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July

2020



Photo by Midge Pierce

SE Stands Up for Reform

BY MIDGE PIERCE

Portland has a new police chief, a revamped police budget and is on its way toward significant police reform influenced by momentum gained outside SE Portland’s Revolution Hall for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement.

Racial justice champions started gathering at the former Washington High School site on lower Stark St. more than a month ago to protest the police brutality that caused the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

They continued for weeks since then to organize marches, hear BLM speakers,

sign up voters and demand meaningful change ranging from police restructuring and reimagining, to outright defunding of the bureau.

Regardless of individual opinions about reform specifics, thousands have now challenged the status quo, raising awareness of the dangers of living Black in Portland.

At Revolution Hall, the mostly-masked, mostly-respectful assembly of up to 10,000 BLM supporters featured speakers including Trail Blazer Damien Lillard who stood up for nonviolent reform before leading the crowd across the Morrison Bridge.

On the heels of marchers, change has come.

First was the resignation of Police Chief Jami Resch who had been on the job for six months, followed by the appointment of Chuck Lovell, an 18-year veteran of the Portland Police Bureau and Black veteran of community policing.

Chief Lovell has commented that right-sizing and right-funding is the answer, not abolishing police. He has acknowledged the need for accountability, but warned that volatile confrontations at the Justice Center downtown have caused delays in emergency responses elsewhere. Since demonstrations began, police overtime has cost more than \$6 million.

By mid-June, City Council had passed a budget that will transfer \$15 million into community programs from police units, including the gun violence reduction team, school resource officers and TriMet transit cops that, according to Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, perpetuate racism.

While the defunding fell short of the \$50 million some activists sought, Hardesty

continued on page 15

Foreseeing Future Utility Rates

BY NANCY TANNER

After reading an article in the June edition about the cost of water in the near future, a reader inquired about other utility rates over the next 10 years.

Steve Corson, spokesperson for Portland General Electric (PGE) answered for that utility: PGE currently serves over 900,000 customers. Their rates are regulated by the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) as are natural gas, telephone utilities and a few water companies in the state. (Portland’s water rates are approved by City Council.)

The reasons PGE requests a rate increase are varied and they do not happen every year. The last increase was in January 2019. Currently they are not in a general rate case increase, so there won’t be a proposal to the PUC this year.

Corson said the factors that do determine costs include operating expenses, distribution, customer service and if a new resource is brought online. PGE submits an application to PUC and the review process begins, usually taking about 10 months.

During this time, the data is open to outside groups to review. This includes the Citizens Utility Board, industrial groups and the general public. PGE holds public meetings for those interested.

Corson went on to explain the complexity of our energy system. Unbeknownst to most people, at any given hour of the day, energy is being monitored every five to fifteen minutes to find the most available and cheapest source. There is no energy storage, so it is being produced as we use it.

PGE draws from different utilities: hydro plants, wind farms, wind/solar and natural gas fired plants. It all depends upon the demand.

There is a major inter-tie between California and the Northwest. We sell them surplus energy in the summer when they need it most and in turn, they sell us energy in winter when our demands are highest. These networks reach all over the western United States. This is why we are never without electricity.

The climate crisis has utilities looking for new ways to reduce carbon and increase renewable energy.

PGE has partnered with NextEra Energy and are constructing a new energy facility in Eastern Oregon that will combine 300 megawatts of wind generation, 50 megawatts of solar generation and 30 megawatts of battery storage.

The project, Wheatridge Renewable Energy, will be the first of this scale in North America to integrate these three technologies, accelerating Oregon’s transition to clean energy.

“We’re looking out over the next 20-30 years to make sure we are on track with expectations of cleaner energy,” Corson said.

With this new facility and other cost increases, there will be changes in rates in the future. Over the last 10 years the increase has averaged 2.4 cents/kWh.

On another promising note, Corson said that the average usage for the typical residential customer is going down as appliances and homes become more energy efficient. Even though rates may go up, the

continued on page 14

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Correction

Editor’s Note: In response to the article “Taking Another Look at Filtration” the June edition of *The Southeast Examiner*, the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) identified inaccuracies in some of the statements. These are explained here. Nancy Tannler (NT) is the reporter and Jaymee Cuti (JC) is PWB Information Officer.

NT: At a recent City Council hearing about the project Commissioners Jo Ann Hardesty and Chloe Eudaly both deferred approval.

JC: They voted to approve the WIFIA ordinance.

NT: The UV disinfection facility would cost \$105 million.

JC: Estimates presented to City Council in 2017 were \$105M for UV, based on plans prepared in 2012 that would need to be revised. UV is a less expensive but the 2 percent inflation rate is speculation. Construction costs change at a different rate than inflation, and the \$112M estimate is not accurate.

NT: Jeff Knapp has followed this issue and his observations went from a curious to a concerned citizen. Doing the math on the project, the average citizen will be paying \$430 more a year for water. That’s on top of the recent 8.7 percent increase we recently incurred.

JC: You are looking at the projected rate increase, which we update each year through a forecasting process. Portland City Council adopted 6.5 percent rate increase for FY 2020-21.

NT: “At the present time,” Courter said, “there are no algae species in Bull Run, and the Columbia South Shore wells are already in place for any turbidity.” Filtration is necessary where the systems are compromised.

JC: A blend of groundwater and Bull Run water meet summer demands, not groundwater alone. There are algae species in the Bull Run.

NT: Another controversy in this issue is the promise that the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) – a long-term, low-cost supplemental loan from the EPA, would help defer costs. The two percent interest is low but calculating that on a \$554 million loan makes this project even more expensive than the \$750 million to \$1 billion that is being estimated now.

JC: Projects costs are paid as incurred, not deferred. Project costs are paid either with WIFIA funding, water sales revenues or proceeds from water revenue bonds. However, loan repayments on the WIFIA loan can start five years after project completion.

NT: Currently PWB has put in an application for the WIFIA loan but they have not submitted all the necessary documents required by the EPA to complete the loan application.

JC: PWB has submitted the full application, providing all information required for the application. EPA asked for additional information to augment the application.

NT: Since it isn’t complete, Courter said the WIFIA loan could also be used for the less expensive ozone/ultraviolet treatment plant. It would just require a new application.

JC: We have no guarantee that we would be invited, that they would approve the application, or even if the WIFIA Loan program will be extended another year and exist at all in the future.

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Rose Lane Project Moves Forward

By DON MACGILLIVRAY

The Rose Lane Project is an innovative way to improve bus and streetcar service in Portland.

Adopted by City Council in February, it will create a network of priority transit lanes, signal improvements and a variety of other tools to make commuting by bus faster and more reliable for the 100,000 people that use over 45 bus lines.

These small-scale improvements will be quickly implemented over the next few years. The projects include: 1) painting and signage to allow buses to get ahead of traffic, 2) platforms at transit stops so buses are able to stop in travel lanes and 3) adding short left-turn lanes at intersections so buses won’t be delayed by drivers.

Public transit is an equitable, sustainable and efficient way to move people in cities. With the growth of the City of Portland, there is an increasing need to move people and goods more efficiently within the existing street grid.

Delays experienced by the growing population of bus and streetcar riders now amounts to 4,700 hours every day. This Project prioritizes these transit systems to improve speed and reliability.

Last fall over 20,000 people reviewed the Rose Lane Project and about 2,000 provided their comments. About two thirds identified themselves as transit riders and the others as users of other transportation options.

Those that used transit as their primary mode of transportation thought the Project changes would be improvements. Those that rarely used transit were concerned about how these changes would impact their auto, bicycle and sidewalk use on these streets.

When asked about the locations of improvements, downtown locations received the greatest response. Other major streets in inner neighborhoods of central Portland were also suggested.

People that rode transit agreed that improving travel time, frequency and reliability were the most important ways to upgrade transit. Those that did not use transit said they did not use it because travel times were too long and that transit did not serve their desired destinations.

Many North American cities have found that transit ridership and performance are increased by similar projects. Excessive traffic congestion leads to transit unre-



Intersection of SW Main St. and SW 1st Ave.
Photo by Don MacGillivray

liability with delays and longer travel times which cause missed transfers and late arrivals. Transit that is not efficient and dependable reduces ridership.

Portland’s transit system must improve to attract more drivers from their cars and onto buses. The goal is to increase public transit trips by 25 percent within the next 15 years and the Rose Lane Project is a major step in this direction.

At the end of last year, pilot projects were installed on three streets in Central Portland. These were on: SW Madison, NW Everett and along the Burnside Bridge. The improvements have reduced transit delays by allowing buses to travel faster and more reliably through downtown toward their destinations.

Phase 1 of the Rose Lane Project consists of 29 street improvements implemented over the next two years.

Each improvement will be tested, monitored and refined over the first few months of deployment, after which adjustments will be made to improve their performance.

The development of Phase 2 projects are underway along other corridors throughout the city. The plans include the project scope, cost and pilot projects and results will be reviewed by city leaders. Implementation will begin after the completion of Phase 1. Public education and awareness programs will inform riders of the changes and advantages to the transit services provided by TriMet.

Transportation emissions have risen in recent years as driving rates have increased. They now contribute 42 percent of the local greenhouse gas emissions

that come primarily from automobile exhaust.

To reverse this trend, Portland’s daily drive-alone trips must be reduced by 25,000 each year. The Rose Lane Project is in response to the American Cities Climate Challenge that seeks to reduce carbon emissions in 25 of the largest cities in America.

A significant benefit of the Project will be to improve the mobility of low-income commuters and people of color. The travel time for African American commuters is 20 percent greater than for all other commuters.

Delays and unreliable service caused by traffic congestion disproportionately impacts many disadvantaged riders because of their dependence on transit as a primary means of long-distance transportation. Rose Lane will significantly help riders to reach their destinations on schedule.

According to the National Transit Database, the Greater Seattle area is the leader in the growth of transit ridership. Seattle offers frequent and reliable bus and light rail travel options for commuting to and from downtown.

In 2017, their record was 122.2 million riders that made 191.7 million trips. Of Seattle’s downtown morning commuters 75 percent utilize buses, trains, vanpools, bikes, walking or telecommuting while only 25 percent drive alone in their automobiles. Additionally, King County has 1,600 active Metro vanpools and vanshares carrying 11,000 registered riders annually.

The Rose Lane Project Report is available on the PDOT website at portlandoregon.gov/transportation/80076.



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Addressing Workplace Safety

By Jack Rubinger

At Reed College, concerns about Oregon OSHA’s top workplace safety hazards are being addressed pro-actively. These include injuries from trips and falls, chemical spills, physical and mental fatigue on the job, toppling and falling objects, and repetitive motion injuries.

While workplace safety is getting more and more play these days as it relates to COVID-19, many hazardous situations occur year after year and should always be on the radar of the Portland community.

There are about 75 Oregon OSHA field enforcement inspectors who work out of field offices across the state. The frequency of inspections varies. From 2015 to 2019, about 3,000 inspections were conducted each year. These cover the construction, agriculture, forestry industries and general occupational safety and health for other industries, e.g. breweries and universities.

Inspectors field complaints, provide evaluations and confidential on-site inspections, either on their own initiative or based on calls from whistleblowers. Inspections are always random and fines can range from \$100 to more than \$120,000 depending on the severity and seriousness of the violation.

Reed College implements a variety of measures for trip and fall prevention. They have an active and engaged safety committee on campus that is charged with

identifying workplace safety hazards and implementing corrective action. This committee performs quarterly building and grounds walks to identify hazards.

Some of the corrective measures Reed implements are traction tape on stairs, removal of environmental hazards such as ice and moss build up, adding visibility strips in hard-to-see locations and increased lighting in dark spots.

Reed has a program where workers are trained annually on fall prevention measures. All employees go through new employee safety training where they are informed of trip and fall potentials and how to eliminate them in the workplace.

Small, incidental spills in the workplace are cleaned up by the individual doing the task. Each person working with chemicals in the workplace is trained on proper chemical handling, spill prevention and cleanup procedures.

If the spill becomes too large for one person to easily handle (or the properties of the chemical spill are of a higher hazard degree), the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) staff, which has a higher level of training and personal protective equipment to handle such spills, performs the task.

If for some reason the spill is classified as a major spill by the EHS staff, Reed staff would call local hazmat to assist with proper spill cleanup.

If a spill were to occur in waterways (Canyon, Crystal

Springs) staff members would immediately initiate spill response measures and report it to the Department of Environmental Quality or Environmental Protection Agency.

Because physical and mental fatigue on the job is an ongoing concern for Oregon OSHA, Reed offers free ergonomic consultations and office equipment procurement. All staff are trained on preventative measures to reduce mental and physical fatigue, such as taking breaks often and varying work tasks.

The facilities crew is offered free morning yoga before the work shift begins. Reed has an active wellness committee that implements various physical and mental activities offered to the community either free or for a small fee.

Repetitive motion injuries are always on the radar with Oregon OSHA. Reed trains everyone about repetitive motion potentials and how to reduce their potential by taking breaks often and stretching.

Local safety consultant Jeremy Norton runs Affordable Safety Training, LLC and says that the best way to prevent falls from heights is to use engineering controls to eliminate the hazard and installing guardrails on exposed edges. He believes fall harnesses and similar protection systems should only be used when the hazard itself cannot be eliminated.

Oregon’s Hazard Communication laws require employers to maintain an active inventory



Fire extinguisher training
Photo by Reed College

of all chemicals on site. Norton suggested performing a regular inventory examination of chemical containers. He suggests buying chemicals in small amounts, just enough for the job being performed, as bulk storage of chemicals can cause spills and fires.

