

Overlook Views

Vol. 1

November/December 2004

No. 3

WORDS FROM THE EDITORS

regarding

Constrained Conflicts or Compassionate Collaboration?



Usually, this space is taken by "Words from the Chair" in which Overlook Neighborhood Association's Chair Jim Bennett discusses what he sees as the current relevant issues facing the Association. Jim has graciously lent us his space for this edition so that we may fully air some residents' concerns about diversity in Overlook as well as their misgivings about the nature of the board. We need to help create a dialogue about these concerns in our community. This need is based not only on recent emails but also on your editors' discussions with more than just a few neighbors in the past year.

The stimulus for starting this dialogue was a series of e-mails transmitted through the cyberspace neighborhood of Overlook. (Note: all correspondence took place in September and was edited to reflect the subjects at hand.)

From Amy Altenberger (Past Board Member) to the OKNA Board mailing list.

Hello everyone~

I feel like I need to make known to all of you my feelings. I was very excited last year to get involved and be a part of the neighborhood association. But as you all know I have not been coming to the board meetings because I feel they are a waste of time. I feel like the Board does not adequately reflect the make-up of the neighborhood and that you have a very narrow perspective.

I have spoken to London Bellman who is a business owner and was on the board and he stated he is not coming for the same reasons. I hope you do not take this the wrong way, but that you see it as an opportunity to expand and maybe make those of us who are new or don't live in the triangle feel more a part of the association.

Thanks for your time,

Amy

(Continued next page)

FOOT PATROL TAKES FIRST STEPS

by Will Crow

The meeting place for the first-ever Ockley Green Foot Patrol was the totem pole sculptures on the northeast corner of Interstate and Ainsworth. The site was selected with care: the central totem is topped by a bear, a protector in Native American myth who is often called "She-Who-Watches." For that is the patrol's assignment: to watch the streets around Ockley Green Middle School, report problems, and deter crime.

(Continued on page 4)

NEWS FROM OVERLOOK HOUSE

by Jerry Lindsay

The newly painted trim, setting off the ageless masonry of our beloved Overlook House Community Center (OH), reflects a new beginning and a successful transition as OH has metamorphosed from a facility operated by the Park's Bureau to one now overseen by Overlook neighbors. A big thanks to all of you who helped support this effort.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from front page.)

Response from Warren Cassell (Co-editor Overlook Views) to the OKNA Board mailing list.

*Dear Amy,
I have been attending Board meetings for the last six months and agree that the Board is not an adequate reflection of the neighborhood's make-up. However, I strongly disagree that the meetings are a waste of time. Last night the Board spent an hour and a half discussing the non-Triangle issue of a housing development on Killingsworth. They have spent a considerable number of hours discussing and taking action on the non-Triangle issue of the adult video store. In other words, the Board discusses issues that affect everyone from Overlook to Ainsworth and in-between. I think all Board members would prefer more diversity on the Board and an effort has to be made to accomplish that goal. Perhaps you could be a driving force in this area, should you choose to remain on the Board. And even if you didn't, perhaps you could influence your friends and neighbors north of the Triangle to attend general meetings and get involved in the business of the Association.*

One of the reasons we started a newsletter was so that we could better communicate with all areas of the neighborhood, not just the Triangle. An article in a recent newsletter concerning the relationship between the city and neighborhood associations was in response to a non-Triangle resident's request. We are certainly open to suggestions from Overlook residents no matter what part of the neighborhood they live in.

Amy, I'm glad you wrote. We need people like you, who care enough to speak out, to make the organization a viable resource for the entire neighborhood. As a co-member, I hope to see you at future meetings.

Warren

(Continued next page)

IMPORTANT NITTY-GRITTY STUFF

To be added to our mailing list or to contact the Overlook Neighborhood Association via e-mail:
info@overlookneighborhood.org

or Via snail mail:

**OKNA
c/o Overlook House
3839 N. Melrose Drive
Portland, OR. 97227**

OKNA BOARD OFFICERS

Chair	Jim Bennett 503-331-1030 tankerville@comcast.net
Vice Chair	Kent Hoddick
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Adrian Campbell 503-331-9191 adyinoregon@comcast.net

OVERLOOK VIEWS

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Co-editors: Warren and Melisa Cassell
503-288-8323 w.cassell@comcast.net

Photos: Warren Cassell

Distribution Captains: Alan Cranna, Carol Cushman & Mary Lou Munroe

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following people whose contributions to this newsletter made its publication possible:

Amy Altenberger, Jim Bennett, Alan Cranna, Will Crow, Brad Halverson, Jerry Lindsay and Christine Quigley

(Continued from previous page.)

