



Don't miss this year's Multnomah Days festival and parade – Page 5



The Southwest Portland Post
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KC Cowan takes us along for a painting class at the Buffalo Gap on PaintNite – Page 8

Summer reading program provides skill-building experience for children

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

In an era where digital screens are everywhere, one would think that reading is a pastime only enjoyed by those who grew up with bookmobiles, book clubs, and four television channels.

But in Multnomah County, reading is alive and well, especially during the long school break.

The summer reading program, sponsored by the Multnomah County libraries, entices children to read while encouraging them to become lifelong library users.

Research shows that the reading skills a student gains during the school year are lost if he or she does not read during the summer.

The program reaches children from birth through age 18. Parents and children track reading progress using a game that challenges any level reader. The program works like this:

Children can visit any public library to sign up and will then receive a game board.

Participant then set goals and choose books. Milestones are reached with the

help of their parents, library staff, or volunteers.

The program relies on the work of more than 700 volunteers each year – a majority of whom are teenagers. At the Hillsdale branch alone, there are approximately 35 teen volunteers.

Participation is free. To play, children spend time reading, listening to books, or completing suggested learning activities, then mark spaces on their game boards.

Nearly 110,000 children and teens registered for the Summer Reading program in 2013. This makes it one of the largest programs in the nation.

Seventy-three percent of all youth in Multnomah County participated in the program in 2013.

According to Jimmy Kim of Harvard University, "Reading over the summer is essential to maintaining literacy gains made during the school year. Independent, self-directed reading is vital to the development of a child's literacy skills."

Self-directed reading is defined as reading done outside of school assignments solely because the child wants to.

"Summer reading provides just that kind of skill-building experience," said Barbara Head, youth librarian at the



Recent Wilson High School graduate, Kenny Noble, 18, has been volunteering for eight years at the summer reading program. "I help kids sign up, award their prizes, and help them choose books," Noble explained. An honors student, Noble will be attending Oregon State University in the fall to study engineering. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

Hillsdale branch library.

"Children and teens who read during the summer," Head stated, "maintain their reading skills and are more likely

to be successful when they return to school."

The summer reading program has
(Continued on Page 3)

Multnomah Boulevard bike, pedestrian improvements continue through October



Jim Peterson has been building relationships with the contractors at the Multnomah Boulevard construction project. He lives and works in the heart of the construction zone. "The crews have been fantastic," Peterson said. "It's the city you need to watch out for!" (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

For residents, business owners, and commuters who traverse Southwest Multnomah Boulevard, construction just seems to be a way of life.

Ever since the sewer work was completed years ago, along the same line where the Oregon Electric railroad once ran, the Multnomah community has continued to see its share of delays and disruption.

The bike and pedestrian project is in its final stages. What will be a wider, safer, and more inclusive boulevard, at the moment is much narrower with no shoulder for eastbound vehicles.

Currently, a multi-use path for cyclists and pedestrians is being constructed along the south side between 25th and 31st avenues. A long linear green-street planter will provide a buffer between the path and roadway.

What looks like a second sidewalk, along the opposite side of the street, is in fact an enhanced bicycle track. The standard sidewalk with a planting strip and green-street planters are already in place.

At the July 8 meeting of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association, vice-chair Beth Omansky proclaimed, "We no longer live in a food desert! We have a safe, easy route to the new Safeway."

Jim Peterson, owner of Custom Woodworking (Southwest 25th and Multnomah Boulevard) works and lives in the heart of the road construction. He continues to be one of the determined community activists keeping his finger on the pulse of the various projects in the area.

Peterson was recently elected land use chair for the neighborhood. As a trained engineer, Peterson follows the paperwork trail, attends city meetings, and speaks up about issues or work that just doesn't seem right.

"The bike-pedestrian pathway on the south side of the project seems to be going well," Peterson said recently while watching a worker put up orange safety net. "There will be a crossing light at 25th. The bicycles are getting some kind of activation switch at 31st and maybe 25th. Road paving is supposed to happen the first week of August, according to the project coordinator."

The *Post* also spoke with Cheryl Kuck, community outreach staff from Portland Bureau of Environmental Services.

