

Reader's questions help shed light on Walgreens development

By Jillian Daley
The Southwest Portland Post

Many area residents have been keeping an eye on the Walgreens development at Southwest Capitol Highway and Barbur Boulevard – including Michael Ossar.

Ossar isn't sure the layout is appropriate, and he shared his concerns in a letter to *The Post*, which was published in the June 2012 edition. A city planner and Walgreens spokesman addressed issues Ossar raised about the future retail store and pharmacy.

"The footprint of the new Walgreens and its parking lot seems to take up almost the entire lot, coming within about a foot or so of the sidewalks," Ossar said. "I'm wondering whether this leaves any room at all for landscaping."

Ossar asked what landscaping is required for such a structure?

At least 15 percent of the 36,000-square foot lot located at 9855 SW Capitol Hwy must be set aside for landscaping, said Marguerite Feuersanger, a planner with the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. The building plans complied with city regulations,

Feuersanger said.

The 17,610 square-foot building's walls must be close to the street along Taylors Ferry Road and Capitol Highway, which are transit streets, Feuersanger said.

Buildings developed along transit streets are set near the road to make entrances convenient for people getting off of the bus.

Ossar said the city should look to the future when reviewing permits, paying attention to the Barbur Concept Plan, a city project intended to create a long-term vision to improve Barbur Boulevard, from central Portland to Tigard.

"It seems paradoxical that at a time when we have a Barbur Concept Plan looking into what to do about one of the ugliest streets in the city we should be allowing new outrages that we will have to live with for a long time," Ossar said. "Or am I unaware of planned improvements?"

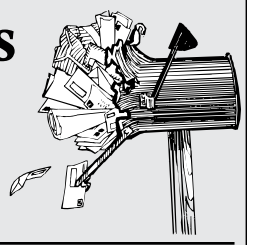
Robert Elfinger, a Walgreens spokesman said the building will have lots of attractive foliage.

"The plan calls for street trees, trees along the perimeter wall, smaller accent trees, shrubs, and ground cover," Elfinger said. "Maples, cypress, crabapple, rhododendron, and blue fescue are among the plants planned."

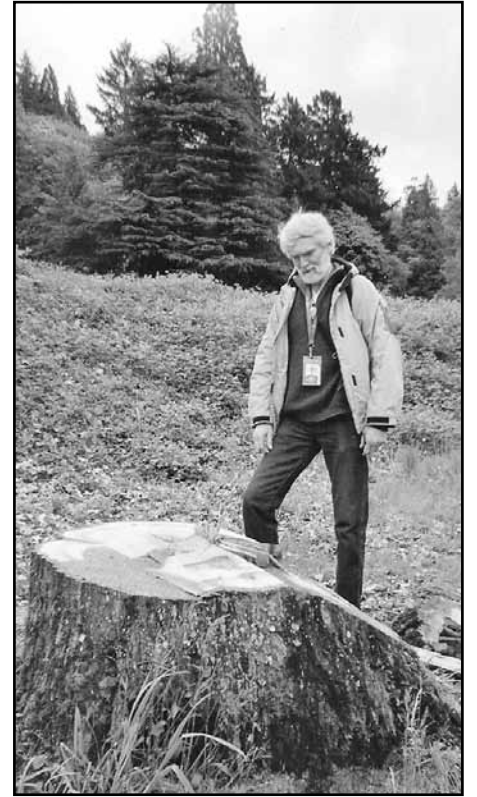


City officials say the new Walgreens building plans comply with setback and landscaping regulations. (Post photo by Jillian Daley)

Letters to the Editor



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Cutting down 800 trees damaged the forest canopy

I am enclosing this photo of myself standing near a tree cut down near the west end of the Sellwood Bridge.

Eight hundred trees, including old growth trees like this one, were killed by Multnomah County crews working at night during the month of April (2012).


The photo shows a fresh Douglas fir stump. As it grew, it would've supported many wildlife species.

The cutting [of the 800 trees] opened the forest canopy, which will allow more drying and erosion stress on the remaining trees.


Leaving the trees to grow bigger would've resulted in more, bigger, healthier trees (due to better survival success)-- meeting our human needs for a healthy forest.

Please-- save our forests for all of us!

Paul Gleason
Southwest First Avenue


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