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# The Southwest Portland Post

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Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

December 2015

## Mayor Hales leads community forum on homeless shelter at Sears Armory

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

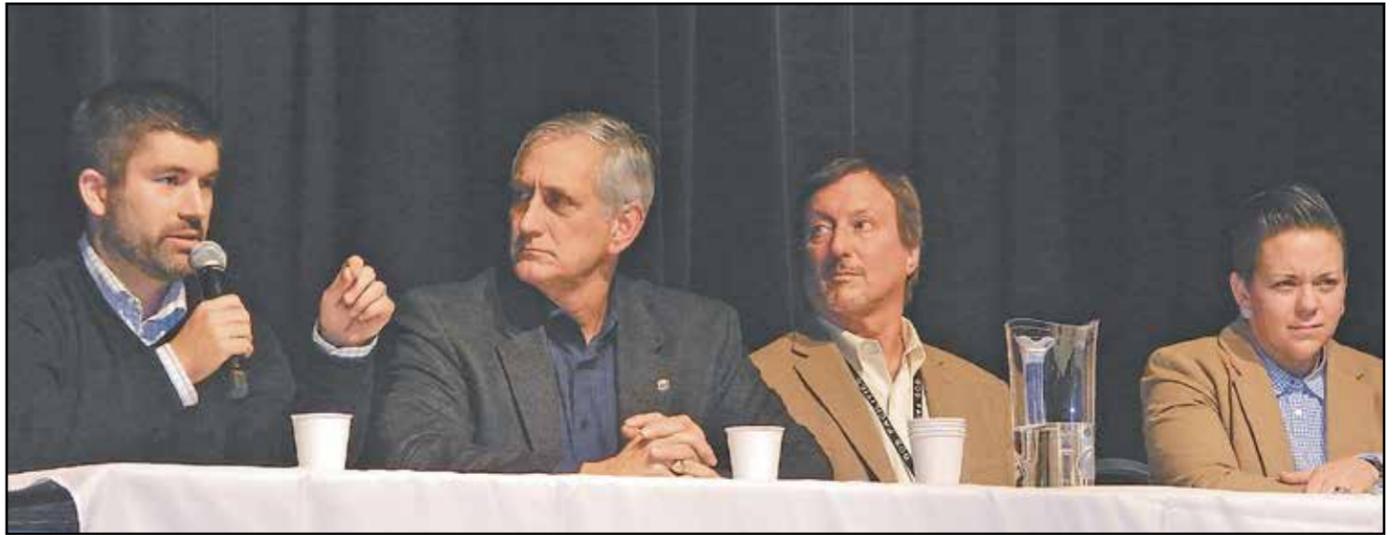
It was another packed Multnomah Arts Center auditorium with yet another issue facing residents and businesses of Multnomah. The topic this time was the housing of 150 homeless women in the former Jerome Sears Army Reserve Center.

On Nov. 16, a community forum was held to discuss the announcement led by a panel including Portland Mayor Charlie Hales, Multnomah County Commissioner Jules Bailey, Bob Kieta, a city facilities manager, and Stacy Borke, a project manager for Transition Projects.

“About a year ago,” Hales began, “the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development declared getting all homeless veterans off the street and into some kind of housing.”

“Out of the 1,800 homeless individuals in Portland, almost 700 are veterans.”

In addition, 550 women sleep on



Jules Bailey speaks, while (from left) Charlie Hales, Bob Kieta, and Stacy Borke listen. The Nov. 16 community forum was on conversion of the former Sears Armory into a women's homeless shelter. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

the streets every night in Portland. So in order to address the problem, Hales declared a state of emergency in September expediting the process of getting homeless people off the street and waiving zoning laws.

After touring the empty armory

in late October, Hales, Bailey, and Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury decided that it would be unconscionable to leave an empty building that the city owns while people sleep outside.

Rick Nitti, executive director of

Neighborhood House, reminded everyone that the Multnomah Neighborhood Association recommended the property be converted into affordable housing back in 2012.

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## TechConnect showcases technology education at Jackson Middle School

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

It may not seem possible, but the first cellular telephone call was made 42 years ago. A lot has happened since that large brick of a gadget debuted.

A local technology event was held Nov. 18 at Jackson Middle School that not only addressed the latest news on gadgetry and software, but how it should be integrated in the school setting.

But more importantly, a need for balance, play, and imagination is required. Are some of the five senses shutting down due to technology?

The Jackson cafeteria was the scene of robots, crude electronics, science fiction technology and even a mayor, principals, geeks, filmmakers, parents, students of all ages, and the elderly.

What kind of event could possibly draw such a mix of individuals under one roof? Not even a concert or blockbuster film could possibly bring such an eclectic crowd together.

But Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. was able to pull it off. The SWNI Schools Committee organized a TechConnect summit on Nov. 18 and had a variety of sponsors to make it all possible.

Will Fuller, the tireless community advocate and chair of SWNI's school committee said he was pleased at the turnout. Fuller was asked if he'd do it again.

