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# The Southwest Portland Post

Volume No. 24 Issue No. 1

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Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

November 2015

## City Council hearing scheduled for Tryon-Stephens neighborhood plan

By Erik Vidstrand and Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post

Over the past 18 months, Southwest community members have been addressing local infrastructure concerns which included types of roads, pedestrian paths, and stormwater development.

City planners have acknowledged that Southwest Portland's local street system is affected by poor connectivity and lack of safe facilities for active transportation modes (walking, bicycling, and access to transit).

Stormwater management in Southwest Portland is affected by an incomplete stormwater system and lack of treatment for runoff.

The Tryon-Stephens Neighborhood Street Plan aims to establish a more connected local street and pathway network by integrating improvements to transportation networks, access to transit, and the stormwater system within the study area.

According to Denver Igarta, city planner from the Bureau of Transportation, city staff will present a draft of the Tryon-Stephens

Headwaters Neighborhood Street Plan to the Portland City Council on Nov. 4.

"We want to have the plan adopted by resolution," said Igarta. "This means that the city council endorses the plan as a guide for street network and stormwater system completion in the plan area (Multnomah, Hillsdale and Burlingame neighborhoods)."

Section 6 of the plan outlines a variety of recommendations for next steps. It includes ongoing collaboration between the bureaus of transportation and environmental services on completion of both the street and stormwater systems.

This section outlines the tools developed in the plan for both private development and public improvements, as well as opportunities for funding and coordination.

Other recommendations establish criteria to allow non-motorized access only, close urban trail system gaps, and develop criteria for interim shoulder widening on streets without curbs.

Several streets that carry moderate levels of traffic in the area still lack sidewalks, such as Capitol Hill Road, Hume Street west of 30th Avenue, and Taylors Ferry Road.

Improvements to Capitol Highway

are part of a Bureau of Environmental Services-led project that is moving forward independent of the Tryon-Stephens Plan.

A local transportation infrastructure charge would allow developers to pay a fee rather than building required frontage improvements. Collected fees could be set aside as leverage funds for forming a local improvement district to improve an entire block.

At the Oct. 13 Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting, there was discussion regarding key Tryon-Stephens Plan recommendations that the Ashcreek NA passed the previous night.

Ashcreek supports the recommendations



Naomi Tsurumi, BES staff, discusses the Tryon-Stephens Plan with community member Barbara O'Neil at a workshop earlier this year. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

but wants the language to be strengthened for the city's commitment to improve  
(Continued on Page 6)

## Nordia House in Garden Home celebrates Scandinavian heritage

By KC Cowan  
The Southwest Portland Post

Roughly 10 percent of Oregon's population can claim some ancestral link to



Greg Smith, executive director of Nordia House, poses by the Setziol hand-carved doors. (Post photo by KC Cowan)

Scandinavian countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

Immigrants from those countries settled here because the landscape and climate felt familiar to them, and because farming, fishing and cannery jobs gave them opportunities to succeed.

But even if you have no family heritage to Scandinavia, it's well worth a visit to Nordia House, which opened this summer.

Built by the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation (soon to be renamed Nordic NW), the center is located at 8800 SW Oleson Road in Garden Home.

According to executive director Greg Smith, Nordia House is a dream many years in the making.

"Twenty years ago the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation wanted to build a cultural center, to celebrate all things Nordic," Smith explained.

The first challenge was to find land. In 1994, Ross Fogelquist donated an initial acre to the foundation from his own property on Oleson Road.

Fogelquist owns a log cabin home there, which was built by Henry Steiner, the lead carpenter during construction of Timberline Lodge.

The Foundation board was then able to buy some land from Fogelquist's neighbor for a total of two and a half acres for the project. The serious fundraising for building began.

"Our original design was for a 25,000 square foot building, with two stories, and an archival basement," said Smith. "Quite an ambitious project with an ambitious price tag on it."

But when the recession hit, they scaled back to a more modest design. They committee fell in love with the sleek, modern design by Brian Melton of Diloreto Architects.

"With some last minute fundraising push last year, we were able to kick off the building process in August last year, and they handed us the keys the end of April of this year," said Smith.

The center features stunning carved entry doors of Alaskan yellow cedar by the late Northwest artist, Leroy Setziol. He designed them, but as his health failed, his daughter, Monica, completed the carving. The doors were put in storage until the center could be built.

"I like to say we built a three and a half million dollar building around his doors," Smith said, laughing.

The new design may be smaller, but it still provides plenty of room for Nordia House's main mission: To celebrate, educate and enhance knowledge of the Nordic culture through arts, history, spoken word, and film.

The 10,000-square-foot building has a gallery to host exhibits on Nordic culture and history from around the world.

A large ballroom with wooden floors and a wall of windows is perfect for concerts, weekly Scandinavian dance classes, lectures,

and large dinners. A smaller conference room is perfect for showing films and smaller meetings.

