

OVERLOOK VIEWS
Vol. 2 July/August 2005 No. 2

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

by Jim Bennett



Much of the last board meeting was spent discussing with the proprietors and local neighbors WAX's application for a beer and wine permit. It was a productive discussion. In the end the board voted to support WAX 6-5 with the stipulations that WAX sign a good neighbor agreement and that the location be sound-proofed. It was a difficult decision. The tranquility of the neighborhood has at times been severely disturbed by the under-age crowd congregating outside WAX. I voted in favor of the permit for the following reasons: (1) The proprietors of WAX have always shown me a willingness to cooperate with the neighbors and the association; (2) WAX is operating under a new business model that moves WAX from an underage venue to a breakfast café by day and an event-rental location in the evenings; and (3) WAX will come under Portland's the Time-Place-Manner ordinances.

A business cannot walk away from the negative impact it creates. Businesses that generate litter, attract disorderly patrons, or have a significant negative impact on homeowners should be expected to address those issues. The proprietors of WAX have shown a willingness to do so. I admire WAX for trying to create a venue for young people, something severely lacking in this neighborhood. Unfortunately it was not a business model that coexists easily with a neighborhood. Voting for the permit gives WAX the opportunity to make the transition. I look forward to another Sal's or Beaterville in the neighborhood.

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS—
REPORT ON SURVEY**

by Warren Cassell

In the May-June issue of Overlook Views we included a combined neighborhood needs' survey with a farmers' market volunteer form on the reverse side. The number of responses sent back was appallingly low—especially when compared to the 450 plus responses we received when we canvassed about the possibilities for a local farmers' market. The new survey resulted in only 50 returns. Of these, seven were volunteer forms for the farmers' market, with no data submitted for the neighborhood needs' survey. In addition, there were ten survey forms which we disqualified from our final tallies. (See Plunder on the Overlook Distress on page 8).

(Continue Neighborhood Needs on page 3)

**WHERE HAVE ALL THE
VEGGIES GONE?**

by Warren Cassell

Actually, most of the veggies haven't arrived at the IFM yet. But wow! have you tried the berries? Fantastic. Market manager Kevin McGovney told me that the paucity of vegetables at the market is a result of late rains which delayed farmers' starting their plantings. As the market continues to thrive and the weather continues to hold, we'll be seeing more and more variety and quantity of vegetables and vendors offering them for sale. This will be happening by the time you receive your newsletter at the end of June or early July. In the meantime, enjoy the berries, cherries, cheeses, nuts, pastries, the upbeat ambiance and good spirits, as well as greeting your neighbors in this happy new Overlook institution. (Much more about your farmers' market will be found on pages 6 & 7).



WAX—An Editorial

By Warren Cassell

Usually I share Jim Bennett's sentiments on practically all of the issues affecting our community. However, we did part company when it came to a vote at the last board meeting to support Wax's liquor license application. (See Words from the Chair on page 1.) I was one of the five board members to vote against the permit. My reasoning was simple. I imagined walking in the shoes (and homes!) of Wax's residential neighbors and there was no way I could support the motion, even given all of the best intentions for changes offered by Wax's owners. Part of their new business plan depended upon their selling an espresso machine in order to finance the cost of much needed soundproofing. Their idea to do this was hatched months ago but still awaits completion.

Wax's owners failed in their original business plan and caused unbelievable stress, discomfort and emotional pain to their residential neighbors. I have no faith that a change of business plan which would include the sale of alcoholic beverages will bring them any more success or result in a normal quality of life for the folks living nearby.

I would very much like to see the development of new businesses in the Interstate Corridor, but only if those businesses can be responsible, well run, good neighbors. It seems apparent to me Wax doesn't fit that description.

Note: Reader responses to and comments about this editorial as well as other neighborhood issues are welcome. All letters received will be printed depending upon space availability.

IMPORTANT NITTY-GRITTY

Want to join us and receive witty e-mail reminders about our meetings, events, etc.? Just go to www.overlookneighborhood.org and subscribe by entering your e-mail address as directed on the home page. Mailing lists are never sold or distributed.

