



This Month's Matters...

Tom's Tidbits

Our newsletter is another reason we're different

"What NOW?!!" Toons

Keith Tucker's Special-To-Us Toon of the Month

Biggest Stories of 2011

What made this year's news in *Your Car Matters*

Shop Talk

2011 in the rearview mirror

Health Notes-

2011 Was Our Healthiest Year So Far

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2011's Full Menu

Sellwood Bridge Update

A Year In The Life Of Our Wobbly Neighbor

Book Spotlight

A Look Inside Our Library

Popcorn Shorts

Cool and important stuff that's too short for a big article

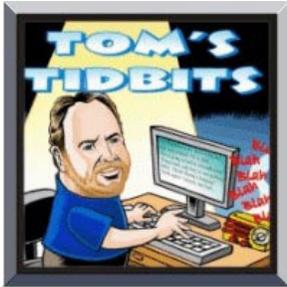
News To Make You Furious

A Year Of RAGE On Just One PAGE!

Moneysaving Programs
To stretch your hard-earned dollars their farthest

A vertical graphic titled 'Money Saving Programs' in bold black text. Below the title, it says 'See our website for complete details'. The graphic contains four distinct boxes, each with a colored border and a title in blue text. The first box has a green border and is titled 'Carbon Neutral Program' with the subtext 'Offset your vehicle's carbon emissions and save 10% off labor cost!'. The second box has a blue border and is titled 'Labor Lock Program' with the subtext 'Pay today's prices for the rest of your life!'. The third box has an orange border and is titled 'Planned Maintenance Package' with the subtext 'Get up to a 60% discount by buying your basic yearly maintenance services in advance'. The fourth box has a dark blue border and is titled 'First-Time Clients ONLY!' with the subtext 'Save \$75 to \$150 on our most thorough inspection!'.

Money Saving Programs See our website for complete details
Carbon Neutral Program Offset your vehicle's carbon emissions and save 10% off labor cost!
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Tom's Tidbits

Our newsletter is another reason we're different

Greetings!

Most businesses nowadays have some type of newsletter to communicate with their customers. They've become so common that there are companies that only exist to create newsletters for other companies. Auto shops are common buyers for these generic newsletters; they subscribe to the newsletter supplier, paste their logo in the spot provided, and send them on to their mailing list. Not us.

I think newsletters can be more than just industry-specific information with coupons. You may want to learn something about bugs from your exterminator or tax breaks from your accountant, but that gets old pretty quickly. When a company takes the time to create original content you get a chance to learn what they're about. You discover their values and what they think is important. You and the company have a chance to build a relationship.

Sure, we have some automotive articles because it's important to get clear vehicle information you can trust, but we bring you much more as well. Our Feature articles cover issues like current events, the environment, community, art, and culture. Our monthly columns Shop Talk, Health Notes, Drew's Kitchen, Sellwood Bridge Update, and Book Spotlight bring you tips you can use in dealing with our shop or the rest of your daily life. Make sure you check out Popcorn Shorts for quick bits on everything from the sublime to the ridiculous, and finish up each month with News To Make You Furious for news on the latest gross abuse in the world around us.

You're probably bombarded with stacks of email every day, but I hope you can open our newsletter and spend a moment to see if there is anything that catches your interest. We respect your time, so we invest a lot of our own time making our newsletter something you'll look forward to each month. This month's issue will re-cap everything you may have missed in 2011, and I think you'll get a good idea of what to expect in 2012. And please, if you have any ideas for articles you'd like to see included or if you have any other feedback for us, LET US KNOW!

Finally, I'd like to extend a special "thank you" to all our clients and friends for your loyalty and support throughout the years. It's a true honor to work with all of you, and I look forward to continuing our relationship in 2012 and beyond.

Make a great day, and a great year!

PS- You'll notice a "Share/Save" link at the top of our newsletter and the bottom of each article. If you see an article that interests you, it may interest your friends as well. Don't forget to click the link to pass it on!



"What NOW?!!" Toons

You can't see this one anywhere but here



"WHAT NOW?!!!"

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Big Stories of 2011 What made this year's news in *Your Car Matters*

You want plumbing advice from your plumber, but do you want plumbing advice month after month? You want to hear your accountant's every thought at tax time, but year 'round? You're bombarded with email from every company you deal with, so if we want to avoid your spam filter we have to give you more than automotive advice. We have to give you something that you'll actually *look forward* to receiving each month. That's why we work so hard to make our articles interesting, useful, and varied. If you've missed any of our Feature articles in 2011 then this is your chance to catch up. We hope you enjoy this roundup, and rest assured that we'll be bringing you more of the same in 2012.

2011 got off to a great start when Keith Tucker joined the *Your Car Matters* team in [January](#). He creates the nationally recognized "[What Now Toons](#)" strip, a progressive cartoon that has been praised by the likes of Greg Palast and Randi Rhodes. Check out the [archive](#) here, and check back for his new posting each week.



The coffee we serve in our lobby on a daily basis, as well as the coffee we give out during Christmas all come from [Nancy Duncan at Schöndecken Coffee in Sellwood](#). Here was your chance to meet the lady who keeps us all caffeinated.