“We hope so,” Fuller said as he collected raffle tickets for a Chromebook drawing. (The Chromebook is a new, faster computer.)

The main part of the evening featured Darren Hudgins, a former secondary education teacher and Google certified innovator. He shared images that engaged the audience as they had to bring out their phones or tablets to follow along.

Hudgins works for Oregon Educational Technology and Curriculum and addressed innovative technology at schools integrating them into the learning process.

He compared what schools were like in the past and how they are now.

Examples included a website called Google Treks that now take the place of field trips which are very costly for schools.

Notes that used to be passed in class are now Snapchats - short messages or photos that disappear within ten seconds. Cursive handwriting is being dropped in many schools, replaced by computer tablets and laptops. And the famed Thomas Guide map book is now obsolete as a new smart phone app called Waze shows how to avoid traffic jams and elude traffic cops.

He also shared apps that can help math students through arithmetic problems. By clicking on a math problem, the app does the rest much to the dismay of teachers.

The room was full of community partners showing off their programs and technology. Wilson High school had their robotics team. Free Geek demonstrated how volunteers can get free computers. Students shared their cardboard electronic projects.

Organizations, such as Home Forward, Neighborhood House

and the SUN School Program also sponsored the event.

Wilson High School student Christopher Polanco who stopped briefly for an interview for *The Post* said he had to continue filming as he was making a documentary of the entire program. With headphones and the camera pointed towards his subject he counted down three, two, one...Action. The future has arrived. For more information please go to #techconnect2015 on Twitter.



Christopher Polanco, a Wilson High School filmmaker, films a short documentary of the TechConnect event Nov. 18 at Jackson Middle School. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

Subscription information on Page 2. Happy Holidays from all of us at The Post!

The Southwest Portland Post  
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509  
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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Former Sears Armory *should* be used as a shelter for homeless people**

Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen vows she is "shocked and appalled" at [Portland Mayor Charlie Hales'] recent effort to address Portland's housing emergency by opening a temporary shelter at the former armory in Multnomah [November 2015 letter].

She claims that the City is "dumping

these people on Southwest Portland."

Really, Ms. Waitman-Ingebretsen? You aren't shocked at the numbers of Portlanders losing their housing because of skyrocketing rents and heartless evictions? You aren't appalled at the conditions that some families are forced to live in on the streets around us?

Instead you are indignant over an honest effort to provide basic shelter to some of the most vulnerable amongst us?

The mayor's measured plan for a temporary housing facility in Multnomah, primarily for women and families, has touched off a vigorous debate on social media, with a very troubling surge of ugly NIMBYism [not in my backyard] in Multnomah.

Fortunately, cooler heads have prevailed and plans for temporary housing in Multnomah are proceeding quickly, hopefully in time to provide shelter for over a hundred souls for Thanksgiving.

Ms. Waitman-Ingebretsen, you don't speak for me or for the neighbors I know in Multnomah. I, for one, salute the political courage of the mayor and welcome this belated effort to begin to address the homeless crisis all around us.

Chris Dearth  
Multnomah

**Need for up-zoning in the Multnomah neighborhood should be questioned**

**OPEN FORUM**

By Jerry L. Ward

Regarding, "Portland Comprehensive Plan: Multnomah Village neighbors fight for corridor at mixed-use forum," by Erik Vidstrand, *The Post*, November 2015.

I want to thank Multnomah Neighborhood Association and [Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.] for all the efforts they and have made to "fight" the extreme up-zoning that our planning and political bureaucrats have been trying to foist on all of our city's neighborhoods through the [Portland] Comprehensive Plan 2035 process.

I want to make three points that I've experienced representing South Portland NA (formerly Corbett/Terwilliger/Lair Hill NA) as land use chairman, Portland Development Commission, North Macadam Urban Renewal Advisory Committee representative, and as a longtime Portland architect/planner.

First, several years back after completing the Macadam Avenue Improvement Project and our own (Johns Landing) Design Zone the Planning Bureau thought that much of the Johns Landing area needed to be rezoned.

It was an attempt to up-zone even though they tried to sell it as tweak-zoning to better reflect how the area had changed and better anticipate the future. The future they wanted was more density and introduction of more commercial/retail, denser housing, etc.

Carl Simons (president) and I questioned (with the board's approval) the need for up-zoning, and said the present zoning allowed for the growth they were anticipating.

We spent months cataloging all the zoning and what had already been built. We discovered that the build-out was less than 50 percent of what the present zoning allowed.

We also commissioned a traffic study using an unbiased traffic engineering firm from Seattle to show that if the proposed up-zoning was allowed, even with the completed Macadam improvements, that there would be over three major traffic intersection "F" failures (the worse) along Macadam Avenue plus several neighborhood streets, like Corbett Street would reach "F."

We presented these findings

throughout the process and were able to prevent the up-zoning. Our studies proved to be true and there still remains after almost 20 years much capacity for growth in the Johns Landing area with the existing zoning.