Or via snail mail:

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OVERLOOK VIEWS

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Jim Bennett, Adrian Campbell, Brad Halverson,
Michelle Laherty, Marcella Marsh, Kevin
McGovney, Dulane Moran, Julie Rawls, Cynthia
Sulaski and Linda Warren.

REPORT ON SURVEY (Cont'd from page 1)

What we had left were 33 constructive and concerned citizens' responses that passionately indicated their choices of priorities, as well as how to utilize the \$5,000 grant Kaiser-Permanente had recently awarded OKNA for community use.

I'm not a statistician and 33 responses is probably not a meaningful sample, but my gut feeling is that a larger response would not differ significantly from the results shown here. With that caveat, I'll summarize as best I can the answers to each of the questions, and at the end of the summaries I will make a few suggestions for board action. The first question:

1. Next to each of the topics, rate in terms of your priority using the following code:

0—no opinion 1— low priority 2— moderate priority 3—burning issue

	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Low priority</i>	<i>Moderate priority</i>	<i>Burning issue</i>	<i>Combined moderate & burning issue</i>	Rank in importance
SCHOOLS	1	2	7	20	27	1
LAND USE	1	3	18	7	25	2
TRAFFIC	2	3	16	8	24	3
PUBLIC SAFETY	1	5	10	13	23	4
COMMUNITY NEIGHBORLINESS	1	5	15	6	21	5
VANDALISM	1	5	12	7	19	6
TREES & TRAILS	2	6	15	4	19	7
DIVERSITY	2	8	12	6	18	8
HOMELESSNESS	-	1	10	7	17	9
ENVIRONMENT	2	6	11	5	16	10
LITTER	2	10	12	3	15	11
OVERLOOK HOUSE	2	15	8	1	9	12

Note: This chart encapsulates the responses.

The numbers in the boxes running horizontally across the chart indicate the number of people who rated each priority. For example, the schools which ranked first in important issues had just one person who indicated no opinion, two people who judged schools to be a low priority, seven people who chose schools as a moderate priority and twenty respondents who saw schools as the burning issue for the neighborhood. Not shown are the three people who didn't respond to this category. All of the non responses and responses (Cont'd next page)

(Cont'd from previous page)

add up to the thirty-three people who returned surveys.

I arbitrarily combined the total numbers found in “moderate priority” and in “burning issue” to arrive at a ranking of importance. This assumed “low priority” and “no opinion” wouldn’t be a meaningful measure to help the Overlook board set goals.

The first question also included this request:

In a sentence or two, tell why you consider your choice a “burning issue.”

It was nearly impossible to sum up the variety of comments as to why the respondents considered their ‘burning issue’ important, so I didn’t try too hard. Needless to say, all of the respondents’ answers were well-reasoned justifications for citing the issues they felt were significant. More important, was the number of residents willing to take part in an effort to do something about their concerns. In the second question, nearly twenty respondents said they would be willing to:

2. ...contribute (their) time, energy and intelligence to a committee addressing a burning issue. It appears that many of these potential volunteers have not been actively engaged in association matters in the past. We sincerely thank this group of people who are interested in becoming more active participants in neighborhood issues. We expect to be in touch with you, if we haven’t already done so, by the time this newsletter has been delivered.

3. Money-How would you like to see the grant money spent so that it benefits the maximum number of Overlook residents?

A significant number of ideas was submitted in response to this question—many of them creative and idealistic; a good number were practical and more down-to-earth. An overriding theme suggested that helping people in our neighborhood improve the quality of their lives would be an excellent use for the grant money. Some ideas were quite focused on specific projects and others were more philosophical in concept. Not surprisingly, the majority of the suggestions were children/education-oriented. (A complete list of all of the money ideas will be found in the full report at our web site at www.overlookneighborhood.org.) ...and the fourth question:

4. How often have you attended association meetings & what topic would you like to hear discussed at an association meeting. There weren’t enough answers or information from these questions to generate any significant findings.

