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# The Southwest Portland Post

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## Unreinforced masonry buildings in Multnomah Village need seismic upgrades

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

Angie Even, former president of the Woodstock Business Association, spoke at the Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting in February about a pending city ordinance mandating seismic upgrades of all unreinforced masonry buildings throughout the city.

If the Portland City Council passes the ordinance, 1,640 buildings will be required to implement mandatory seismic upgrades for unreinforced masonry buildings costing \$1.4 billion.

Twenty-eight buildings affected are located in Multnomah Village and two are in Hillsdale.

“There are 45 schools, 35 churches, and 278 multifamily structures with over 7,000 residential units affected,” Even said.

Unreinforced masonry buildings are made of brick or concrete blocks

joined by mortar with no steel reinforcing bars. These buildings were constructed between 1870 and 1960.

Upgrading requirements began ramping up in 1995 when building codes started catching up to concerns about a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake.

The Portland City Council unanimously amended the seismic retrofit code in 2004 and in 2014 directed several city bureaus to work together with citizen committees to develop recommendations to reduce risks from these buildings.

Even founded Save Portland Buildings after being notified about retrofitting a building she owns in Woodstock where she once owned a flower shop.

According to Even, the city said building owners had skirted their responsibility to make their buildings safe.

“The Portland Emergency Management Bureau then formed

*(Continued on Page 3)*



At the Feb. 13 MNA meeting, Jim Wilson, a carpenter and apartment building owner, and Woodstock building owners Tim and Angie Even discussed their experiences regarding Portland seismic retrofitting requirements (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

## Bureau of Emergency Management responds to seismic retrofitting questions



Many of the commercial buildings along Capitol Highway in Multnomah Village are affected by seismic retrofit mandates. (Photo courtesy of Save Portland Buildings)

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

This reporter interviewed Dan Douthit, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management public information officer, on just a few of the issues relating to seismic retrofitting of local buildings discussed in the story above.

**The Post:** Are there any other steps before the Portland City Council votes on the ordinance? Has a date been set yet?

**Douthit:** The City Council [hearing] date will likely be in mid-April. Since the policy committee has published its recommendations, there are no other steps required before city council considers it.

Staff are continuing to accept public comment and make public presentations where there is interest.

The council will vote on a resolution accepting city staff recommendations and the URM policy committee report, not an ordinance.

The vote directs staff to implement the recommendations, including an ordinance to implement changes to the building code and a separate ordinance to implement a property tax exemption to offset seismic retrofit costs.

The actual ordinances establishing the mandatory retrofit and financial support programs likely won't be considered by council for another year.

**The Post:** Have any funding options been proposed to support business owners who are not able to absorb costs of the upgrades?

**Douthit:** Senate Bill 311, which the city championed, allows local jurisdictions to create property tax exemptions to offset seismic

retrofit costs.

The city is seeking resources for a revolving loan fund that can provide up-front cash for building owners who don't find commercial loan products that meet their needs.

The city has also already implemented the Property Fit Program, a financing tool providing up to 100 percent of the costs secured by a benefit assessment that transfers upon sale. For more information, please visit <http://www.propertyfitoregon.com/about/>.

**The Post:** Schools, community centers, churches, and other public buildings are in dire need of retrofitting. Shouldn't they get the first round of attention and support from the city?

**Douthit:** The city is committed to retrofitting all of its public assembly spaces to a high standard so that they will be minimally damaged and can be repaired and re-used after an earthquake.

The city is committed to being a good partner to PPS regarding per-

mitting and retrofit timelines. This work will take time to plan and implement with a 20-year timeline.

Portland's 1,600 URM buildings pose an immediate life safety danger to building occupants and people passing by during an earthquake.

Private property owners are being asked to meet much lower standards to achieve a just collapse risk reduction. Any licensed contractor can perform this work. Building owners have 15 years to complete their tasks.

**The Post:** What are the city's thoughts on the potential loss of old buildings full of character?

**Douthit:** The policy committee acknowledged that URM buildings define the character of many neighborhoods and business districts.

