



DANCING A JIG: *On a beautiful autumn day with clear, blue sky, musicians and dancers appeared outside Village Beads as the store celebrated their 10th anniversary in Multnomah Village. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)*

Hillsdale residents discuss wildfire danger

By Janet Goetze
The Southwest Portland Post

Southwest Portland’s steep hills could intensify fire danger for residents, especially in *cul-de-sacs* with only one road for entering and escaping, Hillsdale residents agreed at November’s neighborhood association meeting.

Don Baack said he has urged planners who are updating the Portland comprehensive plan to add pedestrian routes as a way to increase safety in times of emergencies. He also has trimmed trees so they don’t hang over his house and become a fire hazard.

Glenn Bridger said he expects safety, especially fire safety, to be discussed at the January meeting of the Hillsdale Alliance, a consortium of non-profit, educational and business groups. The

meeting tentatively is planned for Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Watershed Building meeting room (Southwest Bertha Court and Capitol Highway).

A wake-up call for him, Bridger said at the neighborhood meeting, was the September grass fire that swept up a hillside near the Terwilliger Boulevard and Capitol Highway intersection, producing enough smoke to set off nearby fire alarms. Fortunately, he said, the fire stayed near the highway where fire trucks could reach it, and the flames were quickly extinguished.

“If that fire had been in George Himes Park, where fire trucks couldn’t get to it, it could have moved up the ravine to Hillsdale and Wilson High School,” Bridger said in an interview after the meeting.

The possibility of fire spreading in the neighborhood was a personal concern to him, Bridger said, because he lives on Vincent Place at the end of a *cul-de-sac*.

At the time of the Capital Highway fire, he said, “We heard the sirens and we smelled the smoke, but we didn’t know where it was coming from.”

Bridger said several city bureaus should be brought into discussions about safety, including the Office of Emergency Management, which assists Neighborhood Emergency Teams with information and training. NET preparations emphasize how to respond to a major earthquake, Bridger said, but fire safety could become a part of training, also.

He said the people who attend Hillsdale Alliance meetings need to educate themselves about fire and other safety issues. Then they need to take information to the groups they represent.

“By having a discussion, we can better educate ourselves and learn what the best solutions are,” Bridger said.

HOW SOUTHWEST VOTED

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voted for Measure 92, which would require labeling of genetically modified foods (GMOs). At press time, votes were still being certified for signatures and are too close to call.

Kadish brought up the word “moderacy” several times. He discussed how divisive Congress is even within the own ranks.

“It’s either extremist—the Tea Party for example—or too moderate,” Kadish explained.

Not conservative or liberal? “It’s either too extreme or too moderate,” he repeated.

He didn’t vote for Measure 91(marijuana legalization) and he didn’t care, although he mentioned that both Alaska and the District of Columbia passed similar measures.

Kadish was in favor of Measure 90 (open primaries). “I’m in favor of policy, not politics,” Kadish said.

Karen, an interior designer from downtown, said she was a recovering Republican. She was concerned that when casting votes, she’s not sure how her vote is applied if it passes.

“I’m still confused by the arts tax,” she contemplated. Karen, as others, could not really name her state representative or senator.

Karen’s friend, Rachel, from Raleigh Hills, seemed bewildered on the issues herself but nonetheless voted. As an Oregon Health & Science University nursing student, she is registered Democrat.

“I really didn’t really follow the election,” she confessed.

Vicki Wise, who lives in Multnomah and teaches at Portland State University, admitted she didn’t know who her state legislators were.

She discussed Measure 86 allowing statewide funding for post-secondary education.

Wise also shared her views on Measure 88 - driver cards for illegal immigrants. The southwest precincts approved it by 59 percent, but lost the general electorate by 66 percent.

Wise is for general amnesty and wants to make the system fair but was surprised by those who voted against labeling GMOs.

“You will now know what’s in your marijuana,” Wise said, “but not in your food!”

She voted no on Measure 91 stating that “there is still not enough research on how people will behave and not enough info about how the measure will play out.”

Because of lack of knowledge about individuals, participants unanimously agreed they voted along party lines for all local, state, and national candidates.

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