I think these same findings would apply to Multnomah Village. I encourage the Multnomah NA to demand the [Bureau of Planning and Sustainability] prove that the present zoning hasn't the capacity for several decades of growth.

Also building taller isn't always the solution to adding density within the present zoning, or what the planners are proposing from going from CS to CM2. Many times FAR (floor area ratio), density can occur in the present zoning of an area.

Second, Metro, Portland State University, TriMet, and [Portland] city planners have consistently predicted more population growth than actuality.

For the past decade the predictions have been over seven percent while it's [actually] been around 1.5 percent. Once again planners in the 2035 process have been predicting high growth rates.

All of their predictions for the past 40 years have been wrong. The planning population projections should be strongly questioned. Large planning assumptions are being made based on this one false premise.

Third, many citizens are not aware how these minor or major up-zonings or even "small" changes within building codes can increase property taxes immensely.

The recent media attention about "granny flats" [detached accessory dwelling units] that allowed for a total reappraisal of property [by Multnomah County assessors] to more than double one's property taxes demonstrates this.

Neighborhood plans, even with minor changes affects appraisals. And they even have appraisal effects beyond the boundary of a planning area; it leaks to nearby properties and sometimes beyond.

Even those who expect change over time, and realize that values most of the time goes up, should be fearful of how these neighborhood plans affects their ability to continue to be a vibrant citizen of their neighborhoods and not to be displaced.

This applies to all categories of citizens-homeowners, renters, commercial/business owners. This point should be clearly stated to all citizens as well as all

(Continued on Page 3)

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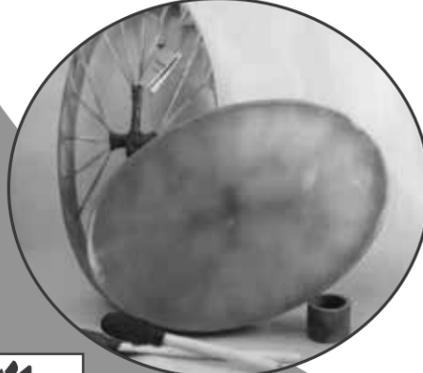
  

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Dear Earthtalk: My neighbor uses Roundup in her yard routinely and tells me it's harmless to people and pets, but I've heard that it is carcinogenic. Can you set the record straight?

—Maise Alexander, New Hope, PA

Monsanto's Roundup herbicides contain three key components: the active ingredient glyphosate, water, and a soap-like surfactant blend. The agricultural application of glyphosate has skyrocketed over the past 20 years.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey's "Estimated Agricultural Use for Glyphosate" map, in 2012 over 250 million pounds of glyphosate were used on crops in across the country—a substantial increase from the less than 22 million pounds used in 1992.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has classified the cancer-causing potential of glyphosate as Category E ("evidence of non-carcinogenicity for humans"), but the International Agency for Research on Cancer recently re-classified it as a group 2A "probable" carcinogen.

IARC's recent evaluation of glyphosate found "limited evidence of carcinogenicity in humans for non-Hodgkin lymphoma" and "convincing evidence that glyphosate also can cause cancer in laboratory animals."

Monsanto struck back, stating that the IARC's conclusion "conflicts with the overwhelming consensus by regulatory bodies and science organizations around the world...which have found no evidence of carcinogenicity."

Monsanto added: "Further, the 2A classification does not establish a link between glyphosate and an increase in cancer. 'Probable' does not mean that glyphosate causes cancer; even at 100 times the exposure that occurs during normal labeled use glyphosate is not a human health risk."

In September 2015, in response to the IARC findings, the California EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment announced its intent to list

glyphosate as a carcinogen under the state's Proposition 65 law.

In California, businesses are required to provide "a clear and reasonable warning" before knowingly and intentionally exposing anyone to a Proposition 65 listed chemical.

Once a chemical is listed, businesses have a year to comply with the warning requirements. The agency accepted public comments until Oct. 20 on whether glyphosate should be listed under Proposition 65.

"If they decide to list this chemical [under Proposition 65] and it survives the inevitable legal challenges, I think it's possible that every bottle of Roundup or glyphosate formulation sold in the state of California would have to be labeled as known...to cause cancer," Nathan Donley, a staff scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity, told Pacific Standard.

"It would be a huge deterrent for the purchase of this product, at least in that state." Donley added that Monsanto has created a "false narrative" that glyphosate is safe.

"That position clearly can't be maintained anymore...and I think

it will probably be a precursor for hopefully federal action, at least federal acknowledgment that glyphosate does cause cancer."

In addition to the threat of a warning label on their glyphosate products in California, Monsanto is currently facing lawsuits by two people claiming that Roundup caused their cancers.

Enrique Rubio filed suit on Sept. 22 in Los Angeles, claiming that the bone cancer he was diagnosed with back in 1995 was a result of spraying fields of crops with Roundup and other pesticides.