Norton asks his customers these questions:

- Is there a brown rust ring around the bottom of the container?
- Is the top of the container crusted over from dried chemicals? If so, if it hasn’t been used in a while, it may not be needed onsite.

He believes toppling and falling object hazards usually result from poor planning and recommends using storage containers and racking devices to ensure stability.

Many believe the best

method for dealing with repetitive motion injuries is to eliminate the hazard via automation of engineer controls. Specially designed equipment, like ergonomic keyboards, can also minimize repetitive motion hazards.

“Employers need to implement an effective formal safety training program. One training event is not enough,” said Norton.

“Safety refreshers and reminders need to be integrated into every aspect of the business,” he added. “This includes work procedures, work briefings, executive meetings and employee evaluations.”

Visit osha.oregon.gov for additional information about workplace safety.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

“As followers of Jesus we are called to love our enemies, but that love does not cancel out anger against injustice and those perpetrating it. The anger is real, and its expression is necessary. Scripture shows us over and again God’s anger at injustice. More than that, Scripture shows us that God is at work, bringing peace with justice for all people. **Peace and Justice are not abstract concepts, they are a social reality whereby all people have all they need to flourish as image bearers of God.**”

~ Mennonite Church USA

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Book Takes Readers on a Portland Tour

By Kris McDowell

111 Places in Portland That You Must Not Miss is a book that feels good in your hands. The sturdy, ultra-heavy stock paper cover is smooth and almost silky with a simple three-color design.

Its heft says, “Toss me in your bag and let’s go explore. I’ll stand up to plenty of handling, crumbs, a splash of moisture and still look good guiding you through the town.”

The book is part of a set of guidebooks equally suited to locals as well as travelers. Published by Emons Publishers GmbH, the series includes books on popular destinations on the west coast, like Vancouver, BC and San Francisco.

Author Katrina Nattress, a Portland native, and photographer Jason Quigley, a SE resident, take readers on an educational tour through the City of Roses page after page, from Abernathy Green to The Zymoglyphic Museum.

Organized alphabetically, there are eye-catching photos for each of the 111 places listed that begs even a casual, “flip-through-er” to slow down. There is a combination of places you have likely visited on your own or taken out of town visitors to mixed with those you may not have known existed.

Take the Pittock Mansion. Most Portlanders have visited it at least once, but did you know about Portland Bike Polo or the Outbreak Museum? While it might be a while before you are



Photo by Kris McDowell

entertaining visitors again, finding adventures in our own backyards is perhaps just what Summer 2020 may need.

Past the listings for the 111 places at the back of the book, you’ll find maps with places listed by their number in the book. One is a wider view covering the whole of the Portland metro area and zoomed in ones of downtown

and the eastside – areas with a greater concentration of places.

Pick a few close together or plan a route to walk/bike to fill a day, depending on how much time you have or the stamina of those you’re adventuring with. Start with a part of town you haven’t spent much time in or enjoy discovering new places on your home turf.

One note before heading out is that it may be prudent to visit locations’ websites, especially retail, to verify their location. We didn’t do a complete check of locations, but one we noticed has relocated from their former SE home to NW since the book was published earlier this year.

The added changes necessitated by the COVID-19 situation may have an impact on some locations’ hours in the short term.

Such changes, from the time a hardcopy publication goes to print until it reaches the readers hands, beg the question: is there a corresponding e-book? The answer is “no,” but not without good reason.

The impactful layout of the book with the text descriptions on the left-hand pages and the photos filling the right-hand pages just wouldn’t be the same in digital format. Grab a copy from your favorite bookstore or visit multicolib.com to reserve your time with their copy of it.



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Letters to the Editor

Editor’s note: Letters to the Editor should be less than 300 words and The SE Examiner reserves the right to edit them for length or content.

To the Editor:

Until the effective handling of radioactive waste is figured out, Portlanders should never encourage nuclear power.

There are 177 leaking tanks of high-level nuclear waste from World War II stored “temporarily” at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation 220 miles up the Columbia River.

There are no approved permanent storage sites for this 75-year-old waste as well as newly created waste from nuclear power plants including the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) that is situated on the river running through the Hanford Reservation near the Tri-Cities.

Formerly called WPN-2, CGS is one of the five nuclear power plants planned under the Washington Public Power Supply System or frequently referred to as WPPSS (pronounced “whoops!”). The waste just keeps pilling up in temporary dry casks.

Hanford Reservation has 11 earthquake fault lines running underneath, and a river system which houses 32 dams including one of the oldest and largest dams in the US, the Grand Coulee, already beyond its engineered life.

In 1822, a 7.4 earthquake occurred with the epicenter 20

miles from the present-day Grand Coulee Dam.

Further concern is that CGS was engineered by GE, a boiling water reactor Mark 2. Fukushima’s fateful nuclear power plant was a GE Mark 1. Both are beyond their engineered life.

Portlanders along with those that live in Oregon and Washington areas like Hood River, Richland and Kennewick are in great danger of the current waste (old and new) being swept down the river contaminating our water and air.

Nancy Matela

To the Editor:

I’m writing to thank the Editor for the subscription mailing service of *The Southeast Examiner*. I’m a long-time reader and Mt. Tabor resident, and feel *The Examiner* is a vital source of information about our SE neighborhoods.

My home delivery was interrupted when I moved to a new address which didn’t meet the postal service criteria for bulk delivery (due to an additional ADU address). The subscription mailing service means I can continue to enjoy home delivery. Many thanks!

Nancy Lynn

33rd Annual Oregon Book Award Winners

By Kris McDowell

Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) hosted a special radio show in June for Portland non-profit Literary Arts’ 2020 Oregon Book Awards.

This was the first time in the history of the Awards that the ceremony was not able to take place with a live audience and instead was reimagined into a statewide broadcast/podcast with hosts Elena Passarello and Omar El Akkad.

Since 1997, the Awards have celebrated the work of the state’s authors. This year, 215 books from 44 towns across Oregon were submitted for consideration. Out-of-state judges determined the finalists and the winners.

2020 award winners are:

Award for Children’s Literature: Cathy Camper of Portland for *Lowriders Blast From the Past* (Chronical Books)

Award for Young Adult Literature: Deborah Hopkinson of West Linn for *How I Became a Spy: A Mystery of WWII London* (Knopf Books for Young Readers)

Frances Fuller Victor Award for General Nonfiction: David Wolman and Julian Smith of Portland for *Aloha Rodeo: Three Hawaiian Cowboys, the*

World’s Greatest Rodeo, and a Hidden History of the American West (William Morrow)

Sarah Winnemucca Award for Creative Nonfiction: Beth Alvarado of Bend for *Anxious Attachments* (Autumn House Press)

Award for Graphic Literature: Greg Means & MK Reed for *Penny Nichols* (Top Shelf)

Stafford/Hall Award for Poetry: Ashley Toliver for *Spectra* (Coffee House Press)

Ken Kesey Award for Fiction: Keshia Ajose Fisher for *No God Like the Mother* (Inkwater Press)

Walt Morey Young Readers Literacy Legacy Award: Reading Results of Portland (readingresultspdx.org)

Stewart H. Holbrook Literacy Legacy Award: Write Around Portland of Portland (writearound.org)

Charles Erskine Scott Wood Distinguished Writer Award: Lawson Fusao Inada of Ashland

All books, with the exception of *Anxious Attachments*, are currently available through the Multnomah County Library.

Hear the broadcast at literary-arts.org/archive/2020-oregon-book-awards.

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Debate Over RIP Continues

By MIDGE PIERCE

In the midst of the dual challenges of pandemic and civil unrest, Commissioners heard two days of public comment on amendments to the controversial Residential Infill Project (RIP).

A City Council vote on each amendment is slated for July 9, with final consideration of an amended draft tentatively scheduled for August 5.

The public record is now closed. The sessions, held June 3 and 18, were the last opportunity for testimony. Planning and Sustainability Director Andrea Durbin says building size decisions will be deferred until Portland’s plan is reviewed by the state.

Last summer, the Oregon legislature passed laws requiring rezoning of single family neighborhoods in most cities to allow multi-unit housing. How many units per lot can be allowed is left up to individual jurisdictions. Durbin says RIP’s earliest implementation is August 2021.

A key issue at Portland City Council hearings was whether six or more units could be allowed per lot as part of a Deeper Affordability Bonus amendment attached to the original RIP proposals. The amendment goes beyond minimum mandates by the state legislature.

Both supporters and critics claim to seek affordable housing solutions. Where they diverge is on how affordability can be achieved.

Advocates contend more units mean affordability and more choices for more Portlanders, especially those who have been subject to housing discrimination.

Critics counter that RIP contains no affordability guarantees since it adheres to market rate practices that benefit developers known to demolish low cost homes, displacing vulnerable populations and failing to provide options for families.

The June 3 session tapped into fears that densification exacerbates pandemics. Durbin, who oversees RIP, said dense cities are safer and easier to monitor during pandemics.

She was followed by a majority of speakers that support the approval of RIP and its amendment for six or more units. Comments from both sides echoed Durbin’s call to “right the wrongs” of inequitable housing.

The social justice focus grew sharper as RIP supporters and opponents cited Portland’s racist history as a reason for either speedy adoption of RIP or great caution in its application.

Testimonials from members of groups like 1000 Friends of Oregon, Living Cully and various housing nonprofits stressed that adding more units to a formerly single family lot reduced the cost per unit.

PDX Forward testifiers suggested going further than six units to provide compact, low cost housing everywhere.

Activist Tony Jordan described RIP’s Deeper Affordability Bonus amendment as a way to counter redlining of the past.

Buckman resident Susan Lindsay objected to the exclusion of parts of the West Hills from RIP.

Sightline’s Michael Anderson said density provides cities with multi-generational abundance.

Climate activist Anna Kemper spoke of injustice foisted on minorities pushed to the margins of the City where pollution exposure is higher.

Nick Sauvie of Rose Community Development said densification enables non-profits to compete for building sites.

Objections from SE Portland residents like Ana Azizkhani countered that RIP itself is a racist policy in disguise.

“Don’t sell the city,” Azizkhani said. “Private equity firms

displace black, brown and communities of color.” She continued that Portland has no shortage of buildable land without demolishing existing, affordable houses.

Architect Rod Merrick called the Deeper Affordability Bonus, “simply deeper deception” that would put pressure on single family homeowners to sell, displacing low and middle income households and families with children.

Adaptive reuse advocate Jeff Cole called for housing for working class families through “addition, not subtraction.”

Restore Oregon’s Peggy Moretti called for protections for existing affordable houses, adding that blanket rezoning favors high end market forces at the expense of minorities and wastes the embedded sustainability of housing built with old growth wood.

Testifier Christopher Brown warned of RIP’s impact on the poorest parts of town where modest homes might be replaced with three-story, 35-foot tall structures that would fill lots, block light, eradicate gardens and fell trees as well as houses.

Analyst M.K. Hansen used the city’s own data to show how market rate redevelopment would price out low income minorities.

During both sessions, residents called for assurances that affordability and displacements would be tracked. BPS’ Durbin promised tracing by race, income and age.

Given the intensity surrounding the five-year RIP debate and ongoing racial tensions within the community, SE resident Frank DiMarco called for a November ballot measure on RIP and its amendments to allow residents to exercise their rights of self-determination.

He questioned whether testifiers (numbered at 75) and 300 pieces of written testimonials represent the population.



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Avoid Storing Cash at Home

By GINA ELIA HAEFNER

Our collective experience of the last three months has brought about unusual trends in human behavior. Think of the empty toilet paper and cleaning supply shelves at grocery stores across our SE Portland neighborhoods.

People are seeking a sense of control in these uncertain times by stockpiling necessities like hand sanitizer, pet food, and yes, even cold, hard cash.

As the manager of OnPoint Community Credit Union’s 205 Place Branch, I’ve observed this tendency firsthand.

OnPoint, along with other financial institutions, has experienced an increase in individuals withdrawing large sums of cash and keeping it at home for safe-keeping.

This trend reminds me of Y2K when many people feared computers would stop working on December 31, 1999, which they

thought would result in restricted access to their money. As we all know, these fears turned out to be unfounded and they remain so today as we face the coronavirus pandemic.

While home may seem like the most secure place for money in a crisis, you may not be aware that homeowners’ insurance policies rarely cover cash. That means if you have a fire or your house is burglarized, you risk losing it all.

The simple truth is, your money is safest when stored at a credit union or a bank that is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

Banks and credit unions in Oregon protect over \$103 billion in financial assets with federal deposit insurance, and not a single one of these dollars has ever been lost.

If you or a loved one is

thinking about withdrawing a large sum of money, check with your homeowner’s or renter’s insurance provider to see what kind of protection, if any, they offer for large amounts of cash.

Not only is your cash likely uninsured at home, withdrawing large sums puts you at risk for accidental overdraft and you lose out earning interest dollars from a CD or high-yield savings account.

While these are challenging times, the good news is that financial institutions offer many safe and effective alternatives to help you safeguard your money.

Whether it’s reviewing your budget, prioritizing needs versus wants, or understanding the current scams that exist, I encourage you to reach out to your credit union or bank today to find out what services and resources may be available.