Will trees be planted to replace the older firs that were removed? "Yes, they will be replaced with fir trees and will be planted at the end of the project," Kuck replied.

When asked about the bioswales not draining properly, Kuck said, "The plants need a chance to get established and do their job. A good, full growing season generally resolves any initial slow drainage issues."

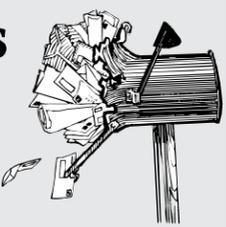
Kuck said the project is on track for completion in October, 2014. "Since July, work has been completed on the north side of the street; fencing has been erected between the Century Link knoll and sidewalk; and plants are doing well in the sidewalk medians and bioswales will be planted in the fall."

For more information about the Multnomah Boulevard improvements, please contact Cheryl Kuck at 503-823-7898 or email Cheryl.Kuck@portlandoregon.gov.

Don't forget to renew your subscription. Form on Page 2.

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Letters to the Editor



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Regarding, "Potholes and other miserable road maintenance issues, Part III," by Lee Braymen-Cleary, The Post, July 2014.

Legally, can neighbors pool their funds and pave their own street?

First, thank you for the time you have put into researching this. I believe I've received a different answer from each individual I've asked despite the fact that the bottom line has always been that my street ain't gettin' fixed. In all honestly, this is completely unacceptable to me.

I live on a dead end street off [Southwest] Capitol Highway not too far from Barbur Boulevard. We have a paved road but wear and tear from the 12 infill houses in the past 10 years, mine included, have been destroying the street.

My neighbors on 42nd contacted the city to rebuild their portion, which has never been paved. The City estimated \$100,000 to \$400,000 to pave, add sidewalks and manage

drainage for a quarter of a block. My neighbors on 43rd hired someone without permission and paid under \$10,000 for about the same area.

Is there any avenue to legally accomplish what the folks on 43rd did or must we just accept the inflated cost with all of the other unnecessary (in my humble opinion) things like sidewalks and drainage?

We don't have them now, why should we be required to pay for them if the City isn't willing to help? Why can't we just improve our road at free market rate and let the City do the rest if they want. That seems their responsibility anyway, as if the streets are not. These are not new questions.

Again, thanks for stirring the pot on this issue. My grandkids may one day live in my house and have streets safe enough to walk and bike on. Or at least I can dream about it.

Ben Sturgill
Multnomah

City needs to do something to dam up the 41st Street River

I read your article with much interest. The picture you posted is actually in front of our house on Southwest 41st Avenue. 42nd is in very good shape.

We've paid for patching once already and are about to patch again. It's worse than it's ever been with water now cascading off Southwest Capitol Highway, traversing across Carson Street, through a couple back yards then down 41st Avenue. The picture you have is after our last big rain when we call it the 41st Street River.

We are about to embark on our own project (with the city or the Oregon Department of Transportation—our own fishing expedition) to get them to stop the water off of Capitol Highway. This is a recent happening.

A few years ago "they" put up a sign which reads "Roadway Not Improved." We don't know who put it up, but we felt it was fairly obvious that the roadway wasn't improved!

Maybe Ken Martin will share some insight after his fishing trip.