Response from Alan Cranna (Board Member) to the OKNA board mailing list

Amy you have just made a case for yourself for being on the board. You have to remember we are mostly a reactive organization that responds to current events that affect the neighborhood.

Alan

Response from Amy

*I appreciate you (Warren) writing me back, and I do appreciate that I live in a neighborhood that has a neighborhood association that is so active, but when we spend half an hour discussing how chairs should be arranged in a room and whether or not signs are painted is to me a waste of time. Thanks for allowing me the time to air my opinion,
Amy*

Editors' here and now (non email) Response

Well-said Amy---but recent discussions at the board and general meetings have centered on topics definitely NOT A WASTE OF TIME.

Following is an excerpt from Brad Halverson's summary of the OKNA general meeting held on September 21st.

After the elections, we continued the discussion from July's general meeting about Section 8 housing in the proposed Killingsworth Station development. The Portland Development Commission (PDC) requires allowing Section 8 (subsidized) housing at all of the projects they fund. The developer and PDC staff reviewed what Section 8 housing was, financial qualifications for tenants, and the differences between tenant-based (voucher) and project-based Section 8 units. A thorough discussion ensued after the presentation. The OKNA members in attendance voted 23 to 9 to oppose placement of project-based Section 8 housing at Killingsworth Station. A letter stating the position will be sent to PDC. I believe we all came away from the meeting with a better understanding of the issues. (PDC staff took our

recommendation back to their leaders and has now removed project-based Section 8 units as a funding mechanism for the Killingsworth Station project.)

This meeting elicited a vigorous e-mail response from another active neighborhood association member concerning diversity in the OKNA and resulted in some questions and editorial comment of our own.

...I am very disappointed in the neighborhood association. They (Section 8 families) are after the American dream like everyone else. They want the best for the their families and children. Stability is what they need-otherwise they shuffle their children from apartment to apartment---and this is the #1 reason why low-income children fail in school. ...Section 8 families often struggle more than anyone in their comfortable homes in Overlook could ever comprehend. I am getting disillusioned with our neighbors. The world does not look like the Overlook triangle. In my opinion, the board should stop meeting at the Overlook House and should cross the divide and meet in the other half of the neighborhood. If not all the time, at least occasionally. ...I'm really wondering what our Association was thinking re that vote.

Your editors' response

Well, what are we thinking? What does voting down Section 8 at Killingsworth say about us? Just that we like the status quo? That we "profile" all Section 8 candidates in one negative way? That we are complacent about diversity? Do we just talk the talk but not walk the walk?

It's just a little ball of rock.—We've got to live on it together.

Editors' request for readers' response

WE NEED YOUR THOUGHTS about this discussion of diversity and board focus of the OKNA. Send your written comments, suggestions and ideas to w.cassell@comcast.net or 4037 N. Overlook Terrace, Portland, Or. 97227.

(Continued from front page)

Two couples, neighbors who didn't know one another well, met at the totem poles, donned orange jackets bearing the slogan, "Neighborhood Watch/Prevent Crime," and ventured out. The patrol wove through the Ockley Green neighborhood -- up Colfax and Montana in Arbor Lodge, down Maryland and Simpson in Overlook. They took every opportunity to traverse the intersection of Interstate and Ainsworth, where a sex shop stands a stone's throw from the school playground. They noted graffiti, hazards on sidewalks, broken bottles. They visited businesses. They got to know one another as they strolled through the dusk. And they met neighbors -- new homeowners on Concord, a young couple with a baby, a boisterous man at George's who showed off his new truck, a teenage girl on the steps of the bowling alley who complimented them on the orange jackets. After two hours of walking, talking, watching, writing, they were tired yet exhilarated. There were no major crimes to report, and the experience was worthwhile in ways they had not anticipated.

Often it seems there is nothing individuals can do to make a difference. Bureaucrats are unresponsive, laws do not keep sex shops out of neighborhoods, the voice of a neighborhood goes unheard. But one can take steps. The Ockley Green Foot Patrol is taking steps for a safer and better neighborhood.

At this writing we are scheduling two-hour patrol shifts throughout the week, and no one will be asked to walk more than two shifts in a month. Please join us.

For more information contact this newsletter or an OKNA board member, or email ockleysafe@earthlink.net.



