

The right way to preserve Bend's historical homes

Bend's west side can be fertile ground if you are looking for an older home that is a piece of Bend's history. The Wienecke, Emil and Ottilie House on NW Federal Street is even individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Bend's Landmarks Commission moved Tuesday night to take some baby steps to encourage more preservation of historic homes in the area around NW Federal Street and NW Awbrey Street. If you own a home in the area the commission is discussing, it would be a good idea to find out more. Historical preservation is an admirable target. But it can come with many strings attached.

For some people, owning and preserving a home in a formal historic district is an honor. Bend has two historic districts already, the Bend Old Town Historic District and the Drake Park Historic District. They help to retain distinctive architectural and historic characteristics.

There can be grants and historic tax credits for property owners.

For others, it's complicated. It can add a new layer of restrictions and cost to home improvements. Vinyl windows and nonhistoric siding materials are frowned upon. A historic district can also put upward pressure on home prices. And in Bend, major home alterations in a historic district, require a hearing before the Landmarks Commission before they can proceed.

The area discussed Tuesday night is not necessarily ripe for a full-on historic district.

A study prepared for the Landmarks Commission looked at 318 homes. Only one home outright qualified and only 36% were deemed eligible for listing in the national register. Many homes had been significantly modified with vinyl windows or with "Craftsman-inspired design elements that were never historically present, introducing a false histori-

cism that renders the property" ineligible, according to the study.

Commissioners briefly discussed an option between what exists now and a historic district. It's called a local landmarks district. "In landmarks districts, design review is limited to major changes (such as new construction, exterior alterations, and demolition)," the study said. Property owners can also be encouraged to reverse things, such as siding so more homes are eligible for historic listing.

A majority of the members of the Landmarks Commission seemed to clearly want more homeowners to try to preserve the historical character of their homes.

But they absolutely were not plotting to impose anything on residents.

"We don't want to give them the impression that there is someone working behind the scenes about to pounce on them," Commissioner Robin Vora said during the meeting.

First and foremost, a majority of the homes do not qualify. Commissioners want to share information with homeowners, so they know they have options.

Homeowners don't have to install vinyl windows. They can make choices that help retain the historic character. Commissioners talked about meeting with neighborhood associations and finding other ways to spread the word.

It's ultimately up to the neighborhood if it wants to help preserve its historic character or allow it to fade.

Contact the Landmarks Commission, if you want to learn more. Email senior planner Heidi Kennedy at hkennedy@bendoregon.gov.

Oregon shouldn't hide names of government employees

A bill in the Oregon Senate could essentially blind Oregonians to who works in government.

Senate Bill 550 requires every public employer to set up a system so employees can require their employer to use a unique identifier instead of the employee's name in records. And then the public employer would be forbidden from disclosing or using the name of the employee in response to a public records request.

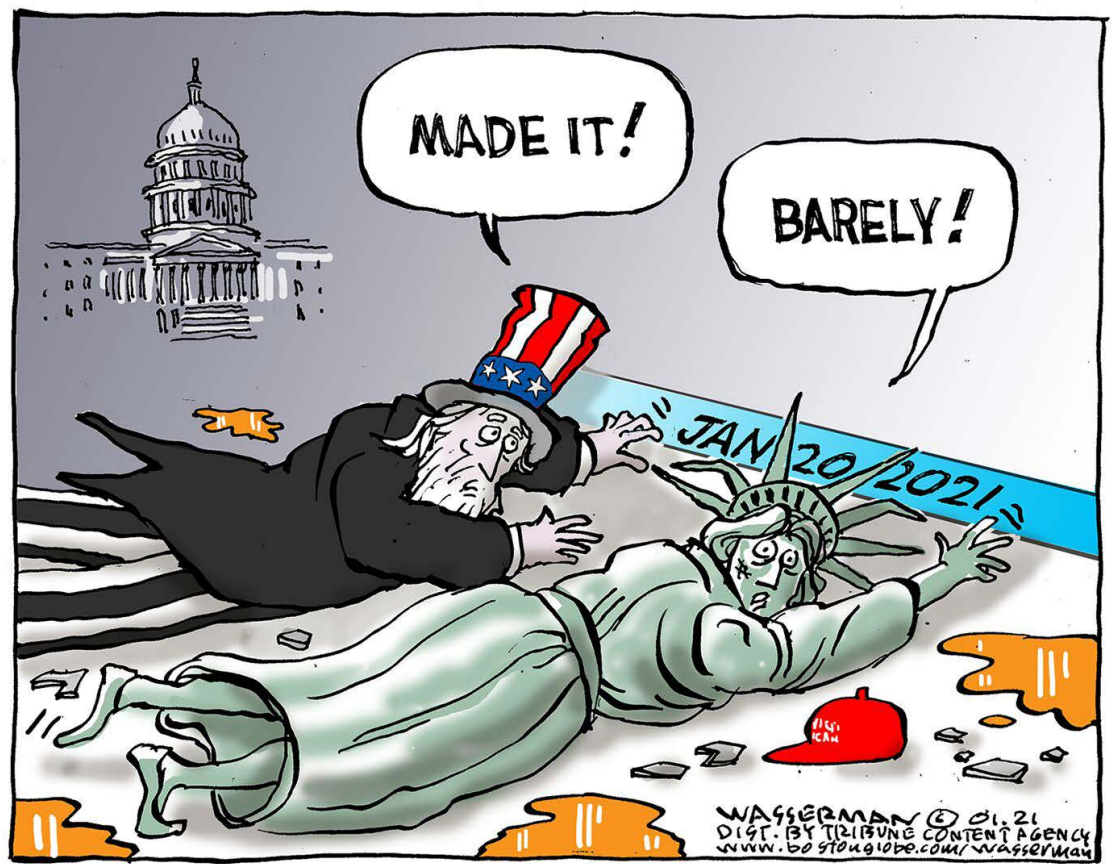
The bill is sponsored by state Sen. Chris Gorsek, D-Troutdale. His of-