As noted in the beginning of this report, there weren’t a heck of a lot of responses to the survey. However, most of the respondents were serious and analytical in their approach and I thank those people for taking the time and energy to complete and submit their surveys. One of the most valuable aspects of the survey was to unearth

potential volunteers to help pursue association goals. With this in mind, I would like to recommend the following actions to the board:

1. Individual board members should make contact with all those who said they would like to “contribute (their) time, energy and intelligence to a committee addressing a burning issue.” The purpose of the contact would be to

(Cont'd next page)

Recommendations (Cont'd from page 4)
engage the potential volunteers in conversation about the issues, and hopefully come up with a plan for a structure to address the issues.

2. The suggestions for spending the \$5,000 grant should be added to the four proposals which resulted from Jim Bennett's request for ideas on how to spend the grant money printed in the last newsletter. Since many of the survey ideas coincide with the formal proposals that Jim received, it seems only natural to consider all of the suggestions together.

3. All of the personal data culled from the respondents should be incorporated into our mailing list and email list.

Note: At the June 7 Board meeting, the OKNA board adopted the above recommendations.

May 3 OKNA Board Meeting
By Marcella Marsh

Mark Kirchmeier presented plans and timeline for the Overlook Heights project.. It is anticipated that construction is to begin in late August or early September. Darren Lewis from SERA Architects presented the proposed plans. The project will be mixed use with commercial spaces on the N. Interstate Ave. side. The parking for the project is a 1:1 ratio per units. Estimated street parking spaces are 16. Gloria Halper presented to the board her plans for an art project on N. Interstate. She is seeking a letter of support for the art project on a chain link fence at 5101 N. Interstate, next to WAX. The fence is around a vacant lot. They are hoping to get the lot landscaped and eventually put tables outside and beautify the area. The board voted to give support for the art project.

June 7 OKNA Board Meeting
(From Jim Bennett's notes)

Owners of Wax and several of their concerned neighbors presented their views on Wax's proposed beer and wine license. The board voted 6-5 to send a favorable comment to the OLCC.

Gilah Tenenbaum was on hand to answer questions about the grievance committee's June 7 report. The board voted to accept all of the committee's recommendations.

Chair's Report: Jim provided all members of the board with a copy of "A Guide to Non-profit Board Service in Oregon from the Attorney General and asked member to read it. All committee chairs gave brief reports on their activities during the past month. A complete report of the meeting's minutes will be found online at our web site: www.overlookneighborhood.org.

RE—JULY 4th-An Urgent Message
By Melisa Cassell

We received the following heartfelt plea recently from **Sarah Friedel**:

Dear Neighbors,
Please **don't** set off (or let your children set off) **FIREWORKS** on **any day** except the actual **4th of July**.
• Many dogs in our neighborhood are terrified of the sounds
• Some bark endlessly
• Others run away and have become lost and/or injured
Thank you from Sarah Friedel who loves one such dog.

In support of Sarah and the many others who share her concern: a thought.
Our dogs give us unconditional love 365 days a year. At this time each year when we express our patriotism, let's limit our fireworks and noise to just ONE day as a way of honoring both our dear country and our dear pets.



1. Overlook resident Adrian Campbell checking out the luscious berries.
2. The Mayor speaks.
3. Chef Adam Sappington of Wildwood Restaurant demonstrating just how to do it.
4. Overlook resident Cynthia Sulaski with Mayor Potter.
5. Overlook residents Peggy Bartelt and Don Heikkila staffing the Information booth.
6. Overlook residents Lori Cieloha with her partner Shelley Gifford chatting with (backs to camera) Mike Murphy and his wife, Kathy.
7. The glorious IFM logo.

YOUR IFM NEWS

FROM THE DINING IN MAN- AGER By Kevin McGovney, IFM Market Manager

When I first started back in March, I couldn't have imagined how great this market was going to become, and it's just getting better and better every week. The most amazing thing for sure is how excited everyone has been to have a market right in their neighborhood, and as an added bonus, I have met so many wonderful people from the Overlook community. All of our 30 plus vendors continually tell me how the customers at IFM are some of the nicest people they have met in their farmer-to-consumer ventures.