The second lawsuit, filed on the same day in New York by Judi Fitzgerald, claims she was exposed to Roundup when she worked at a horticultural products company in the 1990s. Fitzgerald was diagnosed with leukemia in 2012.

Contacts: Monsanto, [www.monsanto.com](http://www.monsanto.com); EPA, [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov); IARC, [www.iarc.fr](http://www.iarc.fr); Center for Biological Diversity, [www.biologicaldiversity.org](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org).

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## OPEN FORUM

(Continued from Page 2)

the planning entities.

These points apply to all the neighborhoods of Portland, all are part of the Portland Comprehensive Plan 2035. The neighborhood coalitions, as well as all the over 90 neighborhood associations should carefully review the

effects of what our planners are doing to us, and not necessarily for us.

Editor's Note: Jerry L. Ward is an architect and planner who lives in South Portland. The Post welcomes reader response. What's your opinion? Write us a letter (up to 300 words) or contact Don Snedecor at 503-244-6933 or [don@multnomahpost.com](mailto:don@multnomahpost.com) if you are interested in writing a guest column.

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# Neighborhood House progressive dinner includes food and education

By KC Cowan  
The Southwest Portland Post

On a crisp late October evening, a couple dozen people gathered at the Neighborhood House Senior Center for wine and cheese. It was the first stop of a three-step progressive dinner that was part “thank you” and part “education” event for the nonprofit.

“We came up with this idea a number of years ago,” said Neighborhood House executive director Rick Nitti, “and it’s one of the more popular strategies we have. It’s nice. It’s fun. We get to feed people, thank people and educate them.”

For example, a major goal of the senior center is to reduce social isolation among seniors. Portland’s Westside has the fastest growing number of residents over 60 years old in the city.

According to Janice Jones, aging services program manager for Neighborhood House, the senior center provides counseling services, transportation for shopping or medical appointments, and general assistance, from finding caregivers and housing to legal and insurance issues.

Guests then piled into two of the Neighborhood House buses for the next stop, the new Child Care Center at Stephens Creek Crossing (6650 SW Capitol Hwy).

First came a tour of the three classrooms for pre-school Head Start programs, each brightly decorated with en-suite bathrooms, cozy reading nooks, and a small kitchenette to warm meals.

Some 150 three to five-year-old children are enrolled in classes geared to give them a good start on their education.

Neighborhood House sponsors additional youth programs at local schools to keep roughly 4000 students on track in school. Mari Yerger, development director for Neighborhood House, said it’s more than just helping with homework.

“Low income kids are at risk of dropping out and just not being able to take advantage of their education if they’re too hungry or too stressed out by not having a place to live,” Yerger said.

“So, we have a rental assistant program that focuses on keeping children in place so they can stay in the same school so they don’t bounce around from school to school.”

In the downstairs multi-purpose room of the Child Care Center, guests got to know each other over a Mediterranean style dinner, courtesy of World Foods. Rob Kass and his wife moved to the Hillsdale area a year and a half ago, and were looking for a nonprofit to support.

“This is amazing,” Kass said. “I think this is something we could get more involved with, definitely.”

Nina Clippard serves as neighborhood ministries coordinator at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. She and her pastor, Brett Webb-Mitchell, are strong supporters.

“We went to Neighborhood House and asked what we could do. We want to be sure we do all we can to meet the needs of the community,” Clippard said.

“Life is really about showing up,” said Webb-Mitchell. “It’s a matter of

us being present to sustain and build relationships with our congregation and Neighborhood House.”

Over dinner, Nitti explained Neighborhood House’s partnership with Home Forward. The housing authority built 144 apartments in Stephen’s Creek Crossing. This replaced the former Hillsdale Terrace housing project.

Many of the residents are immigrants and Saalim-Saalim, from Kenya, gave a speech thanking Neighborhood House for their assistance with everything from food boxes and utility payments to Headstart classes for his four sons.

“They are all fluent in English now, and they can read and write,” he said, proudly.

The last stop was at Southwest Hope, the largest food pantry on the west side. Over home-baked brownies, foodbox coordinator Neal Nyssen said the charity provides food for 530 families a month. Twenty percent come back for a second box each month—something most pantries do not provide.

“It’s a shopping style food pantry,” Nyssen said. “The only requirement is that they live in the service area. That being said, if someone (out of the neighborhood) was really in need, we wouldn’t send them home empty-handed.”

Donations come from four grocery stores, the Oregon Food Bank, the Hillsdale Farmers Market, and backyard



Neal Nyssen said nobody leaves the Neighborhood House food pantry empty-handed. (Post photo by KC Cowan)

produce from local residents. A crew of dedicated volunteers helps keep the pantry running smoothly.

The progressive dinner kicks off Neighborhood Houses’ Partnership Campaign. The evening was not just a fundraiser, but a “friend-raiser” intended to showcase both the need in Southwest and how Neighborhood House hopes to meet them.

Nitti says last year they raised \$200,000. They hope to exceed that by another \$20,000 this year.

