

Stephens Creek Crossing housing project opens with fanfare

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

The grand opening has come and gone; the politicians pronounced their accolades; the construction crews are wrapping up; and most of the units are now filled. Stephens Creek Crossing is open for business.

The former site of Hillsdale Terrace, Stephens Creek Crossing sits on the edge of the Multnomah and Hillsdale neighborhoods offering opportunities for families seeking a path to self-sufficient living.

The old facility, built in the '60s, became an unhealthy environment with mold and water runoff problems.

Students will still attend Hayhurst, which has been preparing for them for months. When all 90 of these children have joined Hayhurst by the beginning of the new school year, its student body will increase by 30 percent.

The school boundaries have still not changed. Hayhurst has welcomed the new families with open arms with a tight knit school community very much like Stephens Creek Crossing.

The older children will attend Robert Gray and Wilson. Over 230 of the residents are children.

With 122 apartments, walking paths, a place for a community garden, and children's center, the property was financed with a HOPE VI grant from the federal government with additional funding from the city of Portland's housing bureau.

Home Forward, formerly the Housing Authority of Portland, created the new Stephens Creek property. Home Forward is the state's largest provider of affordable housing.

Steve Rudman, executive director, said the transformation was the collaboration of neighbors, community partners, and residents. "We would not be where we are today without the tremendous investment of time and energy by these folks."

Many residents signed a contract with the GOALS Program which provides a maximum of five years of work and independent living support. They will then move on to independent, unsubsidized living arrangements.

Walking through the property, one finds open spaces, walkways, vivid colors, several parks, and a space being developed for a community garden.

There is an outdoor covered patio and large kitchen full of stoves, ovens and sinks for cooking classes and large gatherings.

"Only a couple families [from the original Hillsdale Terrace] came back to the new community," said Kaouther Elatchi, from Morocco. Elatchi who is expecting a third child in a few months has a two-bedroom apartment but she is not subsidized by the government.

"We're not in the GOAL program," she stated, but does become involved with community events, potlucks, and gatherings.

On this sunny day, residents were gathered claiming tomato, squash, and lettuce plants and seeds for other vegetables.

Emily Keeler, staff from Growing Gardens, has been meeting with residents and employees getting the community garden started.

"There will be individual quadrants along with communal plots," Keeler explained. "We hold work shops, embrace volunteers, and are always in need of tools or other garden equipment."



Children enjoy playing on the geodome during the grand opening of Stephens Creek Crossing, June 6. (Post photo by Don Snedecor)

"Many of them have never dug in the dirt like this," exclaimed Zakia, a mother of two, also from Morocco. "They're away from their electronics, mingling with other children different than themselves, and learning about healthy food."

Dressed in traditional burqa, Zakia was delighted to see the children out in force.

On hand this day was New Beginnings Landscaping who provided the soil and pots. Richard Edwards, who has worked for New Beginnings for over a year, and lives

in Stephens Creek, said that the program is helping him with his GOALS contract.

"I want to have my own landscaping company within five years," he announced.

"We're about ready to plant a children's pumpkin patch on the other side of the property," Edwards beamed. "Each child will have their own pumpkin and in the fall we'll have a jack-o-lantern decorating contest."

A talent show full of singing and dancing is in the planning as well.

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Water Bureau Flushing Water Mains in SW Portland Neighborhoods

The Portland Water Bureau is flushing the water mains in SW Portland neighborhoods this summer.



Drinking water systems, especially unfiltered systems like Portland, need to routinely clean the network of pipes to improve water quality. The Portland Water Bureau uses Unidirectional Flushing (UDF) to scour and clean the insides of the pipes.

What you can expect to see:

- **UDF works** by forcing water in the pipes to flow at much higher speeds than normal. Flushing crews first open and close valves to isolate sections of pipe, and then the water and any sediments in the pipes are flushed out through an open fire hydrant. You may see lots of water gushing from an open hydrant.
- **During flushing**, residents in the immediate vicinity of flushing may notice temporarily discolored water and lower than normal water pressure. The discoloration does not pose a health risk. However, avoid using tap water or running the washing machine or dishwasher until your water runs clear. After flushing, if you still experience discolored water, turn on each cold water faucet in your house and allow them to run for several minutes or until the water is clear.

Flushing usually occurs 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday – Friday.

Call the Portland Water Bureau Water Line from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at **503-823-7525** with any questions or to report ongoing water quality problems. For more information, updates, and maps, visit: www.portlandoregon.gov/water/udf.



Oleson Road @ Fanno Creek Bridge Replacement Project

ROAD CLOSURE

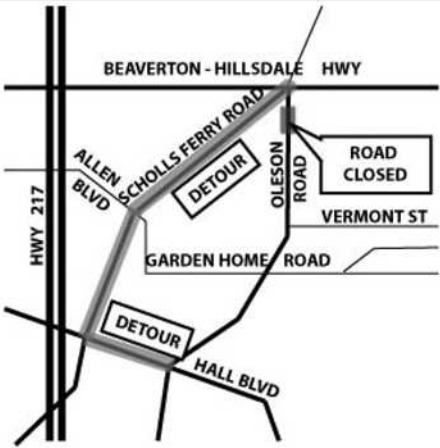
July 28, 2014 – March 28, 2015

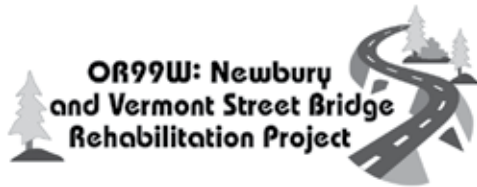
Motorists are requested to follow the signed detour route.

A temporary bicycle and pedestrian bridge will provide access for walkers and bicyclists through the closure area.

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"Oleson Road Bridge"





OR99W: Newbury and Vermont Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Rehabilitation work continues on Barbur Boulevard's Newbury and Vermont Street Bridges, near the Hillsdale exit. The project is expected to be complete in October.

Traffic will be reduced to one lane in one direction at a time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Upcoming Weekend Detour
In July, the second of two weekend closures of the southbound lanes of Barbur Boulevard is planned. The lanes are expected to be closed from **9 p.m. Friday, July 11 to 5 a.m. Monday, July 14.**

Traffic will be detoured on to Capitol Highway and Bertha Boulevards. The northbound lane will be open. For other project information and traffic impacts, visit the project website: www.barburbridges.org