The only thing better than learning from your mistakes is learning from someone else's. In [February](#), a new client came in whose vehicle had been running fine until a string of symptoms all hit at once. We quickly found the problem... he was 20,000 miles overdue for his oil change! We saved the car without replacing the engine, but it was close. "Mr. X" generously chose to let us take before-and-after shots of the engine, and [this article](#) became one of our most popular Features of 2011. But beware-these pictures aren't for the faint of heart!



In [March](#) we took you under the hood for a look at our industry-leading, proprietary [Inspection Process](#). While just about every shop has an inspection procedure for your car, most of them are designed to give the shop a chance to find things to sell you. This article explained our three-level inspection process, why we developed it, and why it's one of the most valuable services we offer.



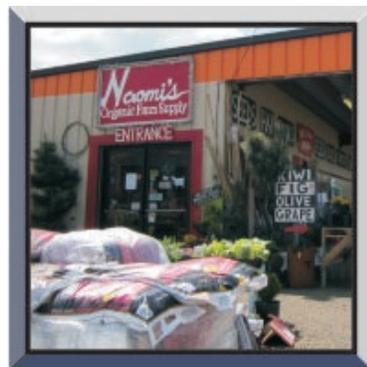
[April](#) was a time for fun. One of the places we advertise is the [Moreland Theatre](#), so we asked for [your opinion on some of our upcoming slides](#) and your ideas for new ones. They're still posted if you'd like to take a look, and if you're a movie buff we're always looking for new ideas.

On April Fool's Day itself we went a little

wild. Now that the holiday has passed, we can safely tell you that our article about a [home test for your headlight's halogen fluid](#) wasn't exactly real. It was fun, though, and you can pass it on to a gullible friend next April. You'll find [all 2011's April Fool's jokes here](#), including our [Sellwood Bee Ad](#) and our KPOJ radio spot for the new [Tom Dwyer Corporate Auto Service Wonderland](#).



Though there was fun in April there was time for reflection as well, when Tom Dwyer Automotive became a sponsor of the [Veterans For Peace rally and march through downtown Portland](#). Our article about the day started out as a factual report, but turned into something else as our reporter wrestled with what to tell his daughter about the event. "How do I tell my little girl to reach for her dreams? Why should I tell her that her voice matters? Is it enough to laud the ideals of what America should be, in the face of what it has actually become?" If you're struggling with the same questions in your own life, his answers may be interesting.



In [May](#), we introduced you to Naomi and Neil Montaker of [Naomi's Organic Farm Supply](#). [Naomi's fought against Les Schwab](#) for months to stay at their Sellwood location, garnering support from the neighborhood and beyond. While they ultimately lost, the loyal clientele followed them into their new incarnation as a mobile farm supply outlet. We'll keep you posted when they find a permanent location, but until they do our May article will give you a chance to get to know our pugnacious ex-neighbors.

As vehicle technology advances, people can get more separated from the operation of their cars. Even some of the basics of automotive functions can get lost, which may explain why our article on [your car's battery](#) was so popular. We hit all the high points including what your battery does, what to look for before it fails, and where old batteries go when they die.





One final May article was about an issue that's still in play. North Dakota's State Bank has been a big contributor to the way they've weathered the recession, so it was big news when [Oregon started looking at a version for our state](#). This article described North Dakota's successful system and how it might translate here. We also created a [special page for an Oregon Bank](#), where you can get more detailed information and find out how to get involved in creating one here.

One of our [June](#) Feature articles opened with this quote from Sun Tzu: "If you know your enemies and know yourself, you will not be imperiled in a hundred battles." When you're [buying a new car](#) it's a battle between yourself and the salesman and the salesman holds all the cards... unless you're prepared. We gave you everything you need to win the war; even ways to cut the dealer completely out of the equation.



Also in June, Tom Dwyer Automotive was the [target of an investigative report](#). Fortunately, we came out OK. Calvin Good used our shop as the subject of a college paper on a local business that "makes a contribution to the sustainability and health of the local region." We have to write quite a bit about ourselves for various purposes, but it's nice to see what we look like to someone on the outside looking in.



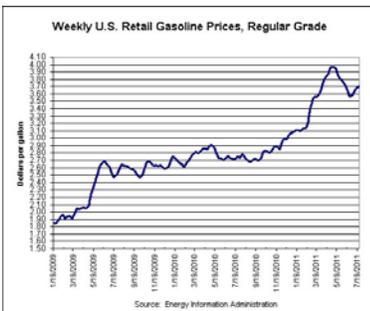
[July](#) featured a report on [Phame Academy's 2011 musical "Grease"](#). Portland-based [Phame](#) is the only program in the country providing a full art and music curriculum for people with physical and developmental disabilities. Now entering its 27th year, Phame is gearing up for their 2012 production of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory". Don't worry- we'll keep you informed as the date gets closer.

We encourage all our clients to use synthetic oil, so in July we asked "[When will you make the switch to synthetics?](#)" We hope it's soon, because synthetics are better for you, your vehicle, and the planet. If you read this article you'd know why!