“We’ve got pretty big goals for our fundraising,” Nitti said. “And it mostly comes from individuals. Basically, I’m trying to create new business lines for us that set us for the future.”

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**HOLIDAY GUIDE**

By KC Cowan and Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post

**3 Art Sale:** The Multnomah Art Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy) will hold its annual winter sale the first weekend of December. Buy original art for your holiday gifts. Everything is crafted by MAC students and instructors and includes ceramics, weaving, jewelry, paintings, wood-works, photography and more. Proceeds support local arts education and local artists. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 3 and 4 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**4 Multnomah Village Holiday Gala:** Fun for the whole family beginning on Friday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. when Santa Claus shows up. Enjoy live music, horse drawn carriage rides, and special events at local businesses. It culminates with the tree lighting in front of Neighborhood House at 6:42 p.m. And don't forget to buy your wreaths and holiday swags available from Troop 229! Then Saturday, Dec. 5, at 8 a.m., enjoy the Kiwanis Breakfast with Santa fundraiser at the Lucky Lab Brewpub. Later, decorate your own gingerbread house at Riversgate Church, 7634 SW Capitol Hwy.

**6 Festival of Lights:** Congregation Neveh Shalom holds its Chanukah Festival for families. Kids can create their own menorah, make sufganiyot (jelly donuts), play dreidel, enjoy a story time, music and dancing. Free and open to all. Sunday, Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Congregation Neveh Shalom is located at 2900 SW Peaceful Lane. For more information, call 503-293-7309.

**12 Children's Choir:** The Heart of the Valley Children's Choir performs a holiday program at the Central Library, 801 SW 10th Ave. Saturday, Dec. 12, 10:45 a.m. The choir was founded 31 years ago and is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing musical experiences for the youth of Oregon's mid-Willamette Valley. Free. For more information, call 503-988-5123.

**Quilling:** Take your Christmas cards to a new level. Create a beautiful, three-dimensional piece of art using paper strips. Quilling is the age-old art of paper curling, invented in the 16th century by French and Italian monks

as a way to embellish book covers. Learn the basics at the Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd. on Saturday, Dec. 12, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Registration required; register online, in the library or by calling 503-988-5234.

**15 Swap Meet:** Just in time for the holidays! Clean out your closets, attics, and basements, then bring good, unwanted items (mostly small) to this free swap. Put out your items then you can browse for something to take home. Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 6-8 p.m. at the Garden Home Community Library, 7306 SW Oleson Road. Accepted items: clothing, small appliances, books, jewelry, small furniture, games, and décor. Anything left at the end of the night will be donated to local charity.

**18 The Best Christmas Pageant Ever:** What happens when the worst kids in town nab all the main parts in the Christmas pageant? Lots of laughter. This classic holiday play opens on Dec. 18 and runs through Dec. 23 with evening and matinee shows. All performances at the Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S.

State Street in Lake Oswego. For ticket reservations call 503-635-3901 or order online at [www.lakewood-center.org](http://www.lakewood-center.org).

**19 The Christmas Ships:** The holiday fleet will be hosting a "Meet & Greet" event on Saturday, Dec. 19, 3-5:30 p.m. on the public dock in front of the RiverPlace Hotel, 1510 SW Harbor Way (Three blocks south of the Hawthorne Bridge). See the Christmas Ships up close and personal, meet the captains, take pictures, meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, or just enjoy the holiday season with these amazing sailors. Parade to Lake Oswego follows this event.

**20 A Holiday Postcard:** Celebrate the season with an all-Baroque holiday program featuring Handel's "Messiah." The Portland Chamber Orchestra will also include works by Corelli and Vivaldi. Paired with the concert is an exhibition titled "Beyond the Score" featuring 70 years of photo history of the Portland Chamber Orchestra. Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. at the Agnes Flanagan Chapel, Lewis & Clark College, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Road. For ticket information, call 503-771-3250.

**31 New Year's Eve at Noon:** Can't stay up late to ring in 2016? Come enjoy arts and crafts, games, bouncy house, dancing, snacks, and count down to 2016 at noon, instead of midnight! The fun is at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy. on Thursday, Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 pm. From 12:30-2 p.m. there will be a Pool Float Party. Free.

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# Advisory committee works on final designs for Spring Garden Park

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

It takes a village to raise a child and the same can be said for a park. That is exactly what's been happening now for almost seven years.

Now that Portland Parks & Recreation has granted Spring Garden Park \$3.5 million, designs have been submitted and a series of meetings have been taking place the past year.

The most recent one was held on Nov. 18 at the Multnomah Arts Center.

A diverse project advisory committee consists of neighbors including youth. There is already a natural play area which includes logs, large rocks, sand, and crude paths through a wild meadow.

"That was funded several years ago by the new Multnomah Umpqua Bank,"

community member Lori Howell said. Howell's committee, Friends of Spring Garden Park, applied for and received the \$10,000 grant.

Travis Ruybal, a native of Southwest Portland, is a landscape architect and project manager. Also assigned to the project is Hun Taing, community engagement coordinator and mother of three.