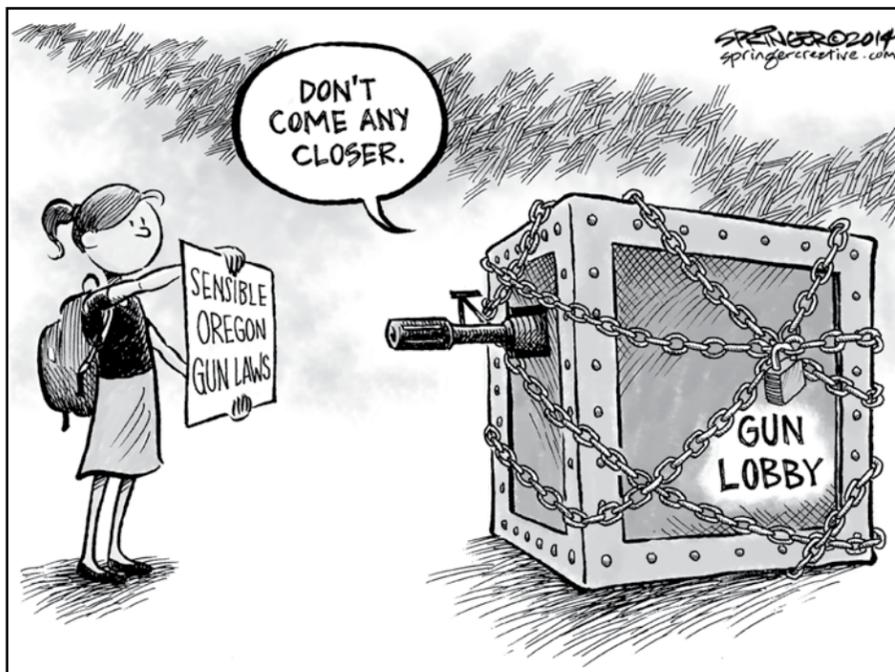
Susan Evans
Multnomah

Lee Braymen-Cleary responds: Ken Martin says he caught no whoppers

on his vacation, but he did help me with more annexation facts that may apply to your street as well as those of many other residents. And these aren't whoppers; in fact, they are underwhelming.

Here's more or less what Martin said. The city plans to maintain streets that were up to standards when annexed. So if, say, frustrated people go ahead and pave without contacting the city first, their paving job might not be up to standards.

It would behoove interested people wanting to pave to first check with the city. Also, there is the chance that long ago a developer paved a street and did a poor job. Once again, the city would feel no obligation to maintain them.



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Letters to the Editor



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Trash, overgrowth and camping rampant in Multnomah Village park

This note is a follow up to our phone conversation on June 24 concerning Triangle Park. The concerns are as follows:

1. Extreme overgrowth of grass, weeds, and bushes (especially the laurel) and in particular noxious weeds such as deadly Nightshade.
2. Dumping of trash and garbage on a continuum.
3. People that sleep/live in the park and defecate there.
4. Alcohol and drug paraphernalia found on this property and the neigh-

boring apartment property, which also has dead and dying trees.

5. Youth using the park for sex; used condoms found.

In conclusion, this area is an embarrassment to Multnomah Village and its neighbors. This is the worst I have ever seen it.

We would hope that the city [of Portland] would clean up this area as they are currently the owners of said park and must be responsible for its upkeep.

We would hope that there would be no use of pesticides as animals of all types reside and travel through the park, along with parents and their small children on a daily basis.

However, something must be done to ensure the safety of the community as the area is an invitation to the criminal element of society.

Thank you for your help and concern.

Marsha Overton
Multnomah Village

Don Snedecor responds: Thank you for your letter, Marsha, and your willingness to speak out. Please stay in touch and let us know of any new developments.

For our readers' information, the property in question (referred to as



John and Marianne Fitzgerald, along with Randy Bonella, take a break from work cleaning up brush and blackberries at the Multnomah Village community park on July 12. More help is needed. To volunteer, please contact Bonella at rmbonella@gmail.com. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

Multnomah Village Park or Triangle Park) is located along the south side of Southwest Multnomah Boulevard and the north side of Garden Home Road with the center being at about 38th Avenue.

Diane Dulken, a spokesperson for the Portland Bureau of Transportation, spoke to *The Post* in late June. Dulken said the property is right-of-way which belongs to the bureau and that the city would send an inspector out to investigate.

Post reporter Erik Vidstrand went out to the site at the same time and took photos, but beyond overgrowth could not find any evidence of the activities you described in your letter.

Meanwhile, neighbor Randy Bonella organized a volunteer cleanup and work party of the site on July 12, as he has periodically for a number of years.

According to Bonella, the city sent two inspectors from different bureaus

to investigate your claims. "No evidence of homeless camps observed and very little litter. Nothing like what was reported to the city," said Bonella.

Bonella said the property was severely overgrown. "I'm sure it had rodent issues, though we didn't see any. Most of those weeds have now been cut down. I am working on paperwork that will get the city to come out and spray a pre-emergent herbicide to help control the weeds."

"Our clean-up went well," Bonella explained. "We got about three-fourths of the property cleared of heavy weed growth. Still need a couple more hours out there with a weed mower will get the rest."

