

Sellwood Bridge slated for temporary closure Feb. 15

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

The Sellwood Bridge closure has been rescheduled to start at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15 and end by 5:00 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20.

The closure will affect all traffic, including bicyclists and pedestrians. This work is necessary as it will allow the contractor to work on a wall for the new west side interchange.

The dates were shifted to avoid closing the bridge on Valentine's Day and negatively impacting local restaurants and retailers.

The closure still includes two normal commuting days (Feb. 18 – 19). Feb. 17 is the Presidents' Day holiday.

The west end signal is often turned off on weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. when flaggers direct traffic. New curbing and lane delineation

were recently added to the interchange.

Major excavation work continues for the walls on the west side of Hwy. 43. Drilling and pouring for foundation shafts for the southeast ramp of the new interchange continues.

According to county spokesman Mike Pullen, work on retaining walls for the regional trail and trolley corridor (between the bridge and the Stephens Creek area near Freeman Motors) continues as well.

"Trucks access the work zone from the old Staff Jennings entrance, Macadam Bay and Miles Street," said Pullen. A new traffic signal has also been installed.

"Please note that the only signal phase that requires westbound bridge traffic to stop at the west end of the bridge is when a pedestrian or bicyclist activates the signal to use the crosswalk," Pullen explained.

Highway 43 (Macadam Avenue) will



Sellwood Bridge workers pave the new trolley corridor on the west side of the Willamette River in early January. (Photo courtesy of Multnomah County)

remain open during the closure of the bridge. Motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians should make other plans to cross the Willamette River those days.

View live construction from two

cameras at www.sellwoodbridge.org/?p=construction-camera. For project information, please contact Mike Pullen (mike.j.pullen@multco.us, 503-209-4111) or visit www.sellwoodbridge.org.

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THE COUNTRY STORE

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Small business crimes sweep southwest neighborhoods

An unusual amount of break-ins occurred in December in Southwest communities. At least three businesses were broken into on the same date according to Stefanie Adams, crime prevention coordinator for Southwest Portland.

In Multnomah Village, during the early morning hours of Dec. 19, Nectar Frozen Yogurt Lounge, 7847 SW Capitol Hwy, was broken into. The perpetrator broke the window of the entry door to gain access. It didn't appear that he got away with anything valuable. There is no clear description of the offender from the security camera footage.

Apparently, on the same morning, MVP Volvo, at the 3500 block of Southwest Multnomah Boulevard, had a glass door broken and not much of

value was taken according to owner Paul Erickson.

In the Barbur Crossroads, between 4:30 a.m. and 5 a.m., the front entry door was broken to gain access to Metro Car Care at 10400 SW Capitol Hwy. A small amount of cash was taken. There are no suspects listed at this time.

According to the city Office of Neighborhood Involvement website, a commercial burglary is committed when there is unlawful entry of a commercial structure with the intent to commit a crime, usually a theft.

It's non-confrontational crime which occurs when a shop is closed and unoccupied. Financial losses due to these crimes can result in layoffs or cutbacks and may also leave staff feeling violated and vulnerable.

According to ONI, most burglars are motivated by economic gain. They tend to target property that is portable, valuable, and can easily be converted to cash and/or readily exchanged for drugs. In some cases, the burglars commit return fraud by taking the stolen items to a store and asking for a refund.

In Hillsdale, on the evening of Jan. 5, Central Precinct officers were dispatched to the Baskin Robbins at 6371 SW Capitol Hwy on a report of a sexual assault.

Officers arrived and contacted the victim (a juvenile) who reported that a subject had entered the location and grabbed her in a sexual manner while behaving lewdly.

Officers began a search of the area and were able to apprehend a suspect. According to the Portland Police Bureau, detectives recently arrested Themba Hassan Kelley, a 44-year-old male, on charges of Sex Abuse I and related offenses on the alleged sexual assault of a juvenile who was working alone at Baskin-Robbins in Hillsdale.

The bureau believes that all the suspects in this case have been identified.

Stefanie Adams (Southwest crime prevention coordinator) is available to come to businesses to offer training and tips for employees, managers and owners. Please contact her at 503-823-3131 or stefanie.adams@portlandoregon.gov.

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