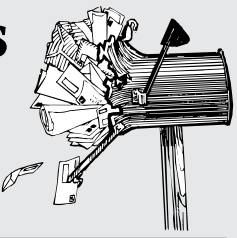


# Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post  
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Regarding, "Potholes and other miserable road maintenance issues, Part III," by Lee Braymen-Cleary, The Post, July 2014.

## Legally, can neighbors pool their funds and pave their own street?

First, thank you for the time you have put into researching this. I believe I've received a different answer from each individual I've asked despite the fact that the bottom line has always been that my street ain't gettin' fixed. In all honestly, this is completely unacceptable to me.

I live on a dead end street off [Southwest] Capitol Highway not too far from Barbur Boulevard. We have a paved road but wear and tear from the 12 infill houses in the past 10 years, mine included, have been destroying the street.

My neighbors on 42nd contacted the city to rebuild their portion, which has never been paved. The City estimated \$100,000 to \$400,000 to pave, add sidewalks and manage

drainage for a quarter of a block. My neighbors on 43rd hired someone without permission and paid under \$10,000 for about the same area.

Is there any avenue to legally accomplish what the folks on 43rd did or must we just accept the inflated cost with all of the other unnecessary (in my humble opinion) things like sidewalks and drainage?

We don't have them now, why should we be required to pay for them if the City isn't willing to help? Why can't we just improve our road at free market rate and let the City do the rest if they want. That seems their responsibility anyway, as if the streets are not. These are not new questions.

Again, thanks for stirring the pot on this issue. My grandkids may one day live in my house and have streets safe enough to walk and bike on. Or at least I can dream about it.

Ben Sturgill  
Multnomah

## City needs to do something to dam up the 41st Street River

I read your article with much interest. The picture you posted is actually in front of our house on Southwest 41st Avenue. 42nd is in very good shape.

We've paid for patching once already and are about to patch again. It's worse than it's ever been with water now cascading off Southwest Capitol Highway, traversing across Carson Street, through a couple back yards then down 41st Avenue. The picture you have is after our last big rain when we call it the 41st Street River.

We are about to embark on our own project (with the city or the Oregon Department of Transportation—our own fishing expedition) to get them to stop the water off of Capitol Highway. This is a recent happening.

A few years ago "they" put up a sign which reads "Roadway Not Improved." We don't know who put it up, but we felt it was fairly obvious that the roadway wasn't improved!

Maybe Ken Martin will share some insight after his fishing trip.

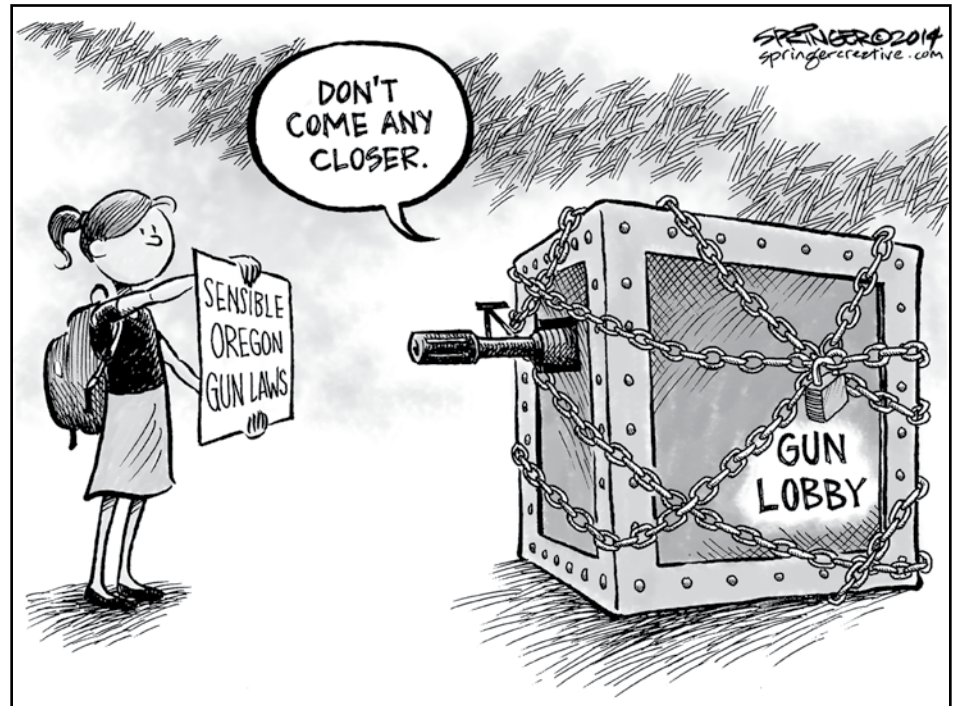
Susan Evans  
Multnomah

Lee Braymen-Cleary responds: Ken Martin says he caught no whoppers

on his vacation, but he did help me with more annexation facts that may apply to your street as well as those of many other residents. And these aren't whoppers; in fact, they are underwhelming.

Here's more or less what Martin said. The city plans to maintain streets that were up to standards when annexed. So if, say, frustrated people go ahead and pave without contacting the city first, their paving job might not be up to standards.

It would behoove interested people wanting to pave to first check with the city. Also, there is the chance that long ago a developer paved a street and did a poor job. Once again, the city would feel no obligation to maintain them.



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