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The Southwest Portland Post

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December 2016

Voters by slim margin agree to support extending light rail to Tigard



Southwest Corridor Steering Committee members listen to project staff and citizens at a Nov. 14 meeting at Metro headquarters. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Washington County has officially certified all ballots from the city of Tigard's Measure 34-255 which asked voters whether or not the city should support extending future light rail service from Portland to Tigard.

According to Mickie Kawai, Washington County elections manager, the "Yes" votes were 12,683 and the "No" votes were 12,534, a difference of 149 votes in favor of light rail. No funds were authorized by the measure's passage.

Oregon law requires an automatic recount when elections of candidates or ballot measures are within one fifth of one percent.

"There will be no recount since the vote clearly has a large enough spread," Kenny Asher, director of community

development explained.

"The ballot measure won't obligate residents to a new tax. A new vote needs to take place on another measure authorizing funding of the line," said Asher.

While the Federal Transit Administration is expected to pay half of the total cost, the final project would require several additional steps including an anticipated regional vote for funding the other half, or local share.

On Nov. 14, the Southwest Corridor Steering Committee held a meeting where Metro project staff released their recommendations based on additional analysis and public input during the scoping period.

The recommendations include a definition of the initial set of investments proposed to be studied in the draft environmental impact statement which will take place in 2017.

Metro staff included proposed revisions to the light rail project, a subset of the Southwest Corridor Plan

(Continued on Page 6)

Families respond to election protests with candlelight peace vigil

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

On Nov. 11, a few days after the general election, a group of local mothers organized an impromptu candlelight peace vigil in Multnomah Village in response to reactions surrounding the presidential vote.

Erin Gallivan, one of the members of the group Hillsdale-Multnomah Village Moms, posted a Facebook invitation to come together for community support.

"This week has been one that's left many of us feeling divided, marginalized, and, quite honestly, sad," Gallivan said.

Held on the sidewalk outside the Multnomah Arts Center, the group numbered around three dozen and was made up mostly of parents and their children.

"We wanted to keep it positive," Gallivan told The Post. "There has been a lot of online discussion and social media about the election. However, we felt a need to see one another. We support equality, inclusion, and love."

Following the election of Donald Trump, the Republican nominee many did not think would win, citizens around Portland and other major cities, took to the streets to express their First Amendment rights.

At the candlelight vigil, children and their parents painted posters with words like "Love", "Practice Kindness", and "Empathy," and then held them up with a look of peaceful resolve.

With her tiny toddler strapped to her front, Gallivan waved to cars passing by slowly. Some honked their horns in

response. Gallivan said she had never done anything like this before.

Some turned on green "glow sticks." Candles were lit. Singing erupted. Some had safety pins clipped to their coats and sweaters.

"These pins are both as a way to protest the vote," explained Kalin Lehner, one of the organizers, "and subtly announces ourselves as allies to minorities who feel threatened by the election results."

Harassment of certain minority groups has been on the increase since the election, sending fear throughout immigrant communities.

The safety pin movement began following the Brexit vote, a referendum held in the United Kingdom in which 52 percent of votes were cast in favor of leaving the European Union.

"We didn't want the vigil to be political," Lehner said. She said she was surprised by the hate speech coming from both major parties.

Lehner stated that a "Million Woman March" is planned for the day after the presidential inauguration on Saturday, Jan. 21, from the Lincoln Memorial to the White House.

According to the website, many women who can't make it to Washington, D.C., will be holding local marches and include their family members.

When asked if this group would have more vigils, Lehner said that they're just taking one day at a time. "We're just here tonight," she said.

Members then began singing the traditional song, "This Little Light of Mine (I'm Gonna Let it Shine)" and started marching towards the heart of Multnomah Village holding their children, posters and candles.

