

Construction finally begins on Multnomah Village Green Street

THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

While the Multnomah Village Business Association met inside O'Connor's, about a dozen city workers in orange vests milled around outside.

With clipboards and coffee, city crews were planning the first phases of the stormwater and streetscape project.

To the chagrin of the business owners assembled, construction delays have taken place due to permit and insurance issues.

Work was originally supposed to start in January then was pushed to March.

According to Susan Terzo, public works inspector for the Bureau of Environmental Services, the new start date was scheduled for April 8 and even then, that date was delayed.

"Issues come up. We're working with a variety of contractors and

we need everything to be in place," explained Terzo.

As of this printing, gas company work has been completed, sewer work has begun, and large equipment and fencing have been brought in.

Signs for additional parking were delivered for posting courtesy of Environmental Services. The City has also placed ads in local newspapers (including *The Post*) announcing the green street project.

Village merchants are adamant about parking availability. Customers may park at the Multnomah Center's lower lot, a block and a half east. "We're asking all workers to park across from Multnomah Boulevard," another City employee insisted.

Employees are encouraged to park off main arteries or take public transportation.

Merchants are holding "Construction Wednesdays" which will offer a variety of discounts and promotions every Wednesday until the project is finished.

Completion is slated for June. "We hope so," said a business owner whose sidewalk will be torn up shortly.



Business owners Joan Steinbach of Thinker Toys and Michele Cassinelli of Village Beads post the OPEN sign in Multnomah Village. (Photo courtesy of Anne Bocci)

"I will be on the construction site most days," Terzo stressed. "Please speak with me if anything arises." Terzo can be reached at 503-823-6630 or susan.terzo@portlandoregon.gov.

Editor's Note: The Green Street project will include new street trees, benches and wider sidewalks between Southwest 35th and 36th avenues along Capitol Highway. Parking will be reoriented.

Riversgate Church seeks input on building to be redeveloped

Riversgate Church officials are planning to redevelop an existing facility and are asking for the community's participation.

Project coordinators recently unveiled design plans for their existing structure located at 7630 SW Capitol Hwy, at the east end of Multnomah Village.

Purchased several years ago, the now empty building is ready to be developed. Construction is scheduled for late spring or early summer 2014.

Riversgate has been conducting services in the Multnomah Center auditorium for the last ten years and envisions a multi-functional space that would be shared with the community.

"We need to bring the building up to code," stated Pastor Jeff Golden. "Now is the time for individuals to weigh in on creating spaces most useful for the community's needs."

Preliminary plans call for a large auditorium, several classrooms, full-size commercial kitchen, multi-use rooms, and lobby area.

Suggestions were offered to Riversgate project coordinators at the April meeting of the Multnomah Village Business Association.

One idea was to have space dedicated for authors to speak as Annie Bloom's Books is too small to hold a sizable audience.

As in any construction project, parking was brought up. Arrangements are being made with Loaves and Fishes according to church leaders.

According to Multnomah historian Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen, this building used to be an old car dealership in the 20s and has been most recently utilized as industrial manufacturing.

"We are working with our design (Continued on Page 6)



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Brian Rainka, Tom Barker, and Curt Lemrick of Riversgate Men's Group volunteer their Saturday on a demolishing assignment. (Photo courtesy of Tom Barker)

Multnomah Village
The Village in the Heart of Portland
goes green

Businesses are open during construction.

Additional parking is available at Multnomah Arts Center Lower West Lot.

Ad paid for by Environmental Services, City of Portland. WS 1318