This is high praise considering that so many of them participate in seven or more markets per week. All of them are excited to be here and to share their passionate commitment to the land and appreciate your support. So if you haven't been to the market, come and watch it grow. You will see for yourself how lucky we are to have the market and to benefit so much from living in the Pacific Northwest.

FROM THE REACHING OUT MANAGER

By Linda Warren, IFM Community Outreach Coordinator

The Interstate Farmers Market is thriving thanks to Kaiser Permanente and the Overlook Neighborhood Association. More than 25 vendors offer a variety of vegetables, fruit, baked goods and plants. With the Market located right next to Overlook Park, there are ample opportunities to picnic. Bring your blanket!

Wonderful food isn't the only thing at the Market. In addition to the vendors you'll find a Kaiser Permanente Booth which features healthy eating tips or health education information; a different Community Group each

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week providing information about their program or volunteer opportunities for projects; musical entertainment most Wednesdays, from 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM; and cooking or other types of demonstrations at 5:30 PM.

Upcoming Community Groups and Musicians include:

7/6 Community Group: **Active Living by Design** — Music: **Facho Nanic Trio**

7/13 Community Group: **The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society**— Music: **Shortwave Band**

7/20 – Community Group: **Portland Community Gardens** — Music: **Njuzu**

7/27 – Community Group: **AARP**—Music: **John Twist**

Each week the Market depends on a dozen volunteers to help make it a success. The Overlook residents have been enthusiastic in their support. The next time you're at the market take a close look because the Greeter or person at the Information Booth might be your neighbor. To volunteer, contact Linda Warren at (503) 331-3011 or marketoutreach@comcast.com.

Please note that shifts generally last two hours or so and we are in particular need of filling our 3:00-5:00 P.M. time slots.

IFM—Dep't of Little Known and Moderately Quirky Factoids

By Warren Cassell

1 The best and least congested parking for IFM will be found in the new garage on the Kaiser campus at Interstate and Overlook Blvd. (However, walking & biking is better.)

2. Our IFM is the Oregonian's best kept secret—where is the press when you need them?

Maybe we don't because

3. We had a thousand shoppers the first market session, and four weeks later we have increased that number by 20%.

4. We now have more shoppers than a Kaiser market in Oakland which has been in existence several years.

Got a little known IFM quirky factoid and would like to see it published?

Send to: **Senior Editor, IFM QF's —c/o The Shelter at Overlook Park, PDX, OR.**

BEACH SCHOOL ROUND-UP

Allstate Foundation Funds Assurance a New Playground at Beach in August

By Dulane Moran

Beach parents and Overlook neighbors have watched for years in dismay as the wooden play structure installed at Beach years ago has slowly degraded. As components failed or became unsafe, they were removed by the School District until all that remained was a very limited, splinter-prone structure.

In response, a committee of volunteer parents, staff, and neighbors began working last September to (Cont'd next page)

Overlook Parents for Beach Update

by Michelle Laherty
Overlook Parents for Beach would like to thank everyone who made the May 19 Stroller Tour of Beach Elementary School a success! Special thanks to **Sue Dearborn, Alison Drake, Julie Pedersen**, Beach Principal **Paige Fox**, Beach teachers and staff, and the Beach PTA for their contribution of time and resources.

Also, a special thanks to **Sal's Famous Italian Kitchen** for their generous donation of a pasta and pizza dinner for Stroller Tour participants.

Thank you all for making the evening possible!

What's Next: (Cont'd on next page)

OVERLOOK PARENTS (Cont'd)

While the Stroller Tour familiarized participants with Beach's many strengths, it also addressed some of Beach's needs. Areas of concern included arts and music offerings, enrichment activities and parental involvement. Join Overlook Parents for Beach and members of the Beach PTA on Thursday, July 14, 6:30 – 8:00 PM (location TBA) as we explore ways to address these and other issues. For more information about this and future OP4B events, please contact Michelle Laherty at NoPoMom@yahoo.com or (503) 247-3502.

