

Kathryn Harrington

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 NEWS | January 2009

Kathryn Harrington represents District 4, which includes Northern Washington County, Cornelius, Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Northwest Beaverton, Aloha, Rock Creek, Bonny Slope, Bethany, Raleigh Hills, West Slope, Cedar Mill and Cedar Hills.



Generation shaping events

A personal message from Councilor Harrington

I find myself wanting to write two newsletter messages this month, so here they are, all in one!

On December 10th, I had the opportunity to hear John W. Mitchell, an expert and entertaining economist, provide his assessment of our current economic conditions and future prospects. The title of his presentation was ‘The 33rd Recession and the 44th President.’ He reminded us how our current local, national and global conditions are generation shaping events. He framed the situation in a creative and entertaining fashion, saying that at this point in time we may be looking at “The End of the Way We Were.” We are certainly living in interesting times and through the end of 2009, it will be an unsettled period with many new policy initiatives to help set things back on a positive course. Experts such as Mr. Mitchell predict that by the end of 2009, we will see indications that we’ve reached the bottom, though the subsequent recovery may not be fast. We are in the 33rd recorded recession in U.S. business history and all previous recessions did end. This one will too! Looking ahead, in my work as your Metro Councilor, I will continue to strive to minimize risks, see that liabilities are covered, and ensure efficient use of public resources while delivering results of value.

And speaking of the future, for the current generation of children, do you believe that their lifespan will be longer than ours? Well I did, but recent health studies show the trend of ‘longer lifespans’ is no longer expected. I believe that we adults owe our children an urgent message – get them out to play, teach them now that walking, bicycling, using transit is good for their health. Dr. Philip Wu of Kaiser Permanente, Eileen Brady of New Seasons Market and Al Jubitz of Jubitz Truckstop fame are just 3 of the 16 business leaders involved with the ‘Connecting Green Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails.’ They are working to make it clear to all of us that our public health and business welfare depend on achieving a mobility system, also referred to as ‘Active Transportation.’ (Read more at www.oregonmetro.gov, search ‘Connecting Green’) The region, our cities, parks departments and service district (such as THPRD) are working together to support your travel needs, not just your recreational and health interests. Your economic health, your financial wealth, your physical and mental well-being are all connected.

Every few months, I meet with each city council in my district, Forest Grove, Cornelius, Beaverton and Hillsboro as well as with County Commissioners and many community and neighborhood groups. We talk about many things, but increasingly we will be talking about the changes that we all are making and will make in the future as the world continues to change around us. I hope that you will join me in these discussions as we talk about planning and problem-solving issues of transportation, land use, and sustainability that affect your community. Together we will forge our future path through the 21st century.

– Kathryn Harrington



www.oregonmetro.gov

Swales and rain gardens at Green Building Week

Metro is offering another session in its popular “Green from the Ground Up” series. Designed to help builders learn more about nature-friendly design practices, the series features a number of green development techniques and demonstrates how to add value to projects while preserving and enhancing a property’s natural assets.

The next session, to be held Tuesday, January 27, focusing on rain gardens and swales, will be lead by Paul Dedyo of KPFF Engineering, Kevin Robert Perry of Nevue Ngan Associates, and Alan Hipolito of Verde.

Dedyo is a LEED-accredited senior civil engineer who specializes in innovative sustainable site planning and design. His extensive experience in stormwater drainage and utility design includes rainwater harvesting, low-impact stormwater management and hydraulic/hydrologic modeling. His firm, KPFF, designed the sustainable stormwater management systems at the New Columbia and Humboldt Gardens developments.

Perry, whose prior work with the City of Portland’s Sustainable Stormwater Management Program helped city policy makers develop a toolbox of design strategies, has designed several of Portland’s most prominent green street and rain garden demonstration projects, including the award winning SW 12th Avenue and the NE Siskiyou Green Streets.

Verde is a Portland-based non-profit organization that focuses on improving the economic health of disadvantaged communities as well as fostering the connection between economic vitality and environmental protection and restoration.

The session runs from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel on NE Multnomah Street.

Dedyo will speak about the physical aspects of design including sizing and hydrology, and Perry, a landscape architect, and will address soil mixes and plant selection. Hipolito, whose firm maintains swales and other stormwater facilities and is often called upon to correct problems when city inspections prevent a builder from obtaining approval, will focus how to avoid pitfalls during construction.

Builders, developers, and landscape architects, as well as civil engineers, planners and

jurisdiction staff who review building and development plans and permit applications, are encouraged to attend.

Rain gardens and swales are relatively simple techniques that have practical applications in many types of developments. They capture rainwater that runs off from hard surfaces and allows it to slowly filter into the ground. Native plants filter out pollutants and clean water before it moves “downstream”, therefore protecting water quality and keeping local streams and rivers healthy for people, fish and wildlife.

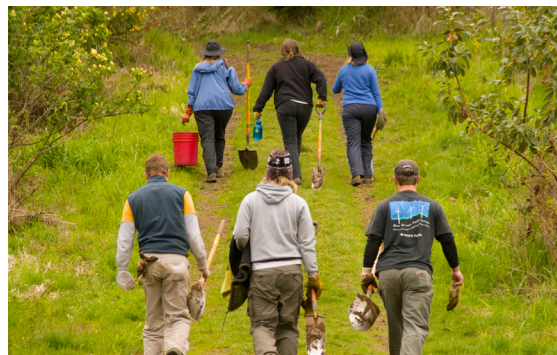
The session will cover their applicability, benefits and costs, and will also demonstrate how to install and maintain them. Case studies will include new developments and redevelopment or retrofits.

To register, contact www.homebuildersportland.org/calendar or call 503-684-1880.

Events to note in District 4

Mulching native plants at Rosa Park Saturday, January 17, 9 a.m. to noon

Help mulch native trees and shrubs throughout the floodplain of Celebrity Creek. Bring a shovel, set of loppers and heavy-duty work gloves, if possible. Refreshments are provided. Meet at the park entrance on Southwest Rosa Road east of 196th Avenue. To register, call 503-629-6305.



Councilor Kathryn Harrington contact information

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232
503-797-1553 | 503-797-1793 fax
kathryn.harrington@oregonmetro.gov
Veronica Valenzuela, policy coordinator
503-797-1939
veronica.valenzuela@oregonmetro.gov
www.oregonmetro.gov

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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