

Overlook Views

Vol. 1.

January/February 2005

No. 5

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



I doubt there are many neighborhoods in Portland going through more change than Overlook. Government plays a big role. Whether through the building and operation of light rail, housing and redevelopment by the Portland Development Commission, or Port of Portland activities (just to note a few); change in Overlook is driven by our government. The impact to homeowners is great. Oftentimes you may feel like you don't have a say or that you can't make a difference. You do and can! ... through your Overlook Neighborhood Association. The City often reviews new ordinances, establishes urban renewal districts, prioritizes operations and maintenance, and sets budgets. These activities affect your quality of life, commute, safety and sometimes, even the value of your home.

In response the Association is taking a proactive approach in an effort to express the neighborhood's concerns and make recommendations. OKNA has been able to build a small team of volunteers to research and respond to land use changes that affect our neighborhood. Ethan Edwards is leading this effort with the help of the previous land use chair Tom Kilbane and Alan Cranna, Tina Masca, and Courtney Goodman. Ethan can be reached through the OKNA website address at: <http://www.overlookneighborhood.org>. Then click on "e-mail us."

There is only one group watching out for our residents and that is the neighborhood association. If you have concerns, suggestions, expertise, or just want to know what is going on, please feel free to contact Ethan. It's good to be looking ahead together.

Jim Bennett, Chair Overlook Neighborhood Association

FARMERS' MARKET IN MAY!

By Warren Cassell

A weekly event bound to bring smiles to local residents faces and fresh farm tastes to their palates will take place at the corner of Fremont and Interstate starting in May of the new year.

Last June an ad hoc committee of Kaiser employees and local community members, myself included, started a series of monthly meetings to explore the possibilities for a new farmers' market in our neighborhood. These meetings brought to fruition (pun intended) a series of decisions that will ultimately have a positive affect on our quality of life and will most likely help to increase our real estate values.

Kaiser Permanente and the Overlook Neighborhood Association have signed an agreement in which a grant will be awarded to the OKNA in the amount of \$25,000. \$20,000 of that money is (Cont'd next page)

FOOT PATROL FOLLOW-UP

By Will Crow

With the assistance of the Overlook Neighborhood Association board, area businesses, and a lot of volunteer shoe leather, the Ockley Green Citizens Committee continues its efforts to keep the streets safe around Ockley Green Middle School.

The Citizens Committee organized in May, when rumors were confirmed that a sexually oriented business was planned for the southeast corner of N. Interstate and N. Ainsworth, across the street from the school playground. The first volunteers of the Ockley Green Foot Patrol took to the streets in early August, shortly before the business opened, and continue today under the sponsorship of OKNA and the cooperation of three other neighborhood organizations.

(Cont'd page 6)

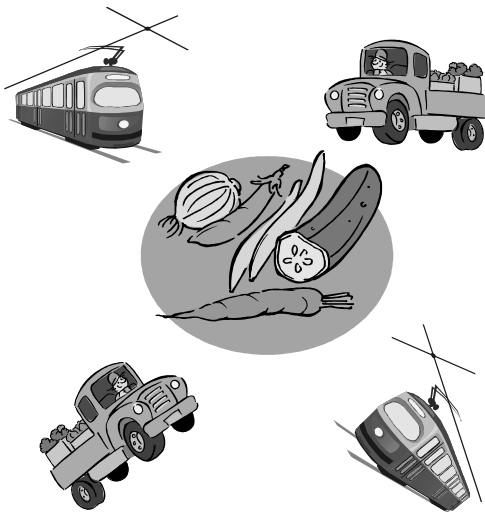
FARMERS MARKET (Cont'd)

to be used to fund and administer the start-up costs of the market. The remaining \$5,000 "... is to be used by the association for any community project as agreed to by the association board."

The location of the market, on Fremont from Interstate west to the turnabout next to Kaiser's West Interstate building was the first choice of the committee members and of a consultant who had been engaged to evaluate the various sites being considered. Kaiser will be working with the parks department as well as the city's transportation department to close Fremont Street on the day/evening the market is open. Still to be decided are days and hours of operation, kinds of market items to be sold, health related services/information to be provided, etc. And that is where you, Overlook resident, enter the picture.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a survey jointly sponsored by Kaiser and OKNA in which you can (anonymously) express your opinions and provide information to help us complete our plans for our farmers' market. We would really appreciate it if you would take five minutes to fill in the survey, re-fold, seal and pop it into the mail—and no postage required!