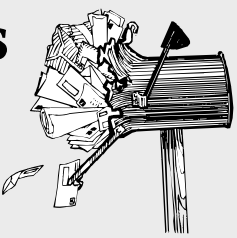


Community members gathered outside the Multnomah Arts Center on Nov. 11 to share a peaceful message in response to the presidential election. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

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Letters to the Editor



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Did a city planner belittle a Multnomah Village CAC?

I am looking for a reference to a public meeting at least a year ago regarding the city of Portland's planning for

Multnomah Village. Specifically I want to cite the statement by the Planning Bureau representative that no matter what the Multnomah Village Citizens Advisory Committee recommended, the city and he were going to do what they were going to do anyway.

If you can point me in the right direction I would appreciate it. Thanks.

Gary Rydout

Hillsdale Foundation invites project ideas for funding

The Hillsdale Community Foundation is looking for local projects to fund.

The foundation, supported largely through its annual book sale, has used its money to install and maintain plantings along Capitol Highway, to help buy computers for Wilson High School, to pay for bicycle racks and other bike amenities in the Hillsdale town center and to provide seed money for the Hillsdale Main Street Program.

The foundation is looking for new ideas and proposals to enhance the community. Projects could be funded up to \$5,000.

Proposals may assist one or all of the following: the Hillsdale business community, Hillsdale institutions including the schools, Hillsdale organizations, and residential "clusters" within the neighborhood. Those in surrounding neighborhoods may indirectly benefit as well.

If you or your organization has an idea or project to put forward, submit it in 500 words or less to Rick Seifert

at wfseifert@gmail.com. You can call me at 503 245-7821 with questions.

Rick Seifert
Hillsdale

New playground planned in conjunction with new field at Rieke School

Mary Rieke Elementary School has always been a big part of the Hillsdale community.

We are in the process of funding, designing and building a new playground at the school.

Since the school is part of a larger community, the proposed name is "The Hillsdale Community Playground at Rieke Elementary."

The plan is to be ready by September 2017, coordinating with the new turf field being installed by Portland Parks and Recreation on the old Rieke School field.

It would be great if *The Post* could do a story on the playground to get the community excited about this great project.

Paul Higgins
Co-chair
Rieke Elementary Playground
Committee

Don't hate "monstrosities" just because they're big and expensive

Two articles in the November 2016 edition of *The Post*, by two different writers, apply the same repulsively derogatory term to larger than average private residences.

Both KC Cowan ["City fines property owner \$21,600 but allows giant cedar trees to be cut down"] and Chris

Dearth ["Open Forum: Middle housing could provide new generation with alternative to McMansions"] describe larger homes as "monstrosities".

Where are these people dreaming up this stuff? What could there possibly be about a house larger than the neighborhood average that could qualify it as a monstrosity? Have we really debased our language to that extent?

It is both amusing and infuriating that some of the very people who continually hector us about accepting diversity are the same ones who object to diversity in our landscapes.

It seems we are obliged to embrace significant variance in cultures and ethnicities, but we aren't allowed to accept that a neighborhood might have a broad range of home styles and sizes.

The fundamental question that arises, and it's doubtful either writer could produce a cogent answer, is simply this; what harm, exactly, is being done by the presence of a million-dollar home at one end of the block and a \$300,000 home at the other?

(Continued on Page 6)



"Quilts to Remember" is the theme of the Multnomah Historical Association display at the Multnomah Arts Center. Each quilt displayed includes a story and background about each quilt. While all are of interest, the most unusual and interesting is a reversible quilt made entirely of umbrella silks over 50 years ago by Morris Schlaifer, a retired tailor. The exhibit will be on display through January. (Photo courtesy of Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen)

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TriMet bus line to cross bridge, Willamette Shore Trolley to return

SELLWOOD BRIDGE

By Erik Vidstrand and Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

TriMet bus service returns to the Sellwood Bridge on Dec. 5 after a 12-year absence.

Line #99 service will connect the east side with destinations from Lake Oswego to downtown Portland. Bus service ended in 2004 due to reduced weight limits on the old bridge.

