

South Portland neighborhood association wins Spirit of Portland Award

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

South Portland has received the coveted Spirit of Portland Neighborhood of the Year Award, the first southwest neighborhood to be so honored in years. The Spirit of Portland Awards, selected by a jury of community leaders from nominations submitted by the public at large, honor individuals or groups that have contributed to the livability of the city.

Formerly Corbett-Terwilliger-Lair Hill, the South Portland Neighborhood Association was the main producer, together with the Portland Bureau of Parks, of a series of free summer concerts in Willamette Park, making them the first southwest neighborhood group to partner with parks on this popular program. This year there were five such concerts drawing more than 400 people each.

South Portland also contended with the creation of the South Waterfront area, a high-density residential enclave in what had been an industrial area, by both welcoming the newcomers – the group moved their meeting place to the Umpqua Bank in the bottom of the John Ross Building – while trying to protect the rights of the older community to the west.

The neighborhood association worked with the City of Portland to install traffic calming devices on Southwest Corbett Avenue. Additional efforts included planning the proposed pedestrian bridge beneath the aerial tram, the new Willamette Greenway and neighborhood parks.

South Portland has also been involved in planning the extension through the district of the Portland Streetcar, MAX light rail line to Milwaukie, a new transit bridge, and replacement of the Sellwood Bridge.

South Portland leaders were instrumental in the creation of a new neighborhood business association. Finally, the group was an active participant in the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition, where South Portland chair Ken Love served as coalition vice-chair.

"This is a real honor," Love told *The Post*.

"Thanks are due to our volunteer board who put in countless hours of work, and our partners such as Oregon Health and Sciences University, Umpqua Bank, the Portland French School and Johns Landing Automotive."

Members of the Portland City Council will present the awards to South Portland and other winners at a ceremony on Thursday, December 11 beginning at 2 p.m. in Council Chambers at City

NEWS BRIEFS

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Corbett neighborhood to get new water main

The Portland Water Bureau will be installing a new 36-inch water main in the Corbett area next year. The work will start at Southwest Kelly Avenue and Lane Street and proceed northward along Kelly to Curry Street, along Curry to First Avenue, along First to Porter Street, she said. The bureau hopes to lay 40 feet of pipe a day, and advance at the rate of one block every five days. The work should begin in late spring.

Sellwood Bridge task force favors new bridge

The Sellwood Bridge Task Force discussed options for replacement of the 1926 structure last month, and comments leaned heavily toward creation of a new bridge. There was virtually no support for the No Build option advanced by staff last month that would have simply addressed the worst of the existing structure's deficiencies and left it fit for use for the next 20 years.

The public will have a chance to weigh in on the issue this month. The task force will be accepting public testimony on the issue from 6 to 8:30 p.m. December 10 at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, 1945 S.E. Water Ave. People can also take an online survey at www.sellwoodbridge.org through December 22.

Southwest neighborhood coalition receives grant applications

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) received 21 applications for the latest round of Neighborhood Small Grants. For the last two years the City of Portland has awarded a total of a year \$200,000 to community groups through the Office of Neighborhood Involvement and the neighborhood offices such as SWNI for projects that "increase the capacity" of such groups, help increase outreach to "under-represented communities," and foster partnerships between neighborhood associations and other community groups.

Bicycle master plan

(Continued from Page 1)

median to be eliminated in favor of bike lanes.

In two places – Southwest Fifth Avenue leading to Barbur, and on Southwest 19th Avenue between Spring Garden and Troy streets – the report calls for eliminating a travel lane to allow for bike lanes. The report calls for a number of improvements for the I-405 overpasses that link southwest to downtown, especially devices to allow bikes to merge through traffic safely.

For Southwest Terwilliger Boulevard, already one of the city's most popular recreational and commuter bike routes, the report calls for a variety of changes, including the widening of "substandard" bike lanes.

Although discussions of the issues go back to 2006, Liden dates the start of the effort to spring 2007. As part of the process the group, a subcommittee of the Southwest Trails Committee, held two public open houses, and a community bike ride, to preview their ideas and gather public reaction.

In his purpose statement, Liden says he hopes the plan will "encourage the city to bring the same passion for bicycling, which has helped create a first-class system in other areas of the city, to southwest Portland."

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Also this month we commemorate the Boston Tea Party.
This took place December 16, 1773.



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