Already within the first month of operation, Nordia House has hosted folk music concerts, a contemporary jazz band from Iceland, as well as the Oregon Ballet Theatre.

The Portland Chamber Orchestra held its first concert this past October in its new performance space at Nordia House.

The center is open to the public, and there's a full café, Broder Söder. It offers lunch during the week and weekend brunches with Scandinavian food, such as Danish pancakes, Norwegian lefse, smoked trout hash, fritters and strong coffee to wash it all down.

Nordia House has proven enormously popular already, with membership in the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation up 50  
(Continued on Page 6)

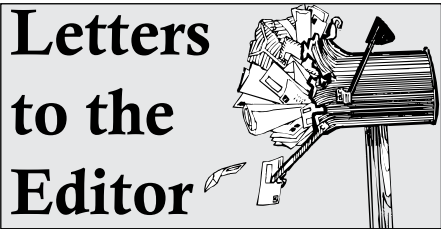


Next door to Nordia House sits a log cabin built by Henry Steiner, lead carpenter during construction of Timberline Lodge. (Post photo by KC Cowan)

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### Former Sears Armory should not be used as a shelter for homeless people

I am shocked and appalled to hear that Portland Mayor Charlie Hales' latest scheme is to take over the Westside Emergency Services Center (former Sears Armory) on Multnomah Boulevard to house homeless people!

The city of Portland clearly has let the homeless situation get out of control and dumping these people in Southwest Portland is not the answer. This facility has been specifically targeted to support the west side for emergency services and resources.

The building needs to be used for the

original intent. Furthermore, it would be a disservice to homeless people as there is no public transportation or access to [critical] services.

It is clear that city of Portland is a magnet for homeless folks who know how to work the system and where they know they can get away with just about anything.

How about toughening up policies so that this population will find somewhere else to set up camp? Many of this population choose [homelessness] as an alternative lifestyle, use drugs and have mental health issues.

If the average citizen tried to set up camp at Waterfront Park, we would not be allowed to do so. Portland makes it too easy and it is widely known that this is a place where the city allows lots of illegal activity.

Take a look at other cities and find a model that will not make Portland a magnet because city laws are not enforced. Take Portland back!

*Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen  
Multnomah Village*

### Wilson men's cross country team wins PIL championship

In October, the "Green Machine" that is Wilson cross country had a historic day of racing at the 2015 Portland Interscholastic League district championships.

The afternoon started off with our junior varsity women Trojans finishing a strong fourth place. The lead pack of Trojans included freshmen Annika Sunderstrom, Lizzie Reunert, Emma Halling, junior Elsa Douglas, and senior Natalie McKinnon. The future is extremely bright for this group of up and comers!

The junior varsity men placed second in a very competitive JV division. The "wolfpack" was led by senior Xavier Triplett, juniors Elius Graff, Aidan Manley and freshman Caden "Kid" Samkutty, all finishing in the top 10.

However, the main events for the afternoon were in the varsity divisions. At the district championships only the top three placing teams and top ten individuals qualify for the opportunity to compete at the state meet in Eugene, on October 31st.

The varsity women's team (Grace Heizer, Isabelle Brooks, Ellie Stein, Iris Emmerick, Adarha Poasa and Aurora Emmons) ran their hearts out, yet finished in fourth place (by three points) behind Lincoln, Grant and Franklin.

However, sophomore Grace Heizer ran like the wind and finished third overall, qualifying her for state as an individual and becoming a member of the 2015 PIL all-league team.

The big news of the day was in the men's division. The mighty Trojans (Alex Slenning, Nick Slenning, Kian Mitchell, Chris Nussbaum, Caleb Seely, Sam Barhens and Chase Howard) ran a perfect race and shocked their rivals by winning the district championship.

This is the first outright district championship for Wilson cross country since 1985 and qualifies the team for the state meet. Highlighting the day was sophomore superstar and now district champ Alex Slenning who blew the field and won the race

by 12 seconds.

Junior power-house Caleb Seely made a huge move in the last 400 meters to finish in second place. Alex, Caleb and senior Chase Howard all earned All-Conference honors. Now it's on to state!

*Aaron Olsen*

*Editor's Note: Aaron Olsen is assistant cross country coach at Wilson High School.*

### Correction, Wilson High School has an orchestra

*Regarding, "Wilson students and teachers gear for school year," by KC Cowan, The Post, September 2015.*

In the September 2015 issue of your newspaper, KC Cowan did an exciting thing by covering the registration and new school year at Wilson High School and it was great that it made the front page.

Two corrections I know of. It is not "Corey Bissonette's brother, Coby" but rather Jonah Hart's brother, Coby Hart who plays the cello in the orchestra.

And, Jonah Hart plays the viola in the orchestra. It is very interesting that last year that same orchestra had Maia Hoffman who won best violist in Oregon high schools for like four years.