If they are not retrofitted, they will not only kill occupants and innocent bystanders during a major quake, but their loss will destroy a beautiful part of our architectural heritage.

Another goal is to ensure more URM buildings remain standing and can be repaired following an earthquake.

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The Southwest Portland Post  
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# Letters to the Editor



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## Developer Tim O'Brien asks Multnomah neighbors to be friendlier

Regarding, "New 39-unit building planned for corner of 32nd Avenue and Capitol Highway," by Erik Vidstrand, *The Post*, January 2018.

At the Dec. 12 meeting of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association, SERA Architects and developer Tim O'Brien presented a plan for a proposed 39-unit apartment building on the site of the old gas station opposite the Multnomah Arts Center on Capitol Highway.

I was somewhat amazed by the comments made by Mr. O'Brien as reported in your news article. Mr. O'Brien was reported as saying that neighbors to this project "could be friendlier to developers".

He goes on to say, "Try to weigh

in on projects with a positive attitude and not try to stop me or appeal until the cows come home."

I think it is incredibly naive of Mr. O'Brien to ask that people in opposition to his latest development be "friendlier".

I am in total agreement with the abutters/neighbors to the proposed building who mention loss of sunlight and increase in cars along with the scale of the building being out of character with the neighborhood.

I urge Mr. O'Brien to mentally imagine himself one of the abutters. What will they lose if and when this project is allowed to proceed? Sunshine, views and privacy.

These neighbors will live in the shadows and have the creepy feeling that their privacy is not secure.

One only has to tour North Portland's Mississippi Avenue to get a sense of what the outcomes can be.

A single-family bungalow right next to a four-story apartment building set back only three feet from the property line.

Most home owners have worked hard to afford home ownership which provides security and a sense of stability and privacy.

Mr. O'Brien's project threatens unwanted change in an existing neighborhood. Why should he be surprised by neighborhood pushback?

Be nice, Mr. O'Brien, and find another location to build your development.

Sim Hyde  
Multnomah Village

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# EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: One source of water waste is running it to change from cold to hot. Any thoughts on how to deal with this?

— Joanne Leussing

Running the water to wait for it to get hot is a huge waste of water. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, a leading non-profit green group, upwards of 10 percent

of all the hot water drawn for showering in a typical single-family home is wasted waiting for hot water to arrive.

"With Americans taking over 200 million showers a day, that's a lot of water and energy literally down the drain, of no benefit to anyone," said Ed Osann, the NRDC senior policy analyst and water efficiency project director.

"Using Environmental Protection Agency estimates of shower water use, that's about 280 million gallons of hot water wasted each day—water that has been heated by a water heater, but then allowed to cool as it sits in long pipe runs that are not insulated."

The energy used to heat this wasted hot shower water generates about the same amount of greenhouse gas

(Continued on Page 7)

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## Seismic Upgrades

(Continued from Page 1)

three committees," Even said. "Many of the members were architects, engineers, and others who could potentially benefit from the retrofitting upgrades."

These committees looked at standards and codes, financing, and policy. Even attended every committee meeting since 2016.

Even asked city staff what would happen if property owners couldn't afford costly seismic upgrades. The response was either sell or have the building demolished.

"This is unacceptable," Even said. "Their building list is anywhere from 20-25 years old. City staff made drive-by [inspections] and didn't even enter the buildings."

"[In Oregon] any contractor can state they are seismic experts. And then there are the displacements of residents and customers and the risk of exposure to lead paint and asbestos."

In order to provide financial support to business owners, the city proposes tax abatements but will need the sign-off of 75 percent of stakeholders who receive taxes.

"We do not want to be adversarial. We want the city to work with us," Even said. "And the thing is that even these mandates don't guarantee the buildings will survive. I have not met one owner who doesn't want safety for their business, customers, and staff."

Stuart Ellis, a long-time Multnomah

resident, asked what happens if the city adopts the new mandates.

"The business has approximately 10 years to get everything up to code along with coming up with most of the money," Even said. "After that there will be incremental fines and eventually, the city will deny building occupancy permits."