BEACH PLAYGROUND (Cont'd)

raise funds and plan for the installation of new play equipment in the Beach Elementary playground. In early May we were gratified to learn that the Allstate Foundation selected Beach as one of its 2006 "Little Hands" projects. This grant was awarded via OHSU's Injury Free Coalition for Kids and means Allstate will provide \$60,000 to purchase equipment and an additional \$2,000 for maintenance expenses each year for five years. These funds will be added to the \$4,000 the Beach PTA has raised through individual donations from parents and neighbors and through school-based fundraising.

In addition, the playground project has garnered support from the North Portland Trust Fund, First Call Heating, Da Prima Dolce, North Portland Chiropractic, and the City of Portland's Bureau of Housing and Community Development. We have also applied for funds from the Juan Young Trust and from the Overlook Neighborhood Association. Portland Public Schools will provide in-kind support by removing the existing equipment and old bark chips. (Cont'd next page)

PLUNDER ON THE OVERLOOK DISTRESS By Warren Cassell

Shades of Sherlock Holmes, Phillip Marlowe and Miss Marple! We have a serious mystery in our Overlook neighborhood with a few clues resulting in extremely circumstantial evidence. Switching generations to a more contemporary TV era, the lead detective/protagonist steps into the crime scene and asks the officer on duty, "What have we got?"

"The minimalist version or the complete, unexpurgated edition with all of the X-rated details?" responded the Officer on Duty.

"How about something in between."

This wasn't quite the answer Officer on Duty was looking for, but she felt compelled to oblige anyway. "Well, the background looks like this. It seems that the local neighborhood organization was promoting a survey to try to figure out what the local burgers wanted their association to work on."

"No crime there, just the facts ma'am" Lead Detective noted with a tinge of doubt.

"Wait," Officer on Duty responded, "It gets better with the details. Their survey listed a dozen possible neighborhood concerns, and when all the legit votes were counted, the schools came out as numero uno."

"Not surprising that," said Lead Detective, "But what on earth do you mean by 'legit votes'? How could such an innocuous survey have anything but legit votes?"

"Zealots," said Officer on Duty. "A small group of locals wanted Overlook House (which was the survey's last place contender for important issues) to have a higher rating. So, what did they do? In the grand old tradition of rotten politics, they did the equivalent of stuffing the survey ballot box."

"Whatever happened to the grander, older tradition of 'one person, one vote'", sadly noted Lead Detective. "Do we have enough evidence to bring in the D.A.'s office?"

(Cont'd next page)

PLUNDER (Cont'd)

"Ah, there's the rub," quipped Officer on Duty. She then recounted (pardon the pun) that, "One third of the surveys omitted any identification of the respondents. All of these anonymously submitted surveys contained mysteriously similar handwriting. Indeed, some of them were filled in by what appears to be the same pen."

"Interesting," noted Lead Detective.

"Anything else?"

"Absolutely," replied Officer on Duty.

"Each of the anonymous surveys listed Overlook House as the most important priority for the association's concern. And you know about the five grand given to the association by Kaiser to benefit the Overlook Community? Well, practically every one of the bogus responses recommended that the \$5,000 grant money be used to benefit the Overlook House."

Acknowledging the seriousness of the situation, Lead Detective asked, "Any suspects yet?"

"Not yet," said Officer on Duty, "But we do have an APB out and a reward of fourteen cents posted for information leading to the capture and arrest of the Overlook House Stuffers"

Stay tuned.

A Melancholy Madrone: Cynthia Sulaski, who is our tree nurturer, regrets the following announcement.

adidas America was saddened to learn recently that the beautiful madrone tree on the northeast side of their campus has died and will need to be removed. The madrone had been given special care by professional arborists ever since the initial phase of construction on the east side. adidas management intends to plant a replacement tree, most likely later this year. They hope to use the wood in a special way to commemorate the madrone tree. We'll keep you posted!

