

Maplewood coffee shop's historic setting harkens to a simpler time

THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

If you walk or ride your bike along the main road, just before you reach the grade school you will find yourself in front of what looks like a country store. It's easy to imagine your great-grandparents stopping by to pick up some groceries or mail a letter.

Maplewood Coffee and Tea is a hidden treasure in, you guessed it, the Maplewood neighborhood.

Built in 1911, the building was a general store with a small post office in the back.

"Customers say they remember being little children," Boyd said, "and coming to the store to get penny candy, soda, and ice cream."

Visiting is like taking a trip back to the turn of the century when everyone knew your name. It seems as if the business fell from Manzanita but left the ocean behind.

Manager Liz Boyd said every time she enters, "It feels like I'm stepping back into a simpler time. We don't have any ghosts..."

Chelsea, the other barista/manager chimed in, "But, there was an old, dark dog that slinked into the



A guitarist entertains the audience on a music night in March at Maplewood Coffee and Tea. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

store one day. We kept putting him outside, but he kept coming back into the store even though the door was closed."

Boyd continued. "None of the customers recognized him and he had a ghostly and nostalgic manner about him that was a bit unsettling."

Well, you'll need to come in to hear the rest.

The owner, Jo Whitsell, an acu-

puncturist, bought it in 2011 to restore it to its original design and opened for business in May 2012.

Maplewood Coffee also serves as a local community center and yoga studio (every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.).

On this night, Sequoia, 5, was reading *The Gingerbread Man*, while Gabriel, 9, created a new game

called Chesskers – a mix of chess and checkers. Local musicians strummed on guitars to a standing room only crowd.

Oh yeah, and they serve coffee, tea, and chai. The pastries are gluten free; coffee is Stumptown; and the tea is Firefox.

There's even playdates for moms, dads and children 5 and under, on the first and third Mondays of each month at 10 a.m. According to Boyd, the next music night is Saturday, April 26, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Maplewood Coffee & Tea is located at 5206 SW Custer, near Maplewood Elementary School. It's open Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Weekends, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visit them on the web or on their Facebook page. Don Snedecor contributed to this story.

Get to know the trees in your neighborhood

Ever stop to think about that tree in front of your house? How about those trees that shade the schoolyard or your walk to the bus stop?


Every day Portlanders walk, bike, bus or drive past thousands of trees. They shade our streets and homes, filter water and air, and provide habitat to urban wildlife.

Portland is Tree City USA, home to a diverse and growing urban canopy. Do you know their names? How or why they were planted here? What will they look like in the fall or in the winter?

Get on a first-name basis with the urban forest in this fun session with your neighborhood tree stewards. We'll teach you how to use a tree identification book, and then you'll take your new skills for a walk.

The first half of this program will take place in the library; the second half will be a short walk exploring the neighborhood's trees.


Registration is required. Register online, in the Capitol Hill Library, 10723 SW Capitol Hwy, or by calling 503-988-5234. This event takes place on Saturday, April 19, 10:30 to noon.



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Water Main Construction Scheduled in SW Hillsdale Neighborhood

The **Portland Water Bureau** will begin construction on two Capital Improvement Program projects in the Hillsdale neighborhood in early summer 2014.



Phase 2 of the SW Carolina Mains Project is scheduled to start in May-June 2014. Contractors will install 3,400 feet of new 24-inch diameter pipe from the intersection of SW Burlingame Avenue and SW Chestnut Street, north along SW Burlingame Avenue, then turn east on SW Burlingame Terrace down to SW Terwilliger Boulevard. Once on SW Terwilliger Boulevard, the construction will continue north until the traffic island at SW Capitol Highway where new underground vaults will be installed. The project will take approximately 8-9 months to complete.

The **Bertha Service Area Improvement project** is scheduled to start in May-June 2014. Contractors will install approximately 2230 feet of 8" main and 375 feet of 4" main from the intersection of SW 14th Avenue and SW Westwood Drive down to SW Martha Street, across Martha Street, and up SW 18th Drive until just past the intersection with SW 18th Place.

Typical work hours for both projects will be 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday – Friday, with the option of working on Saturdays. The project will take approximately 4-6 months to complete.

Please contact Terry Black, Public Outreach, at 503-823-1168 or terry.black@portlandoregon.gov with any questions. For updates and maps visit: www.portlandoregon.gov/water/swcarolina or www.portlandoregon.gov/water/berthaarea

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