"We had four people show up so with more [volunteers] we could have gotten more done. We still have several areas that need cutting back to open up the pathways and get the blackberry under control," Bonella concluded.

Summer Reading Program

(Continued from Page 1)

grown tenfold since the Library Foundation began supporting the program's expansion with private funds.

"Here at the (Hillsdale) library," the librarian continued, "we think that reading is its own reward and incentives add to the fun."

This encourages both enthusiastic and reluctant readers to enjoy reading during the summer. One of the main goals is to connect youth with their public library.

"We want kids of all ages to enjoy the game," Head explained, "so you may tailor the program to suit your child."

Reading to babies and toddlers is a big event; even they can win prizes such as workbooks, puzzles, and coupons for swimming.

All reading counts; players may count the time someone reads to them. Time requirements help make more than one sitting if a child becomes restless. Optional activities include attending a library event, drawing a picture about a book, or getting their first library card.

"Because of this," Head said, "participants must be present to select their own prizes."

Rewards include books, passes for free activities, and food coupons for local restaurants.

"There are lots and lots of events," Head exclaimed. "There is art with recycled products, science teams studying bugs or kiddy chemistry, and even music."

"The Ugandan Children's Choir (on the west coast for their world tour)," Head announced, "will perform on Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hillsdale Library. All events are free."

All players who finish the game enter a grand prize drawing for a family vacation for four to Great Wolf Lodge Water Park.

"It's not too late to still sign up," Head explained as she excused herself to a tiny tots reading circle.

The 2014 program runs through Aug. 31. For more information, visit the library's website: multcolib.org. For more information on supporting summer reading, contact information@libraryfoundation.org.

MAPLEWOOD NOTEBOOK

(Continued from Page 6)

exceed the original footprint and are out of character with the surrounding area.

On larger lots, subdivisions are often being permitted.

National Night Out: This year's National Night Out will a picnic held on August 3 at April Hill Park between 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. Neighborhood safety will be the primary topic addressed. For more information contact Maplewood@swni.org.

Neighborhood History Project: Anna Bell Neal has volunteered to assume a detailed project. She will update Maplewood history book written in 1975. Anyone wanting to input on the topic can email Anna Bell at annabneal@yahoo.com.

There will be no meeting for the general membership of the neighborhood association in August. The executive board, however, will be meeting.

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Water Main Construction in SW Hillsdale Neighborhood Moves Forward

The Portland Water Bureau has been constructing two vital water system improvement projects this summer.

In July, Phase 2 of the **SW Carolina Mains Project** began. Installation of the 24-inch diameter water supply pipeline has been completed on SW Burlingame Drive. Work is now underway on SW Burlingame Terrace.

The contractor has begun work in the traffic island of SW Terwilliger Boulevard and SW Capitol Highway. The construction area is fenced off from the pedestrian pathway. People are urged to stay clear of the construction zone.

Starting August 15 through October 2014, approximately 350 feet of the SW Terwilliger Trail in George Himes Park, from SW Capitol Highway south to SW Terwilliger Boulevard, will be closed temporarily to foot and bike traffic. A safe alternate route adjacent to the park will be established for trail users on SW Terwilliger Boulevard. The trail user detour will be protected by concrete barriers and fencing. Bicyclists will be asked to walk their bike through the pathway.

For updates and maps visit: portlandoregon.gov/water/swcarolina

The **Bertha Service Area Improvement Project** is near completion. Pipe connections are almost finished and final paving will be completed by the end of August. For updates and maps, please visit: portlandoregon.gov/water/berthaarea

For more information or questions, contact Terry Black, Public Outreach, at 503-823-1168, or terry.black@portlandoregon.gov.



COMMUNITY LIFE

By KC Cowan
The Southwest Portland Post

2 Health and Safety Fair: The South Portland Neighborhood Association is holding its National Night Out on Saturday, Aug. 2 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at Elizabeth Caruthers Park, 3508 SW Moody Ave. Enjoy live music while you learn more about food as medicine, disaster planning, fraud prevention, crime and safety and more. Free! Information at www.southportlandna.org.