(Note: If you already completed the survey online, please do not duplicate with hard copy.) Thanks in advance for your cooperation; let's look forward to sharing this new venture.



IMPORTANT NITTY-GRITTY STUFF

Want to join us?

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 503-286-9803 Hoddick@teleport.com
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Adrian Campbell 503-331-9191 adyinoregon@comcast.net

OVERLOOK VIEWS

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the
Overlook Neighborhood Association
Made possible by a generous grant from
Freightliner L.L.C.

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

Distribution Captains: Alan Cranna, Carol Cushman & Fred Greatorex

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

Jim Bennett, Reg Bradley, Scott Coe, Lori Cooley, Will Crow, Brad Halverson, Dan Haneckow, Doug Hartman, Jerry Lindsay, Cynthia Sulaski, Eric Zajac

Poem by Ilan Shamir on page 6 is printed with permission of the author.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editors' note: The last issue of Overlook Views engendered several written responses from the community. All of the following are in abridged form. The first is from Scott Coe of Shaver Street.

November 1, 2004

I live in the "triangle" and we've been here seven years. My brother and family have lived on Colonial 18 years and I own rentals in and out of "the triangle".

I understand the need for affordable housing!!! I've rented to section 8 and I'd do it again. I've rented to just about every "diversity" category I can think of. Scum knows no socio/economic or diversity boundaries. I've had good renters and crappy renters in all categories. The various places that I own, rent as for as low as \$575 and as high as \$2200 (The Pearl). I believe in a diverse neighborhood, and I think Overlook has that. It's one of the great features.

HOWEVER, I am greatly concerned that the City will insist on huge amounts of low to lower income housing along Interstate MAX and do to North Portland what they have done to East County. One of my co-workers has lived through the degradation of the East County neighborhoods as Section 8, and other high density/low income housing have taken over. It has devastated the schools (she's PTA president). All areas of Portland need to have a mix. ALL AREAS. Don't just force it on certain areas and ruin them for everyone, including the low income. And don't force low income people into fewer options by having all the housing choices in low income neighborhoods. (That's the way the glass ceiling is unfortunately kept in place for those citizens.) So, I'm glad the move for Section 8 housing got stopped at the Killingsworth Place project.

I REALLY REALLY appreciate the dedicated people working on our neighborhood association to make this a great(er) place to live. THANKS. RE what do I do to help the neighborhood ... I can't make it to OKNA meeting. So, I just go over to the Failing overpass every month or so and sweep up glass and pick up trash.

I hope everyone will consider what they can do to support our neighborhood, and not just

complain about what needs fixing.

Thanks again and keep up the great work,
Scott Coe

(Editor's Response)

Dear Scott,

Thanks for taking the time and effort to write a really great letter. Perhaps we didn't make it clear in the article, but the Killingsworth project was not going to be a total section 8 project. Rather, (and I think my numbers are correct) only eight units of 56 were to be (guaranteed) low income necessitating a need for partial government financing. The rest were to be middle income rentals and purchases and would in effect help to start up-grading a rather poor neighborhood.

Following abridged letter is from Ursula McCabe of Massachusetts Avenue

November 18, 2004

I can understand the disappointment of the younger more diverse members with our stand on the project based Killingsworth project...but I see both sides.

I agree that we need to accept some section 8 housing...I would like to see it mixed. Living on Massachusetts I am very interested in what goes up along Interstate. I had heard that the Marinos furniture spot with 4 other lots was to be developed into a 10 story building and maybe to be section 8.

Just goes to show how distorted things get... although this was reported sometime back in the Oregonian. We are going to have to grow and change with our city and the trend called "infill". That is where there's a space fill it with housing. But I would be aghast more at 10 stories than section 8. Section 8 people are families and folks getting their life together...we all need some help.

(Cont'd next page)

(McCabe letter continued.)

I hope we can grow in a positive way...and that just because a project is section 8...it doesn't necessarily bring more crime.

I shall just have to keep on learning about things and keep an open mind!!