The other correction is in the continuation of the story when, alas, the poor struggling orchestra did not make it on the list of classes that make the "arts well covered."

The orchestra is small and mighty. It struggles to be kept on the schedule. Please help spread the word that Wilson has one, and, I believe, is one of the two PPS high schools that do.

*Marcia Waugh  
Multnomah*



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# Multnomah Village neighbors fight for corridor at mixed-use forum

## PORTLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

Southwest residents and leaders attended the city's mixed-use zone forum on Oct. 14 at Wilson High School. The zoning component is part of the larger Portland Comprehensive Plan 2035.

The first public hearing for the comprehensive plan is scheduled for Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. at City Hall (City Council chambers).

Multnomah Village and is slated to be reclassified as a neighborhood center despite repeated requests from the Multnomah Neighborhood Association and Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. that it remain a neighborhood corridor.

Multnomah chair Carol McCarthy explained that this new classification will allow four-story buildings (up to 55 feet) in the central core of the village.

"It is also likely that buildings could go (as high as) five stories," McCarthy said, "depending on what point their allowable heights are measured."

The commercial storefront designation is being eliminated and the city is addressing new zoning restrictions with regards to height and style of buildings.

Barry Manning, senior planner for the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, fielded questions and complaints at the recent forum. Manning reminded people that zoning rules were last drafted in 1995.

"Our bureau is addressing population

growth for the next 20 years," Manning explained. "Some of these rules accommodated old bulky buildings that resemble Tillamook cheese blocks with limited use."

The city will make height exceptions for developers who utilize green building and landscaping designs or add public gathering spaces and plazas. Bonus points are awarded for developments that include affordable housing and commercial space.

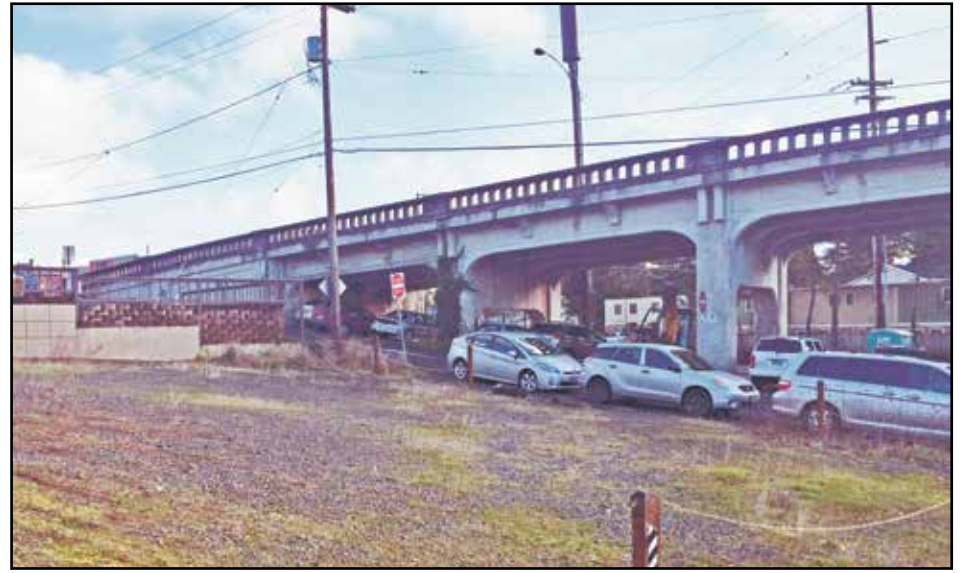
"These projects can have higher stories like the proposed Neighborhood House project," McCarthy explained. The local charity is proposing a four-story development on Southwest Moss Street and 35th Avenue.

McCarthy requested that CS be changed to CM1(d) overlay. This design designation promotes the conservation, enhancement, and continued vitality of areas like Multnomah Village with special scenic, architectural, or cultural value.

This designation requires a design review with community standards that ensure certain types of infill development will be compatible with the neighborhood and enhance the area.

But according to the most recent draft of the comprehensive plan, Multnomah Village is designated CM2 (commercial mixed-use) which allows for medium-scale development in neighborhood centers and corridors.

Manning was asked about a group who walked through Multnomah Village in June 2014. The planning bureau conducted seven different community walks throughout the city then. One of these walkabouts was in Multnomah Village. It included neighborhood and business association leaders, city staff, and several consultants.



Empty lots like this one in Multnomah Village are being eyed by city planners for infill development. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

He explained that questions were proposed to the group about available spaces for potential development. He clarified that there were no developers among the group.

Some neighborhood leaders had heard a comment that a Walmart-type store could be brought to the area near the post office which could have about five-acres available for development. When asked about this, Manning said nothing had been proposed or suggested.

"We are still fine-tuning the comprehensive plan to meet the growing needs of each community," Manning clarified. "Available land is considered opportunity sites."