Movies in the Park: Bring your own blanket and popcorn to Dickinson Park for a free showing of The Lego Movie on Saturday, Aug. 2. Pre-show entertainment by Manimalhouse starts at 6:30 pm, the movie plays at dusk. Dickinson Park is located at SW 55th and Alfred Ct. Visit www.portlandoregon.gov/parks for more information.

3 Maplewood Picnic in the Park: The Maplewood Neighborhood Association is inviting everyone to the

picnic on Sunday, Aug. 3, 5:00 – 7:30 pm at April Hill Park. Bring your own dinner and blanket. For more information call 503-823-4592 or email maplewood@swni.org.

5 National Night Out: Help prevent crime! The Multnomah Neighborhood Association is sponsoring its National Night Out event on Tuesday, Aug 5, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Spring Garden Park, 3332 SW Spring Garden St. Come for pie and ice cream and get to know your neighbors while learning about crime prevention and public safety. For information, contact Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. at 503-823-4592 or visit www.swni.org.

Homestead Picnic: The Homestead Neighborhood is holding a picnic for National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 5 from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at Duniway Park at the base of Terwilliger Boulevard in the Lilac Garden. Food and fun and a chance to get to know your neighbors. If you can volunteer, email Yongping Zhong at youngping9@gmail.com.

Nerd Night at Garden Home Community Library: Nerd is not a four-

letter word! Come to Nerd Night (trivia for adults) and show off your gray matter. Open to individuals and teams of two to five members. Prizes, too! Monday, Aug. 5 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The library is located in the Garden Home Recreation Center, 7475 SW Oleson Rd. Call the library at 503-245-9932 or email HeatherW@wcls.org for details.

7 Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory: The classic 1971 film starring Gene Wilder will play at Elizabeth Caruthers Park, 3508 SW Moody St. Pre-show entertainment by The Jellyroll Society starts at 6:30 p.m. the movie plays at dusk. Go to www.portlandoregon.gov/parks for more information.

9 SW Trails Walk: Up for a walk? Then show up behind the bleachers at Wilson High School on Saturday, Aug. 9 at 9:00 am. From there, you'll carpool to Stephenson School for a guided walk to Tryon Creek State Park and Lake Oswego. In all, this walk is 5.4 miles with about a 500 ft elevation gain. Dress for the weather, bring a snack and water. Visit <http://swtrails.org/> for more information and click on "Trails Walk."

12 Multnomah Neighborhood Association: The Association will hold a special meeting on Aug 12, 7:00 pm, in the community room in the new Stephens Creek Crossing housing development, 6719 SW 26th Ave. The main topic will be the Southwest Corridor Plan. Contact: Moses Ross, mnachair@gmail.com for more information.

16 I Love a Parade: The annual Multnomah Days Parade takes place along Capitol Highway between



You'll find wonderful gifts at the Multnomah Arts Center's Arts & Crafts Sale during the Multnomah Days festival, August 16. (Photo courtesy MAC)

Garden Home Road and 31st Avenue in Multnomah Village on Saturday, Aug. 16 at 10:00 am. Bring the kids and a bag to collect all the candy thrown by the parade entries. Then, stick around all day for the other Multnomah Days festivities. (See article on Page 5.)

Multnomah Arts Center Arts & Crafts Sale: Looking for that perfect vase or print to accent a room? Need some new jewelry? Functional and artistic work by instructors and advance students is featured in all media. Saturday, Aug. 16, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at the MAC, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. Call 503.823.2787 or visit www.MultnomahArtsCenter.org for more information.

Hot Harmonies and Southern Steam Heat: Get away from the summer heat and enjoy two great bands at O'Connor's Vault, 7850 SW Capitol Hwy on Saturday, Aug. 16, 7:00 pm. Woodlander is an award winning trio that plays acoustic Americana. Gary Furlow sings gulf-simmered songs straight from New Orleans, backed up by The Loafers. Tickets are \$8 in advance from <http://woodlanderloafers.brownpapertickets.com> or \$12 at the door.