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Answering the Call

As Oregon continues to work to reopen, the state reminds residents that one key strategy to help stop the spread of COVID-19 is contract tracing. Contract tracers have been hired for each county in Oregon to call people who may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

The goal of contact tracing is to provide the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) with guidance and support and further prevent spread of the virus. OHA is working closely with local public and Tribal health departments on a statewide coordinated contact tracing effort.

If you receive a call from a contract tracer, you are encour-

aged to answer it. If you are concerned about answering a call from a phone number you don't recognize, let it go to voicemail.

Contract tracers are instructed to leave a voicemail clearly identifying themselves and will leave information to call them back. The voicemail will not contain any health information.

OHA is committed to protecting your privacy. If you are contacted, your information will be kept strictly confidential and will be treated as a confidential public health record. Your information will not be shared with other agencies, including immigration officials.

Contract tracers will ask questions that include the county

you live in, your date of birth, your contact information (including phone number, email address and mailing address), your occupation, whether you have symptoms of COVID-19 and questions about race, ethnicity, language and disability information in order to provide more equitable services.

Contract tracers will never ask for: your social security number, your immigration status, your credit card number or any bank account information.

If you receive a call from anyone requesting this information, hang up. It could be someone trying to use your information for a scam. Do not answer future calls from that number.

Report the incident to the Oregon Department of Justice online at [OregonConsumer.gov](https://oregonconsumer.gov).

Free Energy Saver Kits

Energy Trust of Oregon offers free Energy Saver Kits filled with products to help people reduce energy cost.

Kits are available to renters and homeowner customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural, Cascade Natural Gas and Avista.

Contents of the kit will vary based on the characteristics of individual homes.

You provide information at the website to allow Energy Trust customize your kit. They may include Energy Star Qualified LEDs and high-performance showerheads and faucet aerators.

The kit should arrive in four to six weeks. Actual energy sav-



ings depend on usage; Energy Trust does not guarantee specific savings from us of the kit.

Energy Trust also offers a list of low-cost and no-cost tips to save energy and money, whether you rent or own your home.

In addition to lighting and water reminders, there are tips for sealing air leaks, reducing usage during hot weather and more.

Visit energytrust.org/incentives/energy-saver-kits to sign up.

IPR Annual Report Released

The Portland City Auditor has released their 2019 Independent Police Review's (IPR) annual report.

In past years, the annual report focused on snapshots of data that now are updated more frequently and presented through online dashboards.

These include misconduct complaints and allegations, homeless arrests and office-involved shootings. Data can be accessed at portlandoregon.gov/ipr/76848.

The online dashboards can be customized to viewer's prefer-

ences and links on the last page of the dashboards offer the data for download.

In addition to investigations, IPR reviews Portland Police Bureau (PPB) policies and makes recommendations for improvement.

Under the Five-Year Strategic Plan instituted in 2017 and continuing through the end of 2021, the areas of focus are: developing further autonomy from the PPB to maintain independence and promote accountability; creating clear criteria for IPR action to promote transparency

in decision-making; and clearly communicating IPR processes and action to promote community engagement.

IPR achieved substantial compliance for its part of the Department of Justice Settlement agreement and will continue to monitor the timeliness of cases, still, the number of Bureau members filing complaints against it has seen an upward trend in recent years.

Progress has been made on the Strategic Plan, but seeks to improve access to data and make more investigative information available to the public.

Read the full report at bit.ly/2019IPRAnnualreport.

Recycling Tips for July

By BONITA DAVIS, MASTER RECYCLER AND SE RESIDENT

It's time to reimagine, get creative, repair and reuse!

Over the past two months we have all grappled with how to navigate our lives with the presence of COVID-19. Businesses were shuttered in unprecedented numbers and those of us who live by "REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE" became aware of what appeared to be losses.

Out of concerns for safe handling, some grocery stores stopped taking back cans and bottles for the \$.10 deposit (although BottleDrop facilities and kiosks never closed), others removed plastic film recycling bins and plastic bags even made a comeback in some stores due to a reported paper bag shortage.

Bringing your own coffee cup became more difficult as major retailers such as Starbucks stopped selling their popular reusable cups and discontinued filling durable cups brought into the store.

Groceries closed food bins requiring scoops and those bringing reusable bags into stores were being asked to bag their own and changes just keep coming.

Some good news is that area businesses are reopening, including our favorite reuse stores. Here are two of my favorites I hope you will visit soon.

Village Merchants, 4035 SE Division St., was opened by Marcee Meijer in 1998 with an environmental philosophy of "less is more." Meijer has won the title of "the Godmother of consignment" and is the recipient for the 2020 Best of Portland Award in the Thrift Category. Meijer believes the success of her business is because it is a space that is truly about community.

Now reopened, the shop is filled with most things you might need for your home and garden, plus clothing, shoes, jewelry and much more – all for sale, trade or consignment.

To keep everyone safe, CDC Guidelines are in effect with face masks required, physical distancing reminders, new dressing room protocols and clear barriers on the counters. The restroom has been closed to the public. Learn more and get current hours at vilagemerchants.net.

ReClaim It! is a popular regional draw located at 1 N. Killingsworth. Opened as a storefront by the non-profit arts group, Cracked Pots (crackedpots.org), the shop is filled to the brim with metals, wood, hardware, household furnishings, art and art materials, antiques and treasures.

Volunteers glean the majority of what they offer from the Metro Transfer Station operated by Recology, rescuing valuable materials and creative reuse supplies from the landfill (3,000 lbs. per week!). This clean, bright, organized shop is delightful.

As ReClaim It! reopens, you have two ways to shop. You can shop online and schedule contact-free curbside pickup or make an appointment to shop in-store. Go to reclaimitpdx.org for current days, hours and details.

Materials Management Tip: The City of Portland is asking that we tightly and securely bag all garbage before placing it in the bins for pickup. This protects the health and safety of waste collectors and the community. This only applies to garbage; do not bag recycling.

Also, NO plastic bags are allowed in the blue bins.

Visit portland.gov/bps for COVID-19 updates.

Tax Filing Deadline Reminder

This year the usual April 15 Tax Day deadline for federal income returns was extended to July 15 due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Now that July is upon us, it's time to make sure you have filed your return to avoid incurring interest and penalties which begin to accrue on any remaining unpaid balances as of July 16.

Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the July 15 deadline can request a filing extension by filing Form 4868 through their tax preparer, the tax software they use or by using the Free File link on IRS.gov.

Businesses can also request a filing extension by file a Form 7004.



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Community News

Photos Sought for Annual Calendar

The Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) invites the public to submit their best photos of agriculture for the 2021 Oregon's Bounty Calendar. Participants do not need to be Farm Bureau members and there is no limit to the number of photos that can be submitted. The deadline is September 15.

Subject ideas for the award-winning calendar include close-ups of ag products, planting/harvesting crops, ranching scenes, panoramic views of farmland, people enjoying Oregon ag prod-



ucts, farm animals, portraits of Farm Bureau members and farming/ranching scenes from all seasons.

Horizontal-format, high-

resolution images can be emailed to annemarie@oregonfb.org. Instructions of previous Oregon's Bounty Calendars are available at OregonFB.org/calendar.

Dealing with Increased Graffiti

As the City's reopening begins, a sign of the decreased number of people who have been out and about over the past months remains: increased graffiti.

The City of Portland's Graffiti Program offers reduced-cost removal assistance to residents of any single-family home or condo/apartment building with 10 or fewer units, small businesses (10

or fewer employees, corporate franchisees excluded) and non-profit organizations (excluding large ones like Goodwill Industries or Providence).

Services include painting and/or power washing painted and unpainted surfaces.

To request removal assistance, fill out the graffiti removal service agreement found

at portlandoregon.gov/civic/article/639531 and return it by mail or email as instructed on the form.

After placing a request, you should hear back from the program within three to five days.

Locations that do not qualify for City-sponsored graffiti removal assistance may want to contact one of these contractors to perform the work: Portland United Graffiti Removal at 503.764.8355, Graffiti Removal Services at 916.233.7739 or Portland Graffiti Removal at 971.678.5249.

Journal On!

Portland Art Museum, Portland Public Schools and Create More, Fear Less have teamed up to provide an outlet for students to share their journey through life amid COVID-19.

Every Saturday through mid-August, a new prompt will be posted at journalon.org and their Instagram page (@journal_

on_everyone) to help our community's youth address what it's like being them right now; how their life has changed and how they expect to look back at this time.

Participants are encouraged to use the creative expression of their choice: drawings, words or photos. Those whose expressions aren't easily captured in one of those forms (example, musicians or dancers), are encouraged to share their creation or process

captured in a still image.

Files are to be uploaded at journalon.org with a few pieces of information about the artist: first name or initials, age, email address and the title of the piece or a comment about it.

Email addresses will not be published and artists have the option whether or not to display their age. Participants under 13 years old need to have a parent or guardian complete the submission form.

National Night Out Postponed

National Night Out, the annual community-building campaign promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie, has been postponed to Tuesday, October 6.

The event is typically held the first Tuesday in August but

due to the COVID-19 situation, there will be a delay of two months this year.

The decision to move the event to a later date will help ensure that block parties and events can take place by following the guidance of local public health

officials as the situation changes.

Updated information will be posted as it is available at portlandoregon.gov/civic/63208.

National Night Out face masks are available for purchase at natw.org/product/face-mask.

Summer Reading 2020

This summer, Multnomah County Library encourages youth to *Imagine Your Story* with fairytales, mythology and fantasy as part of their Summer Reading program.

Dragon mascot Shu Long (pictured below) hopes to inspire people to be good readers in this free program that runs through August 31. Readers can participate online or on paper.

Online participants have the opportunity to enter a drawing for

prizes each time they reach 15 log-in days. Prizes will be mailed to Multnomah County addresses.

Those who prefer to use a paper gameboard can download it online in black and white or color or call the library at 503.988.5123 to have one mailed to them.

Summer Reading is supported by gifts to The Library Foundation, a local non-profit dedicated to the library's leadership, innovation and reach through private support.



Multnomah County Library Continues Reopening

Multnomah County began no-contact, appointment only sidewalk service, allowing patrons to pick up holds June 8 at a handful of locations.

By the end of June they had expanded the service to all locations, with the exception of Albina and Sellwood-Moreland (the latter being delayed for a planned carpeting project).

To make a hold pickup appointment, contact the library at 503.988.5123. Appointments are available 9 am-4 pm.

There is no access to library buildings at this time.

Book drops have been reopened to allow patrons to return materials checked out before the closure.

Patrons are instructed to NOT try to disinfect items before returning them as that may cause damage. All returned items will be put in quarantine for at least 72 hours before they are checked in.

Although the library is accepting returns, they are continuing to suspend late fees and fines.

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Rocket Empire Machine Readies for Launch

By Kris McDowell

These days we are seeing change in many areas of life and in many areas of our city. One area that may have flown under your radar is the development of the building at the corner of NE Glisan and 70th Ave.

The location is the former home of automotive shop Rocket Empire Machine (aka Engine Parts Network) and was purchased when the original owners made the decision to retire.

The project is a collaboration between Guerrilla Development and Sister City that is transforming the approximately 3,000 square foot building into a space that will house four restaurants and a taproom for Gigantic Brewing. Early on it was decided that the name Rocket Empire Machine (REM), too perfect to change, would remain.

Described as a “new affordable retail model powered by internal rent subsidy, investor hold-back and involvement from community groups,” REM is a pilot in line with Guerrilla’s goal

to “acknowledge and alleviate the negative effects of commercial gentrification while fostering an environment for retail tenants to thrive and for community members to inclusively gather.”

If that sounds lofty and perhaps a little too good to be true, consider that Guerrilla is also the developer behind the Ocean and the Zipper. Located on NE 28th and Glisan St., and NE 28th and Sandy Blvd., respectively. Both properties house restaurant/bar tenants that share furnished indoor and/or outdoor seating areas, restrooms, bicycle parking and more.

In recent months, Guerrilla has informed the tenants at those locations that in light of the financial impact COVID-19 has had, rent is not being collected. It’s not a “don’t worry about paying us now” situation but, rather, a “don’t pay us” situation. The longevity of the tenants are of greater concern than the short term financial situation.

The Southeast Examiner had the opportunity to meet with Rocket Empire Machine project lead and principal of Sister City,

Anna Mackay, and one of Rocket Empire Machine’s tenants, Gigantic Brewing Company’s Master Brewer Van Havig, at the site.

While touring the space, Mackay said the purchase from the retiring owners happened so quickly, a “cigarette was left burning in the ashtray.” Guerrilla then put 18-months of planning into the adaptive reuse of the Butler® Building (a pre-engineered metal building) before starting construction.

Walking through the nearly complete interior and exterior, it was easy to visualize Sea and River Sushi, Alleamin African Kitchen and Tierra del Sol busily making food for patrons sitting out on the generous patio in front of their spaces mingling with patrons enjoying beers from The Robot Room (Gigantic’s taproom) and baked creations from The Pie Spot.

To start, Gigantic will limit their offerings to bottled beer, designed to be picked up while people are picking up food from the restaurants. Eventually there will be draft beer, cider and wine as well as seating at their bar. In the meantime, it is anticipated that, due to limitations imposed due to COVID-19, most business for REM will be “grab and go” rather than “stay and enjoy.”

Gigantic’s Havig said they had been casually looking for a space for a second location to complement their SE brewery and taproom for about three years. They weren’t in a hurry, being more concerned about finding a place that was “the right fit.”