As far as the rest of the bridge project is going, final touches are being completed. At press time, bridge spokesman Mike Pullen said that the contractor hoped to have completed major work by Nov. 23.

"We know there will be 'punch list', or clean-up work, continuing for several more months," Pullen told *The Post* which has been covering the construction for years.

"Some of the work that will happen after Thanksgiving is plantings and work on the eastside condos which don't impact bridge users," Pullen explained.

One of the more important tasks still to be completed is the opening of the south sidewalk on the bridge and the bike/pedestrian bridge on the west side that is below the main bridge.

"This bridge connects the westside trail with the south sidewalk of the bridge," Pullen said. A big issue has been traffic.

"The issue we get the most complaints about is the traffic signals at each end of the bridge," he said. "The city [of Portland] transportation bureau owns

and maintains the signals."

Pullen said that drivers northbound on Highway 43 [Southwest Macadam Avenue] complain they have difficulty turning right to go on the bridge because southbound traffic clogs the intersection when their signal is green.

"PBOT is working on the signal and thinks this situation will improve once the contractor is off the bridge completely," Pullen stated.

The trolley corridor between Southwest Miles Street and south of the bridge continues to be a busy work zone as crews reinstall historic trolley tracks. Work has included sub-grade preparation and drainage with sub-ballast gravel, ballast rock, then ties and rails, and finally landscaping along the tracks.

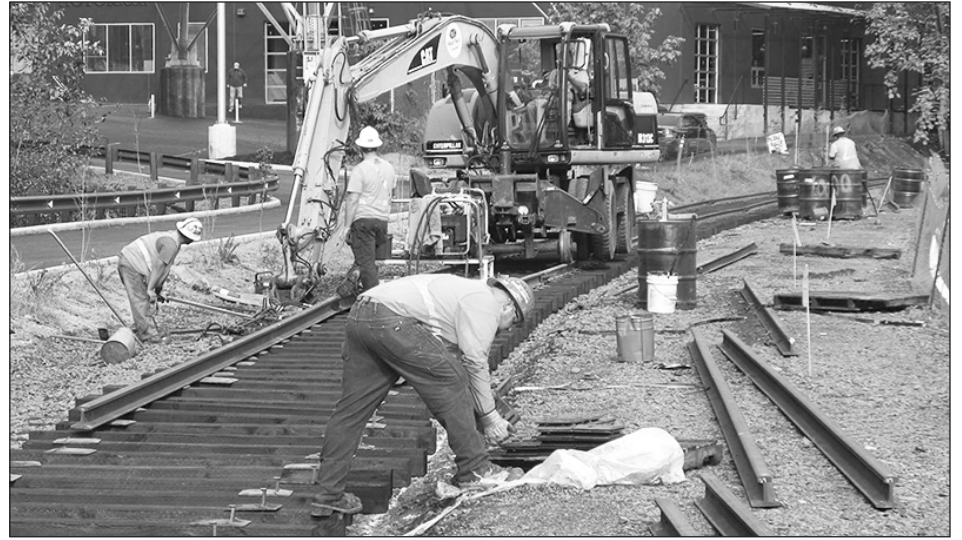
At press time, switches and turnouts were scheduled to be installed by the end of November.

"It's going well," Pullen replied, "but we don't have anything to do with the historic trolley that plans to use the tracks again."

According to Wikipedia, the Willamette Shore Trolley dates back to the 1880s when it was a narrow gauge steam railroad linking Portland to Oswego (as Lake Oswego was known back then) and south into the Willamette Valley.

The line was later purchased by the Southern Pacific Company who widened the line from narrow gauge to standard gauge and electrified it in 1914.

This led to its peak in passenger travel in 1920, when 64 "Red Electric" interurban trains traveled daily between



Laying track for the trolley line south of Freeman Motors.
(Photo courtesy of Multnomah County)

the two cities.

The line originally ran around Elk Rock – a bend in the river just north of Elk Rock Island – on a long trestle until December 1921, when a tunnel replaced it.