Ockley Green Foot Patrol Finishing a Shift

Photos by Warren Cassell



(Continued from front page)



Additionally, a special thank you to Ronna Seavey and Tom Griffen-Valade of North Portland Neighborhood Services for their untiring efforts in assisting the Overlook Neighbors in getting this community venture off to a good start. Important community-building events during this first six months have included wine tastings, an ice cream social/auction that attracted over 150 neighbors, the annual Overlook picnic, and a community open house to help celebrate the inauguration of the MAX line.

The result is manifold: relationships that make the neighborhood and city so special grow stronger, the generous giving of time and energy by volunteers is honored, and we pay tribute to Elvira Raven whose vision and generosity made OH the public resource it is today. To continue this legacy we need more community members with energy and vision to help out. Please join us at OH the last Tuesday of each month where we meet at 7 p.m.

The busy event season (Summer), which provides most of the necessary revenue to pay for the ongoing upkeep of Overlook House, is behind us. Marcella McGee, treasurer of OH by night and CFO of Self Enhancement, Inc. by day has calculated that paid revenues exceed expenses by an amount sufficient to allow us to get through the much slower winter season with a modest surplus to spare. The OH Steering Committee is now trying to plot the course for the next year. We are in need of a paid lead staff person working 10-20 hours per week, to handle scheduling and use coordination. For further information please contact Jerry Lindsay 503 281-5765 or Greg duFour at 503 284-9446.

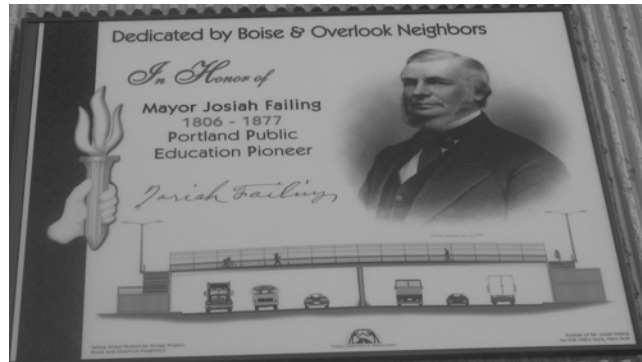
OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ELECTION RESULTS

In what might have been billed as not quite as exciting as the current national election, the OKNA held its annual election/selection at the general meeting on September 21. The names and positions of new board members are as follows: (drum roll please!)

Position	Name	Position	Name
Chair	Jim Bennett	Publicity	Warren Cassell
Chair Assist	Kent Hoddick	Finance	(vacant)
Secretary	(vacant)	Land Use	(vacant)
Treasurer	Adrian Campbell	Public Safety	George Spaulding
Area 1 reps	Megan Smithwick Claudine Paris	Environment	Fred Greatorex
Area 2 rep	Steve Ewoldt Jen Ferrente	Membership	(vacant)
Area 3 reps	Alan Cranna Trish Bradley George Spaulding	Business/Community Relations	(vacant)
Area 4 reps	Majorie Bontje Tom Kilbane	Webmaster & Transportation	Brad Halverson
		Trees	Cynthia Sulaski
		Overlook House	Greg duFour
		Grievance Committee Members:	
		(not on the Board)	
			Marcia Parks
			Gilah Tenenbaum

Though this is not Florida 2000, the results are not quite complete. See page 8 for urgent plea.

CHECK OUT THE NEW PLAQUES AT EACH END OF THE FAILING STREET
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER I-5!



Said the ghost of once mayor
JOSIAH

“ I have but one modest
DESIAH

For my bridge sign to be
NEAT

It must say Failing
STREET

To encourage, enchant and
INSPIAH”



MID-YEAR REPORT FROM THE OVERLOOK VIEWS DELIVERY DEPARTMENT

I have had the privilege of being the delivery coordinator for the first three editions of "Overlook Views". One of the best parts of this job was that I had the opportunity to walk our streets, greet people and pets with pleasure and pride as we shared Overlook Views. Let me close this brief note by mentioning the names of all those who helped:

What a multitude! I hope that it will encourage our neighbors to express a word of thanks for the gen-



Amy Altenberger, Kathryn Beamer, Jim Bennett, Jeff Berrier, Trish Bradley, John and Mary Brassard, Carl Brenden, Steve and April Clark, Tonya Clausen, Alan Cranna, Carol Cushman, Jane Finch-Howell, Barbara Galbraith, Linda Gorg, Brad Halverson, Dan Haneckow, Pat Hazlett, Jay Hunt, Jim Leverich, Mary Lou Munroe, Kathy Murphy, Heidi Pierce, Julie Rawls, George Spaulding, Cynthia Sulaski

erosity of these delivery folks and perhaps consider joining our ranks for future editions. All that is needed is a modest time commitment, usually about an hour and a half every other month.*

Enthusiastically submitted.
Christine Quigley

*To volunteer, call or email:

Carol Cushman for Fremont to Going –288-3888 or hcrcail@aol.com

Alan Cranna for Going to Killingsworth—285-7944 or ascran3@hotmail.com

Mary Lou Munroe for Killingsworth to Ainsworth---283-2604



A CAFÉ WITH A WELL-BUILT DIFFERENCE

“Excellent coffee, espresso and baked delights all served up with a cup of design inspiration.” is what Anne and Richard DeWolf, Co-Owners of Arciform LLC offer in their latest venture, the Craftsman Café.

