

Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post
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Trash, overgrowth and camping rampant in Multnomah Village park

This note is a follow up to our phone conversation on June 24 concerning Triangle Park. The concerns are as follows:

1. Extreme overgrowth of grass, weeds, and bushes (especially the laurel) and in particular noxious weeds such as deadly Nightshade.
2. Dumping of trash and garbage on a continuum.
3. People that sleep/live in the park and defecate there.
4. Alcohol and drug paraphernalia found on this property and the neigh-

boring apartment property, which also has dead and dying trees.

5. Youth using the park for sex; used condoms found.

In conclusion, this area is an embarrassment to Multnomah Village and its neighbors. This is the worst I have ever seen it.

We would hope that the city [of Portland] would clean up this area as they are currently the owners of said park and must be responsible for its upkeep.

We would hope that there would be no use of pesticides as animals of all types reside and travel through the park, along with parents and their small children on a daily basis.

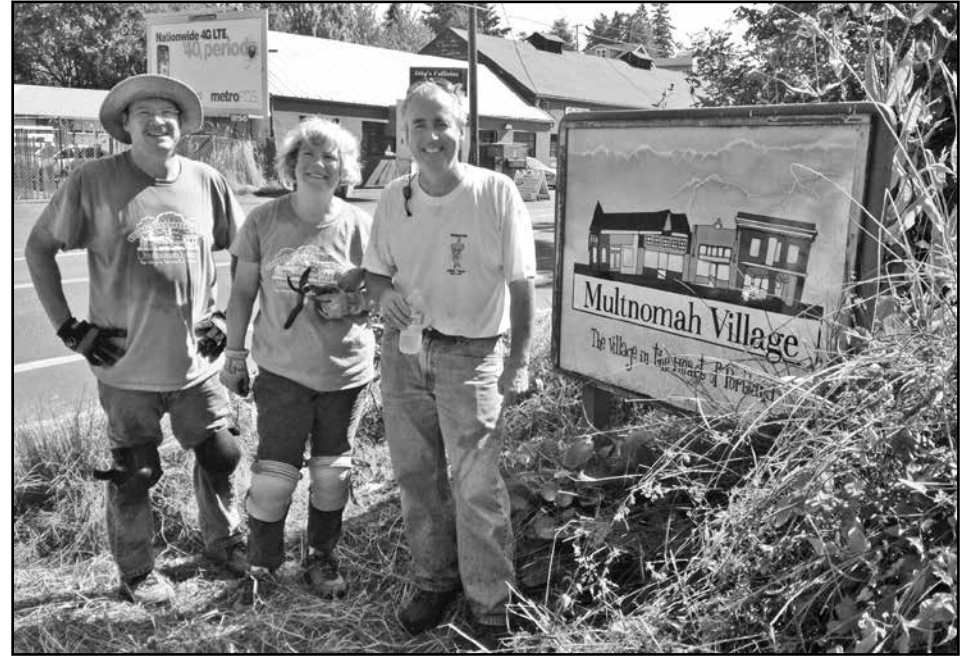
However, something must be done to ensure the safety of the community as the area is an invitation to the criminal element of society.

Thank you for your help and concern.

Marsha Overton
Multnomah Village

Don Snedecor responds: Thank you for your letter, Marsha, and your willingness to speak out. Please stay in touch and let us know of any new developments.

For our readers' information, the property in question (referred to as



John and Marianne Fitzgerald, along with Randy Bonella, take a break from work cleaning up brush and blackberries at the Multnomah Village community park on July 12. More help is needed. To volunteer, please contact Bonella at rmbonella@gmail.com. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

Multnomah Village Park or Triangle Park) is located along the south side of Southwest Multnomah Boulevard and the north side of Garden Home Road with the center being at about 38th Avenue.

Diane Dulken, a spokesperson for the Portland Bureau of Transportation, spoke to *The Post* in late June. Dulken said the property is right-of-way which belongs to the bureau and that the city would send an inspector out to investigate.

Post reporter Erik Vidstrand went out to the site at the same time and took photos, but beyond overgrowth could not find any evidence of the activities you described in your letter.

Meanwhile, neighbor Randy Bonella organized a volunteer cleanup and work party of the site on July 12, as he has periodically for a number of years.