17 Vine 'n Dine: This Northwest Wine and Food Festival gives you a chance to taste wine and food pairings from more than 35 local winemakers and chefs. Enhance your wine tasting skills with the unique interactive aroma sampling exhibit. *For best results, do not wear any cologne or perfume.* This event takes place on Sunday, Aug. 17, 1:00 – 6:00 pm at the Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy., in the lower parking lot. \$30 general admission. \$50 VIP tickets are available, providing early entry and access to special wines. All proceeds benefit the Multnomah Village Bloc's Initiative to install vintage street lights in the Village. Go to www.eventbrite.com and enter "Vine 'n Dine" for tickets.

22 Double Bill of Fun: After presenting condensed versions of Gilbert and Sullivan musicals at the old Alpenrose Opera House, The Dairyville Players will present two short full-length shows: *Trial by Jury* by Gilbert and Sullivan, and *Cox and Box* by Sullivan and Burnand. Catch the shows on Aug. 22, 23 & 24 at 7:30 pm at Alpenrose Dairy, 6149 SW Shattuck Rd. Suggested donation of \$8. Check out Dairyville Players on Facebook for more information.



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Portland Police K-9 Unit named grand marshal of Multnomah Days Parade

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Thanks to the work of Sylvia Bogert, executive director of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., the Portland Police K-9 Unit will be grand marshal of the 2014 Multnomah Days Parade.

The April shooting of Portland Police Officer Jeff Dorn, and his German shepherd K-9 partner Mick, while in pursuit of a burglary suspect in Multnomah neighborhood, raised the awareness of these specially trained dogs and their law enforcement partners.

"It would be a privilege to allow us to show our community's appreciation," Bogert wrote, "by having the Portland Police K-9 Unit as grand marshal of the Multnomah Days Parade."

The annual street festival is being held

on Saturday, Aug. 16. As tradition has it, the festival begins with the annual Kiwanis pancake breakfast beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the Key Bank parking lot.

This year, Kiwanis Club members will remain until 4 p.m. serving lunch after breakfast is over.

At the heart of the family-friendly festivities is the 'biggest little' parade. It kicks off at 10:00 am with a "Pooch Parade" of dogs (and their owners) that leads the entire parade along Southwest Capitol Highway from Garden Home Road east to 31st Avenue.

Over 120 vendors along with a food court will line Capitol Highway from the viaduct to the Multnomah Arts Center. The arts center will be the hub of several events this year now that the lower parking lot has been refurbished.

The Kid Zone will partner with Metro Parent and PDX Kid's Calendar with

all sorts of child friendly activities at the basketball courts.

The main stage will have live music from noon until 10 pm and will feature a wine and beer garden. On Sunday, Aug. 17, the successful Vine & Dine event will be held from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available by going to the MVBA Facebook or by visiting Sip D' Vine in the heart of the village.



Portland Police Officer Shawn Gore with one of his K-9 trainees. (Photo courtesy of kxl.com)

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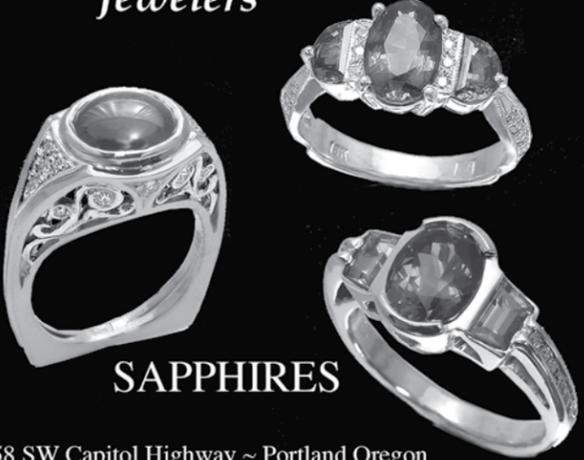
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Neal named to head up history project; home demolition discussed

MAPLEWOOD NOTEBOOK

By Lee Braymen-Cleary
The Southwest Portland Post

On July 9, members of the Maplewood Neighborhood Association convened at April Hill Park for their monthly meeting.

Board Members: Anna Bell Neal has been appointed secretary effective September 1, and Jen Seamens will soon join the board as member at large. Still, no chairperson exists, and any residents wanting to apply for the position should contact Clair Carder via email at Maplewood@swni.org. One primary chairperson's task involves organizing monthly meetings and presiding over them.