The ability to operate as a taproom only (with food being available from REM’s other tenants) will allow them to do what they do well – serve up carefully crafted beer and build a community with their customers.

Of all of Havig’s accomplishments, it is the community they have built that he is most proud of because “it’s about the people, not the beer.”

An early July opening is anticipated for Pie Spot, for whom this will be a second location. Their first brick and motor opened in the Ocean February 2013, a progression of what started as selling at farmers markets and street fairs in 2009, upgrading to a vintage food cart in October, 2013.



REM exterior construction nearly complete Photo by Kris McDowell

Tierra del Sol, offering authentic Mexican-Oaxacan style food, will likely be one of the first to open. They debuted at the King Farmers Market in 2013 and opened their food cart in 2015, residing at the Portland Mercado food cart pod in Foster-Powell.

Alleamin African Kitchen, cooking up fresh Somalian sauces and food, and Sea and River Sushi will round out the food offerings at this micro-restaurant development.

In addition to offering lower barrier-to-entry pricing, REM offers tenants an often-overlooked benefit by providing the spaces with pre-installed range and dishwasher hood, plumbing stub-outs

for sinks and an allowance for basic range and sinks.

Guerrilla Development feels the it is the responsibility of real estate developers to find ways to drive change and support “native retailers” (those determined to remain in their neighborhoods through regeneration).

They hope their work will add to the anecdotal reports showing that helping these businesses retain their leases through the first several years of gentrification leads to a doubling of net income.

The trajectory of a rocket? No, but a hope that is as bright as the stars that shine on a clear night.

Staying Safe At Home

By Rachel Hemmingson, Consultant & Advocate for Aging Well

In this time of the pandemic life is bewildering. Two friends of mine have lost 90+-year-old aunts to the illness. A client of mine says her 90-year-old mom tested positive although she had no symptoms. What does all that mean? I don’t know. What we do know is, it’s a risk to be exposed when you are an older person.

So what if you were planning to sell and move into an independent living community just before the pandemic? Chances are you’ve chosen to wait. I have clients in this situation. If you, too are in this place, or know someone feeling stuck in this way, here are some ideas which I hope will be helpful.

A critical piece to know is that retirement facilities and nursing homes – the places where so many have caught the illness – are not the same as independent living communities. I know many employees at different independent living communities. No one I’ve talked with has had anyone become ill. Some communities have had one or two staff or residents test positive, but not be ill.

If you have been stopped by fear of what will happen if you move to the place you planned to, call them. Find out what’s really going on and what their safety measures are. Don’t let unbiased fear stop you.

Another part of making the decision to move into an independent living community is assessing the safety where you currently are. Some questions to ask yourself follow:

How are you doing getting around your house? If there are stairs that you’ve become uncomfortable using, can you live on

your main floor for now? Maybe you will need to have someone do your laundry so you needn’t go downstairs.

Are you feeling okay about what it’s taking to stay home? Are you eating well enough? Make sure you are not too stressed about doing your own grocery shopping or using a delivery service.

Are you moving around enough? The primary reason many elders stop being able to live at home is because they can no longer get up off the couch. Stay active and stay aware if your activity level has changed.

How is your mood in the face of being isolated? Monitor for depression sneaking in; it will weaken your immune system and lessen your vitality. Be sure to watch feel-good shows or things that make you laugh.

Do you need a Medi-alert button? These are intended to be worn in case you fall or become faint. You can have them set up such that, upon pushing your button, a real person calls you over a speaker in your house to talk with you and see if you’re okay.

They can call your choice of help, a neighbor, or friend/family member if they’re not reached. The last call would be for an ambulance. These devices allow you to have control and help, should you need it.

Here’s what we all need to remember: Generalized information on almost anything rarely takes into account that the later life years are not business as usual.

“Stay home and stay safe” may be excellent advice for the general public, but your current home may not be the safest place for you. If home doesn’t feel as safe as it once did, maybe it is time to put more consideration in a safer place.



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Business Walkabout

Vino Veritas

By Nina Silberstein

Vino Veritas started off as a collaboration between friends and co-workers. Original owners Sami Khawaja and Dana and Steve Cofer had a knack for finding up-and-coming wine regions, as well as great value in “every-day sippers.”

Surprisingly, none of the owners had any formal experience in the wine industry, just a simple passion and love for the beverage.

Dana Cofer in particular, wanted to make a career change and follow her dream of opening a wine bar, so she started looking for locations. A spot opened down the street from her house in front of Academy Theater in the heart of the Montavilla neighborhood.

Sensing there was a need for a wine-centric business in an area that was already filled with breweries, beer bars and restaurants, the trio opened Vino Veritas at 7835 SE Stark St. in late April 2017. Their vision was to bring the community together through a glass of wine.

Vino Veritas, by the way, comes from the old Latin phrase: In Vino Veritas, which means, “in wine there is truth.”

In January of this year, Sami purchased the wine bar from the other partners. Originally from Jordan, he has lived in Portland most of his life. He has a PhD in economics and has started several businesses in the green (renewable) energy sector.

Sommeliers Trevor Gorham and Manuel Merdele were hired for their experience and knowledge in the industry and have grown into larger operational positions.

Gorham is originally from the San Francisco Bay area, where he studied hospitality and tourism. He started his career as a wine buyer for a well-known Spanish wine and food retailer.

In 2016, he moved to the Willamette Valley to work at Van Duzer Vineyards. Shortly thereafter, he finished his sommelier certification with the Court of Master Sommeliers while working with Vino Veritas.

“The number one priority is to provide our customers with a positive experience that extends our love for wine to them,” Gorham explains. “We want to create a relaxed and comfortable environment for the community to hang out and learn about wine.”

Merdele grew up in Northern Italy and went to college to become a sommelier. He worked at several highly respected restaurants in France and Germany and in 2016, he moved to Portland and continued his enthusiasm for Italian and French wines.

Another member of the team, Miguel Marquez, came on board as a certified sommelier, bringing even more diversity to the team by sharing his interest and knowledge of saké and Mexican wine. Marquez grew up in the restaurant industry and went to college in Mexico City for restaurant management.

As of press time, Vino Veritas was in the process of launching a new food menu. Some exciting offerings include Cajun shrimp toast (an open-face panini with Cajun shrimp salad) and mushroom arancini with romesco (breaded, fried mushroom and cheese puffs accompanied by a fresh red bell pepper sauce).

Two of the most popular menu items include a mushroom tartine (open-face panini with sautéed mushrooms, arugula and chèvre from Portland Creamery) and a grinder (grilled panini with salami, Black Forest ham, Manchego cheese and stone ground mustard).

In addition to wine flights, they offer vino by the glass – from sparkling, rosé and red, to white and fortified. There’s draft beer on the menu as well as non-alcoholic beverages such as sparkling water and hot tea.

Each week Vino Veritas introduces a new case special in collaboration with other businesses to support each other during these difficult times.

“We recently teamed up with Flying Fish Company with a food and wine pairing that is delivered to your doorstep,” Gorham explains. Discount and custom cases are also offered. “You tell us what you like, how much you want to spend and we pick accordingly.”

Their website has been evolving over the last couple of months and an online shop has been launched, allowing folks to customize their own cases, order some of their favorite wines safely from home and have them delivered with a quick turnaround.

“We are very excited to have launched our online shop and have plans to expand the selection in the near future,” Gorham added.

Before COVID-19 dramatically affected the restaurant and bar industry, Vino Veritas offered a wine club to help budding connoisseurs discover new wines. Every month they picked three wines (often with a theme) that showcased a particular region, style or grape varietal.

During the pickup weekend, they offered two free flights for each member where they could taste them all and pick their two favorite bottles.

“We wanted to allow the option for our members to pick their favorites, simply because there are a lot of different palates and preferences out there. We really wanted to focus on new and exciting wines that most people were unfamiliar with,” Gorham said.

Vino Veritas previously offered live music three nights a week. Every Sunday their house jazz band played, a trio of young and very talented individuals. Many of the players still in high school, with plans to further their career in highly regarded music colleges.

Tuesdays were a day for soloists. A number of them music teachers from Montavilla Guitar Studio, across the street from the wine bar. Fridays were for the more popular and accomplished musicians such as Pete Krebs, Steve Kerin and Dave Fleschner.

Their wine education program has also been affected. “Wine education is very important to us. We regularly offered classes that focused on a wide variety of topics, from the basics of sherry to the history of Tuscany,” Gorham says.

Blind tasting classes were held every week and took an elementary approach to learning how to guess the grape, region and vintage.

“We strongly encouraged beginners to take a dive into the wine scene and we strove to make it as comfortable an accessible as possible,” he noted.

One of the most exciting events they hosted in the past is the Urban Winemaker Festival, a great opportunity for customers to meet the hardworking individuals who are behind the new generation of winemakers.

“Many make a very limited production of wine, but with a very unique and creative approach,” says Gorham. “We frequently hosted winemakers in our bar, but the festival was one of the few times where we could get 7-10 producers in our shop to show off their wines.”

They plan to resume all the social activities once the county gives them the green light. Certain things will be phased in sooner than others, depending on the restrictions.

“We are doing virtual tastings every other week via Facebook and Instagram,” Gorham says. “We hope to start teaching classes in the near future via



L to R: Miguel Marquez, Manuel Mederle, Sami Khawaja, Trevor Gorham
Photo by Vino Veritas

AirBnB Experience and are waiting for the final approval.”

As of Friday, June 19 they reopened with hours 4-9:30 pm daily. Returning customers will notice aesthetic changes to the interior, besides just the tables being spaced six feet apart.

Prior to COVID-19, the shop worked with one of their regular customers to redesign and renovate the wine bar. Designer Stacie Love helped them with purchasing new and more comfortable chairs and tables and rearranged the layout for better flow and stage visibility for their music.

Gorham says the new design is more consistent with the Pacific Northwest vibe: lots of rustic metals, dark wood and

faded leather. A new garage door and windows are in the works and should be finished by early August.

“From the other business owners to the families who live around the corner, we could not have asked for anything more,” he said.

“COVID-19 has brought difficult times to many, but continuing to see other business owners and our regular customers showing support for us and others made us truly believe in the need for community.”

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OMSI Reopens with *BODY WORLDS* Exhibit

By Kris McDowell

Prior to the COVID-19 closing of Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), they received another *BODY WORLDS* exhibit from the series of traveling exhibits that has been viewed by more than 50 million visitors in more than 145 cities since 1995.

The arrival of *BODY WORLDS & The Cycle of Life* marks the third time the exhibit has been featured at OMSI. It follows the 2006 version that became the most popular exhibit in the museum’s history. It will remain at OMSI through Sunday, October 4.

What sets this latest look apart from the others is that it focuses on the human life cycle, capturing the body at every stage – at its most healthy, as it changes, grows, matures and finally wanes – to depict the natural occurrence of aging.

Director of the Institute for Plastination and creative and conceptual designer of the exhibit, Dr. Angelina Whalley, says although this exhibit has been touring for over 25 years, she continues to see so many people deep in thought as they make their way through it. “People are often overwhelmed and it is a very emotional experience.”

Just as life starts inside of our mother, the exhibit begins with specimens from pre-birth. The younger specimens are dime store doll-like with ones closer

to birth taking on characteristics of a newborn. For this writer, the progression was a mixture of awe and a jolting reality that these were in fact real bodies. The specimen at 26 weeks of gestation had hair.

While this may be off-putting to some, it is astounding to be able to take such a close, detailed look at a stage of development that is rarely, if ever, seen.

Posters describing specifics of the plastinated bodies or body parts they accompany are nearly as fascinating as the specimens themselves for those who want to read them fully. For those who prefer to skim the information, it’s an easy-to-understand points of reference.

The posters also inject understated humor into what could be an otherwise be a very serious exhibit.

The **When Your Arms Get Too Short** poster covers eyesight problems associated with aging and **You Can Teach an Old Dog New Tricks**, about the importance of ongoing learning.

Those who respond to interactive features best can enjoy stations like the anatomical mirror that uses a projection of the user to demonstrate movement, and blood pressure cuffs that precede the part of the exhibit focusing on circulation.

Want to convince someone to quit (or never take up) smoking or vaping? The display of non-smoker, smoker, lung cancer

and emphysema-laden lungs are impactful even with the quickest of glances.

Dr. Whalley commented that this is one of the most discussed parts of the exhibit and some visitors have left their last pack of cigarettes behind on the display cases.

Displays of individual body parts can feel similar to an anatomy discussion while intentional, artistic components can make it more relatable to people’s lives. Life-like action poses tend to ease the concerns of individuals concerned about their reaction to the preserved bodies.

Bright red displays of the intricacies of the arteries in the brain and a life-sized nervous system catch the eye both with their color and the minutia of detail.

Like any OMSI exhibit, the depth to which one decides to take it in varies from person to person. Our stroll through was a combination of stopping to read everything at some points, detailed observation of specimens and skimming of other areas that took under an hour.

When we reached the end of the exhibit, our mind was drawn back to some things from earlier on, and anyone is welcome to go back and revisit. Spend an hour or spend hours, take in the exhibit alone or go with others and discuss it along the way. Be unnerved or awed by the specimens.

What Dr. Whalley is most rewarded by is when people leave



Photo by Kris McDowell

the exhibit saying that they will never take their body for granted again.

The length of the exhibit time at OMSI makes it possible for anyone interested in taking in the extensive work of the Institute of Plastination (over one year and 1,500 hours per body) and the generosity of those who donated the bodies displayed.

