

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

By Lee Perlman  
The Southwest Portland Post

**Neighborhood coalition elects new officers**



Marianne Fitzgerald (Photo courtesy of SWNI)

The Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. board last month elected Marianne Fitzgerald of the Ash Creek neighborhood as their president. She succeeds Brian Russell of Multnomah, who is moving out of state.

Fitzgerald, who had chaired the SWNI Transportation Committee, outpolled Don Baack, former Hillsdale Neighborhood Association chair and chair of the SWNI Trails Committee, in a written ballot. Baack joined in the applause when the result was announced.

In another contested election, Jim McLaughlin of West Portland Park unseated incumbent Ken Love of South Portland for the First Vice President position. McLaughlin had originally announced that he would run for president, but later switched.

Sharon Keast of Arnold Creek won the Second Vice President position by default when Moses Ross of Multnomah,

who had also declared for the post, withdrew his name at the last minute.

Sharon Troutman of Marshall Park was unopposed as Treasurer, where she replaced Tom Schaper, as was Lee Buhler of South Portland, who was re-elected as Secretary.

**Spirit of Portland Award nominations due**

The Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement is once again accepting nominations for Spirit of Portland Awards. Given annually, these recognize groups or individuals who have contributed to the city's livability.

A citizen jury, under the direction of ONI, selects the winners from nominations submitted by the public at large.

The award categories are large or small business; community policing and public safety; emerging community leader; humanitarian; non-profit organization.

Additional categories include public involvement; community harmony; emergency preparedness; City employee of the year; independent spirit; outstanding partnership; Sandy Diedrich environmental stewardship; youth volunteer; and neighborhood of the year.

Nomination forms are available from ONI in City Hall or from the Southwest Neighborhood Office. The deadline for submissions is 4 p.m. August 5. For more information call 503-823-3881 or e-mail patrick.philpot@portlandoregon.gov.

**Water tanks approved; Ash Creek neighborhood appeals**

Hearings Officer Gregory Frank has approved a plan by the Tualatin Valley Water District to install a two million

gallon water tank at 6217 S.W. Garden Home Road, replacing two 500,000-gallon tanks at the site. The Ash Creek Neighborhood Association, which opposed the request, has appealed the decision to the Portland City Council. A hearing will be held at 2 p.m. July 14.

The Water District argued that the

proposed new tank would have little impact on its neighbors beyond the facilities already there. Ash Creek and immediate neighbors argued that the proposed tank would take up the entire property, loom over its neighbors, and affect their livability and property values.

**Southwest Hills NA opposes land partition of PDC leader Scott Andrews**

By Lee Perlman  
The Southwest Portland Post

A minor land partition is normally a very routine procedure. A pending request for one in the Southwest Hills has been anything but.

Scott Andrews is requesting a partition for his property at 1205 S.W. Myrtle Drive in order to create a new home site that he can sell.

The property comprises 28,000 square feet, and the R10 zoning allows one dwelling unit per 10,000 square feet of lot area, so the request would seem doable legally.

However, Andrews is proposing a second lot that is only 7,800 square feet, far less than the minimum the code demands.

Moreover, the parcel straddles a creek that Andrews proposes to fill, diverting the water into a new sewer pipe. He also plans to clear-cut most of the dense tree growth on the property.

"This goes against all the protections for land use in the City code, for natural resources in particular," Nancy Seaton of the Southwest Hills Residential League (SWHRL) told *The Post*.

SWHRL officially opposed the project. They suggested alternative ways to develop the property and held some negotiations with Scott's attorney, Bob

Evanson, including one at a SWHRL general meeting.

The neighborhood failed to achieve a meeting of minds, largely because Andrews refused to consider including the high ground of the property, where his own home is located and where development would be the least obtrusive, in the second home site.

"He didn't seem to want anyone muscling in on his home," Seaton said.

Normally, when such an application goes to the Bureau of Development Services, the assigned planner works with the applicant until they reach a proposal the City deems acceptable.

Not in this case. Planner Kate Green denied the application, finding that it failed to meet nearly all the relevant criteria.

Andrews appealed the decision, and in late April it went before a city hearings officer – where there was another anomaly. Rather than use one of the staff of attorneys it regularly employs as a hearings examiner, the city auditor's office contracted to use Beaverton attorney Ken Helm, who had never before performed this function, for the case.

SWHRL members speculated that it might have had something to do with the applicant's status. Andrews is chief executive officer of Melvin Mark Properties, one of the major downtown (Continued on Page 8)

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