# Community News

## Groundbreaking celebrates new development in Kenton

By Jennifer Park

Golden shovels ceremonially broke ground on a new transit-oriented development project in Kenton last week, bringing to life a vision born a decade ago.

For developers Mary Hanlon and Jim Meyer, who purchased the land 10 years ago but were unable to move forward during the recession, the groundbreaking is a celebration of the partnerships that helped begin the project.

The planned four-story mixeduse building, tentatively dubbed The Kenton, will be home to 57 studios, one and two-bedroom apartments, and a ground floor restaurant space.

"This neighborhood really lacks rental units," said Megan Watts, member of the Kenton Neighborhood Association. "So the fact of the matter is it's nice to have some apartments in the neighborhood. Especially of quality." She added, "And there's density for the business district, so you have more support of that, and that's a huge deal."

The corner property sits just 300 feet from the Kenton MAX station, and is within a four-block radius of 64 small businesses, Hanlon said.

The Metro Transit-Oriented Development program focuses on prompting development that encourages increased transit ridership. The financing assists in offsetting costs associated with design elements that incorporate TOD goals. The TOD design elements of The Kenton, including more apartments and a mixed-use building design, are projected to generate 17,000 additional transit trips annually, producing about \$840,000 in fare revenues over 30 years.

"These communities were driven historically by the existence of transportation systems," said Metro Council President Tom Hughes. "We're sort of going back into history now by supporting this type of development with investment in light rail and other kinds of transportation systems."

The TOD funds granted to the project total \$350,000, just 3.8 percent of the more than \$9 million total project budget.

In addition to TOD design eleents the property sits within the



Kenton Conservation District and the Denver Street Historic District, which each hold their own requirements for design of new develop-

'We went through a historic design review which is great," said Kurt Schultz of SERA Architects. "We've really been working hard to make sure that the project fits within the neighborhood, the way it expresses what Kenton is all about. It is not a cookie cutter design."

"The North Portland boom is happening," said Bryan Suereth, Executive Director of Disjecta, a local contemporary art center that calls Kenton home. "I think this

development is an example of that but a very good example, where if this sets the precedent we're in good hands."

Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette praised Kenton as an example of how neighborhoods can develop transit, grow, and keep unique local personality.

"We can keep our neighborhood charm, we can keep the character that we love, and still build and bring new people in, and put new people to work; over 100 jobs just because of this project," Collette

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Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette with SERA Architects design rendering

#### Sitton School's SMART program

SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) has announce a new K-2nd grade after-school program at Sitton Elementary. The school, however, needs 20 more volunteer readers to serve the many K-2ndafterschool students, who could benefit from participating in the SMART program at Sitton.

SMART reading will be on Tues

days and Thursdays from 3 - 4PM. Sitton Head Start is located at 130 N. Smith Street in St. Johns. New volunteers can sign up online: www.getsmartoregon.org or call the SMART program office at 971-634-1628.



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## Did you know that if a fire starts in your home, you may have just **TWO MINUTES** to escape?

The American Red Cross will be canvassing neighborhood homes to check for working smoke alarms and to install new, free smoke alarms in homes that need them.

#### SATURDAY **JANUARY 24**

between the hours of - 9 AM and 5 PM in ZIP CODE 97203

### Test your smoke alarms monthly and practice your fire escape plan.

www.redcross.org/cascades

This American Red Cross Home Fire Preparedness Program is conducted through partnership with the Office of the State Fire Marshal and com



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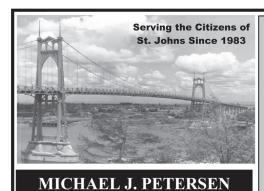
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