OMSI reopened June 20, following Gov. Brown’s June 3 announcement that allowed for reopening and extensive work by

the museum to ensure a safe, exciting experience.

They are currently open Monday-Sunday 10 am-7 pm for a limited number of visitors for this exhibit (and the USS Blueback Submarine).

At the time of this writing, the exhibition halls, Empirical Theater, Kendall Planetarium and museum restaurants remain closed. See omsi.edu/museum-reopening to purchase tickets and full details on what to expect.

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Urbanism Next Addresses COVID-19

By David Krogh

Urbanism Next, the University of Oregon program, sponsored a virtual forum on May 14. The primary topic was COVID-19 and its impact on cities, primarily related to the effects on transportation and commerce.

Nico Larco, Director of the Urbanism Next Center, summarized the steps cities are going through including the length of time needed for the re-opening, fears of how to address future pandemics (or the resurgence of this one) and the magnitude of economic impacts.

Ron Milam, Program Director, and Eric Womeldorff, Principal, both from Fehr & Peers, and Laura Schewel, CEO of Streetlight Data, discussed trends developing from the virus and its impacts.

It was suggested that COVID-19 may throw current thinking about long range planning and its densification philosophy “out the window.”

Speculations were provided (including survey results) that people in larger cities will be motivated by the virus to relocate to smaller, less dense cities and that public gatherings won’t ever be the same again.

Local governments will not be able to realistically maintain their pre-pandemic agendas and changes will be necessary. As an example, Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal occurred in response to the Great Depression and no less of a response will be required now.

Seleta Reynolds, General Manager from the Los Angeles Department of Transportation,

shared data that showed public transit will not be able to meet the needs of all citizens. More transportation alternatives are needed, including the use of cars as part of the solution.

In Los Angeles, you can get to many parts of the city quicker and easier than by riding the bus. With many people unwilling or unable to utilize bicycles and/or scooters, increases in ride sharing are an encouraged transportation alternative. Much of this is simply because the economy is such that people cannot necessarily afford to live near where they work or have the time and ability to utilize transit for commuting.

This is especially relevant to the Portland metro area where housing is largely unaffordable while the City has tended to ignore traffic congestion in favor of promoting biking and busing.

According to the conference speakers, this kind of thinking should be reconsidered to look for alternative solutions where all residents are appropriately served with meaningful transportation alternatives.

Laura Bliss, Journalist with CityLab-Bloomberg News, indicated that transit use is currently down at least 30 percent nationwide (and to a greater extent in the Portland area).

Alex Pazuchanics, Mobility Solutions Manager with the Seattle Department of Transportation, chimed in saying that even with transit declines, transit is still a necessary service and an important part of the overall transportation equation.

At the same time transit use is down, telecommuting from

home and virtual meeting attendance have increased substantially. In all likelihood this will become part of our everyday lives once the pandemic is over and may result in a positive influence for traffic reduction.

Shin-pei Tsay, Policy Director with Uber, discussed how Uber is expanding its operations to meet public needs imposed by the pandemic. Besides individual transportation services, Uber has expanded into delivery operations for goods and groceries. This use will likely continue.

Garrick Brown, Vice President with Cushman & Wakefield, and Sucharita Kodali, Vice President with Forrester Research, spoke to e-commerce and retail trends. Many businesses have resorted to online ordering and home delivery or curbside pickup and will likely continue beyond the pandemic.

It is estimated that as many as 30-50 percent of all businesses (mostly small ones but some big box types) will close for good. Since the retail industry doesn’t have a lobby in Washington, DC many of the smaller retail-oriented businesses were not able to get aid from the CARES Act. Cities will have to shoulder a bigger burden to support small businesses and to encourage the re-occupation of storefronts.

Tamika Butler, Director of Planning with Toole Design, talked about the adequacy of medical supplies. She said the powers that be did not look far enough as to mitigation efforts. Besides shortages in protective gowns and gloves, masks, testing kits and ventilators, there should have

been greater effort to provide other devices including HEPA filtration and UV lights.

Equity has become a buzz word Butler said. It has to be addressed seriously and include discussion about race and safety in order to be meaningful. Cities, states and the federal government need to establish discussion groups not dominated by special interests and encourage transparency to help resolve inequities.

Harriet Tregoning, Director of the New Urban Mobility Alliance, and Jeffrey Tumlin, Executive Director of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, wrapped up the forum discussion.

It is not enough to focus on the use expansion of just buses and bikes, Tumlin said. Cities

must deal with congestion easing or transportation inequities will not be resolved.

There should be no preferences given to privilege. Purposes must be clearly established and include a more thorough consideration of impacts and opportunities.

More private and public partnerships will be required in dealing with the multitude of issues continuing to affect all of us. Finally, lawmakers need to start looking at issues from a big picture perspective.

Change is inevitable and is now being thrust upon us. It’s up to us to make the best of it.

For more information about the Urbanism Next program, visit urbanismnext.org.

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Update on Regulatory Barriers to Development

By Nancy Tannler

In the June *Southeast Examiner*, we looked at regulatory changes proposed in the Expanding Opportunities for Affordable Housing project, spearheaded by Nan Stark with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS).

On June 17, City Council voted to adopt these changes to the zoning code that will streamline the review process for community and faith-based organizations that plan to develop affordable housing on their land.

In addition to zoning code changes, zoning map changes were made on 19 faith or community-owned sites, to provide greater flexibility and options for future development. All of the changes went into effect June 18.

The zoning code changes adopted by City Council allow organizations in residential zones to:

- Develop affordable housing on their land without a conditional use (CU) review if at least 50 percent of the units are affordable.
- Repurpose up to 50 percent of their parking area for an

affordable housing project.

- Add up to 2,000 sq. ft. of nonresidential use without the conditional use review.

In September, City Council will reconvene with recommendations on four sites that were requested for zone changes through this project, which Council did not want to approve without no-

tification to neighbors.

The second is a longer-term planning project “that identifies, with community members, properties where a zoning change could create community benefits, focusing on anti-displacement strategies, equitable wealth generation, addressing past harms and furthering fair housing.”

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Go Staying In

SIDESTREET GOES WOOD-CENTRIC

Sidestreet Arts has re-opened their gallery, and their July show features two wood-centric artists: Minal Mistry and Davis Te Selle. Each artists' unique voice uses natural wood as medium and muse.

Mistry calls his new body of work, **Points of Inflection**. Using salvaged materials (wood, metal, plastic and paint), Minal searches for ways to make sense of the current state of flux in our society. He investigates ways to express "states of being" through paired poems and found objects.

In his piece entitled **Hope**, a wooden torch resembling that of Lady Liberty's is hung on the wall. Situated next to it is a jar of matches, just waiting to help us light the way.

Others have said Te Selle is a tree-whisperer, as his lifelong love of drawing forests shows with highly detailed drawings and prints. Influenced by Chinese and Japanese landscape painters, Davis' pencil captures the spirit of each tree.



By Davis Te Selley

His new work this month features iconic trees – "windswept conifers adapting and curving to their environment and seasoned evergreens persevering in winter's icy climate – exhibiting resilience and forbearance in the face of adversity."

Sidestreet presents a Zoom Artist Talk with the featured artists July 19, from noon-1 pm. Their website offers the monthly show online too. Currently open Thursday-Sunday, 12-5 pm. sidestreetarts.com / 503.327.8064

A Message from Pickathon

The Pickathon festival is a fragile summer dream; a small, independent, community-driven music fest held annually at Pendarvis Farms in Happy Valley. This year, the virus has had a devastating effect to the health of all the annual summer events. The 2020 Festival has been cancelled until next year and since Pickathon is completely independent financially, tickets sold in advance will not cover costs already incurred in the year-round planning.

The staff hasn't given up though. Instead they are harnessing a creative potential to find solutions for the festival's future going forward. To everyone who has already bought tickets to Pickathon 2020: refunds cannot be issued. Tickets already purchased will be exchangeable for tickets to a future fest.

The latest newsletter says: "While we can't gather together this year we still want to offer you all a piece of Pickathon to take home. We've been overwhelmed by your support and so many of you have reached out to ask how you can support us. We thought we'd have fun by making a special once-in-a-lifetime t-shirt!"

See it and order one at tinyurl.com/pickathonmerch.

Powell's reads to kids

Powell's Books' author readings have gone virtual too. This month there are two online reading events especially for kids and families and a young adult book interview

Saturday July 11, 11 am – Kids' Storytime With Stephanie Campisi, who reads from *Five Sisters*, her new picture book illustrated by Madalina Andronic. When a great white oak gifts an old man a branch imbued with magic, he carves five wooden dolls "each smaller than the last." The wooden dolls take on a life of their own as they frolic from one season to the next bringing the old man and his wife a joy they had always longed for. **Registration link: bit.ly/2COp1Q**.

Saturday July 25, 11 am – Kids' Storytime With Skylaar Amann, who reads from *Lloyd Finds His Whalesong*. The rhythm of the whalesong guides the whales through danger and connects them to each other, but Lloyd can't sing and is too quiet to join in. If he can't sing, how can he be a part of the pod? One day, he finds a magical, mysterious object with supersonic seaweed strings. An inspiring and whimsical tale about celebrating our differences and finding our unique voices. **Registration link: bit.ly/3g4Oqzd**.

Tuesday July 7, 5 pm – Paige McKenzie & Nancy Ohlin in conversation with E. Latimer – Not a reading but an interview about their new book, *B*Witch*, the story of Iris, new girl and secret witch, who wants to get through her first day of school without a panic attack. She gets taken in by three other witches, and it turns out there is another group of witches in their small northwestern town, The Triad. The book has an cast of teens with style, attitude and charm, perfect for fans of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Mean Girls* alike. **Registration link: bit.ly/3dwDOSV**.

The full list of author events is at powells.com

arts & entertainment

From the A & E Editor:

For our community of musicians, theatre performers, authors, painters, sculptors and many others, the indefinite cancellation of public events means a complete loss of income and with no clear end in sight.

These retooled *Staying In* pages are a way to "go out" while being home. Ideas, stories and updates from the organizations who make our life vibrant are featured here.

The lives of these creative humans, and the ways we are adapting to this new way of presenting art and culture creates a new paradigm for us all daily. Send us your updates and news.

Change is swift and what comes next is uncertain. Take care of each other and remember to check in on those you care about. Stay safe and be kind to one other.



By Minal Mistry

Millennium Benefits Music Venues With Private Shopping

Music Millennium, 3158 E. Burnside St. is now open Monday-Saturday, from 10 am-7 pm, and Sunday, 11 am-7 pm. To make it safe for customers and staff, there is a 10 person maximum in the store at all times. All customers and staff must wear masks and use hand sanitizer provided at the entry. Curbside pickup and mail order is still available. Call the store at 503.231.8926 for curbside pickup or mail order.

Reserve an hour private shopping experience for you and a friend Monday through Saturday, 7 pm-8 pm and help support local music venues.

Each person must give a minimum \$25 donation to help the staff at a local music venue. Since June 1, they've helped the Alberta Rose Theatre, Aladdin Theater, Mississippi Studios, Bar Bar, Revolution Hall and Roseland Theater. July 6-11, private shopping hours will benefit the Doug Fir Lounge. Call the store to see what times and nights are available – 503.231.8926.

Millennium is again buying used vinyl, CDs, DVDs and cassettes. They are kept in quarantine for 72 hours before processing. Used cassette and Blu-ray customers will be happy with an expanded inventory. See musicmillennium.com for your mail order needs.

PORTLAND MUSIC STREAM AND AN OCF TRIBUTE



Same Ol' Timeous Baby Gramps

The Alberta Rose Theatre's Portland Music Stream's 4th season is underway through mid-July. New shows are presented five nights a week, Wednesdays-Sundays at 7 pm, with all shows available afterward on-demand. Watch when you want and more than once.

July's performers are (in order) **The Ruby Friedman Orchestra, Mic Crenshaw, A Three Night Oregon Country Fair Special** (during OCF's

traditional time **July 8, 9 & 10**) with concerts from **Baby Gramps, Brian Cutean/QTN, and The Rose City Circus**.

Then it's **Floater, Led Kaapana, John Craigie, Magical Strings, The Resoelectrics, Espacio Flamenco, LaRhonda Steele Gospel Quartet, Terry Robb** and at month's end, **Ezra Holbrook**.

\$100 gets you 20 concerts, and \$65 buys 10 shows of your choice. Single show options are \$20.

All proceeds from the Music Stream's subscription goes to the musical artists, and team who makes these presentations.

All the info and tickets are online at albertarosetheatre.com. Subscribe to the Music Stream's third season at tinyurl.com/PMStream.



Experience the joy of making music as a family, right in your own living room! This summer, **Music Together** brings music class to your home online.

MT classes give children the basic music skills they need for a lifetime of music making during the period when they are most receptive to learning.

A young child's home environment has always been one of their most important classrooms, and Music Together gives you the chance to incorporate music into your child's natural, everyday learning process.

Classes for summer session run from July 6-August 15. Register now, or sit in on a free class during the first week.

See musictogether-pdx.com or call 503.236.4304 to reserve a spot today.

Confident Voice Studio

Parents don't need to dread an endless summer of kids saying "What can I do?" Confident Voice Studio in SE Portland is live-streaming its summer programs online and all are welcome.

The Studio has six music programs designed for ages 4-18 streaming weekly. Classes are limited to six or fewer students so students get plenty of individual attention.