The Elk Rock Tunnel is 1,396 feet in length and is located in the unincorporated Riverwood area, between Portland and Lake Oswego.

On Oct. 5, 1929, passenger service ended, though the line was used for freight until 1983.

A consortium of governments purchased the railroad right-of-way in the 1980s, and managed by the Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society, it has been used as an excursion trolley line for tourists off and on since then.

According to the trolley website,

regular service is expected to resume in May. "The website (<http://wst.oregontrolley.com/>) mentions December trips to see the Christmas ships," Pullen said. "We should have the track work done by end of November."

The public art installation at the east end of the bridge is also on the to-do list. This is the series of metal totems on both sides of Southeast Tacoma Street between Sixth and Grand avenues.

"The art fabricator needs more time and these should be all installed by February 2017," Pullen said.

"Much of our remaining work is weather-dependent," Pullen concluded. "Last-minute schedule changes may be required due to heavy rain."

For more information, visit <http://www.sellwoodbridge.org/>

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

By KC Cowan and Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

1 Winter Arts & Crafts Sale

Don't miss the annual Winter Arts & Crafts sale featuring ceramics,



Peppermint Bear Returns

Lakewood Theatre Company presents an all-new version of the annual Holiday Magic Breakfast Theatre production with "The Peppermint Bear Show 2016: The Elves That Forgot Christmas." Shows at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Saturdays, and 11 a.m. on Sundays, from Dec. 3-18, plus one show at 11 a.m. on Dec. 20. At Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State St. in Lake Oswego. For tickets, call the box office at 503-635-3901 or order online at <https://www.lakewood-center.org>.

jewelry, weaving, and fine art and more, all created by Multnomah Arts Center instructors and students. Sales benefit MAC programs and the artists. December 1-3 at the MAC, 7688 SW Capitol Highway. Free! For more information, go to www.MultnomahArtsCenter.org.

2 Christmas in Dairyville

During the holidays, "Dairyville," a replica of a western frontier town, transforms into a winter wonderland. Includes farm animals in Storybook Lane, vintage storefronts, local choirs singing, holiday movies at the Opera House. This event takes place Dec. 2-18, Fridays 3-6 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 11a.m. to 6 p.m. at Alpenrose Dairy, 6149 SW Shattuck Road.

3 Garden Home Holiday Bazaar

Join 100 local art and craft vendors on Saturday, Dec. 3, for this annual event at the Garden Home Recreation Center, 7475 SW Oleson Road, 503-629-6341. Includes a pancake breakfast (8-11 a.m.), photos with Santa, beer & wine tasting (12-4 p.m.) and more. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact the recreation center's office.

10 Winter and Holiday Ceramics Painting

Paint an ornament that will last for years to come. They supply the ornament, lead-free paint, colorful mats, aprons, water buckets and paint brushes. All you need is a child with an imagination! Saturday, Dec.



Christmas Ships Parade

The combined fleet of some 60 boats from the Columbia and Willamette rivers will be on display and skippers available for a "meet and greet" following the parade to Lake Oswego. The event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. at the public dock in front of Three Degrees Restaurant, 1510 SW Harbor Way, near the Riverplace Marina. Visit www.christmasships.org for more information.

10, 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd. Free, but space is limited to first come, first served. Call 503-988-5388 for more information.

celebration. Cost: \$10 per family. The event takes place on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 2-4 p.m. at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Highway. For more information, call 503-244-0111.



18 Chanukah decorations, donuts & dancing

Make decorations for your home, take part in Israeli dancing, and eat some delicious sufganiot (jelly donuts) at this family-friendly Chanukah

19 Sing Your Own Messiah

Don't miss your chance to stand and sing the Hallelujah Chorus at the annual "Sing Your Own Messiah" concert at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 9750 SW Terwilliger Blvd. The event is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 19, 7-9 p.m. Many choral scores of Handel's "Messiah" are available if you don't have your own copy. Well-known artists from around the Portland area will add their voices on the familiar soloist pieces. A free-will offering will be taken to support the services for the poor and elderly at Neighborhood House, including the food pantry in Multnomah Village.



