make online financial contributions to the effort or inquire about silent auction donations by visiting SWNI.org/aprilhillpark.

The group is also organizing an Indiegogo campaign that will feature a video appeal for funding for the park upgrades. Indiegogo is a crowd-sourced fundraising platform that appeals to a variety of nonprofit projects.

Local neighbors are providing videography and design for the campaign free of charge. Gaddis expects the group's project to go live on the Indiegogo site a few weeks after completion of video production.

OHSU Students Assess Community Needs

(Continued from Page 1)

a growing problem everywhere and families are forced to choose between paying bills and buying nutritious foods.

Special diets or cultural meals may not always be available or affordable either. Parsons Farm Stand in Multnomah Village does accept SNAP and WIC vouchers but closes October 31.

And currently, no grocery supermarkets are within walking distance. (Safeway on Southwest Barbur Boulevard and Capitol Hill Road is slated to reopen in November.)

Transportation

Topography and connectability are the main issues with Southwest transportation.

Environmental regulation, budget cuts, and reduction in human resource services contribute to lack of sidewalks, trails and safe routes. And many improvements are the fiscal responsibility of the homeowner.

This leads to social isolation, less physical activity, and less access to food and health services.

Social isolation

Neighborhood House Senior Center does provide activities, classes, and transportation but is limited and cannot reach evervone.

The Meals-on-Wheels organization does provide lunches. Art and fitness are available through the Multnomah Arts Center. However, seniors continue to express feelings of isolation especially if family or friends are no longer around or nearby.

"We want to thank everyone for helping us out with the report," Benton said. "This includes Neighborhood House, Loaves and Fishes, Head Start, Portland

Bureau of Transportation, the Southwest Community Health Clinic, and SWNI (Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.)."

This report was presented at the SWNI Board meeting in August. A full copy of the report and poster may be accessed at the SWNI office, website, or by calling Sylvia Bogert at 503-823-4592.

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EARTH **Questions & Answers** About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What is the new documentary film "A Fierce Green Fire" about and what does the title refer to?

– Gloria Howard Washington, DC

A Fierce Green Fire is a new film documenting the rise of the modern environmental movement from the 1960s through the present day.

It premiered at last year's Sundance Film Festival and will be playing at select theaters across the country beginning in September

Educators, environmental groups and grassroots activists also will be showing the film at small and large events from coast to coast over the course of the fall.

Written and directed by Mark Kitchell, Academy Award-nominated director of Berkeley in the Sixties, A Fierce Green Fire (the film) is based on the 1993 book of the same name by environmental journalist Philip Shabecoff.

The phrase "a fierce green fire" refers to a longer passage in one of the seminal environmental books of the 20th century, 1949's A Sand County Almanac.

In the famous "Think Like a Mountain" section of that book, author Aldo Leopold relates his experience as part of a predator extirpation team that shoots a wolf in the New Mexico desert: "We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes.

"I realized then and have known ever since that there was something new to me in those eyes, something known only to her and to the mountain.

"I was young then and full of trigger-itch; I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that



Lois Marie Gibbs and other Niagara Falls, New York residents' struggle against pollution buried beneath their Love Canal neighborhood in the 1970s, in the documentary film "A Fierce Green Fire."

no wolves would mean hunters' paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view."

Kitchell's film shows how this passage and other writings were instrumental in raising awareness about the importance of wise stewardship of the natural environment and as such played a crucial role in the re-birth of the environmental movement in the 1960s.

Featuring five "acts," each with its own central story and character, the film depicts a central environmental conflict of each decade since the 1960s.

The first act, narrated by Robert Redford, focuses on David Brower and the Sierra Club's battle to halt dams in the Grand Canyon in the 1960s.

Act II, narrated by Ashley Judd, tells the story of Lois Gibbs and other Niagara Falls, New York residents' struggle against pollution buried beneath their Love Canal

neighborhood in the 1970s.

Act III is all about Greenpeace and efforts by Captain Paul Watson to save whales and baby harp seals, as told by Van Jones.

Chico Mendes and Brazilian rubber tappers take center stage in Act IV, as narrated by Isabel Allende, in their fight to save their Amazon rainforest. Lastly, Act V focuses on Bill McKibben, as told by Meryl Streep, and the 25-year effort to address the foremost issue of our time: climate change.

Intertwined within these main stories are strands including the struggle for environmental justice,

getting "back to the land," and sustainability efforts in the developing

The film ends on an optimistic note, driving home the point that environmentalism is really about civilizational change and bringing

industrial society into balance with nature and that each of us can make a difference with a little effort.

Those interested in seeing the film should check out the schedule of theatrical releases at the film's website, www.afiercegreenfire.com.

The website also features more information on the film and features historical photos of some of the scenes and events depicted in it. Anyone who wants to find out more about the makings of the modern environmental movement should be sure to see A Fierce Green Fire.

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

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New Safeway almost completed



Construction workers put the finishing touches on the exterior of the new Safeway supermarket at Southwest Barbur Boulevard and Capitol Hill Road. With its grand opening scheduled for early November, there's still time to apply for a position. The balcony faces Mt. Hood to the East. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

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