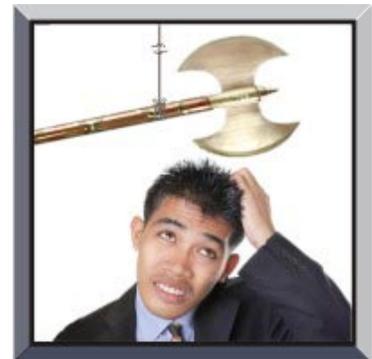
Summer means summer camps, and in 2011 we found one that stood out. [Youth Empowered Action Camp](#) (YEA) is an Oregon camp whose mission is to empower youth with knowledge, skills, and confidence to address social justice issues. We later found out that people actually read this newsletter when one of our clients told us she had sent her daughter to this camp based on our article. (And she reportedly had a great time!)

[August](#) gave us a chance to share one of the things that make our Sellwood neighborhood so special. The [Sellwood Passport event](#) is a scavenger hunt through the businesses, shops, and restaurants throughout our neighborhood. Visitors get a “passport” full of special offers from one business, then take the passport to the rest of the area businesses to get free stamps. Valuable prizes are awarded to the people with the most stamps. Passport will be going on again in 2012, and *Your Car Matters* readers will be in the know when it comes up.



As gas prices did their yearly summer jump, people started asking if there was [anything they could do to increase their gas mileage](#). When we're asked about this we have one major piece of advice... keep your vehicle in top running condition. That means major things like keeping your engine in top shape, but also little things like keeping your tires properly inflated. There's no silver bullet to make a SUV get 60mpg, but we gave you 19 ways to help squeeze a few more miles from your tank.

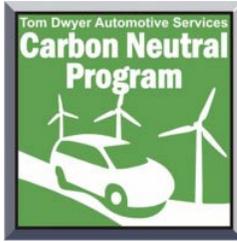
Our Courtesy Shuttle is one of the most popular features of our shop, and many of the conversations between clients and our shuttle drivers become newsletter articles. One client told us about two little known [programs that can help reduce your student debt](#). Income Based Repayment (IBR) and Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) can radically drop the amount that you eventually repay. With 2010 average student loan debt over \$25,000, there were a lot of people who were very interested in this particular article.



[September](#) was an opportunity for us to do something a little different when we were asked to be on the organizing committee for “[Moving Planet- Portland](#)”, Portland's contribution to the yearly global 350.org event. We did a [radio spot on KPOJ for the event](#) (something we do for many of the groups or events we support), and our September newsletter was devoted entirely to issues involving climate change and ways we as individuals could help stop it. Our main Feature was [about the event itself](#), but we also had Features on the [science of climate change](#) and [calculating your](#)



[carbon footprint](#). (Here's a chance to tell you about our one-of-a-kind [Carbon Neutral Program](#), which offsets your vehicle's carbon



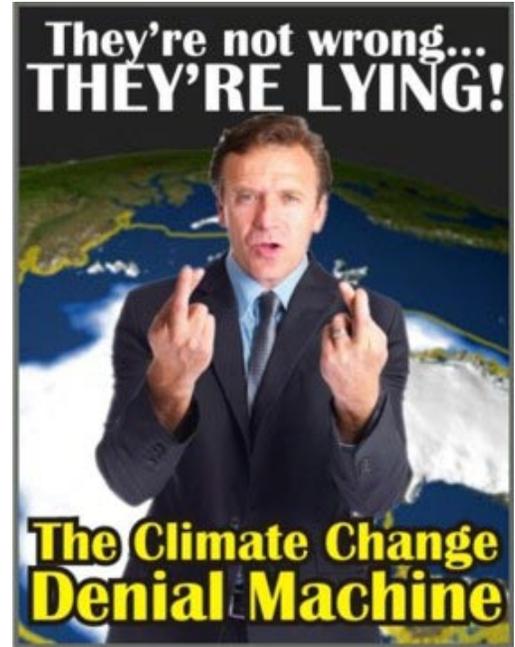
production *and* saves you 10% off labor on all your work here at the shop.) But we didn't just stop with three articles... [Tom's Tidbits](#) and [Keith's cartoon](#) were both on global warming. Shop Talk explained our [PPO \(Portland Pollution Outreach\) Certification](#), Health Notes talked about the [effects of climate change](#)

[to your individual health](#), Drew's Kitchen gave us a [low-carbon-footprint recipe with links to locally grown food](#), and our [Book Spotlight was about "Global Warming, The](#)



[Complete Briefing"](#), one of the most comprehensive guides to climate change available anywhere. Even our PopCorn Shorts section had articles on [Links Between Climate Change And Extreme Weather](#) and a [New Oregon Electric Car Company](#).

We wrapped it all up with a completely unbiased News To Make You Furious article called ["They're Not Wrong, They're Lying!"](#) about the climate change denial machine. We probably didn't end global warming in September, but it wasn't because we weren't trying!



In [October](#) we were privileged to sit down with [Brad Witt](#), one of the candidates for the Congressional seat vacated by David Wu and his tiger suit. Brad came up from Oregon sawmills to



become the Secretary-Treasurer of the Oregon AFL-CIO and the representative for Clatskanie in the Oregon State Legislature. He talked with us about the role of money in politics, how to balance business and the environment, and much more. Although Brad lost the primary battle to Suzanne Bonamici, he still retains his Legislature seat and we can expect to see more from him in the future. This was the first opportunity for *Your Car Matters* to talk with a political candidate, but it won't be our last. We have two more interviews scheduled for the first part of 2012, but you'll have to check back to see who they're with.