According to Ellis, "It seems unfair to put these owners through a process where there is no clear answer on how much they realistically can afford upgrades."

"I worry about the loss of old buildings with character as well as the loss of small businesses that may not be able to afford higher rents after buildings are upgraded."

## Local property owners respond to mandate

Jim Wilson, who spoke at the neighborhood meeting, is a carpenter and owns a 1911 three-story brick building in northwest Portland.

"There are 11 units with 13 tenants," Wilson said. "I applied for a permit to repair my roof and hired day laborers. But requirements are now to tear it off, put a 14" thick reinforcement with foam insulation and tying it to the walls at a cost of approximately \$80,000."

"I'm also required to tie in all the floors and all walls at a cost of around \$180,000. This will displace my tenants."

Yves Le Meitour, property owner of the French Quarter boutique mall

in Multnomah Village, was at the neighborhood meeting. His property is on the city's list of unreinforced masonry buildings.

"I had an engineer examine my building years ago," Le Meitour said. "He installed rebar into the side of the building. The city said my building was secure."

"The city has to have the burden of proof on *them*, not me. I should not be required to hire costly engineers, again, at my expense."

## Randy Bonella, Multnomah NET member, offers perspective

Randy Bonella is an active member of Neighborhood Emergency Teams, represents the Multnomah Village Business Association with the city, and coordinates projects for local businesses. He is also a past president of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association.

For the purpose of this story, Bonella spoke with his NET hat on and said he was not speaking on behalf of the business association.

Bonella, along with his wife Susan, have been training for the last ten years for first responder search and rescue and working on major disaster event preparedness.

"With Fire Station 18, we conduct full gear exercises every other month and attend NET meetings monthly," Bonella said. "I'm trained to save people."

"The retrofit mandate is not easy

to deal with but something has to be done. I don't want people to die.

"In the event of a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake, or even a moderate earthquake, today many buildings in Multnomah Village will fall down."

A number of the buildings in the village are made of a fired clay brick which is very strong but not flexible and due to the age is not reinforced.

"There could be a 10 year or longer economic recovery period after a very large earthquake if nothing is done," Bonella said. "The goal is to get back to business as soon as possible to keep the community thriving."

"What finally needs to happen is a strategy designed by the city that enables existing business owners to thrive and property owners to get the building retrofits done. Some property owners have been saving up money for the improvements."

For more information, please visit <https://saveportlandbuildings.com> and the city's website <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/66306>.

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# Unitus Community Credit Union opens in Multnomah Village

## THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

The first business has opened on the ground floor of the new four-story apartment building in Multnomah Village. Unitus Community Credit Union clicked on its lights in early February.

"We're happy to be here in Multnomah Village," said Matthew Bauman, branch manager. "We feel lucky to serve our members."

"Help us celebrate the opening of our tenth Unitus branch on March 14. There will be hors d'oeuvres and drinks."

Unitus will be giving away 40 gift cards, each worth up to \$100. There will be a play section for children.

"In addition, someone will win our grand prize pot o' gold worth \$1,000," said Bauman referring to

shamrock entry raffles which are in village shops and can be submitted to the credit union.

Unitus has gone through a few changes since it incorporated as the Oregon Telephone Employees Credit Union in 1937. Their core principle of "People Helping People" has never changed.

Unitus serves 90,000 members in the Pacific Northwest and employs more than 250 individuals. Bauman said that two of their five employees live in the village and walk to work.

Throughout the year, Unitus employees collectively volunteer over 1,300 hours each year participating in various community events including building homes, mentoring at-risk youth, making meals for shelters, and assisting at holiday toy drives.

What about the other businesses scheduled to open in the Multnomah Village Apartments? According to Matt Griffith, Spielmans Ba-

gels will be opening in March. Little Big Burger and Blue Star Donuts will be opening sometime in the future.

Unitus Community Credit Union is located at 7717 SW Capitol Highway and is open from Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., excluding holidays. Unitus has scheduled an open house for March 14 from 4-7 p.m.



