

Multnomah neighborhood activist works to get stop sign installed

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Lorrie Biggs and her family have been living in Multnomah Village for almost three years now. Her home lies at the corner of a somewhat busy intersection.

Biggs has had some near-miss collisions, as have other neighbors, but more importantly, she has witnessed motorists speeding over 40 miles per hour.

The intersection, at Southwest Moss Street and 28th Avenue, is at the crown of a blind hill. Some of the corner homes have overgrown shrubbery and fences. Biggs trimmed back their own bushes last summer.

"It is difficult to see anyway and it makes it especially dangerous when people are flying by," Biggs said.

"The speed limit in residential neighborhoods is 25 unless posted," said John Biggs, her husband.

In September 2016, she had seen enough. She picked up the phone and called Portland Bureau of Transportation.

"Something had to be done," Lorrie said. "I kept calling them, and bugging them."

She spoke with her neighbor, Megan Schneider, and several others. Biggs had orchestrated a stop sign installation over by Lewis and Clark College, where the couple used to live.

"It doesn't help that there is an app for shortcuts through communities," Schneider said. "Trying to beat the traffic on Multnomah Boulevard? No problem, the app will help you navigate a shortcut to beat the congestion or to save time."

The neighbors have seen increased traffic lately.

Eventually, the city said they would conduct a traffic survey. City staff arrived the first day of spring break. Biggs said the city would send their results in eight to 10 weeks but within a few weeks, the stop signs were in place.

According to the transportation bureau, stop signs are installed at intersections where motorists cannot safely apply the right-of-way rule or when crashes sometimes occur as a result.

City traffic engineers consider a number of street characteristics when determining effective placement of a stop sign as a traffic control device.

According to the transportation bureau's website, "Stop signs may often seem like a good solution to neighborhood speeding, but traffic studies and experience show that using stop signs to control speeding doesn't necessarily work."

A restricted view is a main reason a stop sign is installed.

"Whether it was because of foliage or speed or both, it doesn't matter," Lorrie said.

"This intersection will be safer because of it."

How does one request a stop



John Biggs poses with daughter Abigail, son Adam, wife Lorrie, and neighbor Hudson Schneider at their new stop sign. Lorrie has been pressing the city for months to help improve the safety of the intersection. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

sign? Call the City of Portland Bureau of Transportation at 503-823-SAFE.

Hate Crimes

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The complete list of panelists: Nick Fish, Portland City Commissioner; Steve Goldman, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Branch, FBI; Officer Brian Hubbard, Criminal Intelligence Unit, Portland Bureau of Police.

Rabbi David Kosak, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Nevah Shalom; David Molko, Counselor at Jewish Family & Child Service; Jagjit Nagra, JD, Office of Senator Jeff Merkley; Brian Pinsky, Office of Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici.

Douglass Ruth, Counselor at Jewish Family & Child Service; Grace Stratton, Office of Senator Ron Wyden; Professor Steven M. Wasserstrom, Reed College; Bill Williams, U.S. Attorney, State of Oregon.

COMMENTARY

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his staff, to the next neighborhood meeting. Saltzman is head of the transportation bureau.

It was also suggested to invite newly elected City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, or staff, as well to the next meeting regarding housing issues. Eudaly is head of the housing bureau.

A motion was passed that the land use committee investigate and find a solution to the destruction of the road and that it be at least reverted to a pre-construction condition.

An amendment was added to state, "To a minimum of city street standards of a paved, usable street." A subcommittee was asked to work on this and report back to the neighborhood association.

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