Manning explained that large sites, like near the post office, could have large retailers, general use, or mixed-use development.

Long-time Multnomah resident Ken

Hittle attended both the forum and the neighborhood meeting the night before. He had two main concerns: keeping the building height to three stories and not changing the look of the village.

Hittle has recently become more active with neighborhood activities especially once he heard the city was thinking of turning the Jerome Sears Armory into a women's homeless shelter.

"Affordable housing is a priority," a participant shouted, "but what is the process the city uses to evaluate our comments?"

Manning said that if comments are inconsistent with the draft policy, then they would not consider it. The comprehensive plan is based on future growth and future resident figures.

"You are proposing suburbia in our  
(Continued on Page 6)

## Mary Elizabeth Symes

July 30, 1930 – September 5, 2015

London, England born, Mary Elizabeth Symes passed away on September 5, 2015. Mary opened her door to life on July 30, 1930 full of love and joy to parents George and Rosina Mary Richardson. Growing up in the heart of London proper with her brother, George and her sister, Rose, the family survived the London bombings of Hitler in World War II. Young Mary became a child of Operation Pied Piper with the removal of London children from their homes to the English countryside.

A War Bride to US Army Air Force Native Marvin Symes, she made her way across the Pond on the S.S. America to be married in New York's "Little Church Around the Corner" and to write a new chapter of her life story in the small town of Multnomah, Oregon.

Far away from the streets and sounds of London and the Isles, Mary and husband Marvin became a family of four with the birth of two daughters, Mary and Maureen. Multnomah quickly embraced "the Brit" and she worked in grocery for her adult years while taking care of home and family. She was a strong worker and friend to the Feuz's John's Market, first on Main Street Multnomah and then in the new store on Multnomah Boulevard.

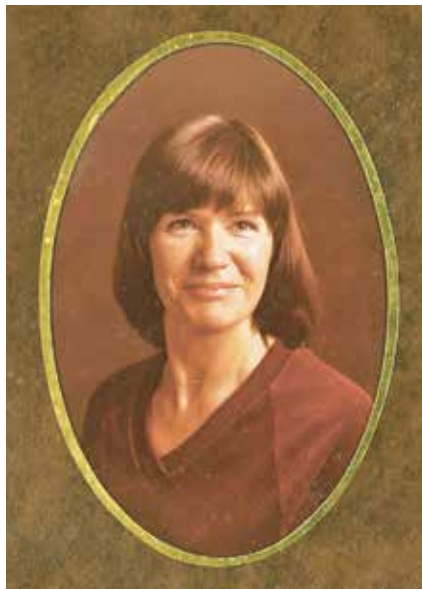
Mary's true love was working in her gorgeous garden and having her dog close to her side. Always a true Brit, Mary was known as "the Queen" lovingly to friends and neighbors. Her beauty, strength and love of life will be truly missed by all her knew her as family and as a delightful friend.

Mary is survived by her sister Rose Greenaway in London, England; daughters Mary and Maureen; grandchildren Cody, Colt, Cree, Megan, Heather and Angela along with great grandchildren Breanna, Brandon, Madison and Chase; and London, England family nieces Angela, JoAnne and Patricia, and nephew Colin Richardson.

Family is asking any Donations in Memory to Mary Symes be made to Disabled American Veterans (dav.org) or Portland Meals on Wheels.

Beloved Wife, Mother, Auntie, Nana and Friend ...

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
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## Pizza race is over: Tastebud opens first in Multnomah Village

### THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

The paper is off the windows, the wood-fired oven is ablaze, and customers are seated in Multnomah Village's newest restaurant, Tastebud.

The pizzeria is located next to Bishops Barbership in what once was Bill Ryan's grocery and Pagenwood antiques and woodworking.

Entering Tastebud, one's eyes, and nose, is immediately focused on the large oven

which is the centerpiece of the restaurant. Reclaimed redwood boards make up the ceiling and Douglas fir tables are surrounded by wheat yellow walls.

The lighting is of the Edison-style era.

"Multnomah Village is a neighborhood we've been drawn to for a long time," said Tastebud owner Mark Doxtader.

Doxtader, whose family lives in the area, used to raise pigs, turkeys, and chickens in Canby. He sold them through his farm, an early adopter of the Community Supported Agriculture model of farming.

Doxtader also specialized in growing diverse crops that included unique vegetables, greens, and herbs that were difficult to find in markets.



The new Tastebud pizzeria in Multnomah Village features a wood-fired oven. (Photo courtesy of Dina Avila, Eater)

In 2000, as a collaborative project with the Portland Farmers Market, Doxtader built a wood-fired brick oven cooking bagels and pizzas. By 2005, demand for wood-fired goods in the Portland area eclipsed the farm. Doxtader named his operation Tastebud and relocated to Portland dedicating all attention and resources to a growing audience in town.

Since then, Tastebud has been a cornerstone of area farmers markets, specializing in pizza, salads and, his own creation, Portland-style bagels.