At the Nov. 18 meeting, Ruybal led the group through each detailed comment from a community survey. They addressed issues as simple as which way a path should go and to where to put trees in for shade.

To make sure that the area is still available for winter sledding, plans call for the hill to be retained but gently sloped so people in wheelchairs and elderly folks can enjoy the park without difficulty.

The top two issues that still pose

questions are what to do about dogs and teens. Almost 50 percent of the respondents have stated they do not want off-leash areas for dogs.

The park is a popular place for star gazing for adults and the natural area provides lots of creative play for young children.

But when it comes to teenagers, the group has had some trouble figuring out the best ways to include them without sacrificing areas designed for certain activities.

It was suggested that some large rocks be placed for the teens to "hang-out" and an area to play soccer, or throw a football or Frisbee, without interference.



Travis Ruybal discusses the refinement of three proposed garden plans for Spring Garden Park. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

The next community gathering will be on Jan. 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. to review final plans. Ground breaking is scheduled for August 2016. For more information, please email hun.taing@portlandoregon.gov or visit the Portland Parks & Recreation website.

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## Homeless Shelter

(Continued from Page 1)

Due to the “Great Recession,” and lack of funding for housing, the Portland City Council instead unanimously voted to make the site an emergency management center complete with fueling stations, equipment, and a communications command post.

But the building and property has sat empty for the past four years while the city has tried to come up with funding.

The city’s plan is this: shuttle buses will transport everyone by 6 p.m., open it up for others if beds are not filled, then return in the morning to transport everyone to services downtown closing the armory by 9 a.m.

In response to concerns about the shelter remaining open 24/7, Borke explained that it will be an incentive to return downtown for meals, access to case managers, and other resources.

“Transition Projects has experience and is fully equipped to adequately run the shelter every evening,” Borke assured some in the audience. During the day, improvements will begin on the future emergency center including Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Kieta explained that \$1 million is allocated for these improvements including a fueling station.

Concerns about funding, permanent solutions, and safety were addressed. A recurring theme was what would happen when the six months were up.

“We have no choice but to be out after 180 days,” Hales reassured the audience of over 150 people. “The feds are only allowing this as a temporary solution until more permanent housing is created.”

Hales confessed the location was

not ideal as there are not adequate services or convenient transit in the area.

*Editor’s Note: While Neighborhood House and Meals on Wheels charities in Multnomah Village are both busy meeting the needs of their own community clients, refugees, and the elderly, couldn’t they help?*

Another major concern was security. The principal of the Westside Christian School said that the armory is adjacent the school grounds. Hales replied that he has alerted Portland Police Chief Larry O’Dea and that the program has the full cooperation of the police.

“I’m compassionate,” Marcia Waugh began, “but as a neighbor what’s the biggest concern I need to be aware of?”

“Just because they’re homeless doesn’t make them monsters!” one woman interrupted her.

“We can’t guarantee safety,” Borke said. However, Borke said, “We have other four other shelters and have good neighbor agreements with all of them.”

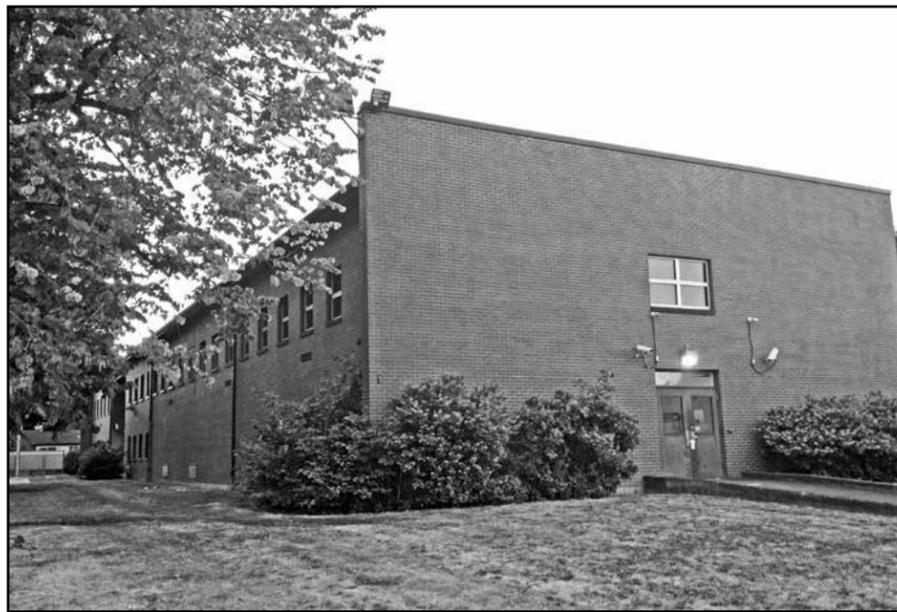
The armory has barbed wire with bright orange halogen lights along residential properties.

“A [telephone] hotline will be set up with a single point of contact,” Hales added.