October also gave us a chance to make things right with an article on the [Local Energy Assistance Program \(LEAP\)](#), a Portland plan for energy security in the event of a major disaster in the city. Our first LEAP article focused on one small and quirky part of the plan but didn't give an accurate idea of what the overall plan was about. We did a much longer, more accurate article to clear things up. As much as we try to be accurate with our reporting we do occasionally make mistakes, but you can trust us to clean them up as soon as we know about them.



[November](#) saw a small group of people gather in Zuccotti Park in New York to protest against the abuses of Wall Street. Their action of civil disobedience quickly spread to hundreds of cities in the



US and around the world. With the mainstream media portrayal of the Occupiers as misfits and malcontents, we sent [our own reporter to the Occupy Portland encampment to check out the situation](#). You may not be surprised that his view didn't match the mainstream, but you may be surprised at the people he found. The Occupy movement was one of the watershed events of 2011, and far from being over its effects are only beginning to be felt. We built [our own Occupy Webpage](#) in support of the movement, and we'll continue to report on it as it grows.

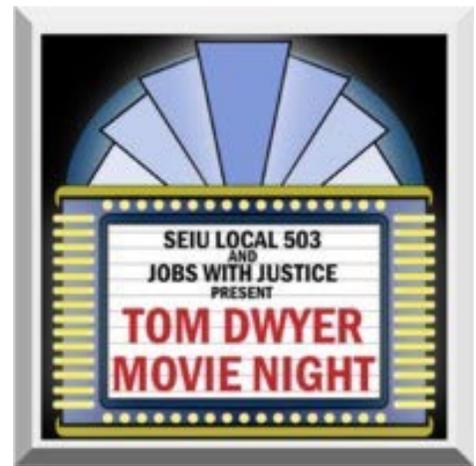
Some things we write about are important and some things are useful, but sometimes we write about things that are just cool. [Robots are just cool](#). Our November article on Robots brought you self-replicating robots, robotic swarms, robots that are indistinguishable from real people, and 12 other completely amazing stories. If you missed it before, don't miss this chance to get to know our future overlords!



They aren't robots, but our final November article introduced you to four people who work like finely-tuned machines. [Our team of Service Advisors](#) gives advice in your interest because they're paid on commission, and they give you top-of-the-line service because they work for Tom Dwyer. This article gave you the inside story on how to get the most from their years of knowledge and experience.

In [December](#) we brought you news on our latest endeavor, [Tom Dwyer Movie Night](#). On every third Thursday of the month, we'll join [Economic Fairness Oregon](#), [We Are Oregon](#), [Jobs With Justice](#), and [SEIU Local 503](#) to bring you a movie to enjoy that night with something to think about the next day. We started off warm-and-fuzzy for the Holidays with "It's a Wonderful Life" and "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas", but January will feature "Network". Check out our [Movie Night Page](#) to see what else we have in store for you in 2012.

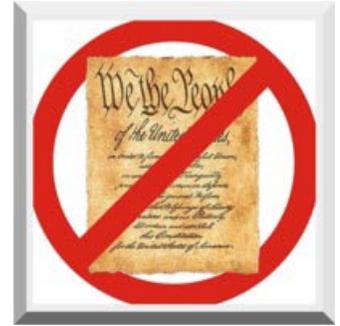
Although this December has been scarily dry and warm for Oregon, the tips in our ["Two Critical Areas Of Concern For](#)





[Winter Driving](#)” article can still help you out. Your coolant system and battery keep you on the road reliably, and following the simple steps in this article will keep them in top operating condition.

Our last Feature article of the year was a [warning about the 2012 Defense Authorization Bill](#), and the provisions that allowed indefinite detention without trial for anyone, anywhere in the world, including American citizens, that the President declares to be a terrorist. We can all rest easy, though, because President Obama promised not to sign the legislation. **UPDATE:** President Obama signed the legislation on New Year’s Eve. We can all rest easy, though, because President Obama promised not to use the new powers. Stay tuned for more updates in 2012, because if the real media won’t cover it then by God, *Your Car Matters* will!





Shop Talk 2011 in the rearview mirror

Shop Talk has articles specifically about our shop so you can get the absolute most value from our service. There are several issues that we get repeated questions about (like [paving the lot](#)) or things that we wish all our clients knew to make their lives easier (like [how to avoid turning left onto the Sellwood Bridge](#)). Click any of the links below to see our tips from this year, or click here for our [full library of Shop Talk tips](#). And please, keep checking out Shop Talk in 2012 to make your experience with Tom Dwyer Automotive all that it can be!

- Jan & Feb- [Our NEW website is more than you might expect!](#)
- March- [Why don't we pave the lot or wash your car?](#)
- April- [Why do we charge for diagnostic time?](#)
- May & June- [Planning for summer trips makes a difference](#)
- July- [Who cares about your company's vehicles?](#)
- August- [The 2-review challenge](#)
- September- [We're PPO certified. Why should you care?](#)
- October- [Surprising features of our website](#)
- November- [How to stretch your auto repair dollars](#)
- December- [Christmas means FREE COFFEE and more!](#)

Shop Talk Year-End Bonus!