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Holiday Gala kicks off the season in Multnomah Village

By KC Cowan
The Southwest Portland Post

If you keep your eyes peeled, you just may see a jolly old elf strolling around Multnomah Village on Dec. 2 and 3, perhaps checking to see who's been naughty or nice.

It's just one of the activities planned by the Multnomah Village Business Association for the annual Holiday Gala. The two-day event is slated to include caroling, a tree-lighting, gingerbread making and much more.

"It's a two-day event for us now," explained MVBA executive director Randy Bonella. "It starts Friday evening about 4:30 or so, with horse drawn wagons at the Multnomah Arts Center, and then at 6:15 at the Key Bank."

Friday night also includes carolers around the Christmas tree, which is set up by Village Beads on the corner of Southwest 35th Avenue and Capitol Highway. Umpqua Bank provides the strings of lights and neighbors add ornaments. The tree is officially lit at 6:42 p.m. Why such a precisely odd time?

"Because it's weird," laughed

Bonella. "No rhyme or reason for it."

All the stores will have special treats and specials, and Village Dental will have free treats at Umpqua Bank with a raffle at 7 p.m. Shopping at all the stores continues until 9 p.m. that evening.

Don't sleep in on Saturday, or you might miss the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast at the Lucky Lab brewpub from 8-11 a.m. Santa Claus will be there and youngsters (or just the young at heart) can get their photo staken with him, and give him their Christmas wish list.

At 2 p.m., head over to Riversgate Church and make your own little gingerbread house for your decorations. There's a \$5 suggested donation, to cover costs. Then return to the village stores to get a head start on your holiday shopping.

The village businesses chip in to pay for all the fun to thank neighbors for their support during the year.

"It's always good to remind people that the shops in Multnomah Village are locally owned, small businesses," said Bonella. "Many of the shop owners live in the area, too. And shopping local is a

great way to keep your neighborhood strong and vital. So we always try to remind people to shop local."

The gala also kicks off the annual Golden Ticket shopping bonus, which runs through Dec. 31.

The tickets are accepted at participating shops in both Multnomah Village and Hillsdale.

Shoppers who purchase something that meets the store's minimum requirement are rewarded with a golden ticket. On the back is a list of participating shops and you can then take your golden ticket to that store for a special discount or treat.

"Some people use it like a treasure hunt and go shop store to store," said Bonella.

The golden tickets help keep the holiday spirit going through the end of the year and they give people just one more good reason to "shop local" and support all the businesses that make Multnomah Village so special.



Peachtree Gifts owner Petie Farkas (left) and employee Melissa strike a pose during the annual Holiday Gala event held on the first Friday of December in Multnomah Village. (Post file photo by Erik Vidstrand)

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A horse-drawn carriage leaves Key Bank in Multnomah Village in 2015. (Photo courtesy of Topanien Gifts)

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Annie Bloom's Books	Northwest Wools	Paloma Clothing	
Antoinette Antique Jewelry	Peachtree Gifts	Portland European Facials	
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Healty Pets Northwest	Sara J	The UPS Store	
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SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN

(Continued from Page 1)

