

Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post
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New sidewalk on Vermont Street at 37th Avenue built with a defect

I contacted you some weeks ago with my concern about the trough left in the new sidewalk on Southwest



Mud covers the new sidewalk at the corner of Southwest 37th Avenue and Vermont Street after a two-hour cloudburst on Sept. 1. The ground is higher than the sidewalk in that area. (Photo courtesy of Rose Florek)

Vermont Street at 37th Avenue. The contractor installing the sidewalk made one modification to the slope of the walk, but didn't correct the "trough" problem, which results from the ground being higher than

the sidewalk. The first downpour of the season (Aug. 30) filled that trough with two inches of mud and gravel, for a distance of between two and three feet (my guess). It's a mess! Attached is a photo, which you may publish. There is a similar problem at Vermont and 36th, but on a smaller scale.

Kyle Chisek, the person in charge of sidewalks for the City of Portland, assures me that once grass is established, the ground will not wash onto the sidewalk.

There is no hope that grass could be established there before this coming rainy season. A short curb was installed next to the sidewalk to protect it from just this thing, but it doesn't go far enough.

It is my belief that the only solution to the problem is to extend that short curb along both sides of the walk where the ground level rises above the sidewalk.

I suspect that the city has already released the contractor, and may have trouble getting him back.

If you could do an article to help us apply pressure, it might help to save all users of that sidewalk from this messy inconvenience for the next 50 or more years!

Rose Florek
Multnomah

Editor's Note: A whole different kind of air traffic control



The Post received a phone call Sept. 17 from reader Lee Ashe who thought cartoonist Jesse Springer was unfairly picking on Republican nominee Dr. Monica Wehby in her campaign against Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley. "Don't forget to give Merkley a kick in the butt as well," said Ashe.

He was referring to the airliner cartoon in the September 2014 edition of The Post that implies the Koch Brothers were pouring millions into the U.S. Senate race. I asked Springer if he would like to comment.

"I have done a couple of Koch Brothers cartoons—the one you mention doesn't reference (Monica) Wehby at all, so I am a little confused," said Springer. "That cartoon simply criticized wealthy out-of-staters trying to influence an Oregon election."

– Don Snedecor





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