

Grant brings Maplewood closer to finishing park project

MAPLEWOOD NOTEBOOK

By Jillian Daley
The Southwest Portland Post

A local grant brought the April Hill Park boardwalk and bridge project one step closer to fruition.

Maplewood Neighborhood Association chairwoman Jill Gaddis announced at the January meeting that Southwest Neighborhoods Inc., a nonprofit coalition of neighborhood associations, had awarded MNA a \$775 grant through its Small Grants Program.

The grant will support fundraisers

at April Hill Park, which will bring in dollars to build a boardwalk over a forested wetlands area at the park with delicate wildlife such as salamanders and newts. The fundraisers also will help create a bridge over Woods Creek.

"It will get people to experience the forest without disturbing the forest," Gaddis said.

The project-supporting fundraisers are "Arf in the Park" in September, which will feature dog obstacle courses, and an ice cream social in August during National Night Out.

Construction on the project could begin in 2014, and it has an estimated cost, including in-kind donations of labor, of \$100,000.



Maplewood Neighborhood Association is looking to add a boardwalk over wetlands and a bridge across Woods Creek at April Hill Park. (Post photo by Jillian Daley)

School district faces shortfall

In other business, the neighborhood association's schools chairwoman Keena Hormel mentioned Portland Public Schools' funding woes.

According to an article on the school district's website, Portland Public

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South Portland land use chair Jim Davis dead at 72

OBITUARY

Jim Davis, longtime land use chair of the South Portland Neighborhood Association, died last month of health problems related to lung cancer. He was 72 years old.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on February 15, 2013 at the Presbyterian Church of Laurelhurst, 935 NE 33rd Ave in Portland. Burial arrangements were by Riverview Cemetery.

Davis, proprietor of the Running Outfitter athletic apparel shop at 2337 SW Sixth Ave., was aggressive and often acerbic in defending what he saw as threats by development to the livability of his neighborhood.

Among many campaigns, he led the fight against the installation of a federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in South Portland.

"He had a gruff exterior, but if you got past that he had a soft heart," fellow South Portland board member Lee Buhler told *The Post*. "He went to bat for anyone in the neighborhood

having a land use issue. He took his job seriously."

Another board member, Jim Gardner, was often at odds with Davis on issues. However, Gardner told *The Post*, "We got along well. He had a great sense of humor and a dry wit."

According to Gardner, Davis "was relentless in fighting for the neighborhood, and he kept his eye on the big picture. It's hard to come up with people who give that much time and energy to their neighborhood."

In addition to his neighborhood volunteer activities and business, Davis published an annual calendar, "Portland Remembered," with each month illustrated by a vintage photograph of a familiar Portland street scene.

He donated proceeds from the calendar to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and other worthy causes.

"No one had more knowledge of land use law than Jim did," South Portland chair Ken Love said. "He was a great colleague and friend, and he will be missed."

— Lee Perlman

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AREA	DATE & TIME	PLACE
WEST	Tuesday, February 19 6 – 9 p.m.	Multnomah Arts Center 7688 SW Capitol Highway
NORTH	Tuesday, February 26 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.	De La Salle North Catholic High School 7528 N Fenwick Avenue
SOUTH EAST	Thursday, February 28 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Franklin High School 5405 SE Woodward Street
EAST	Saturday, March 2 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	David Douglas High School 1001 SE 135th Avenue
CENTRAL CITY	Tuesday, March 5 5 – 8 p.m.	PSU Smith Memorial Student Union 1825 SW Broadway
NORTH EAST	Saturday, March 9 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Beaumont Middle School 4043 NE Fremont
BUSINESS	Thursday, March 14 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Location to be determined

Find out more at www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/pdxcompplan



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