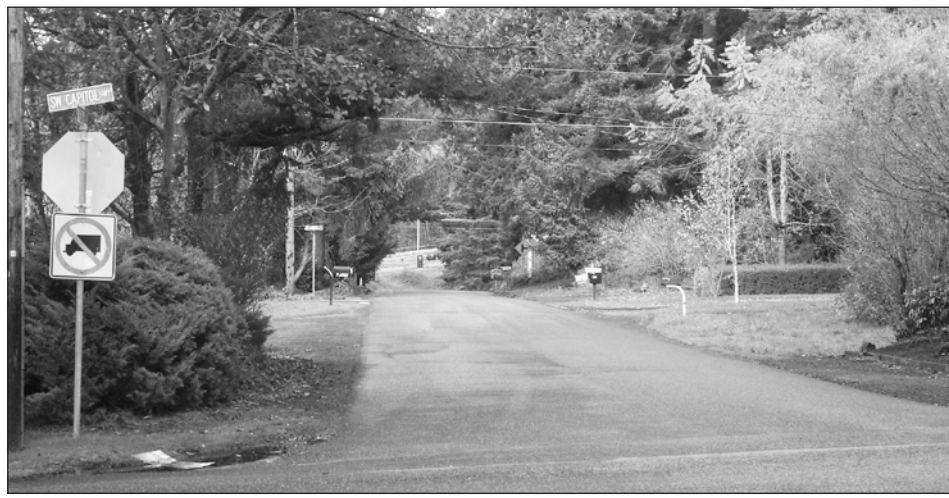
that encompasses transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian solutions.

"The scoping period ended in early October," Metro project director Chris Ford said as he briefed the committee. "My staff proposes major recommendations which include Marquam Hill and [Portland Community College Sylvania] connections, light rail alignment, and station options."

According to Ford, after the steering committee takes action on the recommendations in December, Metro, TriMet, and the Federal Transit Administration will then begin assessing the impacts and benefits of the proposed alternatives.

On Marquam Hill, one option of an elevator and bridge concept with on-grade walkways to connect Oregon Health & Science University with light rail, was recommended. Erin Kehe, project communication specialist explained this would be the least complex option.

"This would involve a possible trench



Changes to quiet Southwest 53rd Avenue from Barbur Boulevard, across Capitol Highway and up to PCC Sylvania are being discussed in relation to a proposed light rail line and connections to the college. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

[instead of a tunnel]," Kehe explained. "It would also be the most cost efficient and least intrusive."

PCC Sylvania's connection is to provide convenient, fast, and reliable access between the campus and the light rail alignment. The most basic element of this goal is to provide safe and cost effective means of transportation.

Mechanized options, such as rapid

transit, aerial tram, and gondola options are off the table. Instead, bicycle and pedestrian improvements via a transfer at the Southwest 53rd Avenue station are preferred, as well as TriMet bus shuttles and possible smaller shuttles.

Kathleen McMullen, manager of transportation and parking services at Portland Community College, spoke about sustainability and affordability.

"Our main issue," McMullen said, "is the administrations concerns about reliability and students' time. Many of students travel over an hour from downtown alone to get to class."

"We are looking at consolidating class schedules so students don't need to come to campus five days a week," she said. "We'd eventually like light rail to come up to the campus."

Metro is forming a community advisory committee made up of neighbors, business owners, and commuters. Applications went out last month and are currently being reviewed.

The advisory committee will advise the steering committee in the selection of the light rail route, station areas, park-and-ride size and location, and related bike, walk and roadway projects.

Members of the advisory committee will be asked to serve for 12 to 16 months beginning in January.

The steering committee will meet next on Monday, Dec. 12, from 9-11 a.m. at the Tigard City Hall, 13125 SW Hall Blvd. The public is invited to provide testimony at the beginning of the meeting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 2)

The logical answer, of course, is "none". But this is clearly not a matter of logic; it is a matter of emotion. And it's one of the most useless, self-destructive emotions that humans can experience—envy.

The completely illusory harm that seems to be at work here is that the person in the \$300,000 house feels injured by the presence of a million-dollar home on the block.

This persistent modern desire for a general leveling has some underlying drivers that its encouragers and enablers would prefer not be discussed.

Which is all the more reason that such discussions should be on the table.

We have allowed ourselves to be steadily and increasingly bullied by a growing cadre of people who apparently cannot stand the idea that some people might have more, or do better, than others.

They seem willing to trample all over others' basic liberties in order to enforce their sick idea of "sameness", or whatever they would call it, in the citizenry. "Monstrosities," indeed.