But a neighbor who said it took over a year to inquire about a pothole without successful results was skeptical. People snickered.

“I’m upset at the hostility and fear from this group!” exclaimed one woman, a social worker. “I fear for the homeless women! We should be collecting items and offering one hour a week to help out some way.”

A new resident of the area asked what the community could do to help out. She was told to tap into local religious institutions and nonprofit opportunities. Blankets, toiletries,



The Portland City Council recently declared a state of emergency regarding affordable housing and homelessness. The former Sears Armory will house a homeless shelter for the next six months. (Post file photo by Erik Vidstrand)

coats, and other clothing are always in demand and there will be future volunteer opportunities.

When asked about the possibility of opening up the Wapato jail, Commissioner Bailey said the county had looked into it thoroughly but due to legal issues, it was not an option.

The Wapato facility cost \$59 million and took two years to construct but was never opened in 2004. It holds 550 beds, has a large kitchen, multiple showers, and its own emergency room.

When audience members pressed Bailey, he still could not share reasons.

“Please tell us what the legal issues are,” asked Stu Ellis, a long time resident, whose property is near the former armory.

Bailey continued to skirt the issue, saying he wasn’t an attorney. Carol McCarthy, Multnomah Neighborhood Association chair, asked to see written documents.

People were concerned about camping on the property. Kieta said camping would not be allowed. Borke was asked about the women who would be housed. Would they be screened for drugs and paraphernalia? Will meals be served?

“Two-thirds of the women have mental health issues and disabilities,” Borke shared, “and no, they won’t be screened, however, there is a zero tolerance policy about alcohol and drugs.”

Hales added, “There will be a Thanksgiving Day meal but then no other meals after that.”

Hales finished by saying that information sharing will continue to take place and that another meeting can take place in the neighborhood as needed.

*Reporter’s Note: For more information, email mayorcharliehales@portlandoregon.gov, or call the Portland Mayor’s office at 503-823-4120.*

## Latest construction tour includes rerouting of traffic along Macadam Avenue

### SELLWOOD BRIDGE

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

On one of the very first cool days of autumn, Mike Pullen, a county communications director, escorted this reporter on a tour of the Sellwood Bridge construction.

The summer and autumn fair weather has helped with the progress of the project according to Pullen. On this day, workers were pouring

concrete even though there was a slight drizzle. The bridge span actually lowered a full six inches as the thick concrete set. It was designed that way.

“The concrete is thicker in places for the possibility of future streetcar tracks,” Pullen explained. “We are planning ahead in case there is a demand someday.”

According to Pullen, no MAX light rail trains will cross the bridge.

The old bridge is literally feet away from walls and windows of a large condominium unit on the north side of the bridge. This will be removed

once the new bridge becomes fully functional.

“The neighbors have been super patient with this over the years,” Pullen said.

Comments about going over budget have been consistent. Pullen explained that these necessary additions, or as Pullen calls it, ‘scope creep’, can be found a distance away from the actual bridge footprint.

“We couldn’t just build a bridge and call it good,” Pullen said.

“There won’t be a south sidewalk over the river,” Pullen added saying that they will have extra wide sidewalk on the north side.

Landslide containment with retaining walls graces the west slope of Macadam Avenue (Highway 43). Workers are also shoring up the bank with vegetation and sturdy netting.

Some trees had to be removed due to construction right-of-ways but residents of the Macadam Bay houseboat community complained about light pollution from the new street halogen lights.

Driveways and utility lines even had to be rerouted to the houseboat community and a luxury automobile dealership.

Along the east side of the highway, the trolley tracks were dug up but are being replaced eventually and a bike path is being added. A pedestrian walkway continues north all the way to Willamette Park which is almost a quarter mile from the foot of the

bridge.

Even a route to the Willamette River for kayakers and other light boats is being constructed.

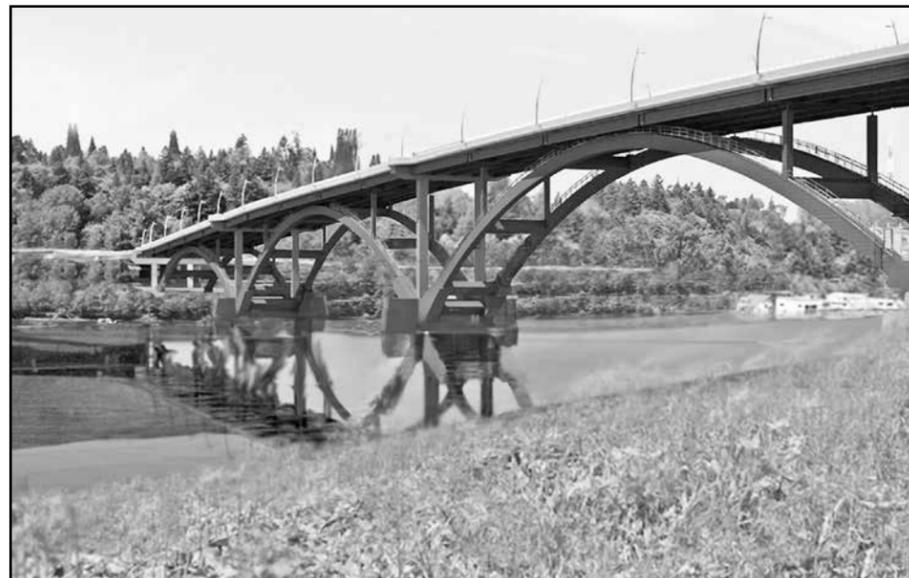
Of course, bioswales have to be constructed, part of the Bureau of Environmental Services requirements to contain runoff water. Reestablishing vegetation including trees is a priority. Even the mouth of Stephen’s Creek received attention allowing the creek to flow into the river eventually allowing salmon to access the creek.

