

# Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post  
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## Drive slowly on every Southwest street as if you live there

As we gear up for the latest Capitol Highway Plan [project], I am once again reminded about concerns about traffic speeds in our area.

Every resident of a Southwest Portland neighborhood wants traffic

slowed or calmed on their street and we understand those concerns.

I would like strongly to encourage each of us to drive on every Southwest Portland street as if we actually live there, too.

Try to remember that we are all part of the problem and we can make an effort to do better. Don't wait for the SLOW or "children at play" signs. Start now to make a real effort to drive the posted speed and even slower if warranted. We all live here.

*Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen  
Southwest Capitol Highway*

**Regarding "Don't hate 'monstrosities' just because they're big and expensive," letter by W. Brewster Gillett, The Post, December 2016.**

## Big homes are less eco-friendly than smaller ones

W. Brewster Gillett can think of no logical answer to his or her question, "What could there possibly be about a house larger than the neighborhood average that could qualify it as a monstrosity?" Gillette says the only answer is "envy."

In this century, though, everyone must know that the materials and energy it takes to build, furnish, heat and cool a very large home, relative to a smaller home, contribute more to climate change.

In addition, a bigger home leaves less green space for neighbors to enjoy looking at even if the owner doesn't care about the photosynthesis that provides

our oxygen. I will keep my emotional answers to myself—be assured envy is not one of them.

*Beth Woodward  
Southwest Portland*

## Large homes can make a real and specific negative impact

In response to Mr. Gillett's letter to the editor, I first want to agree that [the word] "monstrosity" is derogatory, judgmental, and more importantly, offers little constructive information.

However, "logic" can lead to conclusions other than those he has come to. There can be real and specific negative impact when a much larger than average home goes up in a neighborhood.

What harm? People take succor from trees and their presence impacts health and a sense of wellbeing; this

has been demonstrated in studies that link better health and improved sense of wellbeing to the number of trees in a living environment.

Trees are frequently sacrificed to these large homes. Many larger than average homes, especially those that fill their lots, destroy even the comforting illusion of privacy their neighbors may once have enjoyed.

Larger, and especially taller than average homes, frequently block the light available to the homes and yards adjacent to them. Gardens, especially vegetable and flower gardens can and sometimes are lost because of the loss of light.

Lastly, counter to the envy hypothesis, many of us find these new homes not just large, but aesthetically unappealing—sometimes aesthetically inferior to the smaller homes they are replacing.

While we can't all agree on aesthetics, *(Continued on Page 3)*

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