Another wood-fired pizzeria, Interstate Pizza, located at 35th Avenue and Multnomah Boulevard, has been struggling to open as did Tastebud. Owner Matt Johnson has recently petitioned the city to work with him

on getting the necessary building permits in the building which was once home to Keith's Auto Service.

In Tastebud's case, the owner was lacking the capital to open but after a successful Kickstarter campaign, enough cash came from friends, family, and long-time customers.

Doxtader said he and Chef Jobie Bailey will maintain the integrity of properly sourced ingredients and continue the tradition of building strong relationships with farmers.

Located near the corner of Southwest 35th Avenue and Capitol Highway, Tastebud is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Brunch and lunch will be introduced in early 2016.

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# Under Coach King's reign, Wilson women's soccer is flourishing

## SPORTS

By Jack Rubinger  
The Southwest Portland Post

On a cool night in October, the Wilson High School women's soccer team is looking strong, confident and loose during warm-ups before a game with Roosevelt High School. They're all laughing and talking.

"They're technically skilled. But their hearts and minds need to be in it. It really comes down to mindset. At this level, there are no easy games," said varsity coach Allison King.

Taking the field in pink jerseys in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Trojans clap twice for each opposing player announced. It's a tradition for all youth teams in the sport.

Once the game is underway, the Trojans strike hard, fast and often. By the end of the first half, the team has already scored 8

goals behind the ball handling and shooting skills of Eva Vlassopolous, Talulah Beisel, Sara Trejo, Mackenna Clizer, Tori Butler, and Maddi Day.

The team's style of play is controlled and accurate. Roosevelt is putting up a good fight, but Wilson is clearly dominating the field and their goalkeeper has had few serious threats.

"It's been a season of extremes," King said. "Either 10 goal shutouts or losing by four. We're still trying to find a consistent middle ground."

The Trojans scored three more times in the second half for an 11 - 0 shut out over Roosevelt. Roosevelt had a strong effort, but Wilson showed superior skills and physical toughness. It looked easy, but soccer is a game of possessions. You control each possession and you control the game.

Although King said she sees her entire squad as superstars, one player to watch out for is Sara Trejo. Trejo, number 15, is one of the most skilled and composed young women King has ever worked with at center midfield.

"I'm especially proud of Kennedy Reed (center back) and Sabine Pigg (forward) — two seniors who have successfully rehabbed from serious ankle injuries. Both of them had goals tonight," said King, following the Oct. 7 match-up.

King is honing a state-contending women's soccer team built off of Wilson's legacy as a 2013 Oregon School Activities Association State runner-up, 2013 Portland Interscholastic League co-champion, and 2012 PIL champion.

King was also 2014 PIL coach of the year. Her squad has produced all-conference athletes every season.

Back in September, King was a little frustrated. Her team had a rough pre-season with a lot of injuries, so while they played well, it hadn't shown up on the scoreboard.

"We increased our standing in state last year, so we were presented with a challenging pre-season schedule coupled with injuries," explained King. "It means that our ladies have to work harder."

"Our system of play demands more compact, high-pressing defenders and versatile and skilled midfielders. It really showcases a team's offensive talent and ability to possess and counter quickly. I have high hopes for them to do something fantastic once the season is underway."

The overall good vibe is due in part to girls' soccer being well received at Wilson. They have a supportive parent base who are also active scouts. Administrative support is strong, too. They even have a brand-new turf field to play on.

It doesn't hurt that Portland is a soccer city with a professional women's team (the Thorns) and that the women's world cup was played so close to home last year. All this positivity resonates throughout the community.

King, who grew up in Vancouver with



Allison King is women's varsity soccer coach at Wilson High School. (Post photo by Jack Rubinger)

three brothers, gravitated toward soccer early on. While she played at Brigham Young University, she started coaching because she couldn't sit still. She's been coaching for 10 years now.

Together with men's coach Frank Matthews, she brings a sense of altruism to the field and avoids most of the sports clichés.

"This team formed an immediate bond," said King. "There's trust and respect. There's positive camaraderie. They are comfortable speaking candidly with us coaches and they have a great sense of self. What more can I ask for?"



Junior Maddi Day (left) and senior Sabine Pigg practice at Wilson. (Post photo by Jack Rubinger)

**Multnomah Village & Hillsdale**

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### Tryon-Stephens Plan

(Continued from Page 1)

Capitol Highway between Multnomah Boulevard and Taylors Ferry Road.

In a letter read by Multnomah's Jessica Wade, Ashcreek recommended that the city close the gap in the active transportation network by requiring developers to build street and stormwater improvements and not allow "waivers of remonstrance" on busy streets where the infrastructure is critical to accessing key destinations.

Although previous roundtable and online input rated Capitol Highway the number one priority, the Tryon-Stephens Plan recommends "forming a tailored strategy to address the unique challenges and opportunities within the study area by taking a coordinated approach to addressing gaps in both street connectivity and the stormwater system."