Programs include Frozen Music FUNDamentals, Piano Jam, Virtual Music and Variety Show, Ukulele Jam and more.

Visit confidentvoicestudio.com to register and for info. Phone 503.714.1198.



"Coffee in the Rain" Frank DiMarco

Photographer Frank DiMarco lives in SE Portland's Richmond Neighborhood and his new exhibit **From the Archive, Some Favorites Old and New** is on the walls through the month of July at the Clinton Street Coffeehouse, 2706 SE 26th Ave. The coffeehouse is open Monday-Friday, 6 am-5 pm.

DiMarco's images have been exhibited in galleries and venues in Portland and San Francisco and he is editing a 50-year archive of photos, creating magazines and books of his work.

"I've always worked to invite viewers of my images into the image moment and I've tried not to confuse myself with Michelangelo."

See his online photos at dimarcogallery.com

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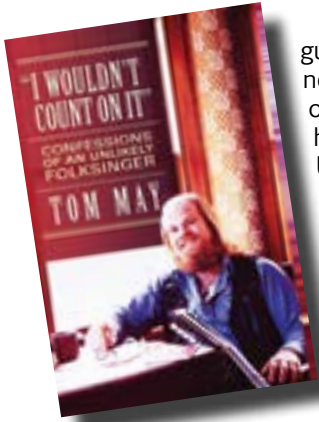
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Go Staying In

Confessions of an Unlikely Folksinger



Tom May has been a folksinger/guitarist/songwriter and performer for nearly 50 years. With 14 albums of original material released, his touring has taken him to every state in the US, most Canadian provinces, and to Europe.

Now he has produced a musical memoir titled, *"I Wouldn't Count on It" – Confessions of an Unlikely Folksinger*, a life tale filled with amusing stories, interesting places and bungled romances. Describing the impossible lifestyle song people face in the book's Forward, he proclaims: "After 47 years of making a living with songs, I am as enamored of it as I ever was."

May has opened for Gordon Lightfoot, Willie Nelson, Alabama and others, performed with symphony orchestras and produced the River City Folk radio show since 1985. (These days weekly online at folkmusicnotebook.com). Besides all this, May founded and still directs Portland's annual Winterfolk concert, now in its 32nd year.

Now that life is supposedly opening up again in Oregon, May hosts a reading and mini-concert Sunday, July 12 at the venerable Horse Brass Pub, 4534 SE Belmont St., beginning at 5 pm. The date was chosen to honor Don Younger, the Horse Brass' original proprietor, and his 79th birthday. Even though Younger has gone on from this sphere, the Horse Brass is still filled with his spirit.

To order Tom May's book, see tommayfolk.com.

The Quality Folk Dojo

Kate Power & Steve Einhorn's Quality Folk Dojo continues Wednesdays from noon-1 pm live via Zoom online with a 100 participant limit.

The duo presents an entertaining and educational way to practice and develop musicality skills with folk songs and tunes of many kinds in an unrehearsed, on-the-spot, group practice.

Power and Einhorn draw from a vast repertoire in traditional, contemporary and original folk music. Their friendly and inclusive approach to building community through music, storytelling and compassionate teaching, music performance and art has been dubbed a *"Folkstitution."*

The Dojo is every Wednesday and accessible to musicians of all ages and levels who register on Zoom for Quality Folk Dojo.

Subscribe to Kate & Steve News for invitations to dojo and quality folk at qualityfolk.com. Questions? Email folks@qualityfolk.com.

Tidal Wave Comics' Tiger King



Local comic publisher TidalWave Productions' latest release is the biography comic *Infamous: Tiger King*, inspired by the popular Netflix documentary series. The 24-page comic book flip-book biography was written by Michael Frizell and illustrated by Joe Paradise.

It's a murder mystery resembling expose

TV newsmagazines following Joe Exotic, former magician, country singer and zookeeper with a troubled past, currently is in jail for planning to murder his rival, Big Cat Rescue owner and animal rights activist Carole Baskin.

The comic book includes a page about the treatment of animals written by PETA Foundation Director of Captive Animal Law Enforcement Brittany Peet, also in the documentary.

TidalWave writers delve into the history of newsworthy figures to explore what shaped them. Media outlets, including CNN, FOX News, TMZ, Time and People magazines, have featured the company's line of biographical comic books. They are available at comic book retailers and through Amazon. Digital versions available wherever e-books are sold. See tidalwavecomics.com.

SYMPHONY STORYTIME

Symphony Storytime is an original video series designed for kids seven and under. Each video in the series presents a children's story narrated by a master storyteller and accompanied by an Oregon Symphony musician performing the book's soundtrack. An engaging lesson about the instrument is featured in each episode as well.

The stories are narrated in English and Spanish and each is a unique story. There are nine episodes in English and four in Spanish. New videos in both languages are released on July 2 and July 9.

"Over the past few months, we have seen many inspiring stories of families and friends coming together – and your Oregon Symphony has been working on a way to keep the youngest among them entertained and uplifted," said Sergio Carreno, assistant principal timpani/percussionist.

Kids can watch Symphony Storytime at orsymphony.org/storytime. May we all live musically ever after.

arts & entertainment

Oregon Arts Venues Need Our Help Now

First to close, last to reopen, independent venues face permanent closure if there is no direct relief from the government. Unlike other industries, venues aren't receiving any assistance to assure their survival.

Oregon's many assembly spaces are the ones where thousands of musicians, performers and employees make their livings. As homes to concerts, comedy, public hearings, podcasts, theatrical performances, debates and community events, venues are cultural and community hubs in their neighborhoods.

They anchor business districts and are the incubators for ideas. The places where real life-time moments happen.

• **What can you do?** Write your own letter, or copy this one below and email it to all of your local, state and federal representatives.

The Independent Venue Coalition (IVC) has requested the State Emergency Board establish a fund, and we're told YOUR LETTERS MATTER.

• **Subject:** "Please save our venues. They are the heart and soul of our economy and community."

• **Suggested text:** "Independent venues, both for-profit and nonprofit, are essential to Oregon. People move here because of them. The economy thrives because of them. Culture and Community have a home because of them."

I ask you to please support allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds to help venues survive this extended closure. There are nearly a hundred venues with thousands of jobs in Oregon counting on this to save their livelihoods and to make sure they continue to thrive and contribute to the overall economy and tourism in Oregon, once it's safe again. Without your support, at least 90 percent of venues will not make it, and there will be a massive void left in the morale and economy.

There is no plan to reopen venues yet, which will be experiencing zero revenue for up to 12-18 months. No business can survive that type of closure without relief."

For an easy map that identifies and gives email addresses for your state representative and state senator go to bit.ly/2BOHA1N.

Locally, our Portland Commissioners can be reached by email via Amanda Fritz: amanda@portlandoregon.gov; Jo Ann Hardesty: joann@portlandoregon.gov; Chloe Eudaly: eudaly@portlandoregon.gov and Mayor Wheeler: wheeler@portlandoregon.gov.

Read more at the IVC site, voicevenues.com.

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Song by Song



Avery Hill

Ukulele teacher Avery Hill of **Song by Song** has moved all classes and jams online, offering a variety of music learning opportunities this summer. All levels are welcome to join these events and offerings beginning in July:

• **Weekly Quarantunes Jam**

– Designed for ukulele players, but welcome to all sing-and-strum instruments, this jam meets every Saturday at 1 pm on Zoom. *Songbook and private*

meeting link provided with subscription to e-newsletter.

• **Live Online Class: Campfire Songs by Ear** – Whether you pitch your tent in the woods, by the lake or just in your backyard, learn familiar songs you can play anywhere. All materials provided, including tips and tricks for playing from memory and singing and playing at the same time. *Beginning July 8, register at the website.*

• **Self-Paced Online Course: Ukulele by Ear** – For those who prefer to move at their own speed, this course introduces beginning to intermediate ukulele players to specific patterns to help get away from the paper and play by ear. *Register at the website.*

Subscribe to the e-newsletter at learnsongbysong.com for registration, updates, tutorials and other useful ukulele resources.

Cascadia Composers: In Good Hands Concert

Cascadia Composers (CC), presents its 10th annual In Good Hands Concert featuring student musicians, and this year streamed live on their Zoom channel.

The 2020 recital is Saturday, July 11, 3 pm and talented student musicians from the Portland and Eugene metro areas will perform new music written by CC members.

The concert features piano works by David Bernstein, Daniel Brugh, Ally Rose Czyzewicz, Dianne Davies, John De Runtz, Adam Eason, Jan Mittelstaedt, Lisa Neher, Timothy Arliss O'Brien, Paul Safer and Nicholas Yandell.

Local music teachers work with students on pieces and the student gets to meet with the composer of the work ahead of time, gaining feedback and insight. This connection between young students and living composers is vital to moving contemporary music into the future.

All performance videos will be archived too. Cascadia Streams is a monthly series hosted by Daniel Brugh. Get log in and password info at CascadiaComposers.org.



Portland Fiddle Camp, the only day-camp of its kind in the greater Northwest now moves its expertise to a virtual format welcoming kids age 6-16 to join teachers and professional fiddlers for a week of learning fiddle tunes.

This year's camp features guest teachers Kevin Burke, Ben Hunter, Sami Braman and Betsy Branch and is four big days July 20-24. All violin, viola and cello players with at least one year of private lessons are welcome.

Register at portlandfiddlecamps.com



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Wellness Word

Editor's note: Wellness Word is an informational column which is not meant to replace a healthcare professional's diagnosis, treatment or medication.

Resuming Your Fitness Routine in the New Normal

Most of us have experienced a great deal of disruption to our fitness routines over the last few months. With gyms, fitness studios, parks and recreation centers closed, many of the sports and workouts we were used to become suddenly unavailable.

If you're like me, you've struggled with a lack of motivation after losing all of that structure. Now that businesses are beginning to re-open with social distancing and extra sanitation in place, how do we safely resume our activities? Here are things to consider.

Age & Overall Health

Seniors and people who are immune-compromised aren't recommended to return to gyms or group exercise classes yet. If you have been using online Zoom workouts or YouTube videos, try to continue those workouts. Many trainers and fitness instructors will continue to produce online content for the foreseeable future.

If you've been going outside to exercise (walking, biking, hiking, etc.), continue to do so with social distancing. Be aware that many parks and trails are becoming more crowded, so make sure

you will be able to maintain your physical distance. If a certain area is packed, you may want to look for somewhere less crowded.

Wearing Masks

There is tremendous debate over wearing a mask, especially while exercising. Many gyms are now requiring that their members wear one. It's very likely that respiratory droplets will travel further during physical exertion, meaning the potential to infect others nearby is higher, especially indoors.

At the same time, the wearer must be able to breathe comfortably, get enough oxygen and not overheat while wearing it. You will need to take into consideration the requirements of the facility and the county at the current time, and whether you feel safe going there.

Indoor vs. Outdoor

Can the workout be taken outside? Air circulation appears to reduce the chance of exposure to the virus, so if the facility can create more ventilation through opening windows and doors, or taking the workout outside altogether, it may help to increase safety. Minimizing the amount of time you are close to others reduces the risk as well.

Facility Size

Smaller gyms and studios will have less traffic going in and out. Although larger gyms are limiting attendance and emphasizing cleaning, this is easier to do in a smaller space. However, make sure there is ample space available for social distancing if there will be multiple participants, as in group exercise classes.

Cleaning & Sanitation

Does the facility have procedures in place for regular sanitation as well as social distancing? Do they have touchless check-in

and payment procedures? Is the staff required to wear masks? Are there posted procedures that follow government guidelines? Ask questions when you go or check online before you go if you're unsure.

Personal Trainers

A trainer who is working in a space with just one or two clients at a time will allow for better distancing and lower risk of infection. Many personal trainers will be willing to take your workout outside on nice days, either at their facility or by making a house call. They can even help you work out in your own backyard. Don't be afraid to ask! Most trainers are willing to go above and beyond to accommodate new and returning clients.

Be Safe

Take your time resuming your routine. If you were much more sedentary during quarantine (no shame in that, most of us were), be sure that you gradually resume your intensity and workload each week so that you don't end up injured.

Don't forget to stretch your muscles daily and make an extra focus to stay hydrated, especially with the warmer weather.

In summary, keep yourself and your family safe as we begin to open businesses and recreation and fitness centers back up.

Quarantine has been hard on our mental and physical health, but as much as we want to get back to normal, we have to exercise patience and realize that it's still going to take some time, and normal now is still going to mean taking extra precautions.

Cheers to your good health and fitness!

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Future Utility Rates

from page 1

actual bill will remain fairly flat.

NW Natural files a Purchased Gas Adjustment with the PUC of Oregon each year in September said spokesperson Stefanie Week. The outcome of a general rate case reflects changes to the cost of natural gas due to investments to strengthen and reinforce the system, provide maintenance and operating costs and technology upgrades.

This year NW Natural requested a general rate increase that would result in a net revenue increase of \$71.4 million. The typical residential customer us-

ing 53 therms per month would see an average monthly bill increase of about \$6.43. A commercial customer using 242 therms per month would see an average monthly bill increase of about \$25.40. This increase will likely take effect November 1, 2020.

This month, NW Natural issued bill credits of about \$16 for the average residential customer. Weeks said, "We maintain an affordable, essential service, especially during the challenging time due to COVID-19." Customers of NW Natural gas bills are about 40 percent lower than they were 15 years ago.

Where Have All the Insects Gone?