Ursula

Following abridged letter is from Lori Cooley of Ainsworth Boulevard

November 16, 2004

Thought you might like to know there was a drug OD tonight at the Fat Cobra and the guy died on the scene. My husband Mike, got home from work at 8PM and the cops were all over the place. Mike was a little worried about getting around all of the fire trucks and cops so he asked the cops what had happened, was it safe to go by? The cop told him that a guy had overdosed on drugs at the store and keeled over dead! What a bummer! Didn't Pat (Lanagan) assure the neighborhood that he was going to have a clean operation at his store? Didn't he say that there was no need for concern about drugs and or drug addicts at his store. Well, it looks like he has got a whole lot of stuff, etc. going on there. It makes us sick.

Lori

Related to a "whole lot of stuff, etc. going on there" in the last paragraph, and following up a rumor that there had been an assault inside the Fat Cobra a few days later, your editor asked Eric Zajac, the police officer covering Overlook if indeed this was not just a rumor. He e-mailed the following response:

"I can tell you that the assault occurred while the owner was terminating the employment of a staff member. The employee, who was arrested that night, assaulted the owner with a bat causing injury to his head and arm. I have spoken with the owner since the incident and he is ok."

A thought for the new year.....

By Melisa Cassell

WE CAN DO THIS

We can reach a hand
across the aching space—to understand.

We can thread a strand
of kind connection
Into the fragile cloth of shared concern.

The world is slow to learn.
The path to peace is hit—or miss,
But we, here? We can do this.

We can disagree
Although minds do not meet
Hearts are free
To imbue dissent with laughter,
And enhance debate with glee.
“They” with power often will accord dismiss
We need not follow their bark and hiss.
We can sing together. We can do this.

We can find a way
We can keep discord at bay
We can be many and yet say
Our oneness is the blessing
that gives the cosmos’ kiss.
We can be divided, yet find bliss.
We can do this.





Our Statue of Liberty

By Reg Bradley



Inside the South cafeteria doors is a mural that was created by over 100 members of the Ockley Green Middle School Community. Incorporated within this three-dimensional relief are words for “friend,” “brother,” and “hope” in four different languages. Kids, teachers and neighbors worked together on this diversity theme for over three months. This mural is a true reflection of a school where kids are white, yellow and brown; some are new immigrants, struggling with English. All share the same classrooms and teachers. Families from around the world meet together to define a common language. In a very real sense, Ockley Green is our statue of liberty.



I am part of the Higher Stages Arts Academy, a program that creates arts classes after school at Ockley Green as a way of encouraging children to explore creative pathways that support personal success. As rich as the Ockley Green community is in cultural diversity, too many of our children do not have the confidence that their future will be one that realizes the American dream. Your neighbor that lives two doors away from you could be struggling as a single parent, honestly trying to make ends meet, But not quite making it...



I live in Overlook about three minutes away from Ockley Green. Teachers, administrators, parents and after-school partners are making real progress in touching lives and providing hope for kids who are struggling. Right now we have a great principal at the school, Joe Malone, who is providing solid leadership. This is a great time to make a difference. I like seeing the hope in a child's eye when a new discovery is made or a new word is mastered. After-school programs at Ockley Green need volunteers: parents, grandparents and professionals who will give time to assure a child that s/he has the promise of a rich future. Will you partner with us, and like Lady Liberty—stretch out your arms and heart so some dreams can come true?



Biographical note:

Reg Bradley is the program director for the Higher Stages Arts Academy that creates arts programming like drama, visual arts and African drumming in six Jefferson cluster schools surrounding the Overlook neighborhood. If you want to be of assistance to this after school program or to Ockley Green call him at 503 730-9297 or email him at regbradley@comcast.net.



FOOT PATROL (Cont'd)

At this writing, the Citizens Committee is waiting for word on our application for an Albina Weed & Seed Safety Grant, and we are exploring other sources of funding. Even so, money is not what we need the most. We need your help.

Volunteers are asked to participate in one or two two-hour shifts per month. Bring weather-appropriate clothing, good shoes for walking, a flashlight, and a cell phone if possible. The patrols are non-confrontational, with a constant emphasis on safety, and training is available through Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement. Beyond our intent to provide a crime-detering presence, we find the patrols build community, introduce neighbors to neighbors, and provide an unmatched opportunity to learn about your community.