BEACH PLAYGROUND (Cont'd)

The many supporters and sources of funds mean the Committee has met its fundraising goal of \$75,000 and will be able to complete drainage improvement work in both play pits and install brand-new play equipment this summer. The play equipment will be installed through a "supervised install" – meaning that community volunteers will be directed by the equipment representatives to install the new structure over a three-day period in late August. Our installation date is officially August 20.

A ribbon-cutting event is planned for September 16th and Beach will host representatives from all of the supporting foundations, neighbors and any other project supporters able to attend.

The Beach PTA, staff, and parents are overwhelmed by the support we have received from neighbors, foundations, and from the staff at OHSU and the District. A heartfelt thank you to all of you for your support and kind words over the past year as this project has evolved. *If you are interested in volunteering, we can still use your help – please call Dulane or Mike Moran at 503-735-3867 for more information.*



Department of Correction: In a grievance letter written by Pat Lanagan, the OKNA thought that he was alleging that Will Crow wrote the "ALPHO" piece in the Sept/Oct '04 newsletter. Mr. Lanagan now states that he did not make that allegation. The Association regrets any confusion or error.

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SUCH.....

Need money for home improvement? Or help buying a house? We can help.

PDC's Neighborhood Housing Program has special loan programs for homebuyers and homeowners in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area, which includes portions of the Overlook neighborhood. (For a map of the area check out http://www.pdc.us/pdf/ura/interstate_ura.pdf).

PDC's friendly Neighborhood Housing Program staff is committed to helping you, whether you want to purchase and renovate, refinance and renovate, make repairs, or remove lead-based paint hazards from your home. Call PDC's Neighborhood Housing Program at 503-823-3400, or go to www.pdc.us/housing.

Providence Bridge Pedal — this great annual event will take place on August 14 from 6:00 A.M. till noon. **Volunteers needed** to staff the rest stops. For more information about details of the event and to volunteer, contact Alan Cranna at 503-285-7944 or email: ascran3@hotmail.com.

Meetings—General Association and OKNA Board meetings are open to all Overlook residents. Board meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month at Overlook House. General meetings are scheduled at 7:00 P.M. on the third Tuesday of each month at Kaiser Permanente Town Hall.

MAJOR EXCEPTION TO THE LAST SENTENCE—The August 16th date will **NOT** be a meeting. It will be our traditional **Potluck Supper** at Overlook House in lieu of our usual general meeting. Bring a dish, dine and chat with your neighbors and enjoy the early evening breezes in this most bucolic of settings. Hours are from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Those of you who feel particularly strong that evening are invited to arrive a bit earlier to help set up tables.

Mark your calendars for the second annual **Overlook Neighborhood Ice-Cream Social and Silent Auction.**

This year's event will take place on Sunday, August 7 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Last year's event was a great success and this year's promises to be even better. Delicious ice-cream sundaes with all your favorite toppings will be back, and we'll have great items up for silent auction inside the Overlook House. (Proceeds benefit programming at the Overlook House.) Watch for more info to come as the details are finalized. Organizers are looking for musicians who might be willing to play some appropriate music during the evening. And, please be checking for gently used items to donate to the silent auction. Items can be donated ahead of time by calling **Julie Rawls at 503-282-7198.**

Ockley Green Foot Patrol Re-visited

The rains are retreating, the temperatures are mild, the sun is out late in the evening -- it's a perfect time to join the Ockley Green Foot Patrol for a crime-stopping, community-building walk.

We are trained by the city of Portland and supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. We provide a non-confrontational crime-preventing presence along the Interstate Corridor in northern Overlook and southern Arbor Lodge. Shifts are typically two hours long, and we won't ask you to participate more than twice a month -- although if you get hooked and want more (you might; it's fun), we can arrange that, as well!

To learn more, contact Patrol coordinator Will Crow at ockleysafe@earthlink.net or any OKNA board member.