By NANCY TANNLER

Have you noticed your windshield is no longer splattered with bugs when you return from a road trip? That might make washing easy, but the bad news is there are less bugs around.

In some areas, entomologists have noted a shocking 76 percent decrease of insects since 1989. The good news is that we could bring back the bugs.

Tom Kaye, a botanist with the Institute for Applied Ecology in Corvallis, spoke with *The Southeast Examiner* to explain what is being done here in Oregon about the insect apocalypse.

As he tells it, “The problem will only be solved by people understanding a bottom up solution.”

As a biologist, Kaye’s area of expertise is the bottom rung of the food chain. These are the producer organisms – plants, grass, trees, lichens and algae, which convert water, sunlight and carbon dioxide into carbohydrates.

“It is the lack of plant diversity that we are experiencing that correlates directly with the lack of insect diversity.”

Insects feed on an endless variety of foods including plants, fungi, dead animals, decaying organic matter and nearly anything they come in contact with. Some, however, rely on one particular plant or even a specific part of the plant to survive.

“What’s happened is that we’re losing natural insect habitat,” Kaye said, “because of the way we are farming, landscaping and our use of pesticides.”

It used to be that farmers left areas around their crops and shelter belts uncultivated where native species grew. Today’s farm-

ing economy requires a farmer to produce on every inch of land so they cultivate from edge to edge.

It was in those uncultivated areas where weeds and wildflowers grew, things decayed, animals could live undisturbed meaning that insects could also thrive.

Kaye said that a study at Iowa State University, STRIPS (Science-based Trails of Row-crops Integrated with Prairie Strips) over the last 10 years has shown that integrating small amounts of prairie strips on the edges of fields benefits the soil, water and biodiversity.

Native plant species have deep and multilayered root systems and stiff-stems that hold up in a driving rain, which helps stop the runoff of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. As one farmer put it, they are affordable and environmentally beneficial as an agricultural conservation practice, plus farmers gain economically by not wasting half their fertilizer due to runoff.

What makes this and other similar local vegetation projects successful is the diversity of native plants introduced into the environment.

“Someone asked me what are the top five plant species best for pollinators,” Kaye said. The answer is that there is no top five; it’s about planting as many native species as you can.

Here in the city the impact of our landscaping is hard on insects too. The traditional yard of a manicured lawn, hardy shrubs and mostly cultivars for decoration doesn’t leave much room for biodiversity; that necessary combination needed for insects to thrive.

The Portland Audubon and Columbia Land Trust have a

program, Backyard Habitat, that supports urban gardeners in their efforts to create natural backyard habitats (audubonportland.org/get-involved/backyard-habitat-certification-program).

Every garden can become a bug sanctuary, Kaye said. Some simple suggestions to start with are: let your grass grow longer between cuttings; don’t clean up every pile of clippings, branches and leaves, let it lie for insect habitat; allow portions of your garden to go fallow for periods of time and learn about native plants and grasses and the difference between them and noxious, invasive weeds.

This can prove difficult because some cities and counties have rules in place to enforce a conventional landscape aesthetic of close-cropped lawn and ornamental plantings. These unfortunately, provide no wildlife habitat.

If people felt it was okay to leave areas of their yard untended, it could become the norm. The National Wildlife Federation is calling on cities to pass resolutions and ordinances to increase native plants and help address the extinction crisis. Learn more at nwf.org/community.

When choosing native plants, Kaye recommends planting flowering plants that have a lot of pink and red, like wild currant, roses, cranesbill geraniums, western wallflower, etc. See portlandoregon.gov/citycode/article/322280 to learn what native plants are allowed and what nuisance plants are prohibited.

The single most important thing we can do is to stop using pesticides. It’s the little things that will bring back these little critters.



Mock Orange Bush
Photo by Kris McDowell

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SE Stands Up for Reform

from page 1

ty described the progress as “the most police reform we have ever seen in the history of Oregon,” and vowed to press for further equity in schools, healthcare and housing.

Neighborhoods, including those in SE, have been charged with a history of red lining and discrimination.

The sheer number of protests and protestors, weeks of disruptions and fears about pandemic and personal safety, have left many SE residents on edge. For the most part, Portland has been like a tale of two cities.

Eastside marches from Revolution Hall to bridges and interstates have remained nonviolent.

Across the river, late night Justice Center demonstrations have devolved into melees with property destruction by agitators and use of force by police. Hardisty and other Black leaders have denounced rampages that have set fires and ruined small businesses. The Mayor, calling for pragmatism in the face of revolution, has pledged to root out racism, but not safety.

As the state legislature began to mull police reform at the special session called in June, the

question was how positive change is best accomplished.

The protesters rally and march still. Despite crowds, bridge and interstate blockages and pandemic-fueled tensions, Revolution Hall’s relative calm seems to have galvanized a huge portion of SE’s predominantly white population to support reform.

Validation has sprung up on corners of Stark, Belmont and Lincoln Streets as well as side streets where BLM yard signs sprout. At Division and 50th horns honk for a group of mostly women showing up nightly, occasionally with kids in tow. Participant Libby Scozza said they would stay the course about the need for police accountability and encourage Portlanders to be on the just side of history.

Entering the fourth week of protests, weekend Eastside events took a festive turn during Juneteenth’s anniversary marking the end of slavery in 1865. Disc jockeys readied music outside Revolution Hall as BLM supporters gathered, far as the eye could see.

At the Eastbank Esplanade, a group called Snack Bloc saluted with song and dance. Off Hawthorne Blvd. near Mt. Tabor Bread, passers-by followed the



Photo by Midge Pierce

alluring voice of local jazz artist Marilyn Keller to a home where she performed at a fundraiser for Don’t Shoot PDX. She called the event one of many in the “gigasphere” supporting human rights.

Other groups like Rose City Justice have been nightly fixtures at Revolution Hall, handing out masks and water as precautions against COVID-19, before moving to other venues in the city.

Despite future discord that could arise in Portland’s racial tinderbox, the peaceful protests that radiated from SE Portland are transforming society at a pace that could well be considered revolutionary.

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Neighborhood Notes

HAND
By Jill Riebesehl

Although our neighborhood, like most in our town these days, has been going through a sea of changes with a Black Lives Matter family-focused demonstration on SE Division, helicopters overhead, throngs of rally folks on Powell cutting through our streets, fewer vehicles and more pedestrians dodging one another on daily walks, the HAND board stuck to business in June.

A sizable group of property owners, architects, planners and more paid a visit to our Zoom meeting with a plan for replacing the burned out Burger King at SE Clay between Grand and MLK with a CVS Pharmacy/market. The group described the proposal, answered our questions and solicited our suggestions.

We also heard about another proposal, this one to get the South Park Blocks downtown on the National Register of Historic Places; a goal laid out in Portland’s 2035 Central City plan. Several volunteers have taken it upon themselves to research the linear park, set aside in 1878, and draft a request that would secure its place in our nation’s history. They were seeking HAND’s support, along with that of other nearby groups and institutions connected with park physically or historically. The board voted unanimously in favor.

Finally, an important person in our neighborhood has been Portland Officer Leo Yee, who has watched over us for many years in his job on the night shift. He will be retiring in August. We all agree if that’s how community policing works, we’re all for it.

Montavilla Neighborhood Association
By Louise Hoff

Montavilla Neighborhood Association Board met last month on Zoom and we plan to do so again this month, but this time invite the neighborhood to a General Meeting on Monday, July 13, 6:30 pm using the SEUL Zoom account. We hope to have a local speaker Rachel Phariss tell us more about bees and their importance in our gardens.

Land Use and Transportation Chair Adam Wilson is in the process of expanding the search committee for the ceramic tile mural on NE 82nd and Glisan to two organizations that evaluate such projects as part of their work before requesting designs from local artists.

Buy local, shop local and wear a mask is the best way to support neighbors in these times and keep our community healthy. Our Sunday Montavilla Farmer’s Market has expanded and is up and running with bountiful berries, fruits, vegetables, baked goods, special treats and even a knife sharpener. Our neighborhood is such a great example of wearing masks and social distancing in public. Many of our small businesses, coffeehouses and restaurants are open, juggling their hours and offerings with increasing public demand. Our beautiful Montavilla Portland Community College has a full catalogue of online classes and a number of our local yoga, dance and music teachers as well. So many of our small businesses are gracious about curbside pickup.

Montavilla United Methodist Church, where we have always held our public meetings, is deciding about a careful reopening. Our board has decided to take the traditional August break and see where we are in September.

Richmond Neighborhood Association
By Clarie Cofsky and Allen Field

The RNA is holding all meetings via Zoom until further notice. Meetings are the second Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Agendas are posted the week before on richmondpx.org and sent to the RNA Announce listserv. Zoom preregistration is required for all meetings and will be included in the agenda and posted to the website. To be added to the RNA’s listserv, email richmondnasecretary@gmail.com.

Annual Board Election: At the June 8 monthly meeting, the Board voted to hold the annual Board Election on Tuesday, July 14, 6:30-8:30 pm, so it does not conflict with the July 13 monthly Zoom meeting. At the June 13 meeting, candidates will give short statements and details of the July 14 election will be covered. Candidate statements will also be posted to the RNA website and sent out on the listserv after June 23, when the optional statements are due.

Candidates who announced their candidacy by the June 8 deadline for the eight open seats are: Albert Kaufman, Allen Field, Denise Hare, Heather Flint Chatto, Leslie Poston, and Simon Kipersztok.

Voting will occur as in years past, in the parking lot of Waverly United Church of Christ at SE 33rd Ave. and Woodward. Any person 18 or older who is a Richmond resident, or business or property owner can vote. People can either fill out ballots received on-site or use print-at-home PDF ballots from the website or listserv. Under the City’s rules, voting by mail and proxy voting are not allowed, so people can only drop off their own ballot. After a hijack attempt of the RNA’s May Zoom meeting, a hack into the Chair’s Gmail account, and past election problems, SE Uplift recommended the RNA avoid online voting. We will take physical-distancing safety precautions and ask people to wear face masks.

Amanda Westervelt, the Richmond Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) representative, gave an update. The RNA and Richmond NET will coordinate more in the future. Richmond NET meets 7 pm the second Monday of the month. Email richmond.pdx.net@gmail.com if you wish to join Richmond NET.

Jessica Vega Pederson, Multnomah County District 3 Representative, described Multnomah County’s early response to COVID-19 and coordination with other regions and agencies. She addressed how the county has advanced hiring and equity policies to combat systemic racism issues. She is committed to early education access for Pre-K students and public funding for such programs.

The RNA voted to send to Council a Statement of Solidarity with the Black Lives Matter protests, which is on the website, richmondpx.org.



Learning How to Just Be: Unplugging in an Already Unplugged Time

By MEGAN MCMORRIS

When people ask me what I did to celebrate my milestone birthday in May, I answer with one word: nothing.

“The only thing on my to-do list for the week is to not have a to-do list,” was my motto. Giving myself one week of free time at home, without any distraction, unplugging during the midst of an already unplugged, it was the best gift I could have given myself. Here’s why:

1. I learned how plugged-in I really had become. As someone who remembers the world before the Internet, I’ve sometimes been downright smug about how non-attached to my phone or email I can be.
- That was before I tried unplugging for just a week, when I realized with embarrassment how difficult it was (and how long it had been since I had done so). My self-talk surprised me, Shouldn’t I just check email real quick? What if an assignment comes in? – and made me vow to make room for regular “unplug” time in the future.
2. I developed a sensitivity to other people’s energies. I credit Facebook for many things in my life, both personally and professionally. Yet simply taking a one-week break made me realize the sensory overload I’m typically bombarded with. When I logged back in and became privy to other people’s Facebook feeds again, I realized how much mental chatter it really adds to my day and how taking regular FB breaks is vital for my headspace.
3. I bonded with my neighbors in a new way. Unplugging for a week made me connect even more to my neighborhood. With the outside world shut down, my Montavilla neighborhood morphed into a simpler time.
- Neighbors stopped to chat and check in on each other. I got to know the local business owners in a new, more meaningful way. Children rode bikes and played with sidewalk chalk. I learned neighborhood dogs’ names.
- My condo community space turned into a regular summer happy hour hangout. We created lasting bonds that we probably wouldn’t have otherwise during “normal” times.
4. I became more conscious of my habits. Removing day-to-day distractions made me notice where I was spending my energy. It made me more conscious of company I kept and the places I visited. It snapped me out of autopilot mode and helped me recognize when I’m out of balance.
5. I developed boundaries. In an era where we’re so connected, I feel like I’m automatically apologizing to someone if I don’t get back to them right away. During my quarantine-within-quarantine time, though, I drop-kicked that habit.
- I said “no” to something I normally would have said “yes” to. I asked for something I normally wouldn’t have had the courage to ask for. I didn’t return phone calls or texts promptly. I didn’t apologize for it. These things sound so simple, but the fact that they caused so much angst showed me how ingrained certain niceties had been.
- As I write this, Multnomah County has been in Phase 1 for just a few days. While it’s exciting to see my neighborhood restaurants, bars and shops reopening, I can’t help but be a little nervous about those open doors at the same time.
- Now that our days will be filled with more choices, will I still stop and talk to the neighbors (and their dogs) once I have places to be and people to see? Will I remember how to enjoy doing nothing?
- The other day, at the neighborhood store, the well-meaning clerk asked me a question I hadn’t heard in a while. “Got any fun plans for the rest of your day?” Little did she realize how her innocuous small talk triggered an existential moment for me. Feeling put on the spot, momentarily succumbing to decision paralysis, I got a grip and remembered the best way to answer that question was with a “no.”
- As I walked home, with morning rush-hour traffic nearly back to normal levels on the street, I made a vow to myself:
- Even when things get busy again, our lives filled with choices again, I’ll remember lessons I learned from my quarantine birthday and that I’ll always give myself permission to just be. Because sometimes, that’s the best thing that you can do for yourself.