Wade, who has been fighting to make the "Garden Home" section of Capitol Highway a safer route for years, said, "This association needs to take a position on the Tryon-Stephens Headwaters Plan." However, after several motions and a friendly amendment, the motion did not pass.

Other plan recommendations include connections in Hillsdale linking Nevada Court to Vermont Street between 26th Avenue and Capitol Hill Road, and in Markham linking Marigold Street between 23rd and 26th avenues.

The hearing will be held at City Hall council chambers on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 10:15

a.m. followed by testimony from some of the community working group members and interested neighbors. The most recent plan draft can be found at [ftp://ftp02.portlandoregon.gov/PBOT/TryonStephensHeadwatersNeighborhoodStreetPlan/T-S\\_Final\\_Plan\\_Draft\\_0930\\_web.pdf](http://ftp02.portlandoregon.gov/PBOT/TryonStephensHeadwatersNeighborhoodStreetPlan/T-S_Final_Plan_Draft_0930_web.pdf).

### Nordia House

(Continued from Page 1)

percent since they opened.

Smith said they have a mailing list of 3000 people. "I think as people discover us, there's a new reason to become a member."

Someday in the future, Nordic NW will own the next-door property with the Steiner cabin which it will keep as a living heritage museum.

With a long history of working with nonprofit arts organizations, Smith says he looks forward to helping build a sense of place and connection to the Nordic people. "My personal joy is in learning myself as I help others learn about things they may not have known," Smith said.

"I feel like I get to enjoy all of my own personal passions through the types of programs and activities we bring to people here, while also creating a sense of legacy for the region, for the city and for the state."

So, it's a marvelous sense of accomplishing something that will have lasting impact on a region."

For more information about Nordic NW and Nordia House, go to [scanheritage.org](http://scanheritage.org).

### Mixed Use Forum

(Continued from Page 3)

village," cried one woman. "You can't find a more livable community but then you want to alter it!"

"We realize progress has to happen," McCarthy said, standing to address Manning and his staff, "but you have not listened to us after we have repeatedly petitioned the city with our concerns with nothing in return!"

"You are harming our community," McCarthy insisted. "We have asked to be a corridor, not a center, and you have not responded. What can we do to get Multnomah Village zoned to CM1?"

Manning, who remained relatively calm most of the evening, despite the comments and flaring tempers, said the bureau of planning will have to evaluate it and see how it fits into the proposed recommendations.

The most recent iteration of the mixed-use zones concept report has been published at [www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/mixeduse](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/mixeduse).

"Please plan to attend the hearing on Nov. 19 at 3 p.m.," McCarthy's wrote to Multnomah Neighborhood Association members. "If you're unable to be there, please email your testimony to [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov) and [cputestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cputestimony@portlandoregon.gov)."

Visit [www.swni.org/Multnomah](http://www.swni.org/Multnomah) or email McCarthy at [mnachair@gmail.com](mailto:mnachair@gmail.com) for more information. Barry Manning may be contacted at 503-823-7965 or [mixedusezones@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mixedusezones@portlandoregon.gov).

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**COMMUNITY LIFE**

By KC Cowan and Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post

**4 Night in Shanghai:** Acclaimed local author Nicole Mones will give a multimedia presentation on her new book about Jewish life in Shanghai before, during and after World War II. This event takes place on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd., 503-988-5388. Mones has written several novels all set in China. Free.

**7 Northwest tribal stories:** Ed Edmo, a Shoshone-Bannock poet, playwright and traditional storyteller on Northwest tribal life and history will explain Coyote's part in NW Indian culture through traditional stories such as "Coyote Made the Columbia River" and "Coyote Places the Stars." This event takes place Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:30 a.m. at the Capitol Hill Library, 10723 S.W. Capitol Hwy, 503-988-5385. Great for the whole family. Free tickets available 30 minutes prior to the performance.

**8 Community orchestra at the J:** The Jewish Community Orchestra tunes up for its first concert of the season, featuring pieces by Beethoven, Bloch, Sibelius and more. Sunday, Nov. 8 at 3 p.m. at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy, 503-244-0111. Tickets are available at the door: \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students.

**14 SW Trails Urban Walk:** The Nov. 14 walk will be led by Hans Steuch. Meet behind the bleachers at Wilson High School (Southwest Sunset Boulevard and Capitol Highway) and be ready to go at 9 a.m. From Wilson, carpool to Jackson Middle School. Then the group will walk

east through Maricara and Foley-Balmer natural areas to Marshall Park. From there follow Trail No. 7 along Arnold Creek neighborhood streets past Stephenson School where they will inspect the swales/extended shoulder work on Stephenson Street. Then they'll walk through Loll Wildwood Natural Area to return to Jackson Middle School. Five miles with 300 feet elevation gain. Bring a snack and water and dress for the weather. Well-behaved dogs on leash are allowed. For more information call 503-823-4592 or contact Sharon Fekety, fekey@hevanet.com.