Located at the intersection of North Interstate Avenue and North Skidmore Street, the Arciform Building was the first new construction along the new Interstate MAX Light Rail Line in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area..

The café is an inspired hybrid. It is a showpiece for this local design-remodel-restore business AND a four hundred square foot space for culinary delights. Artisans work in a busy shop at the back of the building. It is they who produced the alder walnut cabinetry that visitors to the café can visually savor along with their daily coffee.

Since opening last summer, business has steadily improved for the coffee shop as well as Arciform’s design/remodel business. The MAX opening has provided increased visibility. Healthy burgeoning of neighborhood businesses resulting in more customer traffic has been a boon to Arciform’s and the café’s growth. Observing this positive development, co-owner Richard deWolf says, “We realize how truly community-supported we really are and for that we are deeply grateful.”

Arciform is a design-build company specializing in the restoration and remodeling of pre-World War II homes in the greater Portland area. For further project information, please contact Richard or Anne DeWolf at (503) 493-7344.

Open 7 days a week, the Craftsman Café offers premium Kobos coffees and espresso as well as teas, juices and a wide variety of baked goods, paninis and soup.



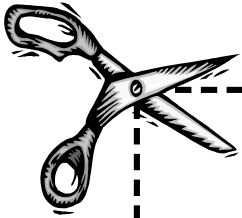
OCTOBER 31/NOVEMBER 2

Melisa Cassell



They confront us at our portals. They make demands.
They want offerings. They threaten mischief if we refuse.
They have hidden identities, mask-like expressions on
faces that do not reveal truth.
They wear inappropriate clothing and flaunt it.
They commit arrogant, inexcusable vandalism. They leave rubble in their wake.
They adorn those vanquished places with garish banners.
They enlist the help of ancient mythic personages.
They claim allegiance to time-blurred gurus and yet
They mimic also vulgar, more recent icons.

What should we do? Where is reason? Who are they?
Who are we?



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Make sure to clip this section and post it on your fridge, PDA or anyplace else you save notice of important events you just can't miss.

OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

November 16 General Meeting Agenda

Interstate Fred Meyer—Grand Re-opening

Susan Safford-Port of Portland Terminal 4 Clean-up Update

Robin Plance-Chair, St. Johns Neighborhood Association—Diversity & Community Outreach

December 21 Traditional Holiday Potluck in lieu of our general meeting, to be held at the Polish Library on Interstate and Failing. And a holiday welcome to all! Bring a dish with a serving utensil. Food will be served at 6:30 P.M..

Note: General Association meetings and OKNA Board meetings are open to all Overlook residents. General meetings are scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month at Kaiser Town Hall except December. Board meetings are scheduled the first Tuesday of each month at Overlook House. In addition, The Friends of Overlook House Committee meets the last Tuesday of each month at Overlook House. All meetings start at 7:00 P.M.

For additional information: info@overlookneighborhood.org or OKNA c/o Overlook House 3839 N. Melrose Drive, Portland, Or. 97227

HELP WANTED!

Your association needs a few good public spirited citizens to participate in the ever challenging job of running an effective neighborhood association. Requirements are minimal and on-the-job training is available. No salary at present, but much appreciation will be offered.

OPENINGS:

Board Secretary—Needs to be able to take legible notes so that he/she can read and transcribe eventually.

Chair Finance—Must like numbers though the Association's are minimal. Fundraisers welcome.

Chair Business/Community Relations—Must like long title and be gregarious with business people.

Chair Membership—Must be gregarious with most people.

Chair Land Use—Must have an eagle eye.

For moderately serious and seriously serious inquiries, call Jim Bennett at 503-331-1030. All others should



FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP return this fabulous coupon via snail mail to OKNA c/o Overlook House, 3839 N. Melrose Drive Pdx. 97227 or email the information to info@overlookneighborhood.org. **FABULOUS COUPON FOLLOWS:**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____