One of the most interesting things about our shop is the people and technology that go into it. It takes a lot to provide the service we do, and [clicking here will let you see it all on our virtual shop tour!](#)





Health Notes- 2011 Was Our Healthiest Year So Far

There's at least one thing more important than your vehicle's health... **YOUR** health! 2011 marked the first full year of [our Health Notes column](#), devoted to your health, nutrition, and wellness. We've covered a lot of information on chemicals in your food and where your food actually comes from, and we did some current-events news when the Fukushima disaster hit and radiation became a concern. We'll continue our far-ranging reporting in 2012, and if you have any issues you'd like to know about, or if you have information you'd like to share with the *Your Car Matters* audience, [please let us know!](#)

- Jan-Feb- [Feedlot Cattle Fattened On Candy](#)
[Medical Doctors Question The Food Pyramid](#)
[Exercise And Osteoarthritis](#)
[Black Rice As A Prime Antioxidant Source](#)
[Vitamin B Halts Memory Loss](#)
- March- [Neotame Is A New Spin On Toxic Aminosweet](#)
- April- [Radiation Primer For The Fukushima Disaster](#)
- May- [Industrial Milk... Does It Do A Body Good?](#)
- June- [Our Country Has Been Manipulated Into A Nation Of Drug Users](#)
- July- [Mmmm.... Crunchlets!](#)
- August- [Frankenfoods Foods Stalk The Earth](#)
- September- [Climate Change Gets Personal](#)
- October- [The Shocking Truth About "Fresh-Squeezed" Orange Juice](#)
- November- [The Shocking Truth About "Fresh-Squeezed" Orange Juice - PART II](#)
- December- [Dangerous Chemicals In Cookware And Home Products](#)





Drew's Kitchen 2011's Full Menu

[Drew's Kitchen](#) is our longest running feature, starting way back in [Winter of 2007](#). Every month since then, Drew has whipped up a new culinary delight from appetizer to dessert. Click any of the menu items below to catch up on what you've missed, and bon appétit!

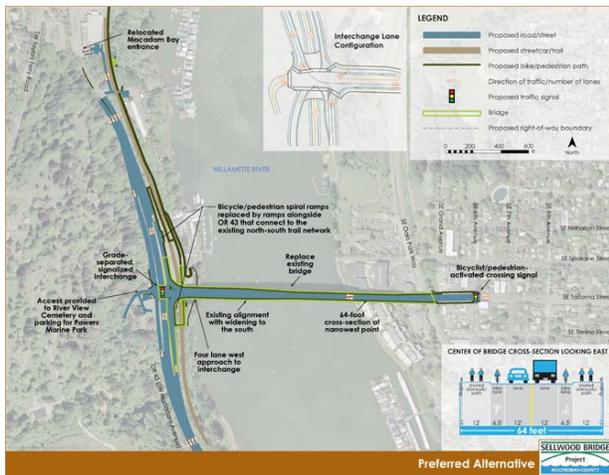
<h1>Drew's 2011 Menu</h1>	
<p>Dijon Fish Fillets- <i>An easy family dinner with some rice and vegetables</i></p>	<p>Angels On Horseback- <i>A heavy appetizer with an unbeatable name</i></p>
<p>Cucumber Soup with Melon Salad- <i>Light, locally-sourced salad</i></p>	<p>Grilled Tuna and Marinated Cucumber Salad <i>Serves two, but you can double up</i></p>
<p>Shrimp and Snow Pea Stir Fry <i>Hot rice makes the perfect bed</i></p>	<p>Bottom-of-the-Box Crashed Cracker Pork <i>Great appetizer or main dish</i></p>
<p>Roasted Herbed Chicken- <i>As welcome from the grill as it is from your oven</i></p>	<p>Macaroni & Cheese with Bacon <i>The ultimate in comfort food, done to perfection</i></p>
<p>Sea Scallops with Sherry & Saffron Couscous- <i>Surprisingly simple seafood</i></p>	<p>Crockpot Double Header <i>Two easy recipes to keep you warm and happy without kitchen time</i></p>
<p>Pearson's Pizza- With Variations- <i>Homemade pizza is creative kitchen fun</i></p>	



Sellwood Bridge Update

A year in the life of our wobbly neighbor

Some of the biggest news in Portland is happening, almost literally, right in our backyard. The Sellwood Bridge was built in 1925 at a final cost of \$541,000 (\$6,678,393.75 in today's dollars). The long-overdue replacement is planned to cost \$268.8 million and be completed in 2015. We've been particularly concerned about the project because if you look at the map, the fence for the construction staging area will be right along the north border of our parking lot. We believe knowledge is power, and the best way to minimize the effect on our clients is to keep you posted as the project progresses. So, a couple years ago we added the [Sellwood Bridge Update](#) to our standard complement of recurring columns. You'll catch the latest here every month until the day the new bridge opens, but until then here's a recap of what happened in 2011, and some special things that are already happening in January 2012...