**16 Balancing enrollment:** Portland Public Schools is holding regional meetings so families can review and give feedback on proposals to balance enrollment in the district. Your input can help shape the future boundaries. There are two Southwest meetings: Monday Nov. 16, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at West Sylvan Middle School, 8111 SW West Slope Drive and Monday Nov. 23, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Markham Elementary School, 10531 SW Capitol Hwy. Call 503-916-2000 or visit [www.pps.k12.or.us](http://www.pps.k12.or.us) for more information.

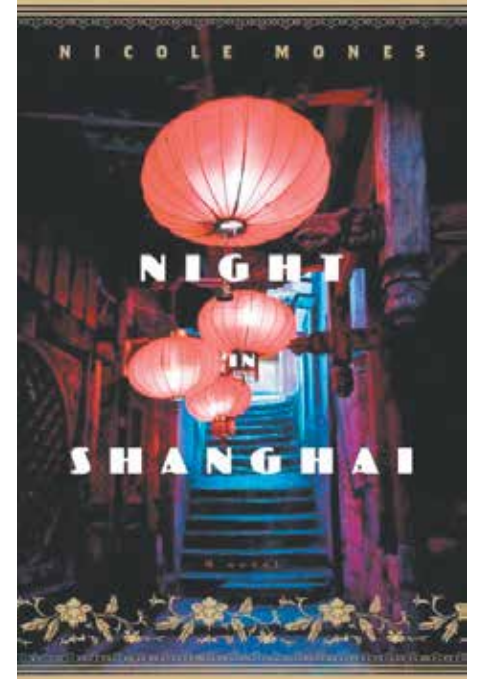
**18 Seniors take center stage:** Join members of the Northwest Senior Theatre as they present Silver Season - Holidays, celebrating 25 years of your favorite holiday songs: White Christmas, Carol of the Bells, Winter Wonderland and more. This event takes place Nov. 18 - 21 at the Alpenrose Dairy Opera House, 6149 S.W. Shattuck Rd. All performances are at 2 p.m. and admission is \$5. For more information, visit [www.nwseniortheatre.org](http://www.nwseniortheatre.org).

**21 Harvest Artisan Faire:** West Hills Friends Church (7425 SW 52nd Ave) is hosting a Harvest Artisan Faire to support the Friends Medical Team to Bolivia mission in 2016.

Paintings, jewelry, photography, stoneware, textiles, baked goods and lots of handmade gifts will be available for sale. This event takes place Saturday, Nov. 21 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 22 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Free.

**27 Liberty in North Korea:** It's been called the "Hermit Kingdom" for its secretive ways. If you're interested in learning more about North Korea, come to the Garden Home Library, 7475 SW Oleson Rd. on Friday, Nov 27 at 7 p.m. to hear a special speaker give a half hour presentation about the future of this fascinating country. Call 503-245-9932 or visit [www.gardenhomelibrary.org](http://www.gardenhomelibrary.org) for more information.

**Dec 3 Holiday shopping for the arts:** The Multnomah Arts Center will hold its annual winter sale Thursday and Friday, Dec. 3 and 4 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hand-crafted items for sale include ceramics, weaving, jewelry, prints, paintings, wood-working, photography and



Nicole Mones' latest novel is *Night in Shanghai*.

more, created by more than 50 instructors and students. All proceeds support local arts education and participating artists. The MAC is located at 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. Call 503-823-2787 for more information. Free.

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## Developers continue to demolish existing homes in Multnomah

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

Vic Remmers, owner and president of Everett Custom Homes, was on hand at the Oct. 13 Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting to field questions from neighborhood members about a series of projects in the area that have involved demolitions and rebuilding larger homes, and in some cases, several homes.

On Southwest 30th Avenue alone, a recent demolition took place after Remmers bought the property and planning to erect three single-family houses at up to \$650,000 apiece.

When asked about a sidewalk, Remmers replied he's working on an agreement with the Portland Bureau of Transportation with no waivers of remonstrance. He will most likely have to install a bioswale.

"The city likes bioswales," Remmers said, grinning, "and that will most likely mean removing the large bank and removing a mature tree depending on city codes."

The list of demolitions goes on: two on Spring Garden Road, one on Troy Street, two on Adolph Street, two on Alice Street. Of course these aren't all projects of Remmers.

Mike Roche, former land-use chairs in both Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. and Multnomah, asked how Remmers was improving the neighborhood.

"All my homes are energy efficient," Remmers responded, "use tankless water heaters, and have two garages (keeping cars off the street).

"I also responsibly take care of asbestos and lead paint removal," he said.

When asked about the demolition tax of \$25,000 proposed by Portland Mayor Charlie Hales, Remmers replied that the tax is focused on politics.