Unitus Community Credit Union staff include Charles Torres, Matthew Bauman, Austin Anderson, Jeff Scott, and Nicole Yancy. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

## Portland Police consider moving Central Precinct to former Sears Armory site

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

The Portland Police Bureau's budget request for fiscal year 2018-2019 seeks \$1.7 million in one-time funding to renovate the former Jerome F. Sears U.S. Army Reserve Center for use as a police precinct.

Located at Southwest 25th Avenue and Multnomah Boulevard, the city acquired the Sears property in September 2012 from the Department of Defense with the provision that the building primarily be used for emergency management services.

From November 2015 through May 2016, the city set up a temporary women's homeless shelter in the building.

Police officials would move Central Precinct from downtown, leaving the city core without a major police presence.

According to city spokesperson, Michael Cox, the precinct, which is currently located on the ground floor of the downtown Justice Center, is extremely overcrowded and lacks community meeting space.

"The building is not up to seismic code and affords scarce parking for police vehicles or officers' personal

(Continued on Page 6)

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## MULTNOMAH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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# Lincoln High School considers Hamilton Park for home softball field

By Jack Rubinger  
The Southwest Portland Post

Neighbors of Hamilton Park have raised concerns about Lincoln High School's plans to make the park their "home field" for youth, junior varsity and varsity girls' softball teams.

Familiar themes including the fear of lowered property values, increased traffic, safety concerns, and litter, are swirling around a series of ideas various neighbors have put forth regarding Hamilton Park.

The park is located at Southwest 45th Avenue and Hamilton Street.

A lengthy dialogue on nextdoor.com unfolded after recent meetings of the Bridlemile Neighborhood Association.

Striking a reasonable balance between the needs of neighborhood residents and organized sports groups will be an ongoing dialogue.

There was a suggestion by the Lincoln softball community to add (at their cost) a portable bathroom to the north side of the park for the entire community to use.

Additional suggestions included adding risers at the top of the hill next to the playground for spectators, and installing a 4x8-sized scoreboard.

Portland Parks and Recreation is aware of at least some of the various ideas neighbors have suggested, but park bureau staff said Lincoln has not entered a formal stage of application, such as the Parks Proposal Process (<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/46373>).

Park bureau officials have said that process is used for most community-generated ideas for changing and improving parks, but that they will be taking part in discussions via a pair of community meetings.

Mark Ross, park bureau spokesman, said that installing a portable scoreboard and outfield fence are

"not out of the question," but notes that if approved, both elements would be accompanied by strict guidelines for their use.

According to Ross, the fence and the scoreboard would have to be placed on site and removed daily within their anticipated 3-6 p.m. permitted use period and be stored off-site.

The park bureau said that it wouldn't move a portable restroom closer to the park's playground but agreed that such facilities are important to support sports leagues.

Therefore the park bureau will keep portable restrooms on the south side of the park for the foreseeable future.

Jason Maycumber, vice president of Lincoln Little League Softball, said, "I think it appears or seems controversial for some neighbors that live nearby the park. However, varsity-level girls have played softball at Hamilton for decades. This is not anything new."

The Little League proposes several methods to nullify any potential added traffic or congestion, starting with the requirement that participants are to park in the Bridlemile School parking lot.

This would alleviate traffic congestion near the park and allow for non-softball or baseball park users to park directly in front of Hamilton Park.

The Little League is asking that supporters and players/parents utilize the traffic circle at the east end of the park on Southwest 47th Avenue for turning around, and to not U-turn on 47th Avenue in front of the park.

The Little League plans to have a litter patrol for each day that youth and high school softball players and supporters use the park and leave the park each day in a condition that was better than when they arrived.

"This is ultimately an issue that is impacting our whole city," said Maycumber. "There is a general lack



Softball players at Hamilton Park. (Photo courtesy of Lincoln Little League Softball)

of playing fields available for youth sports throughout Portland.

"With an increasing population and an effort to get our youth involved in sports and outdoor activities, this problem is only going to increase for Portland residents," said Maycumber.

"This topic is controversial and received such a strong response as it is at the confluence of existing neighborhood issues combined with some misinformation and the topic itself was a very late addition to the meeting agenda," said David Stein, Bridlemile Neighborhood Association chair.

