

# Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post  
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509  
Portland, OR 97206  
Fax: (866) 727-5336  
email: editor@multnomahpost.com

prise--\$23 million for a 1.1 mile stretch is outrageous. Personally, I think that in order for any major transportation projects to be cost-effective in Southwest Portland, there may need to be some rethinking of priorities and rewriting of city code relating to sewer and stormwater facility construction. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

—Don Snedecor

## Does anyone remember 1st grade teacher Mrs. Newton?

Regarding "Old Multnomah: Do you remember a store in Multnomah called The Sewing Basket?" by Don Snedecor, The Post, January 2014

I read the article in the SW Portland Post about The Sewing Basket. No, I can't help you with that, but I have some information about a first-grade teacher at Multnomah School that I thought you would find interesting.

This teacher's name was Bessie Newton, and it was said that if a child had her as a first-grade teacher, that child would do very well in school. She told my grandson he should read cereal boxes!

Mrs. Newton lived in Multnomah Village for many years and then lived in Beaverton until the end of her life. She had a lovely home and garden here and was very disappointed that the new owners didn't give it her kind of care.

A few years ago there was going to be a parade honoring the old school and teachers, but unfortunately, Mrs. Newton died before the parade was going to take place. Someone in the Multnomah Historical Association might have knowledge about this.

I also know a painting contractor who went through the third grade at

Multnomah when the school closed. His sister was there through grade 8.

Janet Lang

**Editor's Note:** Thank you for your letter, Janet. The Post won a grand award in 2001 (the ribbon still hangs in my office) for our Multnomah Days Parade entry which featured a horse-drawn carriage carrying several past Multnomah School principals. Multnomah School operated as a grade school from 1919 to 1979. It later became the Multnomah Center. More information on the history of the school is available at [www.multnomahhistorical.com](http://www.multnomahhistorical.com).

## Corrections to the story on Guild of Oregon Woodworkers

Regarding, "Guild of Oregon Woodworkers relocates to Multnomah Village," by Erik Vidstrand, The Post, January 2014.

We enjoyed the article about the guild a lot, thank you.

Two changes that need to be made. SawStop, of Tualatin, donated the SawStop table saw to the guild, not Roy Underhill. We are renting the space from Greenline and Patrick O'Neill. They did not "donate" it to the guild.

Our membership, now over 500, is open to anyone that is interested in woodworking.

About a third of our members are from Southwest Washington, a third from east of the Willamette [River] and the other third from west of the Willamette.

Over 10 percent are women, and we now can have high school students working with a parent in the shop.

Thanks, again for the nice article.

Gig Lewis  
President

## Heisler to discuss her recent book at the Hillsdale Library

First of all, I am an occasional patron of the Hillsdale Library, where I picked up a copy of the most recent Southwest Portland Post.

Thank you for your good work, especially in connecting the community through events, and writing about important topics such as protecting people and the environment (Capitol Highway reworking, Earth Talk), as well as providing updates from neighborhood association meetings.

Secondly, I am a board member of the Portland cultural nonprofit Zeitgeist Northwest, and I wanted to bring an upcoming event to your attention should you wish to include it in the next edition of the paper.

Zeitgeist Northwest will be presenting a book talk by Barbara Schmitter Heisler at the Hillsdale Library on Thursday, Feb. 27 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on her recent book *From German Prisoner of War to American Citizen: A Social History with 35 Interviews*, followed by Q & A. Further details and images for the event are available on our website: [www.zeitgeistnorthwest.org](http://www.zeitgeistnorthwest.org).

Aaron Choate

## Whining about Capitol Highway gets annoying

Regarding "Multnomah parents fed up with navigating busy Capitol Highway," by Erik Vidstrand, The Post, January 2014.

The Multnomah parents who are "fed up" with navigating busy Capitol Hwy would have to have known that they would be living close to a busy street when they purchased their homes.

It seems that when they had children (or dogs to walk) this realization kicked in. All of a sudden it is a nuisance or safety issue when the landscape does not adapt.

There are places to walk or ride bikes that are not alongside Capitol Highway. The whining gets annoying; after all they were not forced to live here - just saying...  
Fellow SW neighbor

**Dear Neighbor:** Thank you for your letter. I can't speak for Jessica Wade or Rob Gardner, but I know that many Southwest Portlanders expected (after nearly 20 years of planning) that this stretch of Capitol Highway would have pedestrian and bicycle improvements by now.

The extremely high costs related to environmental services took many of us by sur-

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general email: [news@multnomahpost.com](mailto:news@multnomahpost.com)  
web address: [www.swportlandpost.com](http://www.swportlandpost.com)

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**Reporters/Writers:** Lee Braymen-Cleary, Rebecca Hart, Erik Vidstrand, Rich Riegel  
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