

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

The South Willamette Area Rezoning plan appears to address increasing density without thought of livability of the whole area. Evidently a feasibility study of traffic, parking and schools does not have to be done when zoning is done to give tax exemption to developers. Parking on the street is currently a problem, and the parking issue is not addressed in the plan. Also, traffic issues on Willamette are not addressed in the plan or previous changes except for capturing bike lanes. The plan allows developers to increase the height of buildings if more green space is allowed. Is this like green space around Capstone Apartments?

Green space and wildlife can be seen while walking in our neighborhoods, and these buildings will impact that experience. The new Cascade Manor buildings are close to the sidewalk and cast a big shadow on the streets. The current Cascade Manor also gives a negative sample of how taller buildings impact our neighborhood experience; however, there is a green space from the surrounding single family dwellings that may go away with the plan.

We have some beautiful trees that are struggling in our area, and I am afraid this will also change; we will be seeing these trees disappear as the plan is implemented.

*Ann Miller
Eugene*

DEVELOPER'S DELIGHT

I oppose the South Willamette Special Area Zone in its current form. Contrary to Ken Standhardt's suggestion [Letters, 9/3], my opposition to this plan is not out

of ignorance. I have read every document and studied every map. The new design rezones 229 single-family homes to allow seven-story condos and apartments.

There are many insular neighborhoods here. While some blocks could benefit, other historical neighborhoods will have their character and stability negatively altered. I bought my 1952 home on Portland Street north of 31st Avenue a year ago. I did my research, too.

I received no notice from the city. I was not aware of the plan until the record before the Planning Commission was closed.

This area is too diverse in character to take such a broad-brush approach. The area should be looked at block-by-block, lot-by-lot for change. While the city claims it wants to make the area more pedestrian and bike friendly, the design contains no requirements for traffic, sidewalks, bike lanes, parking or underground utilities. I'm sure it is a developer's delight. City documents show that it is already planning to extend MUPTE to developers of the area.

*Allison Hassler
Eugene*

DOWNWINDERS SUFFER

On a recent Saturday, I went to a birthday at Emerald Park. I smelled cigarette smoke and saw numerous parents smoking in the playground area, including vapor cigarettes. They want to watch their kids and make sure they're safe, just like I do. They're not worried about the smoke. That's up to them. I don't think it is OK for my kids.

We had our party on picnic benches by the skate park. Our kids rolled their decorated scooters around the skate park

while boys on bicycles smoked vapor cigarettes inside the fence. Someone else smoked a cigarette outside the fence. At Monroe Park, close to home, people talk at the picnic benches and smoke. The smoke travels downwind into the playground area.

The problem isn't homeless smokers. The problem is smoke in public space. When I inhale cigarette smoke, my private space, my body, is being infringed upon, and so are the bodies of my children.

I used to smoke. I know it is a hassle to be told you can't satisfy your addiction when you want. Unfortunately, we share a responsibility toward our mutual wellbeing. And some of us — many of us — have our strongest feelings around the health of our children.

A smoking ban isn't a class issue. It is possible to be homeless and be a nonsmoker. The health of someone homeless counts too along with the health of my children. Everyone, even smokers, suffer from secondhand smoke.

*Otis Haschemeyer
Eugene*

VINIS A GREAT CHOICE

Lucy Vinis is a compelling choice for the next mayor of Eugene. With deep roots in this community, she cares about the things that are most important to me and my family: protecting our quality of life while promoting a healthy, vibrant economy.

I've known Lucy as both a colleague and friend. A warm and open individual, she is a natural leader — articulate, thoughtful, principled and inclusive. During her many years of service to this community, she gained firsthand experience with some of our most pressing issues: homelessness,

jobs, education, sustainability. She plans to build on the progress we've made in these areas over the past decade, earning Eugene its bragging rights as one of the most livable cities in the country. I hope you'll join me in supporting her.

*Sonja Snyder
Eugene*

MILD FRAGRANCES

My family was disappointed to learn that the Saturday Market Board of Directors has voted to suspend Barbara's Soaps of the Season, due to a complaint about scent-sensitivity from one of the other stall owners [see Biz Beat last week]. I understand that some people are sensitive to fragrances, but we find it difficult to believe that this business is affronting anyone's olfaction. My husband is the most fragrant-sensitive person I know. He can't tolerate perfume and has to leave areas where people are wearing strong scents. Yet he isn't able to detect Barbara's Soaps until he is in their stall, and even then, the scents are mild.