W. Brewster Gillett
Southwest Portland

Presidential election prompts local student protests, possibly vandalism

An undetermined number of Wilson High school students, along with other school students throughout the area, left class on Monday, Nov. 14 to protest the presidential election.

Wilson Principal Brian Chatard wrote on the school's website that is was his first obligation as a school principal to defend everyone's rights, regardless of their views on tax policy, trade agreements, or environmental regulations.

"[Everyone will] be treated with dignity and respect in my school," Chatard wrote.

"So while we may debate and respectfully disagree on many elements

of our nation's policies, when it comes to hate speech, discrimination, and a stated agenda that is harmful to youth, there can be no debate, as these are issues that as a principal I cannot and will not accept or ignore."

According to Beth Madison, principal of Robert Gray Middle School, seven windows and a door identification card reader were broken at the campus by vandals. It wasn't clear who was involved or if it was related to the election protests.

"This further demonstrates that is not a safe time for students to choose to leave campus to engage in protests," Madison wrote to parents. "You will know best how to handle this conversation in your own home and your help is appreciated."

— Erik Vidstrand

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**Questions & Answers
About Our Environment**

Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways I can get my college to be more green?

– Bill Ott, Troy, New York

In recent years, colleges and universities have recognized the capacity for their independent communities to lead the nation as examples of sustainable and carbon-neutral institutions. Colleges in the U.S. and around the world have introduced conservation measures to reduce waste, installed solar panels to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and promoted shared vehicles to reduce carbon emissions, among other initiatives.

Many colleges have followed the lead of Stanford University's "Green Campus" program by replacing disposable plastic utensils with organic alternatives.

Cutlery made from potato starch and sugarcane allows students to simply put all waste in compost bins, including the utensils themselves. This compost is reintroduced in turn as fertilizer for use on university gardens.

Reusable mug programs accomplish similar goals. At Portland Community College in Oregon, bringing your own mug gets you a five-cent discount per drink, while other colleges with meal plans offer similar incentive programs.

And efforts to reduce waste

aren't limited to the dining hall. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Purdue University have partnered with Kimberly-Clark Professional's RightCycle program to recycle non-hazardous lab waste.

Since joining the program in 2013, the colleges have redirected six tons of plastic waste from landfills for use as shelving, flowerpots and furniture.

Meanwhile, 48 different colleges—from Harvard to the University of California at Santa Cruz—have signed on with the Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN), which helps universities reduce waste through plastic-free initiatives, waste audits and move-in/move-out collections and subsequent sales.

Universities can also employ renewable energies to offset power demands from fossil fuels. Campus solar installations have risen dramatically in the past decade.

Large, tall structures—the style of many academic buildings—are ideal locations for photovoltaic panels, especially as peak electrical production correlates with peak demand during daytime hours.

And photovoltaic installations are not limited to sunny states. Colby College completed a 1.9 megawatt project in 2015 that is currently the largest system in Maine.

Other forms of renewable energy have also seen tremendous success on college campuses. A University of New Hampshire project provides over 80 percent of its energy using landfill gas.

And Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., has replaced its outdated coal boilers with 3,750 geothermal wells that utilize the Earth's interior temperature to regulate heat in campus buildings.

Colleges have also taken steps to green up transportation. Vermont's Middlebury College introduced its



Middlebury College students who complete a free class on bicycle repair are rewarded with a free discarded bike. (Photo by Robert Keren)

Yellow Bikes Cooperative in 2001 to offer public bicycles to students for just \$6 per year.

And students there who complete a free class on bicycle repair are rewarded with a free discarded bike.

Many colleges also now partner with Zipcar to offer student rates, reducing the need for personal vehicles on campus. And dozens of colleges nationwide have replaced campus car and bus fleets with electric vehicles.

These are just a few examples of how higher education is walking the talk on the environment. If your school isn't already moving in the same direction, there's no time like the present to team up with students, faculty and administrators to initiate earth-friendly policies and encourage greener behaviors.