Under new guidelines recently released, however, builders who tear down a single home and replace it with either affordable housing or multiple new dwellings would be able to apply for a rebate.

Multnomah neighbors discussed a motion of which called for an end to exemptions and rebates the demolition tax. Multnomah member Jessica Wade reminded the group that the \$25,000 fee goes into an affordable housing fund. The motion passed.

A single-family home at 8330 SW 45th Ave was purchased by Renaissance Custom Homes in April for \$351,000. Sitting on a 9,500 square-foot lot, the developer applied for a process that would take four historic lots as well as the west 15 feet of four other historic lots and would turn those into two lots for new construction.

But although an Eastmoreland neighborhood found success with the delay appeal, Multnomah did not fare as well at a hearing the same day appealing a demolition by the same developer.

The property is located within an R7 zone,



After a smaller, older home was demolished, a larger home (built by Everett Custom Homes) dwarfs its neighbor. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

meaning there can be one residential unit per 7,000 square feet of land in future land divisions. The developer worked around loopholes in the code which allowed the developer to circumvent current zoning that is grandfathered into the current code.

Renaissance Custom Homes applied for demolition of the 1949 Multnomah home. Multnomah lost the first appeal to fund

preserving an existing house scheduled for demolition.

According to United Neighborhoods for Reform, a grassroots organization, last year there were 273 demolitions in Portland and this year that rate expects to top 400. Many of these demolitions have occurred under the guise of remodels. UNR says that the city does not have a definition of demolition.

## Mt. Sylvania neighborhoods form coalition to deal with high capacity transit

### SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

At a meeting of the West Portland Park Neighborhood Association on Oct. 8 at Jackson Middle School, a small group of neighborhood representatives announced they are coordinating efforts regarding the development of the Southwest Corridor Plan.

Two members from West Portland Park, Ashcreek, Far Southwest (Portland) and Mountain Park (Lake Oswego) associations have formed a coalition which will be meeting on a regular basis while the transit project is being developed.

Even though Mountain Park is outside the development area and in Clackamas County, neighbors live on Mt. Sylvania and citizens from that area will be impacted.

"At this point we don't know where Portland Community College is at with

the plan," said Ryan Blum, West Portland Park webmaster. "We do know PCC administrators are working feverishly on the project design."

The main concerns of the coalition continue to be on Southwest 53rd Avenue where a tunnel is proposed. Metro leaders are studying it further, looking at other direct connections between PCC Sylvania and Barbur Boulevard.

The biggest news of the night was that the Metro steering committee was delaying any decisions regarding tunnels in the coalition neighborhoods to PCC Sylvania.

The committee is also delaying a decision on the type of transportation to be built, either bus rapid transit or light rail.

The West Portland Park board shared results from a short survey to their members. They received 74 responses. Light rail was favored over bus rapid transit. Almost three-fourths supported a high capacity transit connection between PCC Sylvania and the West Portland Park area but residents were mixed on whether it should be a light rail tunnel or bus service.

The Crossroads (Interstate 5, Capitol Highway, Barbur Boulevard, and Taylors Ferry Road) continues to be a priority. Residents want better signals and safe pedestrian crossings at the busy intersection.

"There's not even a way to cross Haines Street," said West Portland Park vice president Britta Herwig who facilitated the evening meeting.

"We want this project to bring in more business," said Sarah Jane Owens. "The original plan was to only have one stop between Barbur Boulevard and PCC. We want the college community to spend time in the area."

She noted there are not many alternative routes meaning construction disruptions are likely to be serious for residents.

"An open house in conjunction with Metro," Blum said, "is being planned for January."

The latest document from Metro details the technical evaluation results to support the decisions of the steering committee. The steering committee, which met on Oct. 12, kept April 2016 as the scheduled date for confirming a final preferred package of high capacity transit options.

This will include roadway, bicycle and pedestrian projects, a funding strategy, and land use matters for the corridor. The committee also directed project staff to contact neighborhood associations to ensure there is adequate time for public review of the February decisions prior to its decision in April.

The Metro report reviewed components that will be addressed in the coming months. These include comparing

performances of bus versus light rail, access to transit, and advanced transportation projects that encourages physical activity.

The summary provides options that reduce overall transportation costs, ensure benefits and impacts, promotes community equity, and looks for improvements to natural resources, habitat, and parks in the corridor.

The report noted that the goals, objectives, and measures may be refined through the draft environmental impact statement process once the project is handed off for federal review.

For more information on the Southwest Corridor Plan, please visit [www.swcorridorplan@oregonmetro.gov](http://www.swcorridorplan@oregonmetro.gov) or call 503-813-7535.



Under a different option, light rail or bus rapid transit could stick to Barbur Boulevard, serving PCC Sylvania from a station here, at Southwest 53rd Avenue. The downside is the 1/3 mile walk to campus. (Photo courtesy of Metro)

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