Neighbors aren't happy about adding amenities such as bleachers which

would occupy the only level and sunny side of the playground where many people and leashed dogs stand and sit while their children play.

"The softball people are not differentiating between high school fast pitch ball and the youth leagues, and the neighborhood is," said Sarah Batten, a neighbor who lives near the field.

"We know from this past summer and fall from high school play that the biggest impact to neighborhood safety and livability are the high school level games.

"We welcome youth [softball] through 8th grade, and varsity and [junior varsity] practices. We would

(Continued on Page 6)

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### Hamilton Park Softball

(Continued from Page 5)

like all games to be relocated to a more appropriate facility where Lincoln can make the field they want and have the amenities they desire.”

Neighbors also cited numerous permit violations (amplified sound, littering, tobacco use, outdoor grilling) that negatively affected the quality of the park experience for neighborhood users, plus those living close to the field.

At press time, the park bureau planned to keep the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Parks Committee updated on any proposed changes moving forward and plan to make the softball field a topic on the agenda of the March 1 committee meeting.

Neighbors are encouraged to communicate with the Bridlemile Neighborhood Association (BridlemileN-ABoard@swni.org ) or the SWNI Parks Committee.

The Bridlemile Neighborhood Association will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 7 p.m., at Bridlemile School (faculty lounge), 4300 SW 47th Drive. A portion of that meeting’s agenda will focus on this issue as well.

### Police Move to Armory Site?

(Continued from Page 4)

cars,” Cox said.

Cox stated that police supervisors have been discussing this idea for at least two years. But for the very first time, it has been put in writing and publicly disclosed in a budget document with a specific request for funding.

Assistant Chief Chris Davis said, “We’re still talking about a concept. What we really want is a facility that enhances the services we provide to the community.”

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as police commissioner, signed the bureau’s budget package but declined to say whether he supports such a move.

“We are not at the point yet where the mayor is making judgments on specific budget offerings from the bureaus,” said Cox.

“If the decision is made to relocate the precinct, the long-term proposal under consideration is to eventually have a new precinct built at the Sears site,” Davis said.

Davis didn’t have a cost estimate for that project.

The proposed site allows for quick access to Interstate 5. A precinct in

what is largely a residential neighborhood also may give area residents a greater sense of safety.

Longtime resident Stu Ellis, whose property butts up against the former Sears Armory site, said he is okay with the proposed police precinct.

“My concern is about left-hand turns from the armory onto Multnomah Boulevard, especially at rush hour,” Ellis said. “Would they put a traffic light at Southwest 25th [Avenue]?”

“I would like to have some neigh-

borhood cops and have them know me. I think everyone should have neighborhood cops.”

Jen Clodius, interim principle management analyst, said, “The Office of Management and Finance’s budget work session, where we discuss proposals and ideas, isn’t until the middle of March. Additionally, the bureau will make decisions about how they will operate, if they move.”

The Portland City Council would need to approve any funding.

### Immigrants and refugees could be displaced during construction of light rail line

#### SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

The Southwest Corridor Community Advisory Committee met on Feb. 5 to preview information from several chapters of the draft environmental impact study that is due to come out in April.

Committee members heard how TriMet works with business and property owners during construction of a light rail system,

Advisory member Rachael Duke spoke about her experience with equitable housing work. Duke is the executive director of Community Partners for Affordable Housing, which is part of a coalition.

“These other agencies are doing a lot of the outreach along the corridor,” Duke said, “mainly the Community Alliance of Tenants, Unite Oregon, and Momentum Alliance. We are interested in anti-displacement strategies.

“Displacement is the result of market forces as well as an outcome of physical displacement as we consider the light rail route. Ensuring an equitable housing approach means that all people, no matter their incomes, get to benefit from this enormous investment in infrastructure.”

Asher Freeman, from the Community Alliance of Tenants, shared the

agency’s outreach about the light rail project.

“We have been knocking on doors of those who will most likely be impacted by this project,” Freeman said. “Many who live near the route are immigrants and refugees and could be displaced.”