Contacts: Sustainable Stanford, www.sustainable.stanford.edu; Post-Landfill Action Network, www.postlandfill.org; RightCycle, www.kcprofessional.com/brands/kimtech/rightcycle.

[kcprofessional.com/brands/kimtech/rightcycle](http://www.kcprofessional.com/brands/kimtech/rightcycle).

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Southwest charity raises funds for food bank, safety net services

By Jack Rubinger
The Southwest Portland Post

Jen Wills was struggling about a decade ago. She was in the process of going through a divorce and trying to finish her undergraduate degree at Portland State while working full-time to support her children.

Wills had been a stay-at-home mom for about 12 years and had never finished her degree which impacted her earning potential. While she was managing her education, she was worried about her twins, Jack and Lola.

Fortunately, she was able to enroll the youngsters in the Head Start program at Neighborhood House.

This program offered a high-quality pre-school and enabled Wills to attend classes at Portland State University without worrying about childcare.

Jack and Lola developed much-needed social and academic skills which prepared them for kindergarten.

Head Start gave Wills the freedom to focus on work and school and have the time to be with her kids after school and care for her home while finishing her undergraduate degree.

The kids made friends in the program that continued on with them to Maplewood Elementary School. Now they are in their last year at Maplewood before going off to middle school.

Both children are doing well in school. Lola was just invited to join the talented and gifted program at Maplewood School.

All these benefits would not have been possible without the financial support offered by Neighborhood House which has been helping families and neighbors in Southwest Portland for more than 100 years.

The support of the organization contributed significantly to Wills getting to where she is now, as the human resources director of Neighborhood House with a master's in business administration and two human resources certifications.

She was thrilled to be able to come back to work for an organization that had contributed so significantly to the wellness and success of her family.

Today, Oregonians are more likely to live in poverty than they were during the peak of the Great Recession.

Forty-eight percent of single mothers and their families in Oregon experience hunger, compared to 35 percent nationally. But there are ways community members can help make a difference in the lives of struggling neighbors.

For many like Wills, Neighborhood House was a lifesaver.

Now Neighborhood House is asking for help through its annual Partnership Campaign, asking the community to consider neighbors who are struggling at this time amidst ongoing poor economic conditions and the local affordable housing crisis.

The agency is the primary organization working to assist low-income children, families and seniors in Southwest Portland, and contributions

are needed to help raise \$215,000 to sustain the agency and its many safety net services.

Among these services are the emergency food box programs, transitional housing for homeless families, and the new SOS resource center which helps people get connected with needed services.

The Partnership Campaign is Neighborhood House's annual year-end fundraising effort aimed at raising funds needed to support the agency's work in the coming year.

Approximately \$1 million of Neighborhood House's \$7 million annual budget must be raised through private, non-governmental support.

The increased demand for assistance is most apparent in Neighborhood House's emergency food box program, which is the largest pantry on Portland's west side and the Southwest distribution site for the Oregon Food Bank.

Currently, the program serves approximately 700 adults and children every month. Oregon is the only state in the nation to experience an actual increase in hunger in the years after the Great Recession (increasing from 13.5 percent in the years 2010-2012 to



A client family that Neighborhood House helped to find affordable housing and access to nutritious meals. (courtesy photo)

16 percent in the years 2011-2015).

Neighborhood House is encouraging supporters to become "PowerHouse" donors by signing up to give monthly, or quarterly, to extend their support throughout the coming year. Community members may also support the Partnership Campaign by attending the annual "Sing Your Own Messiah" concert at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church at 9750 SW Terwilliger Blvd.

The event, scheduled for Monday, Dec. 19, 7-9 p.m., will collect food and cash contributions for Neighborhood House. The Hillsdale Food Front market will also be collecting cash donations for Neighborhood House throughout the month of December.

For more information about Neighborhood House, or the Partnership Campaign, contact Development Director Mari Yerger at 503-246-1663 x2119, or myerger@nhpdx.org.

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