Garden Tour: The 2014 garden tour, held on July 21, was a success. Approximately 70 Maplewood residents gathered at Maplewood Coffee & Tea, paid \$10 for walking maps and toured nearly a dozen local gardens. The treasurer announced that revenue gleaned has raised the Association's bank account to \$2,621.07.

Local Tennis Courts: Jill Gaddis reported that while Nike has generously donated new surfaces for local tennis courts, there is now a serious problem. Residents have used those courts when setting off fire works, and the surfaces are now ruined.

Parks Bond Measure: Local parks are in need of \$68 million for urgent repairs, safety concerns, restrooms and ADA accommodations. Possibly a bond measure addressing these needs will appear on the November ballot.

If approved, these monies would replace the expiring 1994 funds. Portland Parks and Recreation is seeking citizen comments on the bond issue.

For more information check out www.ParksReplacementBond.org. If you would like to comment on the proposed bond, please email City Commissioner Amanda Fritz at Amanda@portlandoregon.gov.

April Hill Park/City Agreement: Jill Gaddis has received and signed all paperwork related to City funds granted for the development of April Hill Park's wetlands area.

Two bridges and walkways that will protect the delicate ecosystem there are planned. Ground breaking will not take place until next summer, but that distant date will allow for gathering of all necessary permits and for engineers to draw up plans.

Home Demolition: Jill Gaddis recently attended one of the home demolition meetings being held around the city. DEQ has serious concerns about how demolition is approached, especially because the number of houses being destroyed each year is mounting.

Environmental concerns include asbestos pollution. Another concern is that 75 percent of torn down buildings now go to into landfills. But if demolition is done carefully, and windows are removed, that can drop to as low as 20 percent.

Editor's Note: This is an important issue for our community, from an urban planning perspective, as developers in search of buildable land tear down existing structures to build new homes. Even historic homes are vulnerable. Often what replace them (on standard lots) are large homes that far
(Continued on Page 3)

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OHSU Collaborative Life Sciences Building opens in South Waterfront

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

The South Waterfront has another new building: the Collaborative Life Sciences Building and Skourtes Tower.

It uniquely combines the resources and brainpower of three nationally respected universities under one roof: Oregon Health & Science University, Oregon State University, and Portland State University.

The structure launches a new era in health and science research and education. Construction was completed a little over a month ago.

This combination expands class size, teaching facilities, and research activities which will benefit all Oregonians.

By sharing the \$295 million state-of-the-art building, OHSU, OSU, and PSU will effectively grow their health and science programs without duplicating education and research space.

With limited state resources, this 'coop' approach takes collaboration to the next level.

"At OHSU we've found that when we are open to the power of partnership, and willing to work with others to solve problems in the name of the public good, the opportunities are endless," said President Joe Robertson, M.D.

Rather than segregate the approximately 650,000-square-foot building among the universities by floor, the design and construction team built integrated labs and shared classrooms.

Every feature of the new building is designed to encourage interaction

among university faculty, graduates, and undergraduates.

From shared labs with electron microscopy to other highly specialized instrumentation, OHSU, OSU, and PSU faculty will promote frequent idea sharing to state-of-the-art simulation centers.

Health care providers, students, and staff across all health care professions will train side-by-side.

"For PSU, this building offers desperately needed lab, research and classroom space for our health and science majors," said President Wim Wiewel, Ph.D.

According to Wiewel, health and science are among the fastest growing fields of study at PSU.

The Collaborative Life Sciences Building will also provide capacity to add to the class sizes for OHSU's medical and physician assistant students including the OSU/OHSU pharmacy program.

"The Collaborative Life Sciences Building is a wonderful example of how well [all three institutions can] collaborate on behalf of Oregonians," said OSU President Ed Ray, Ph.D.

"This new facility will have a major impact on the OSU College of Pharmacy's program. It provides dedicated and expanded instructional space and room for additional faculty aimed at providing the best clinical training possible for future pharmacists."

Skourtes Tower will include a state-of-the-art school of dentistry and dental clinics that serve the public. It will bring dental students under the same

roof with their nursing, allied health, pharmacy, and medicine colleagues.

Located within OHSU's new Schnitzer Campus at Portland's South Waterfront, the building is accessible by streetcar, aerial tram, and eventually the new Orange MAX light rail line, slated to open in September 2015.

