

► Don't be surprised if 4,000 goblins show up for Halloween in the Village – Page 8



► Lower bridge will carry bikes and peds from the westside trail to the south side of the Sellwood Bridge – Page 7



► THE COUNTRY STORE
Paint Pots has closed after 20 years in Hillsdale – Page 4



The Southwest Portland Post

Volume No. 24 Issue No. 12

www.swportlandpost.com

Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

October 2016

Homeless camps, crime in South Burlingame drive community action

By Jack Rubinger
The Southwest Portland Post

According to Lisa Conrad, the South Burlingame neighborhood has had an increased number of burglaries lately. One of Conrad's neighbors went searching one day down under the Terwilliger Bridge ramps.

Her neighbor found several homeless camps full of garbage, waste, heroin needles and stolen items such as garden equipment, a surfboard, a laptop computer, and packages with addresses of neighbors and prescriptions.

Conrad's neighbor alerted the neighborhood on Nextdoor and posted many pictures. It was also discovered that her neighbor across the street had someone come into their backyard with knives demanding food, water and clothing.

Conrad and several neighbors contacted the Portland Police Bureau and the Oregon Department of Transportation many times.

Conrad helped organize neighborhood

work parties and cleared out an enormous amount of overgrown vegetation that ODOT had let go, picked up garbage and painted over graffiti. Neighborhood businesses donated materials to help in the clean-up efforts.

On Sept. 8, the South Burlingame Neighborhood Association held a board meeting.

The main discussion at the meeting focused on the discovery of these homeless camps under the Terwilliger Bridge and highway access ramps south of Interstate 5.

These camps contained drug paraphernalia and stolen items



Portland police officers comb through a homeless camp underneath the Terwilliger Bridge. (Photo courtesy of South Burlingame Neighborhood Association)

from the neighborhood, including prescription drugs.

Police were called, no arrests were made, but the camps were vacated

soon after the police left. Since the posting on Nextdoor of discovery of the camps, neighbors organized a
(Continued on Page 2)

Policy advisor to Mayor-elect Wheeler attends neighborhood association meeting

MULTNOMAH NOTEBOOK

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post



Nathan Howard is Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler's policy manager.

Portland Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler doesn't take office for another three months but his office is already participating in listening sessions around the city. His staff was invited to the September Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting.

Policy advisor Nathan Howard, who was Wheeler's deputy campaign director, sat and listened quietly to a barrage of issues afflicting the neighborhood.

A short film began the presentation. It was created by local resident Ken Klein featuring the neighborhood association marching in the Multnomah Days parade. Chair Carol McCarthy then gave Howard an overview of the century-old neighborhood.

"These neighbors, leaders, and the generations who have lived here before

us," McCarthy began, "have been fighting City Hall and the ongoing struggles with the latest rezoning plans.

"Environmental plans are void," McCarthy added before opening up the floor to comments. "Neighborhood associations are no longer the active groups of participatory democracy. They aren't even mentioned in the city's proposed comprehensive plan. Put us back in!"

Joe Zender, a local neighbor, was first to speak up. "We're not against density," Zender said. "Lots under 5,000 square feet are not protected under the tree code."

McCarthy interjected: "We need a better process. The city asks for [our] input but then ignore us. It's like water boarding us with thousands of pages [of documents] to review."

"Is it intentional?" Howard asked. "Yes, but then there are illogical sequences," land use chair Jim Peterson replied. "There are last-minute meeting notifications and items added in without our knowledge. The comp plan is not fully approved yet but already a party is being planned," said Peterson.

McCarthy said that city planning committees are stacked with people with vested interests and said that the Multnomah neighborhood would work with the state next on these issues afflicting the area.

After several more comments about the city's plans for the neighborhood, Howard spoke.

"This is one of the most organized neighborhood associations I've seen," Howard commented. (By the way, the mayor-elect is still the state treasurer and is at a national treasurers' conference.) However, we have absolutely no



Bremik Construction demolishes the former Children's Center at Southwest 33rd and Capitol Highway. Multnomah neighbors have dubbed the planned 71-unit, four-story building to be constructed on this site as "the tower," a symbol of the association's opposition to high-density infill. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

resources from the mayor's office," Howard said. "We receive over a thousand emails and 25 phone calls a day."

Howard explained there are only two staff at the moment but so far have

met with over 40 associations, with 55 more to go.

Howard said that Mayor-elect Wheeler plans to attend neighborhood meetings once a year.

(Continued on Page 4)

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

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