If you would like to participate in the foot patrol, contact any Overlook board member or this newsletter, or email ockleysafe@earthlink.net.

OVERLOOK HOUSE NEWS

By Jerry Lindsay

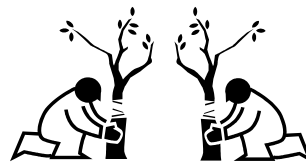
The Friends of Overlook House Steering Committee is pleased to announce that Linda Gorg, a local Overlook neighbor, has filled the position of Overlook House Program Coordinator. Linda has been active with the Steering Committee since its inception over a year ago and generously stepped into the breach when the position became unexpectedly open. Linda's original intent was simply to bridge the gap until a regular replacement could be found but has enjoyed her work so much that she has offered to continue. Recognizing the exceptionally strong organizational and interpersonal skills that she has already brought to this position, the Steering Committee has enthusiastically and unanimously endorsed hiring her on a regular basis. Thank you Linda for taking on this important neighborhood responsibility! Linda Gorg can be reached at the official Overlook House contact number: 503-823-3188.

ADVICE FROM A TREE

Dear Friend
Stand tall and proud
Sink your roots deeply into the Earth
Reflect the light of your true nature
Think long term
Go out on a limb
Remember your place among all living beings
Embrace with joy the changing seasons
For each yields its own abundance
The energy and birth of spring
The growth and contentment of summer
The wisdom to let go like leaves in the fall

Feel the wind and the sun
And delight in their presence
Look up at the moon that shines down upon you
And the mystery of the stars at night
Seek nourishment from the good things in life
Simple pleasures
Earth, fresh air, light
Be content with your natural beauty
Drink plenty of water
Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes
Be flexible
Remember your roots
Enjoy the view!

by Ilan Shamir



MEET THE NEWEST TREES IN OVERLOOK

By Cynthia Sulaski (Who suggested the above poem)

Volunteer on February 12 to help your neighbors plant their street trees at the 6th Annual Overlook Neighborhood Tree Planting. We'll kick off the day with coffee and pastries at the Kaiser Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate from 8:30-9:30 A.M. If you're interested, please RSVP to Cynthia Sulaski at csulaski@spiritone.com or call 503-249.7728. This planting is co-sponsored by the Overlook Neighborhood Association and Friends of Trees. Thank you to the following generous contributors, which make the planting financially possible: adidas, Arciform, DC Custom Silkscreening, DiPrima Dolci Italian Bakery and Kaiser Permanente.

Early Overlook —Oregon's First City?

By Dan Haneckow

Before there was a trail, before there was a state, Oregon was an idea. Few would promote the idea more than Hall Jackson Kelly.

Hall Jackson Kelly was born in Northwood, New Hampshire on February 24th 1790. An early reading of the Journals of Lewis & Clark inspired Kelly to promote settlement of the Oregon Country in numerous New England publications. In Boston in 1829, he established the American Society for Settlement of the Oregon Territory and in 1831 he petitioned Congress urging settlers and troops to be sent to the territory (then jointly claimed by the United States and Great Britain). Congress met his proposals with little interest.

The following year he put his ideas to the test and began the journey of a lifetime to the country he had written so much about, but had never seen. He left Boston, heading west for the Ohio River, then south to New Orleans. At New Orleans he boarded a ship to Vera Cruz in Mexico, then took stages to Mexico City. There he joined a pack mule train to the city of San Blas on the pacific coast where he boarded a schooner to Monterey. Upon his arrival at the Mexican province of California he offered his services to the Governor to survey the Sacramento Valley. His offer was declined.

In California he met a trader named Ewing Young and joined his band of "adventurers and deserted sailors" bound for the Oregon Country. The make-up of the band aroused the suspicion of the Governor who wrote John McLoughlin, Chief Factor of the Hudson Bay Companies headquarters in Vancouver, warning him of horse thieves coming his way.