The building's sustainable features include green roofs, storm water collection for non-potable water uses throughout the building, energy-efficient lighting, and climate control.

The building's design and construction team anticipate a LEED Platinum certification.

Funded by a unique public-private partnership model, the buildings include \$110 million in state bonds, \$92 million in OHSU institutional funding, and \$83 million in OHSU philanthropy including a \$40 million anonymous gift to OHSU, and \$10 million from Bonnie and Gene Skourtes, D.M.D.

TriMet contributed \$10 million to the project.

Oregon Health & Science Univer-



The OHSU Collaborative Life Sciences Building recently opened in South Waterfront. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

sity is the state's only public academic health and research university. As one of Oregon's largest employers with more than 14,000 employees, OHSU's size contributes to its ability to provide many services not found anywhere else in the state.

Oregon State University is also Oregon's only university to hold both the Carnegie Foundation's top designation for research institutions and its prestigious Community Engagement classification.

Portland State University has about 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students. PSU will provide every student with opportunities to work with businesses, schools and organizations on real-world projects.

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Amateur painters discover their inner Van Gogh at group-art events

By KC Cowan
The Southwest Portland Post

If you're one of those people who were once told that you "didn't have any artistic ability," so you stopped trying, good news! It's not too late to discover the joy of painting.

PaintNite is a group art experience where you can enjoy a drink (or more) while creating a 16" by 20" acrylic painting under the guidance of a facilitator. They're becoming hugely popular, with sold-out events.

Buffalo Gap Saloon and Eatery (6835 SW Macadam Ave) regularly hosts PaintNite. The night I attended, there were 35 canvases set up, along with plates of acrylic color, and three brushes. Bailey Cain was the teacher, but ignore that title.

"It's not an art class where you feel judged, but more like a party," she said. "What I really love about it is encouraging people who feel they can't paint, and making them feel comfortable enough to try."

Our project was the "Whimsical Birds" painting that was at the head of the room. A blank canvas sat next to it for Cain to demonstrate.

Cain said there is basically only one rule: Paint the canvas, not your friends! She needn't have worried. While people were there to have fun, they also wanted to take home something they could be proud of.

Vickie Buckley came for her second PaintNite. "Painting is in my heart. And I don't know how, so to come out with

PaintNite and to get an artist to stand there and do a play-by-play sketch for you, and it actually end up looking like something? I think it's cool!"

Sue Xiong came with three friends after hearing about it on Facebook. "I was really intrigued by the idea of paint your own painting. I mean, I haven't painted since kindergarten, and I don't know how it will turn out, but I hear they have good instructions, so I hope that's the case."

We began with the "big brush" for the background color. Cain demonstrated the technique of blending the color from bright yellow at the top, to orange and then red in the middle and then dark red at the bottom.

Music blasted as we painted, which added to the party feel. Laughter and conversation bubbled around the room. As Cain guided us in the next step – making colorful "swooshes" on the now-dry background, the comments began to fly:

"I made too many swooshes!" one woman lamented. "You can't have too many swooshes!" Cain responded.

"I can't get it to blend right!" another said. "Try using a little more water to spread the paint around on the canvas," Cain suggested.

Next we painted the vines, then the birds and before we knew it, our two hours were up and we were all staring at an honest-to-God-original work of art we created ourselves.

Even though we were all copying the same image, every painting was unique, because everybody had a completely different artistic style. Cain



Sue Xiong, Andy Phan, and Anna D'Silva show off their completed paintings.
(Post photo by KC Cowan)

said that's one thing she loves about PaintNite.

"They are all so different. People think I'm acting when I go around and admire their work, but I'm really excited to see the direction they go," she said.

At the end, everyone seemed happy with their painting, but even if they weren't, one veteran PaintNite patron said you just have to give it some time. After you take it home and study it for

a while, you'll decide it's pretty darn good, after all.

There are painting parties weekly, at different locations around Portland. The PaintNite website shows what paintings are scheduled for each party.

There's a huge variety of styles and subject matter. They're even rated by difficulty. The cost is about \$45 a night, but there are often discounts via Groupon. So check it out. Your inner-artist is waiting!

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