

Carlotta Collette

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 NEWS | December 2008

Carlotta Collette represents District 2, which includes the cities of Gladstone, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Oregon City, Rivergrove and West Linn and a portion of Southwest Portland.



Missing Molly Ivins

I am not known as a person who sees grey clouds lurking around the edges of silver linings. I'm optimistic to the point of silliness. So it was with some consternation that I found myself on election night last month with one sad thought amidst all the celebration.

I missed Molly Ivins.

Molly Ivins, in case there is anyone reading this who does not know, was the Texas Observer reporter and later syndicated columnist and author who said such lovely things about politicians as, of Texas Representative James Collins: "If his IQ slips any lower we'll have to water him twice a day."

Molly Ivins, who referred to her governor and later president as "Shrub," adding when he was running for president, "I like my nephew, I like my mailman and the lady at the dry cleaners. That doesn't mean they're ready to be president." After W. was elected, Molly wrote: "Next time I tell you someone from Texas should not be president of the United States, please pay attention."

Molly Ivins made me laugh. That's often enough to win my loyalty.

I knew Molly when she was just starting out at the Minneapolis Tribune in Minnesota. She had a special beat called Movements for Social Change. She referred to it as writing about "militant blacks, angry Indians, radical students, uppity women and a motley assortment of other misfits and troublemakers." I either qualified as or supported all of the above and consequently ran into her on a regular basis. She wore her wild hair long and braided in those days and stood out, being about six feet tall.

I missed her when she moved on, but subscribed to the Texas Observer as a means of keeping in touch.

Toward the end – Molly died of cancer last January – she was getting pretty angry (joyful, too, of course, the way Molly mixed it up). In a 2006 editorial I clipped and posted on my bulletin board, she exhorted us to "Get up and fight, you fools!"

This was Molly's rant against common political thinking in general and the war in Iraq in particular. She laid down a long list of ways both political parties are way behind the majority of Americans on critical issues – the war in Iraq of course, but also the environment, health care, Bush tax cuts, etc.

Then Molly praised former Minnesota senator and presidential candidate in 1968 Gene McCarthy. "The recent death of Gene McCarthy reminded me of a lesson ... It's about political courage and heroes, and when a country is desperate for leadership. There are times when regular politics will not do, and this is one of those times. There are times a country is so tired of bull that only the truth can provide relief. If no one in conventional-wisdom politics has the courage to speak up, then you go out and find some obscure junior senator from Minnesota with the guts to do it."

continued



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On November 4th, 2008, I wanted Molly Ivins to know that the United States had just elected a courageous junior senator from Illinois, an inspiring political leader she might really be able to respect. I think Molly would have kicked up her heels.

– *Carlotta Collette*

High Capacity Transit System Plan enters screening phase – District 2

Feedback from residents, businesses, community organizations and elected officials identified 192 potential high capacity transit – rapid bus, commuter and light rail, or streetcar – connections in about 55 corridors around the Metro region this fall. Metro sought the input as it updates its regional High Capacity Transit System Plan. The agency is currently working to screen and evaluate viable corridors for the next phase of public review and input.

The system plan will help prioritize high capacity transit investments in new corridors and changes to existing corridors over the next 30 years. Results will be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan, the Portland metropolitan area's blueprint for a multi-modal transportation system.

From July through November, more than 50 stakeholders were interviewed, more than 150 people attended public workshops and more than 200 people were informed about the project and offered suggestions at farmers markets and other public events. More than 200 people participated in an interactive questionnaire on Metro's web site from Aug. 12 to Oct. 1, 2008. District 2 was represented by online survey respondents; participants at the Oregon City public workshop and Oregon City Rotary Club presentation; and interviews with Clackamas County, The North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce, North Clackamas School District and Elders in Action.

In spring 2009, Metro will share preliminary evaluation results with the public and begin discussing tradeoffs, choices and priorities. An interactive web survey and other public outreach events also will be available.

To learn more about the system plan or to sign up for project updates, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/goingplaces.

When the animals go to bed, the lights come out to play: the 21st Annual ZooLights festival kicks off

The Zoo lights are back with more than a million bright bulbs illuminating the zoo for the 21st annual ZooLights festival, beginning Nov. 29 at 5 p.m. This family tradition, presented by the Boeing Company, features life-size animal silhouettes and moving light sculptures on display throughout the zoo. This year's display features high-efficiency LED lights, which use about a tenth of the power of normal iridescent bulbs.

Families can expect to see their old favorites as well as some new surprises - including unicorns, dinosaurs and an animated, roaring lion in honor of the upcoming Predators of the Serengeti exhibit, scheduled to open in 2009. Other new displays include dinosaurs, a baby elephant and a California condor chick.

To see a preview of the light display, visit www.oregonzoo.org/Events/ZooLights/preview.htm



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About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

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