By the time he arrived at Vancouver, Kelly was sick with a "grasp of racking ague" he had picked up on the journey through southern Oregon. Due to the letter from the California governor his welcome by McLoughlin was lukewarm at best, and he spent the winter of 1834 ill in a hut outside of the fort. As months passed, he recovered enough to explore the land that had for so long captured his imagination. In the spring of 1835 he crossed the Columbia River and surveyed the site he found most suitable for the great pacific city he envisioned.

Hall Kelley's site, the first city survey north of California and west of the Rocky Mountains spread across the bluff overlooking the Willamette (then called the Multnomah River) and Swan Island. It was centered on Mock's Crest (although some maps show it just south of Swan Island). A series of north-south streets ran down to the river (analogous perhaps to Greeley). Above the bluff they were connected by east-west running streets similar to today's Killingsworth, Ainsworth, Portland and Lombard thoroughfares.

Kelley returned to Boston in 1836 after completing the first American survey of the Columbia River. There he lived until 1875, always an avid booster of distant Oregon.

Hall Kelley's city above the Multnomah River existed only as a city of imagination. As such, it can still be visited. Older than Portland by ten years and perhaps larger, its tall commercial buildings stand on terraced streets that descend down the bluff towards the bridges that connect downtown with the residential and industrial neighborhoods on the river's west bank.

Interested in contributing to a book in the works about the Overlook Neighborhood? Reminiscences, photographs (promptly returned) and ideas are very welcome. Contact Dan Haneckow at 503 282 7155 or e-mail overlookhistory@hotmail.com.

Current Overlook: Given the number of Kerry lawn posters and the paucity of Bush posters recently displayed around the neighborhood, it is no surprise that Overlook residents voted overwhelmingly for the losing ticket: Kerry 2929 versus Bush 561. We had an 84% turnout which would be considered extraordinary by national standards, Overlook turnout was about in the middle of the pack for Multnomah County precincts.

We usually feature a local or locally owned business in each edition of the newsletter. This issue we focus on the association that helps bring all of these endeavors together to best serve our neighborhood. Following is a brief summary of the Interstate Avenue Association.

Interstate Avenue Association

By Doug Hartman

The Interstate Avenue Association (IAA) represents business interests along and adjacent to Interstate Avenue in North Portland. IAA meetings are currently held the third Wednesday of even months at 7:30 in the morning at Kaiser Town Hall.

The IAA was first organized in the early sixties by the long-time local, commercial real estate agent, George LaDu. In the early sixties, with the construction of I-5, George saw the need for the community to have a voice in the impact of this transportation project and thus formed the group. George was also responsible for attracting several of the prominent businesses in the area. George passed way this fall after several years of declining health.

The group has been more or less active over the years as issues arise that effect the community at large and businesses in particular. After some years of inactivity the IAA reconstituted in the eighties around the planning activities of the Albina Community Plan. More recently the IAA played an active role in advocating for businesses during the light rail design and construction.

The current officers are President Joe Dennis of Interstate Special Events and Vice President Doug Hartman of Farrell & Associates Realtors. In addition to officers, the IAA bylaws specify five director positions, one of which has always been reserved for a representative of the neighborhood association. For more information about the group contact Joe at 285-6685 or Doug at 804-5410.

HELP WANTED: YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!

We are in desperate need of a **board secretary** who is able to take notes at board meetings and transcribe them at his/her leisure. Board meetings are usually interesting and lively, but need to be recorded. Ability to occasionally talk and take notes at the same time is one small requirement for this voluntary position. If interested, please call Jim Bennett at 331-1030 or email at tankerville@comcast.net.

We are additionally desperate to enlist a volunteer as **membership chair/outreach coordinator**. A rather fancy title, but a task with a serious two-fold mission. We would like to increase the number of residents who are members of the association. However, we would also like to expand our membership to more accurately reflect the diverse nature of our Overlook community. Perhaps one of the several thousand Overlook residents who live here would enjoy this challenge. If you are that person, please contact Jim Bennett at 331-1030 or email at tankerville@comcast.net.

CALENDAR

January 18 General Meeting

Agenda 1..Alex Lowenthal—Kaiser Campus Manager—Farmers' Market

2. Ross Williams-Outreach Coordinator-Citizen Involvement Committee

February 12 Tree Planting. See page 6

February 15 General Meeting-TBA

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

PLEASE MAIL YOUR SURVEY TODAY!!