fice did not respond to an email.

Gorsek is a former police officer. You may remember that last summer Portland Police officers covered their names on their uniforms with masking tape and replaced it with a number.

It was to protect them from people putting their personal information online.

To make widespread secrecy the rule in who works for government entities is an unsettling challenge to the ability of the public to hold their government accountable. This bill should not move forward.



My Nickel's Worth

Take freedom seriously

I was 12 when I first visited Washington, D.C., with my grandparents, just one year before John F. Kennedy was struck down by Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, Texas.

And, just as I remember where I was on that day, and on the day Bobby Kennedy was shot and killed in Los Angeles, where I grew up, then Martin Luther King Jr., I will never forget what I saw on my TV on Jan. 6.

I didn't think I could feel more hurt, more ashamed or more embarrassed as I did by those thugs and vile animals that were desecrating and disrespecting those beautiful buildings, the monuments to our democracy and our freedoms.

I wanted to cry, but decided they weren't worth it. But why weren't more people disturbed and hurt by what they witnessed on their televisions?

Have we become so indifferent and blasé because we've been hurt too many times? What will it take? How many more wars must be fought, how many more people killed, how many more maniacal power-hungry despots like Hitler, Mussolini, Trump (yes, Trump) will it take before we value and protect our precious American values and we take freedom seriously and personally?

If not now, when?

—Rose McLoughlin, Bend

Don't divide the country

Why in the world would The Bulletin print Arnold Schwarzenegger's opinion that the individuals involved in the riot at the Capitol building were

comparable to the Nazis in Germany?

None of us know what type of individuals made up the majority of the crowd and, it may be only a minority of troublemakers participated in the riot. Do you know? Then print it. If not, this hyperbole will only serve to divide the country more.

Much of what the Democratic leadership has been doing does remind me of pre-war Germany. The left-leaning rioters in Portland and other Democratically controlled cities could just as well have been wearing "brown shirts" as they did in Germany. I don't recall Democrats like Merkley and Wyden condemning these riots.

Book burning in Germany tried to eliminate the past, elimination of heritage by tearing down statues and monuments serves an equal purpose. Also, consider the suppression of free speech by the left. Some Democratic leaders are encouraging retribution against Trump supporters, some companies are being boycotted because they supported Trump policies and left-leaning tech companies are suppressing conservative views and Democratic wrong-doing (Biden's alleged collusion with Communist China).

Finally, Schwarzenegger mentions the "Night of Broken Glass" in Germany. The riot at the Capitol is reminiscent of the burning of the Reichstag in Germany by Hitler's cronies which was then blamed on the Jews.

Did Soros or some wealthy leftist finance some of the rioters? It has been done before, but I am only speculating. If you think I am a subscriber to conspiracy theories, I am not. I want proof.

At the end of the war, I wonder

how many people in Germany wished they had been more vigilant as Hitler slowly took over. The Nazis had the Jews for scapegoats, the Democrats seem to be using the conservatives in the same way and are covering up their own misdeeds, largely with the help of the media.

I see troubled times ahead.

—John Russell, Bend

Consider donating your relief payment

Bravo to Joette Storm and her letter from Jan. 17 in support of direct relief payments with a sharper focus on getting the money to those suffering the greatest hardship. She's dead right that those of us either working or comfortable in retirement don't need that help.

So let's take matters into our own hands. If our dutiful federal representatives sow future bounty indiscriminately, those of us who don't need it can redirect it to any number of local nonprofits.