The year started off bright with the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners unanimously approving the design for the new bridge. The [funding package for the then-\\$290 million project was coming together](#) with Clackamas county deciding to contribute a temporary vehicle registration fee to the project. Things continued to look good in March as the [lowest rated bridge in the country won an award](#) for the design process of the replacement.

A continuing funding gap drove a continuing search for cost-cutting ideas, and April saw the [introduction of the Shoo-fly concept](#) to cut costs and ease construction. Instead of building with the old bridge

in place, the Shoo-fly would involve building temporary supports to the north of the bridge. The old bridge would then be cut and moved over to the new supports, where it would function as a temporary bridge during construction. Here is a [time-lapse video of the procedure](#) being used on a bridge in Elkton, OR, and a [narrated computer animation](#) of how it would work on the Sellwood.



In May, a referendum forced Clackamas county's funding decision to be reviewed by voters. We [strongly supported Measure 3-372](#), and even recorded a [KPOJ spot](#) for it. Everyone went into the election secure in the knowledge that the voters of Clackamas county would vote in favor of this critical issue.

In June, we [dealt with the aftermath](#) of Clackamas county's vote NOT to fund the project, leaving a \$42 million shortfall.

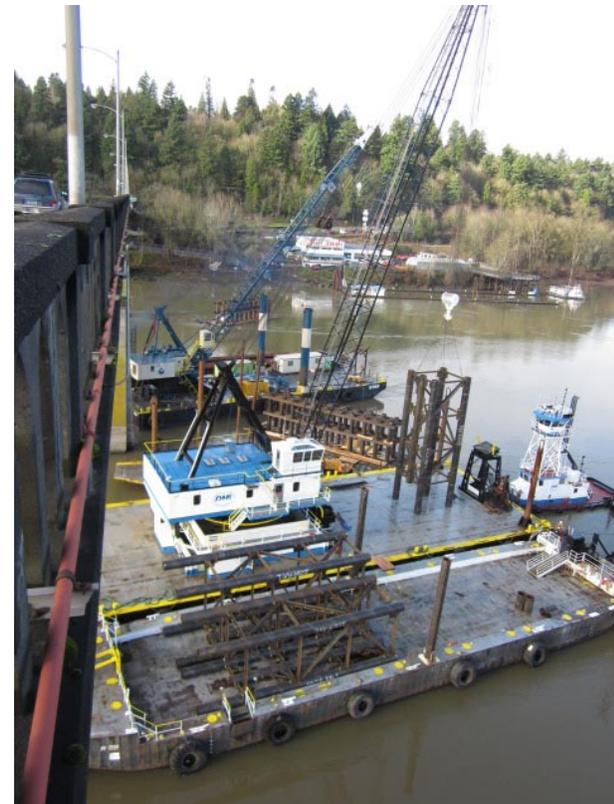
July saw the [first drilling rigs working on the project](#), testing the river bed and gathering the final data to start construction. Not much happened in August, although we did tell you about a "[Mystery Dock](#)" that

had appeared on the southwest beach of the bridge. September was slow as well, as the [design, budget, and timeline were finalized](#).

Things started to [heat up a little in October](#) and [November](#). MoveOn.org selected the Sellwood Bridge as a backdrop for a rally demanding public investment in our nation's crumbling infrastructure. (One of our Tom Dwyer employees was honored to speak at the event.) Condos under the bridge were demolished, and officials continued trying to close the funding gap by applying for a federal TIGER grant.



But the snowball finally started rolling in December and January. The [final bridge design](#) was selected, although final engineering still needs to be done. The in-water work began for the Shoo-fly supports, and a [proposed construction schedule](#) was distributed, but the biggest splash was the [Groundbreaking Ceremony](#) at Riverfront park. City, County, State, and Federal Officials were all in attendance as they announced that the [Bridge had been awarded \\$17,700,000 from the TIGER grant](#) they applied for in November! Although there's still a multi-million dollar shortfall, the County feels sure the remaining funding should be no problem to obtain. And most reassuringly of all, in January, the big barges came in and the heavy construction started in earnest.



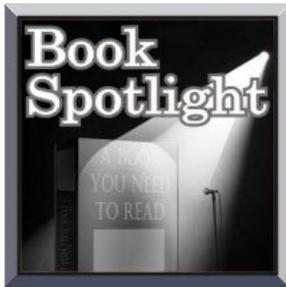
If you'd like the most up-to-date official information on this continuing adventure in civil engineering then the best place to go is the County's homepage for the Sellwood Bridge project at www.SellwoodBridge.org. If you want the latest in hazy rumor and how the project affects your favorite neighborhood mechanic, then turn to *Your Car Matters* throughout 2012!

