

OBAMA CARE 102

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In addition, for those small employers wishing to take advantage of the small business health care tax credit, the requirement (at this time) is that the group coverage is purchased through a health insurance exchange.

Without the insurance exchange up and running in 2014 there is the potential that small employers lose access to this tax credit.

Q: And what about the providers (agents)?

A: Oregon carriers, while likely frustrated, have bent over backwards in accommodating the ever changing health care reform landscape.

They fully embraced the president's "if you like your plan you can keep it" proclamation of Nov. 14 by offering some kind of extension of their 2013 plans.

These offers received overwhelming response from individuals and small employers alike. So, there are many Oregonians who will not feel the full effect of the plan changes and premium changes required under healthcare reform until 2015.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add?

A: Agents, like me, who fully embraced Cover Oregon as an option for individuals and small employers, are definitely disappointed by the lack of open and clear communication from Cover Oregon leadership.

I am very disheartened by the complete absence of transparency. I don't know any company, organization, or carrier who would choose to do business this way.

Read more about it. "Obama Care 101: Donnerberg offers Hillsdale merchants a crash course in healthcare," *The Post*, November 2013.

Freeman water tank

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that the city violated state statute, city charter, city code, and council ordinance through the sale of the property.

Roggendorf also stated that based on these violations, the neighborhood association was prepared to sue the city if the sale of the property was completed. The city was asked to respond to the letter by Friday, Jan. 17.

At the Jan. 14 MNA meeting, the Board and membership voted to proceed to the next phase of the legal effort to stop the sale of the Freeman water tank property. MNA also voted to ask the neighborhood coalition, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., to continue in its role as fiscal sponsor for the next phases of the effort.

"It is our desire to preserve the property for the public good," Solomon said, "consistent with its value in providing green space, wildlife habitat, neighborhood connectivity, public safety, and water supply."

"We applaud Commissioner Fish for recognizing the city's flawed sales process and for endeavoring to find a mutually-agreeable solution for the involved parties."

Editor's Note: At press time, Renaissance Homes had not agreed to mediation on the sale of the Freeman water tank property in the Multnomah neighborhood and the sale had been scheduled to close January 31.

Read articles and letters on this subject in the November 2013 edition of *The Post* at www.SWPortlandPost.com. Additional background information on this issue including the letter from the neighborhood's attorney and links to other media coverage can found at www.woodsparkadvocates.org.



Stephens Creek Crossing housing project running late

Seven families are moving into Stephen's Creek Crossing every Friday, according to Marc-Daniel Domond, Executive Project Manager for COLAS Construction, Inc. When complete, this development will feature 122 units of affordable housing with onsite support services, an early childhood education center and community gardens. The project was slated for completion in February 2014 but should last a few more months. (Aerial photo courtesy of Colas Construction.)

TRANSPORTATION NOTEBOOK

Southwest Corridor Plan group to meet Feb. 3

The Portland Working Group of the Southwest Corridor Plan is a forum to learn about the refinement and provide input on higher capacity transit alternatives and associated roadways as well as active transportation projects.

The Working Group will meet again Monday, Feb. 3, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. Contact Joan Frederiksen at 503-823-3111 or email joan.fredericksen@portland.oregon.gov. More information on the Southwest Corridor Plan is available at www.oregonmetro.gov.

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Meet Commissioner Novick at Our Streets PDX

A community conversation with City Commissioner Steve Novick to find solutions to Portland's transportation problems will take place Thursday, Feb. 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. A similar Our Streets PDX forum to find new transportation funding will be held sometime in April.

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