Traffic updates continue through a weekly email that people can sign up for. Pullen noted that the northbound lane of Hwy. 43 now uses the new interchange ramps and the southbound through lane travels under the new bridge. This will continue until summer 2016.

Southbound traffic uses the right outside lane to access the bridge (not the left lane as before). The left lane is used for through traffic (Portland to Lake Oswego). The southbound TriMet bus stop by the cemetery is closed until summer.

Shifting the traffic creates space for the contractor to build the second through lane under the bridge.

Pullen emphasized that there will be no delays or closures during the holiday season. The bridge is still expected to open in early spring. For a diagram of the new Sellwood Bridge construction, visit [www.sellwoodbridge.org](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org).



Conceptual rendering of the new Sellwood Bridge, looking west. (Photo courtesy of Multnomah County)

## Multnomah singer/songwriter Kelsey Mousley brings soulful sound to her band

By Jack Rubinger  
The Southwest Portland Post

Kelsey Mousley sings with a big smile on her face. That is the first thing you notice when you see her play.

The second thing is the groove, and then the third thing is the feeling. She reminds me a lot of British soul singer Joss Stone.

The 31-year-old singer/songwriter has many reasons to be happy. Her band, Kelsey and The Next Right Thing, is sounding tight.

They have got some fun and exciting upcoming gigs, their recordings are selling and everyone in the band is on the same page musically and emotionally.

This newspaper started paying attention to Mousley when her band played during the Multnomah Days Festival back in August.

They are preparing for a gig on Jan. 7 at the White Eagle Saloon in North Portland. A band named Colorworks (from Seattle) will be playing that night as well.

Mousley is keeping busy. Her day job is as a dental assistant for Dr. Lisa Jensen at Multnomah Village Dental Care where she takes care of patients.

She practices every Tuesday night with her band. She has an upcoming solo album. Plus, she's always working on new material.

With influences including Stevie Wonder, Toots & The Maytals, Herbie

Hancock, The Meters, and The Rolling Stones, the band sank deeply into the funk at a recent rehearsal I attended (and later joined for a couple of tunes on saxophone).

While Mousley writes all the music for this project and sings all the tunes, this is definitely a cooperative group.

With intricate parts, tight arrangements and soulful solos, it's clear that everyone is experienced and can shred when the feeling and time is right.

Between tune patter was the typical band stuff — comments about little filly things in the chorus, an appreciation of the bass and kick locked in, applause for building during solos, encouragement to come out of the bridge quick and stretch out the buildup part.

The band has five members: Mousley on guitar and vocals, Ben Grossen handling the bass, Brad Warshaur on lead guitar, Jody Redifer on drums and Nate Croteau on keyboards.

Each has their job and each is focused on doing that and listening intently to each other.

To a non-musician, it looks easy. But it takes lots of practice to make a groove work. Redifer's high-hat work, for example, is subtle and his rolls are jazzy.

Croteau shifts from a gospel organ sound to Rhodes electric piano sound that reminds me of Grover Washington's "Mister Magic" album. Warshaur does a lot rhythmic



Kelsey and The Next Right Thing play Jan. 7 at the White Eagle Saloon.

accompaniment, but he also cuts loose from time to time.

Originally from Astoria, Mousley moved to Portland several years ago and the band's been together for three and a half years. Redifer drafted most of the members who had either known of each other through reputation or played together in other bands.

What I heard at their rehearsal was a rich mix of side neck swaying slow jams, funk tunes, some Latin beats, a bit of reggae and lots of throwback R&B — mostly originals like "Here We Are," "No News," and "One in a Room," and covers like Amy Winehouse's "Valerie" and Joe

Walsh's "Funk #49."

"We're all about mixing tension and release," said Mousley. "All these guys can shred if they want to, like Nate really kills it on the keys, but in this band, we're focusing mostly on the total sound and getting the right feeling down."

"Yeah, feeling is king," said Warshaur. Mousley's personal influences include Jill Scott, Etta James, Aretha Franklin, and jazz singer Gretchen Parlato.

"It'll get there," said Warshaur when the band was packing up. "This was a good rehearsal. Really productive. The band is taking shape. There's a whole band feel collective."




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