[Bridge Update BONUS!](#)

Here are two Sellwood Bridge stories from the Daily Journal of Commerce that we ran across in writing this article. "[7 Things You Don't Know About The Sellwood Bridge](#)" will give you great things to talk about as you drive over the bridge and try not to think about its imminent collapse, and "[The Girl](#)

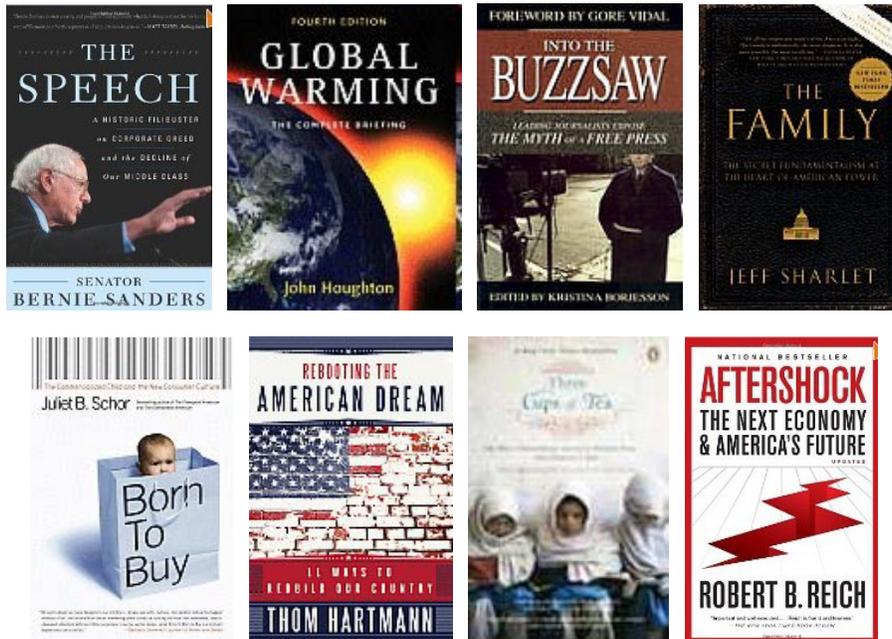


[With The Sellwood Bridge Tattoo](#)" will introduce you to Lindsey Bosse and her fresh ink. See you in 2012!



Book Spotlight A Look Inside Our Library

We began our Book Spotlight in August so we don't quite have a whole year of it to show you yet, but our Book Spotlight shines on our shop's [book and sticker library](#) (available for checkout when you come by the shop). The library is fairly heavily weighted toward political books but you'll find some others as well. Here's what we've looked at so far, and you can count on more in 2012. Click on any of the books to be taken to its [Powell's Books](#) webpage.

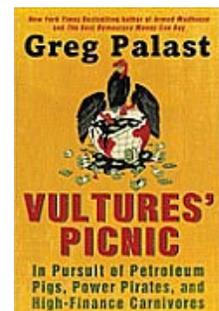


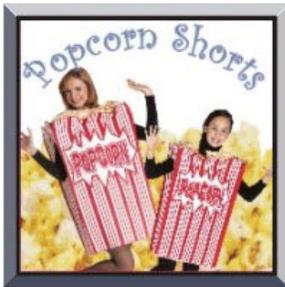
And January's Spotlight Shines on... "[Vulture's Picnic](#)" by Greg Palast

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Armed Madhouse* offers a globetrotting, Sam Spade-style investigation that blows the lid off the oil industry, the banking industry, and the governmental agencies that aren't regulating either.

This is the story of the corporate vultures that feed on the weak and ruin our planet in the process—a story that spans the globe and decades. For *Vultures' Picnic*, investigative journalist Greg Palast has spent his career uncovering the connection between the world of energy (read: oil) and finance. He's built a team that reads like a casting call for a Hollywood thriller—a Swiss multilingual investigator, a punk journalist, and a gonzo cameraman—to reveal how environmental disasters like the Gulf oil spill, the Exxon Valdez, and lesser-known tragedies such as Tatitlek and Torrey Canyon are caused by corporate corruption, failed legislation, and, most interestingly, veiled connections between the financial industry and energy titans. Palast shows how the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organization, and Central Banks act as puppets for Big Oil.

With Palast at the center of an investigation that takes us from the Arctic to Africa to the Amazon, *Vultures' Picnic* shows how the big powers in the money and oil game slip the bonds of regulation over and over again, and simply destroy the rules that they themselves can't write—and take advantage of nations and everyday people in the process.

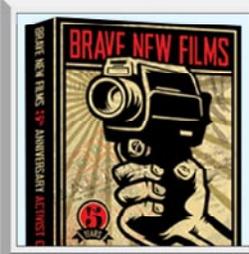
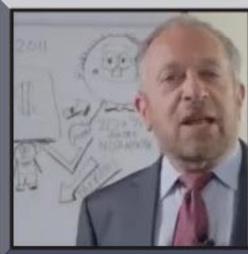


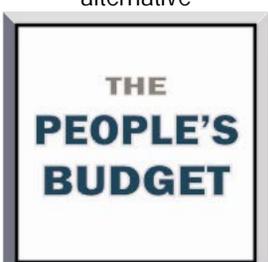
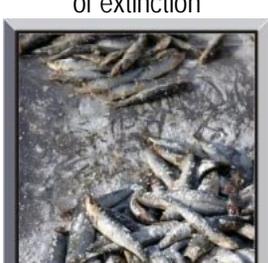
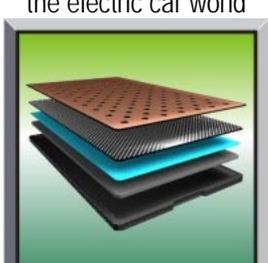
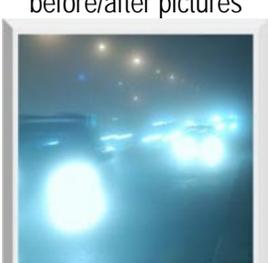
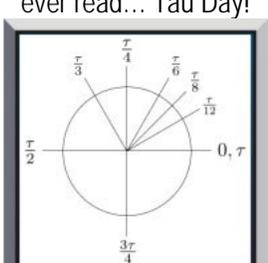