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Burnside Bridge Replacement Design Chosen

By MIDGE PIERCE

Portland will have a new, Long Span, seismically safe Burnside Bridge within the decade; more than a century after the original span was built, if all goes according to expectations.

A county volunteer taskforce voted to recommend that the iconic landmark, at risk of collapse in the event of the long-expected earthquake, be replaced with a bridge that follows the alignment of the current bridge that has been standing since 1926.

The alternative identified as the least costly and time-consuming to build and most likely to be seismically sound was selected by the group of engineers, architects and community leaders. The cost of the Long Span is estimated at \$825 million while the Short Span, cited as a potential way to revitalize neighborhoods near the Willamette River, was estimated to cost about \$950 million.

A key advantage of the Long Span is that it would avoid geologically hazardous zones along the river. Eastside soils between I-5 and the railroad tracks are at risk of liquefaction during an earthquake. The Long Span would also reduce the number of columns needed in slurry-prone soils. Fewer columns leave room for a skatepark and other waterfront amenities.

The bridge is considered the city’s lifeline, connecting a ma-

jor East-West emergency route. 45,000 cars cross the Burnside Bridge daily, with an additional 7,000 traveling the bridge by bus, 2,000 by foot and 4,000 by bike.

To better accommodate pedestrians and bikes, the Long Span would provide 15 feet more width than the current lanes that narrow over the bridge. Between sidewalks and bike lanes, a crash-worthy traffic barrier is planned.

Once the recommendation is approved and funded, construction is targeted for completion in 2028. Despite fiscal complexities resulting from COVID-19, county spokesman Mike Pullen says the project already has funding for the planning, design and right-of-way costs that come from county vehicle registration fees, which will cover about one third of construction costs.

The November 2020 ballot is expected to include a Metro regional funding measure for transportation. If that passes, Pullen expects \$150 million toward bridge construction, with the rest coming from state and federal funds.

Taskforce members rejected a temporary bridge option that would add \$90 million to project costs and require two additional years of construction. The taskforce was told that diverting traffic to adjacent bridges, roughly one third of a mile apart, would add only minutes to commutes.

A suggestion for a bike/pedestrian ferry was shelved over the possibility of debris hazards in the river following an earthquake.

During years of feasibility studies, more than 100 options including tunnels, a movable bridge and doing nothing were studied and rejected. The taskforce likewise nixed a seismic retrofit alternative.

Despite near unanimous support for the Long Span option, several taskforce members raised the issue of view corridor impacts. To support the horizontal span, the new bridge would require a superstructure above the deck that might block views of downtown including the incandescent Portland sign.

Taskforce member Cameron Hunt asked if there is a way



Long Span bridge rendering from Multnomah County

to save the iconic towers on the bridge since it is a registered historic landmark.

Taskforce member Susan Lindsay of the Buckman neighborhood expressed disappointment that the Long Span failed to improve neighborhood-to-neighborhood connections. Asking that Buckman have a role in future decisions, she said, “The Eastside has been the stepchild of Portland for a long time.”

The structure’s relationship to neighborhoods and its scale and design will be addressed dur-

ing coming bridge type and design processes. The public will be able to weigh in on the task force recommendations later this summer.

Federal Environmental Impact drafts and another comment period are required before approval by the Federal Highway Administration.

For more information visit burnsidebridge.org.

The Times They Are A-Changin’

By DAVID KROGH

When Bob Dylan wrote this song in 1963, the Vietnam War was just getting under way, racial tensions were increasing, President Kennedy was assassinated and Dr. King gave his “I Have a Dream” speech during a massive civil rights march in Washington, DC.

Who was to know that Dylan’s words so applicable to the 1960’s would also prove to be prophetic for 2020 as we are now faced with identifying a “new normal?”

The recent University of Oregon’s Urbanism Next Virtual Conference termed COVID-19 as a game changer and stated that government officials will need to start identifying a new normal once the pandemic is over.

What also needs to be considered is just how widespread the impacts of the virus are in a big picture scheme along with land use planning, emergency management planning, transportation planning, climate change and the interactions of these, including major protests over racial injustice and police brutality and inequities.

Two of these fields have been unprepared for dealing with a pandemic like this.

Land use planning has historically encouraged densification and the use of mass transit. However, densification and increased public mobility are two factors that have greatly contributed to the rapid spread of COVID-19.

Similarly, emergency management planning is intended to develop plans and coordination for major emergencies and disaster responses. A worldwide pandemic of an unknown origin cannot be as directly responded to or as well understood as floods and fires and response plans are often generic at best.

In Oregon, the State Office of Emergency Management

(OEM) is responsible for emergency management planning and coordination (oregon.gov/oem/Pages/default.aspx).

OEM has specifically acknowledged that a pandemic is something that cannot be reasonably anticipated, especially in terms of responses required and the needs for supplies.

As we’ve seen, emergency material stockpiles (masks, respirators, protective gear, test kits, etc.) have been lacking. Government agencies have historically relied on the American Red Cross, religious groups and other nonprofits for disaster services and supply support devoted to sheltering and food stuffs rather than direct medical assistance on a massive scale.

On a national scale, a pandemic advisory group existing in the Obama administration was eliminated by the Trump administration early in its term and it took several weeks after the pandemic was first identified to re-establish the group again.

Budget priorities in the Obama administration led to a failure to restock federal stockpiles of emergency supplies, and many of those were “out of date” and/or dysfunctional by the time COVID-19 appeared.

Many manufacturers of such equipment were also no longer operating in the US and were primarily situated in China, South Korea and other Asian countries already dealing with COVID-19 and supply shortages of their own.

Due to the lack of federal support for equipment purchases, states ended up having to bid against each other for supplies from those countries where they were still being manufactured. Even now, supply shortage needs are only adequately met.

Years ago, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was largely responsible for providing guidance, coordination and training for emergency

situations of all types. However, FEMA ended up losing considerable functionality after it was consolidated with 21 other federal agencies into the Department of Homeland Security following the adoption of the Homeland Security Act in 2002.

The result of federal government delays in initially addressing the pandemic and providing for adequate testing kits ultimately has led to the current two million plus COVID-19 cases and close to 120,000 deaths in the US.

Due to the initiation of social distancing and the closure of businesses and restrictions on other people intensive activities (shopping malls, churches, amusement parks, schools and sporting events), the US is experiencing a 20 percent unemployment rate and 40 million people left unemployed.

Only recently are states starting to “re-open” although many health experts suggest this could be coming too early and could spark a resurgence of virus cases (actually being noticed in some states, Oregon included). Federal pandemic adviser Dr. Andrew Fauci has suggested life might not get back to “normal” until next year.

Adding to the situation are the mass protests that have been underway daily in the US since the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis Police on May 25. In the six weeks prior to that, there had been other deaths of Black individuals at the hands of police.

The frustration over the racially motivated deaths by police with subsequent lapses in accountability, and the added frustration of many people being out of work in dire financial straits because of COVID-19, the situation has been ripe for mass protests. Lack of effective governmental response has exacerbated the situation.

It will take months (if not years) before a vaccine is developed and distributed for mass use. Until then, some form of physical distancing and/or occupancy lim-

continued on page 19

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PPS Charging Ahead with Electric School Buses

By Jack Rubinger

Portland Public Schools (PPS) was recently awarded a grant from Portland General Electric (PGE) and PacifiCorp to purchase an electric bus and install a charging station.

“We will be buying one bus and installing the infrastructure to charge it. It will be a fully electric bus,” said Teri Brady, Director of PPS Transportation Services. “We expect to make the decision by the end of June on which manufacturers best meet our needs. We’ll then send our purchasing contracts to the school board for authorization.”

Electric school buses are growing in popularity nationwide for several practical reasons.

They’re less costly to maintain than diesel. They’re healthier for kids and drivers with asthma who don’t have to deal with emissions. They’re quieter, cleaner and more efficient than diesel buses, making student transportation as clean as it can be.

On the downside, electric buses are three times more expensive than diesel buses.

“Electric school buses are very much in our future and we are excited for the chance to learn from this pilot project,” Brady said.

PPS started converting their fleets to propane and moving away from diesel in the 1980s. Around 400 electric school buses are now running in North America with more than half picking up and dropping off students in California, according to electric bus manufacturers.

TriMet has put five new battery-electric buses into service. These city buses are powered by cutting-edge technology and they have some significant advantages over the current fleet.

A day in the life of an electric bus is a lot like a day in the life of an electric car. Drivers unplug the vehicle in the morning, drive the bus back to the yard by mid-day, recharge for afternoon routes and recharge overnight.

Manufacturers say there are opportunities to seek funding for electric school buses with utility companies. For further efficiency, electric school bus batteries can be re-used and re-purposed.

Another benefit? According to Bluebird, electric bus operators will be able to “sell” energy back to the grid during certain peak hours, putting more dollars back into the classroom.



Electric bus image from Thomas Built Buses

Storing up electricity in the electric school bus batteries and then selling it back to the electric utility for use when grid energy demand is higher, would require ongoing conversations with the electric utility to facilitate any billing changes/credits.

Kelly Yearick from Forth Mobility lead a webinar on the subject of electric school buses and provided details about electric school bus energy consumption.

Electric school buses receive their ‘fuel’ in the way of electricity from the grid, which is then stored in batteries on the vehicle. Most school buses, like transit buses, have designated routes that they travel each school day, making their fuel needs easily calculable.

This makes a lot of sense in the middle of the summer when a) electricity demand is high b) school buses aren’t being used to transport students and c) the electric utility would be able to use electricity produced earlier in the day by renewable sources of energy rather than dipping into a nonrenewable source of energy, such as that produced by a coal-fired power plant.

In May, PGE announced five winners of the 2020 School Bus Electrification Project, putting the first five electric school buses on the road to serve Oregon students in 2021.

Using funding from the Oregon Clean Fuels Program, the Beaverton, Newberg, Portland, Reynolds and Salem-Keizer school districts were chosen based on their commitments to meet the needs of underserved communities and incorporate the buses more broadly into student

education around climate science.

The five districts will each receive funding to purchase an electric school bus, install charging infrastructure and provide technical and training support.

Seeking long-term strategies to improve conditions for students and drivers driven by the ongoing response to COVID-19, manufacturers are collaborating with customers to deal with social distancing and seating, looking at ways to reconfigure seating, PPE for drivers, sanitation and disinfection.

The Times They Are A-Changin’

from page 18

iting measures may be necessary to prevent a resurgence.

Bus, train and airline capacities have already been reduced substantially due to the need for safe separation. On the plus side, outdoor air quality has improved because of less motorized transportation. However, adjustments will be required to meet and balance overall transportation needs.

Land use and transportation planners should step back and re-evaluate the directions they are taking in growth and density management and transit mobility in consideration of both the pandemic and climate impacts.

If density planning results in reductions to urban landscaping with no additions being made to public parks and open spaces, losses of vegetation and tree canopies will promote warming in the form of heat islands and reductions in photosynthesis.

A balance will need to be established to meet housing density and transportation requirements so the needs of all citizens are adequately met.

Emergency plans will need to be more all-inclusive and better coordination established for the consideration of medical supply stockpiles and the availability and the sharing of resources. If the federal government shirks those responsibilities, it will have

to come from the state level.

Ongoing protests will likely continue until law makers and law enforcement finally get serious about the elimination of racial injustice and inequities.

Equity must include the creation of equality in the workplace and fair and affordable housing opportunities. This will require a revamping of law enforcement practices and judicial systems and a serious response by the business community for equal pay and work practices.

With 40 percent of COVID-19 victims being elderly nursing home residents, new rules and oversight of such facilities will be necessary.

Many will soon be returning to the workplace while others work at home, shortages in store items will gradually decrease as supplies again meet demands and hoarding ceases, and the economy will start picking up again.

The pandemic is a wake-up call for local, state and federal officials to do a better job of planning and problem solving.

As elected officials find the best ways to address this multitude of interactions and determine how to examine things from a big picture mode, it will be up to the public to remind and encourage them to resolve these matters in a positive and transparent manner and to create a new normal that works for all of us.

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Note From the Caplener Group

People across the country and around the world are speaking out against racism, and fighting for social justice, the Black Lives Matter movement will be one of the largest social justice movements of all time. There have been strides made thus far, but the movement is far from over. At The Caplener Group, we stand with the Black community, and recognize the long history of injustice perpetrated against people of color. We understand that for things to truly change we all need to continue to take action. We ask you to join us, in support of the BLM movement by listening, learning, donating, educating, having tough conversations, and supporting businesses and organizations that do the same. If you are unsure of where to best show your support, consider these local organizations:

- NAACP: Organization fighting systematic discrimination in all forms through committees, events, and other action items. pdxnaacp.org/
- Urban League: One of Portland's oldest civil rights organizations focusing on equality in education, employment, health and quality of life. ulpdx.org/

Thank you for supporting this social justice movement and as always, thank you for supporting our team.

Black Lives Matter.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Jamie Marion, Kevin Caplener and Jan Caplener



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