Barbara and her husband, David, make amazing products, and we use the soaps as well as the deodorant. Because we frequently give the soaps as gifts, or run out of them as our own supply runs low, we are often at Saturday Market. If this stall isn't there, it's doubtful we'll go more than once or twice a year. I imagine there are many who feel as we do. We hope the board will reconsider suspending Barbara's Soaps of the Season, and instead do whatever is needed to move the affected parties' stalls apart so that everyone can continue to enjoy Saturday Market.

*Duana C. Welch
Eugene*

HOT AIR SOCIETY BY TONY CORCORAN

U-pick Your Law!

LEGISLATORS LEFT A LOT OF FRUIT ON THE TREE

Hope everyone's had a great summer. Since our state Legislature left Salem in July, I've been mostly readin' and snoozin' and tending to my garden.

The Oregon Legislature got out of Dodge quickly, leaving a lot of unfinished business. No transportation plan, no real plan for higher ed funding, no minimum wage reform, no affordable housing — all left on the table. Some blame Senate President Peter Courtney, some blame Speaker Tina Kotek. No one seems to be blaming Gov. Kate Brown or the Republicans — at least until next year's elections. Ballot measures will abound.

Not only did legislators dodge the whole issue of recreational pot legalization and how to tax it, they failed abjectly in dealing with, guess what, the kicker! \$470 million out the window in tax cuts, mostly to the wealthy. And they knew it was coming. Everyone in the building kicked the can down the road; we'll fix it in the 2016 session, right before primary elections. Yeah, right. So, it's u-pick season in our gardens, it's that time of year, what do you pick: K-12, higher ed, public safety, Senior and Disabled Services, veterans' services? What *would* \$470 million fund in the next biennium?

Anyway, I'm enjoying my first couple of months of retirement, but I think Jeannie's a *bit* irritated with me just hanging out — reading, gardening, sleeping in occasionally. Otherwise, why would she keep insisting that I put Afghanistan on my bucket list to visit solo next month while she continues to work?

I don't even tell most folks I'm a retired (*public*) employee anymore. You get the roll of the eyes from anyone who's in the private sector and the "wish I had that" whine. The first few times I responded: If you were a prudent private employer you probably put away a nest egg; and if you were a prudent and fair employer, you calculated in a pension plan for your

employees as well. If you did the first and not the second, you can understand why God created the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). So these days, I'm using the same medical excuse for retirement that my local chainsaw shop owner gave me recently: "Tony, I'm retiring because my doctor just informed me I've been diagnosed with rectal glaucoma; I just flat out cannot see my *ass* going to work anymore!" The ultimate OSHA workplace hazard.

Speaking of recto-cranial disabilities: How about that Kentucky clerk and Oregon's own, Judge Vance Day? They are so damned convinced that they're right about the abomination of gay marriage because of their Christian religion that they won't even let straight people get married! Damn! And they both receive a publically financed salary based on tax dollars to do it! WTF! Well, at least Vance made an exception to preside at one heterosexual marriage last year, for a friend, then ceased doing marriages altogether. What a pompous clown. Does Judge Day dye his hair orange as well? I have to rethink my previous opposition to a bill banning Sharia law in Oregon. At the time, I thought it was an ugly showboat bill by Republicans aimed at their bloodthirsty, right-wing constituents about a problem that didn't exist in the first place. But here it is, Christian Sharia: U-pick your law.

Day, former chair of the Oregon Republican Party, pulled a self-serving political stunt. He knows he's violating state law. You shouldn't confuse his background with that of the self-serving, thrice-married Kentucky bimbo who doesn't understand the difference between her God's law and the law of the state that pays her salary to marry people in civil (not religious) ceremonies. Read your bible, sister, but not on the clock. If you don't want to render unto Caesar, then don't run for office, and don't take the pay. Day, on the other hand, takes it one step further; he violates Oregon law for his own political gain. That's why he's being investigated by the state's Ethics Commission.

Great to see State Sen. Floyd Frank Prozanski survived that damned recall effort. I'm glad Patricia Michaelson-Duffy, the chief petitioner of the recall, and OFF, the Oregon Firearms Federation, pissed away over \$50,000 to prove how inept they were. We all know Floyd would have prevailed anyway if an election had taken place. But it will be entertaining to review the list of contributors to Michaelson-Duffy's efforts. And where is Monica Wehby these days? And did you know Jeb Bush's real name is John Bush? Gosh, I can't wait for 2016! ■

Tony Corcoran of Cottage Grove is a former state senator and retired state employee.