Jennifer Koozer, TriMet community affairs manager, outlined how the agency works during design and construction of light rail lines. Koozer worked on capital projects for the Green, Yellow, and Orange MAX lines.

“We conduct community engagement such as conducting online surveys, mailings, and holding open houses,” she said. “TriMet provides incentives for tidy construction work-sites and apprenticeships for women and minorities.

“Once everything is up and running,” she said, “TriMet provides transportation training covering safety, bus service planning, and new rider marketing.”

After the draft environmental impact study is complete, TriMet receives a record of decision on the final impact study. This authorizes TriMet to begin purchasing property.

The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970 governs displaced property owners.

This act establishes minimum standards for federally funded programs

(Continued on Page 7)

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**EarthTalk**

*(Continued from Page 2)*

emissions as 1.6 million cars plying our roadways.

“And that’s not even counting the additional water that gets wasted while waiting for hot water to arrive at a lavatory faucet or the kitchen sink,” added Osann.

Waiting for hot water isn’t just a problem in older homes. “As homes grew bigger during the housing bubble, floor plans expanded, piping was extended and wait times grew even longer,” Osann explained.

“Additionally, although the flow rates for new faucets and showers have come down over the last 20 years in response to state and federal efficiency standards, designers often neglect to downsize the pipes serving these more efficient fixtures.”

The result is large amounts of water sitting in pipes cooling between uses.

For its part, the NRDC has been working to reduce this unnecessary waste—especially in new construction—by advocating for upgraded building and plumbing codes.

In 2015, the group scored a double win by convincing both the International Code Council and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials to upgrade their respective efficiency requirements—which most states and the federal government automatically follow—for hot water piping.

But unfortunately, the International Code Council ignored subsequent calls by NRDC to mandate more

compactly designed hot water pipe layouts in new buildings, although Osann said he thinks it’s only a matter of time before such changes are uniformly adopted by the standards bodies and most states.

As for what you can do now to reduce the waste of water while waiting for it to warm up, Osann recommended clustering tasks that require hot water close together to reduce the “cool-down” effect between uses, and capturing some portion of the initial draw in a container and using it to water the plants or fill up Fido’s dish.

You can also insulate hot water pipes that are exposed in a basement, attic or crawl space to keep the hot water warm while it idles in the pipe awaiting your next shower.

Better yet, replace your hot water heater with a tankless water heater, which heats water directly on demand without the use of a storage tank.

When hot water is turned on, cold water travels through a pipe into the unit, where either a gas or electric burner heats the water instantaneously.

As a result, tankless water heaters deliver a constant supply of hot water and there is no energy or water waste due to waiting or to water cooling—and then needing re-heating later—in your conventional water heater’s storage tank.

*EarthTalk® is a weekly syndicated column produced by Doug Moss and Roddy Scheer for the non-profit EarthTalk. To find out more, submit a question, or make a donation, visit us at [EarthTalk.org](http://EarthTalk.org).*

**SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN**

*(Continued from Page 5)*

and projects that require the acquisition of real estate based on property appraisal.

“In some cases, a lump sum cash out is available to a small business in lieu of relocation expense reimbursement,” Koozer said. “TriMet has been in touch

with businesses that may be affected and has invited them to engage and participate.”

The advisory committee will receive the draft impact environmental study sometime in April, according to Metro. The committee will review and process it for the steering committee, which will make the final decisions about the alignment.



Early morning walk through April Hill Park on Feb. 22. The quiet was incredible and the textures were amazing to look at. (Photo by K.T. Emerson)

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◀ **Joan Lunden**, journalist, former host of Good Morning America and senior living advocate.



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**COMMUNITY LIFE**

By KC Cowan and Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post

**2 Classic Comedy:** Lakewood Theatre Company brings to the stage the Portland premiere of the legendary, classic comedy, *El Grande de Coca*. Señor Pepe Hernandez persuades the local Coca-Cola bottling plant to back a big show in exchange for some blatant product placement. When no stars arrive to perform, Pepe is forced to hire his family, whose antics wreak havoc upon the stage. Opens March 2, and continues through April 8. This event takes place at Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State St., Lake Oswego. For tickets call (503) 635-3901 or visit [www.lakewood-center.org](http://www.lakewood-center.org).

