

► **Don Snedecor** gets a walking tour of River View Natural Area
– Page 2



► **KC Cowan** visits a community farm where people reconnect with nature
– Page 4



► **Lee Braymen-Cleary** takes us on a virtual trip to Italy in her review of Oak & Olive
– Page 5



The Southwest Portland Post

Volume No. 23 Issue No. 8

www.swportlandpost.com

Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

June 2015

Seniors look forward to graduation, bid farewell to Wilson High School

By **KC Cowan**
The Southwest Portland Post

On June 10, some 300 seniors from Wilson High School will march through Memorial Coliseum for their graduation ceremony.

At the end of their four years, they are taking with them not only their diplomas, but also a treasure trove of experience and friendships. Let's meet four of them.

Madison Schulte graduates as a member of the National Honor Society. She was Photography Club president, and lacrosse varsity team captain. She will attend the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada to study business and marketing.

McKenzie Hopfer was a peer counselor at Wilson and an Honor Society member. She won the Smith Book Award and Joe Loprinzi Scholarship, and was the editor-in-chief of the Troyan yearbook. She is headed to the University of Portland to study biology.

Perry Taylor was the student body

president and played basketball and baseball. He also worked on the school newspaper and magazine. He plans to major in civic leadership at Portland State University.

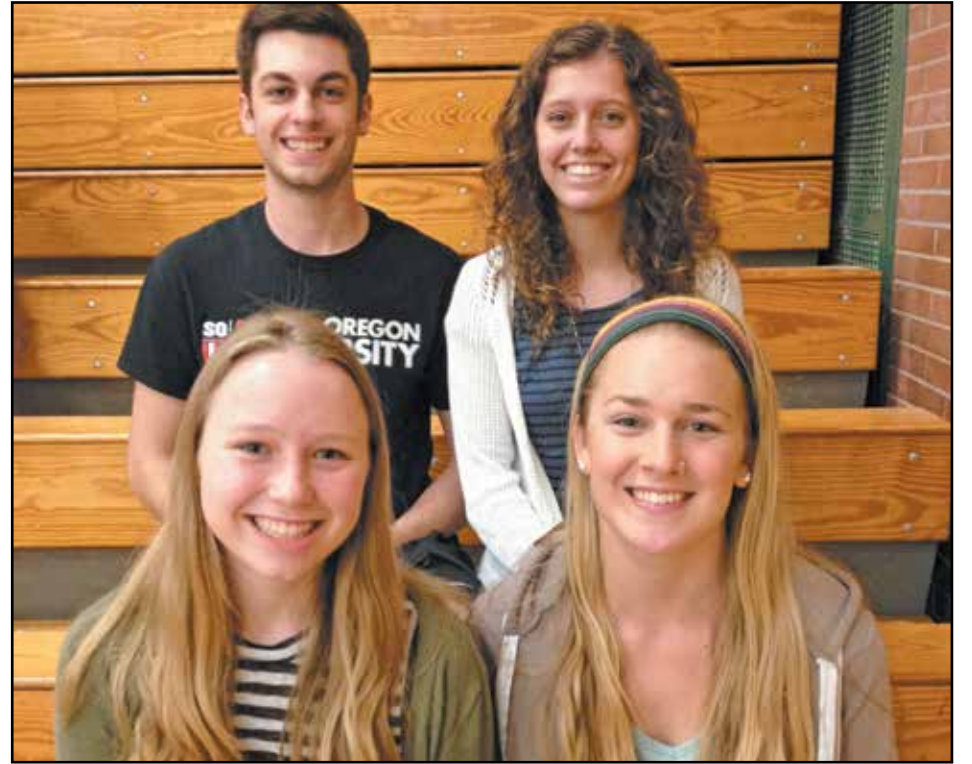
Dana Nathanson said it feels surreal to be graduating. A Wilson scholar who never failed to make the honor roll, she was active in soccer, cross-country, leadership, and choir. She'll attend the University of Michigan in the fall.