Popcorn Shorts

Cool or important stuff that's too short for a big article

Just like it says, [Popcorn Shorts](#) is about the “cool or important stuff that’s too short for a big article”. Ideas come to us from friends and family, clients, groups we work with, or our own websurfing. We can’t guarantee that everything will be interesting to you, but we can guarantee that it was all interesting to us, and that we looked at each link personally and none of them were pornographic at the time of posting. Here are some of the most interesting things we found in 2011, and if you have any ideas for Popcorn in 2012, [please let us know!](#)

<p>Vote <u>FOR</u> the 1%</p> 	<p>Why the economy is failing- in just 2 minutes</p> 	<p>40 facts about the ex-Middle Class</p> 	<p>Financial calculators you can REALLY use</p> 												
<p>Australia's Evil Anti-Dwyer</p> 	<p>Fun with charts and graphs (really!)</p> 	<p>Bringing the arts back to elementary schools</p> 	<p>Kids look at the future- Contest winners</p> 												
<p>National Debt Clock- with insane detail</p> 	<p>Driving laws by state</p> 	<p>Comparing tax breaks to budget cuts</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="808 1325 1057 1579"> <thead> <tr> <th>Programs at risk</th> <th>Tax breaks for the wealthy</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$11.2 billion Early childhood programs</td> <td>\$11.5 billion Per year cost of record tax cuts for millionaires</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$8.9 billion Low-income housing programs</td> <td>\$8.9 billion Cost of allowing mortgage interest deduction for married couples (15 year cost)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$7.6 billion Supplemental nutrition for poor (SNAP)</td> <td>\$6.7 billion Cost of "estate planning" techniques used by wealthy to avoid taxes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$4.6 billion Teacher training and attract programs</td> <td>\$5.2 billion Cost of comparing bank on Internet advertisements for high-income taxpayers, FY 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$4.1 billion</td> <td>\$4.1 billion</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Programs at risk	Tax breaks for the wealthy	\$11.2 billion Early childhood programs	\$11.5 billion Per year cost of record tax cuts for millionaires	\$8.9 billion Low-income housing programs	\$8.9 billion Cost of allowing mortgage interest deduction for married couples (15 year cost)	\$7.6 billion Supplemental nutrition for poor (SNAP)	\$6.7 billion Cost of "estate planning" techniques used by wealthy to avoid taxes	\$4.6 billion Teacher training and attract programs	\$5.2 billion Cost of comparing bank on Internet advertisements for high-income taxpayers, FY 2011	\$4.1 billion	\$4.1 billion	<p>Play "Guess That Price" with property values</p> 
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<p>Big Brother has his EyePhone on you</p> 	<p>Roller coaster ride through free enterprise</p> 	<p>Japanese radiation training film for kids</p>  <p>Nuclear Boy is notorious for his stinky poo</p>	<p>The most commonly stolen cars in 2011</p> 												

<p>How to be your own lie detector</p> 	<p>Climate change linked to extreme weather?</p> 	<p>Listen to the millionaires!</p> 	<p>20 signs your mechanic is an idiot</p> 
<p>Simple app pulls money out of banker's pockets</p> 	<p>How fast are we all getting stupid?</p> 	<p>Medicare For All is here at last! (In Montana)</p> 	<p>Archive pictures of Old Sellwood</p> 
<p>A NASCAR opening prayer you won't believe</p> 	<p>Rainy day fun- Popsicle Stick Bombs!</p> 	<p>A Progressive budget alternative</p> 	<p>New solar program eliminates up-front costs</p> 
<p>Oceans on the brink of extinction</p> 	<p>ReVolt plans to revitalize the electric car world</p> 	<p>Headlight polishing- with before/after pictures</p> 	<p>The geekiest story you'll ever read... Tau Day!</p> 



News To Make You Furious A Year Of RAGE On Just One PAGE!

On March 24, 1989, the Exxon Valdez struck a reef in Prince William Sound and caused one of the most devastating environmental events in history. On the 20th anniversary of the spill, Greg Palast wrote a jaw-dropping article about the disaster, what the area was like twenty years later, and the steps Exxon had taken to avoid responsibility. It made us angry. In fact, it made us furious. And one of the most infuriating things about it was the fact that no one else was furious because no one was paying any attention at all. And even worse than that, there was a seemingly unending string of appalling things happening in our world but being completely ignored. We decided that needed to change, so News To Make You Furious was born. Each month we shine a spotlight on some particularly egregious issue that isn't getting the exposure it deserves. It may not be much but it's what we can do, and if everyone did what little they could maybe things would start to change. Maybe.

Anyway, here's what we've covered in 2011. Click any of the pictures below to go to our original article on each ghastly subject. Ready to get your heart rate up? **Then let's get FURIOUS!**