**Artist Annette Sabater** displays new paintings and drawings in her exhibit: "An Iris Stands Tall: a mother's journey, a daughter's transition." It depicts her child's transition from adolescent boy to woman. Opening reception is Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m. at the Multnomah Arts Center Gallery, 7688 SW Capitol Highway. The show will be up through the month.

For more information, visit [www.MultnomahArtsCenter.org](http://www.MultnomahArtsCenter.org) or call (503) 823-2787.

**3 Ivy Pull:** Join Portland Parks and Recreation and the Bridlemile Neighborhood Association on Saturday, March 3, from 9 a.m. to noon and help enhance the riparian area at Albert Kelly Park. Volunteers will be pulling ivy and removing old fencing along the natural area. All are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at Southwest Mitchell Street across from the Timberlee Apartments. For more information visit: [www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/).

**4 Familiar Voice:** You've enjoyed her on the radio for years. Now see and hear her in person. Susan Stamberg, nationally renowned broadcast journalist, will be the speaker at a brunch to support the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Highway, on Sunday, March 4 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$36 - \$54. Register at [oregonjcc.org/brunch](http://oregonjcc.org/brunch) or call 503-244-0111 for more information.

**10 The Southwest Trails walk** this month will explore Raleigh Hills. Participants will carpool to Bridlemile School, then

walk west through Raleigh Hills into Washington County, hiking about 6 miles in all. Meet behind the bleachers at Wilson High School, Southwest Sunset Boulevard at Capitol Highway, on Saturday, March 10, at 9 a.m. For more information, visit [www.swtrails.org](http://www.swtrails.org). To volunteer to lead a future walk in your neighborhood, contact Sharon Fekety ([fekety@hevanet.com](mailto:fekety@hevanet.com)).

**Celtic Music:** Honor St. David (patron saint of Wales) and St. Patrick (patron saint of Ireland) at a Celtic Music Fest. Enjoy lively reels, jigs and polkas, Irish songs, and a rare opportunity to hear songs performed in the Welsh language. This event takes place on Saturday, March 10, at 1 p.m. at the Garden Home Community Library, 7475 SW Oleson Road. Free. For more information, contact Katrina Ehrnman-Newton at the Garden Home Community Library, (503) 245-9932.

**17 Pamper Yourself:** Enjoy the gray days of winter with a new herbal project involving peppermint and lavender. After discussing both herbs, learn how to make your own luxurious lip balm to help lift the spirits and a calming,

lavender lotion to soothe dry winter skin. Saturday, March 17, 2-3:30 p.m. at the Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd. Free, but you must preregister by calling (503) 988-5123.

**25 Garbage into Gold:** Get the real dirt on how simple it is to turn garbage into compost, aka: "Gardener's Gold." Learn the do's and don'ts of composting yard waste and kitchen scraps through different methods and the best ways to use it in your garden. This event takes place on Sunday, March 25, 2-3:30 p.m., at the Capitol Hill Library, 10723 SW Capitol Highway. First come, first served. For more information call (503) 988-5123.

**29 In My Time:** Paul Pintarich (1938-2011) recounted his boyhood adventures growing up in Southwest Portland in a series of local newspaper columns from 1996 to 2002. Rick Seifert, former editor and publisher of The Southwest Community Connection, is editor of *In My Time*, a collection of Pintarich's essays and feature stories. Seifert will discuss his book on Thursday, March 29 at 7 p.m. at Annie Bloom's Books, 7834 SW Capitol Highway.

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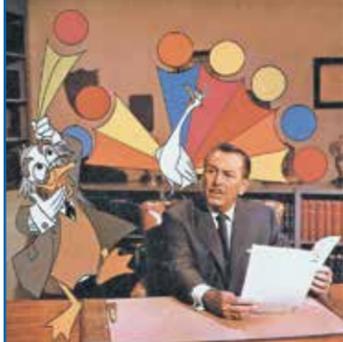
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