The Post: Do you feel Wilson prepared you for college?

Schulte: Yes. Wilson's Advanced Placement classes, even though they are challenging, have helped me understand what college classes are like. Further, Wilson's counselors and other staff are extremely supportive.

Nathanson: I do feel like Wilson prepared me for college, especially my sophomore and senior English classes. Wilson also helped me develop into a young adult. Wilson really succeeded as a high school by letting me express my individuality while also guiding me

(Continued on Page 6)



The Post interviewed four graduates of the Wilson High School Class of 2015. Back row: Perry Taylor and Dana Nathanson. Front row: Madison Schulte and McKenzie Hopfer. (Post photo by KC Cowan)

City holds second open house on Tryon-Stephens Headwaters street plan

By **Erik Vidstrand**
The Southwest Portland Post

The Tryon-Stephens Headwaters street plan is being designed to establish a more connected local street and pathway network and to improve stormwater management systems

within an area including Burlingame and Multnomah neighborhood streets, as well as Barbur Boulevard.

There have been a layer of decisions, budget considerations, and improvements promised for infrastructure for cars, cyclists, and pedestrians.

A second open house was sponsored

on May 7 by a joint partnership of the city of Portland bureaus of Environmental Services and Transportation.

This team has made improvements in the Cully neighborhood (2012), and Division-Midway (2014).

"This project is more involved," explained Denver Igarta, of the transportation bureau, "and will take longer due to the nature of the typology and number of challenges in this area."

On this bright, sunny afternoon, children amused themselves on the new playground equipment outside the Stephens Creek Crossing community center as a few dozen individuals joined city staff for the latest workshop.

Barbara O'Neill, a 12-year resident of Multnomah Village, has been involved from the very beginning when the city first introduced the project at the Southwest Sunday Parkways last summer. She attended the first open house held last winter.

"I take long walks to the village," O'Neill replied, "but it's difficult to walk with a stroller or a wheelchair."

She lives off 31st Avenue near Barbur Boulevard and there are no sidewalks let alone a safe shoulder.

"That's why I'm at all of these events, to provide input into a better way," said O'Neill.

Since the first open house in January, over 70 community members provided the city that allowed them to collect lots of data and created several maps.

"What we learned is that you value trees, want to keep some roadways unpaved, and to provide sidewalks at least on one side of the street," Igarta said.

The bureaus found that more community space and safe pedestrian crossings were also important. Slower

traffic speeds, keeping natural features and landscapes while retaining a unique neighborhood character rounded off the lists.

According to city records, 88 percent of Southwest streets are paved; the rest are dirt and gravel and right-of-ways for non-motor vehicle use.

Sixty-three percent of these paved streets lack sidewalks and 31 percent have no stormwater systems at all.

The small group was tasked with identifying four types of streets which could withstand improvements of some sort.

Type 1 streets are by nature impassable and Type 6 streets—like Barbur and Multnomah boulevards—are extremely busy and have less flexibility for improvements.

Naomi Tsurumi, from Environmental Services, discussed matching the street with the best stormwater system.

"There are traditional streets and green streets," Tsurumi explained. "Other options are separated streets. Some have curbs and others have pipes."

Tsurumi said that planners are still trying to figure out the process for Capitol Highway. "It's its own planning process."

The audience broke into teams to work on street designs. In the next couple of months, the city will collect this information and sort it out.

"We'll use this information to refine the solutions by July," Igarta promised.

"How is this in alignment with current construction and development?" someone asked. "Take the sidewalks to nowhere," one participant remarked.

"We're coming up with a system," Igarta responded. "There is a need to

(Continued on Page 6)



Denver Igarta, from Transportation, explains data from an earlier open house regarding aligning streets and stormwater projects. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

Don't forget to renew your subscription. Form on Page 2.

The Southwest Portland Post
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509
Portland, OR 97206