According to Bonella, the city sent two inspectors from different bureaus

to investigate your claims. "No evidence of homeless camps observed and very little litter. Nothing like what was reported to the city," said Bonella.

Bonella said the property was severely overgrown. "I'm sure it had rodent issues, though we didn't see any. Most of those weeds have now been cut down. I am working on paperwork that will get the city to come out and spray a pre-emergent herbicide to help control the weeds."

"Our clean-up went well," Bonella explained. "We got about three-fourths of the property cleared of heavy weed growth. Still need a couple more hours out there with a weed mower will get the rest."

"We had four people show up so with more [volunteers] we could have gotten more done. We still have several areas that need cutting back to open up the pathways and get the blackberry under control," Bonella concluded.

Summer Reading Program

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grown tenfold since the Library Foundation began supporting the program's expansion with private funds.

"Here at the (Hillsdale) library," the librarian continued, "we think that reading is its own reward and incentives add to the fun."

This encourages both enthusiastic and reluctant readers to enjoy reading during the summer. One of the main goals is to connect youth with their public library.

"We want kids of all ages to enjoy the game," Head explained, "so you may tailor the program to suit your child."

Reading to babies and toddlers is a big event; even they can win prizes such as workbooks, puzzles, and coupons for swimming.

All reading counts; players may count the time someone reads to them. Time requirements help make more than one sitting if a child becomes restless. Optional activities include attending a library event, drawing a picture about a book, or getting their first library card.

"Because of this," Head said, "participants must be present to select their own prizes."

Rewards include books, passes for free activities, and food coupons for local restaurants.

"There are lots and lots of events," Head exclaimed. "There is art with recycled products, science teams studying bugs or kiddy chemistry, and even music."

"The Ugandan Children's Choir (on the west coast for their world tour)," Head announced, "will perform on Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hillsdale Library. All events are free."

All players who finish the game enter a grand prize drawing for a family vacation for four to Great Wolf Lodge Water Park.

"It's not too late to still sign up," Head explained as she excused herself to a tiny tots reading circle.

The 2014 program runs through Aug. 31. For more information, visit the library's website: multcolib.org. For more information on supporting summer reading, contact information@libraryfoundation.org.

MAPLEWOOD NOTEBOOK

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exceed the original footprint and are out of character with the surrounding area.

On larger lots, subdivisions are often being permitted.

National Night Out: This year's National Night Out will a picnic held on August 3 at April Hill Park between 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. Neighborhood safety will be the primary topic addressed. For more information contact Maplewood@swni.org.

Neighborhood History Project: Anna Bell Neal has volunteered to assume a detailed project. She will update Maplewood history book written in 1975. Anyone wanting to input on the topic can email Anna Bell at annabneal@yahoo.com.

There will be no meeting for the general membership of the neighborhood association in August. The executive board, however, will be meeting.

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Water Main Construction in SW Hillsdale Neighborhood Moves Forward

The Portland Water Bureau has been constructing two vital water system improvement projects this summer.

In July, Phase 2 of the **SW Carolina Mains Project** began. Installation of the 24-inch diameter water supply pipeline has been completed on SW Burlingame Drive. Work is now underway on SW Burlingame Terrace.

The contractor has begun work in the traffic island of SW Terwilliger Boulevard and SW Capitol Highway. The construction area is fenced off from the pedestrian pathway. People are urged to stay clear of the construction zone.

Starting August 15 through October 2014, approximately 350 feet of the SW Terwilliger Trail in George Himes Park, from SW Capitol Highway south to SW Terwilliger Boulevard, will be closed temporarily to foot and bike traffic. A safe alternate route adjacent to the park will be established for trail users on SW Terwilliger Boulevard. The trail user detour will be protected by concrete barriers and fencing. Bicyclists will be asked to walk their bike through the pathway.

For updates and maps visit: portlandoregon.gov/water/swcarolina

The **Bertha Service Area Improvement Project** is near completion. Pipe connections are almost finished and final paving will be completed by the end of August. For updates and maps, please visit: portlandoregon.gov/water/berthaarea

For more information or questions, contact Terry Black, Public Outreach, at 503-823-1168, or terry.black@portlandoregon.gov.