Check around. It's breathtaking how much they do and how little they're noticed. Oregon, Deschutes County, Bend, are much better places because of their existence.

And, for the skeptical reader's question: "Did he follow Ms. Storm's implied advice?" Yep. Sent my \$600 relief payment to the Bethlehem Inn. The inn doesn't charge, and that gift covered the cost of a homeless family staying for five nights. Felt good to hit the website's submit button.

You should try it, too, for any of the many local groups doing equally good work.

—Dwain Fullerton, Bend

Letters policy

We welcome your letters. Letters should be limited to one issue, contain no more than 250 words and include the writer's signature, phone number and address for verification. We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject poetry, personal attacks, form letters, letters submitted elsewhere and those appropriate for other sections of The Bulletin. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

Guest columns

Your submissions should be between 550 and 650 words; they must be signed; and they must include the writer's phone number and address for verification. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject those submitted elsewhere. Locally submitted columns alternate with national columnists and commentaries. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

How to submit

Please address your submission to either My Nickel's Worth or Guest Column and mail, fax or email it to The Bulletin. Email submissions are preferred.

Email: letters@bendbulletin.com

Write: My Nickel's Worth/Guest Column
P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708

Fax: 541-385-5804

Editorials reflect the views of The Bulletin's editorial board, Publisher Heidi Wright, Editor Gerry O'Brien and Editorial Page Editor Richard Coe. They are written by Richard Coe.

Many Americans want payback; we need a uniter

BY TIMOTHY SHRIVER
Special to the Washington Post

After the shocking attack on our Capitol on Jan. 6, many Americans feel it's time for payback. That former President Donald Trump, his Republican enablers and the white supremacist, conspiracy-minded secessionists all deserve the contempt of the nation and a lifetime ban from dignity.

In these circumstances, the word "unite" — a word on which Joe Biden ran for president and a vision in which many of us believe — has itself drawn contempt. Unifiers are seen as wishy-washy and spineless.

Nothing could be further from the truth. No one I know who hopes to wear the label of "uniter" is suggesting that those responsible for sedition and violence should not be held accountable. Shallow calls to unite from Republicans responsible for one of

the most divisive days in U.S. history won't work either.

Here's what makes a uniter approach distinctive — and why uniting the country remains the essential and urgent challenge of now: When facing polarizing forces, unifiers make the high-risk step of crossing divides. Think of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail." Think of Nelson Mandela inviting his former jailer to dinner. Think of the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland. In each of these instances, enormous division and injustice was transformed by avoiding contempt. When facing factions and hostile interests, unifiers search for creative solutions that create common purpose grounded in transcendent principles such as truth, goodness, justice and peace.

For unifiers, the enemy is often a condition in the human heart. Mandela was a uniter who spent his en-

tire life opposing racism that he saw deep in the hearts of his oppressors. Mahatma Gandhi opposed colonialism, but he did so with a vision of a free and nonviolent Indian democracy without demonizing the British. Mother Teresa opposed the caste system but rarely scapegoated Indians. Abraham Lincoln opposed slavery but sought a country with "malice toward none."

I can tolerate a lot of debate about the qualities of a uniter, but being told that trying to unite our country is a coward's path is too much. On the contrary, being a uniter is the more difficult path because unifiers risk the hatred of all those — on the left and the right — who have become convinced that hatred and destruction of the other side is the only path forward. Lincoln offered malice toward none and was murdered a month later. King offered a world where love

defeats hate and gave his life for it. My uncle Robert F. Kennedy said that what our country needed in 1968 was love, and eight weeks later, he was gone. Too frequently, unifiers pay with their lives, because when hatred and contempt rage out of control, the one who calls us to the self-sacrificing work of uniting is often the victim.

Biden ran to be a uniter. People may oppose him, but at least they ought to understand the enormity of what he is trying to do. Does he have to respect the vote from House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., to overturn the election? No. Should he invite McCarthy to join him in rushing resources to schools and children in crisis around the country? You bet. Should he invite Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, to dinner at the White House? Not until Cruz faces the truth of his actions and offers to change. But can Biden treat him with dignity and ask him to join in generating new

solutions to the challenge of immigration that affects so many Texans? Let's hope so. And instead of exhausting his political capital to drive a stake through the heart of Trump, should Biden use that same energy to convince Trump's 74 million voters that there is an American future in which they belong and to which they can contribute, full of the faith, freedom and justice that they espouse? For sure.

I want justice. I want no part of racism and lying and sedition. And I'm choosing love to oppose them all. You can accuse people like me of many things, but please don't suggest we're choosing the easy road. Uniting people without compromise and without contempt is the hardest road of all. And the only one that will heal our country today.

■ Timothy Shriver is chairman of Special Olympics and a co-founder of Unite, a civic and social issues initiative.