

Overlook Views

Vol. 1.

March/April 2005

No. 6



WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

Grants and donations from business and government are two of the ways volunteer organizations raise money. OKNA has been lucky to receive large grants from Kaiser Permanente (for trees and the farmers' market) and Freightliner (for the newsletter) this year. We have also recently received significant donations from the Overlook Restaurant, DiPrima Dolci Bakery, and Albina Weed and Seed.

There are several local grants that residents of Overlook should take advantage of: North Portland Enhancement Fund (NPEF), Albina Weed & Seed, and the North Portland Trust Fund (NPTF). PTAs, baseball Little Leagues, Scouts, churches, community groups, and business associations are examples of groups that have received grants from these sources. Grants can range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars (even tens of thousands of dollars in rare situations).

The NPTF and NPEF are of particular interest because their funding cycles are coming up and because the grants are limited to north Portland. The NPTF proposals are due March 10. It is anticipated that \$30,000 will be made available to assist groups and individuals in implementing community projects.

The neighborhood association has experience applying for these grants. What the association does not know about are the projects that might be proposed. If you have an Overlook project that could use some "but for" money and would like some assistance writing a grant, please contact our Vice Chair Kent Hoddick at 286-9803. NPTF applications are available online at www.portlandonline.com/northportland, via email at npns@ci.portland.or.us, or by calling 503-823-4099. For more information about the process contact the trust fund administrator, Tom Griffin-Valade, at 503 823-4524.

Jim Bennett, Chairman, Overlook Neighborhood Association

THIS IS A TEST

How many of the following acronyms can you identify: OKNA, ONI, PDOT, PDC, IFM? Ah, that last one is not familiar—but will soon catch on in every day usage for this publication and hopefully, around North Portland, all of Multnomah County and who knows—perhaps the world! We are of course referring to the new INTER-STATE FARMERS' MARKET, hereafter designated as the IFM, tentatively set to open on Wednesday, May 18 on Kaiser Permanente's Interstate campus. At this

point, much depends upon completion of their new parking garage. On pages 7, 8 and 9 of this issue of Overlooks Views you will find the current IFM story in three sections: 1. IFM Nuts and Bolts, 2. IFM Survey Results and 3. IFM Frequently asked Questions. This last section will be a bit skimpy because IFM is a brand new project and unsurprisingly, details on many issues have yet to be developed. We can be sure however, that Overlook Views readers will be kept informed in our next and future newsletters.

Warren Cassell

FOOT PATROL RECEIVES GRANT

by Will Crow

The Ockley Green Citizens Committee, a special committee of OKNA, has received a Safety Grant of \$500 through Weed and Seed Oregon. The funds will pay for safety equipment and recruiting materials for the foot patrol, which formed in 2004 after neighbors verified rumors that a sexually oriented business was to locate across N. Ainsworth Street from Ockley Green Middle School's playground. The grant was one of six presented Jan. 13 at a meeting of Albina Weed and Seed.

The annual Safety Grant program is part of Albina Weed and Seed's efforts to help with crime prevention and neighborhood restoration. Operation Weed and Seed is a strategy of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice in which community initiatives help "weed out" undesirable elements and "seed" communities with positive programs.

We have money, but we need volunteers! Contact us by email at ockleysafe@earthlink.net, or through any OKNA board member.

PARKING PROBLEMS?

By Brad Halverson

Due to unanticipated construction problems and an unrealistic timeline, the parking garage under construction on Kaiser Permanente's Interstate Campus continues to fall behind schedule. The projected date for completion is now late May. The good news is the radiation therapy building is on schedule with construction done by late Autumn. The parking situation should not change much until the garage is complete. If you are having problems with parking in the neighborhood due to the construction, please contact Brad Halverson at 503-331-6570 or info@overlookneighborhood.org

IMPORTANT NITTY-GRITTY

Want to join us and receive witty e-mail reminders about meetings, events, etc.?

Let us add your name to our mailing list by contacting the Overlook Neighborhood Association via email:

info@overlookneighborhood.org

or Via snail mail:

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

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OVERLOOK VIEWS

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Thanks to the following people whose contributions made this edition possible: Jim Bennett, Linda Gorg, Brad Halverson, Kent Hoddick, Marcella Marsh, Matt Moritz and Dulane Moran.

BEACH SCHOOL EMERGENCY—New Playground Funds Needed

By Dulane Moran

There's an exciting project budding at Beach Elementary School. Parents, teachers and neighbors are planning a major renovation of the school yard and playground!

Parks are the fabric of a neighborhood—providing a place for families and children to gather and play, for neighbors to meet, and for establishing connections to the community. A well-maintained and safe playground also provides visible, tangible evidence of a school supported by committed parents and neighbors.

Beach offers the only park with open space available for the Overlook neighborhood north of Going Street and is in desperate need of improved maintenance, structural upgrades (like benches and play equipment), and other improvements. The current play structure, used by hundreds of Beach students and neighborhood children is a deteriorating wooden outdated contraption that no longer meets current safety codes. The school district removes equipment that is hazardous but does not have any funds to replace it.

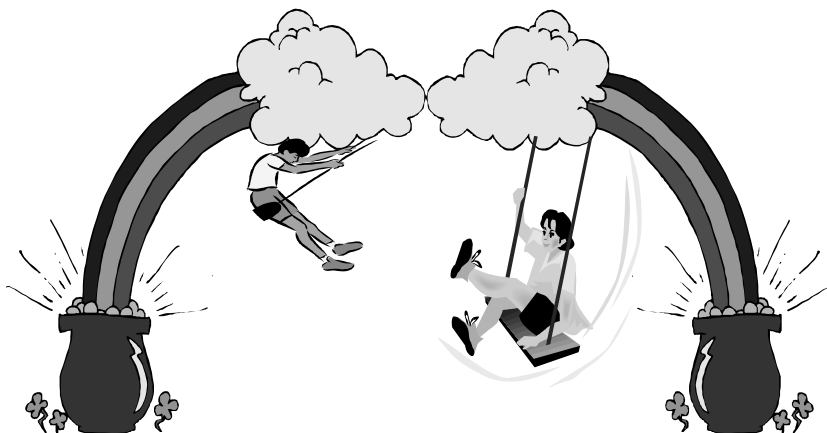
Over the years, as pieces of the play structure have failed, components have been removed until all that remains is a rickety ghost. Additionally, Portland Parks and Recreation has identified the area bordered by Prescott Street, Interstate Avenue and Portland Blvd as “park deficient,” one of only two North Portland areas to earn this dubious distinction.

The Beach PTA has formed a committee of interested parents and is busy exploring funding opportunities with City bureaus, with private foundations, and through donations from local businesses. The scope and budget of the play structure project will depend upon how effective these efforts are, but we anticipate the project will cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000.

The committee is also seeking input from neighbors and the larger community about longer term plans for realizing larger scale improvements to the Beach Elementary School grounds. This is particularly important given the infill and expected development along the Interstate Corridor which is likely to add new density to an area already lacking in park/open space.

There are many opportunities for neighbors to participate in and support this process. If you want more information, please contact Mike or Dulane at 503-735-3867.

To make a tax-deductible donation, mail to: *Beach PTA – Playground Project, 1740 N. Humboldt. St., Portland OR 97217. [Be sure to let us know if you are a Beach alumni!]*



Note from the editor: Following is a new feature of Overlook Views. Thanks to Board Secretary, Marcella Marsh, we can now provide a very brief synopsis of the OKNA board meetings. Copies of the complete minutes will be found on the association's website: www.overlookneighborhood.org.

January 4, 2005 Board Meeting

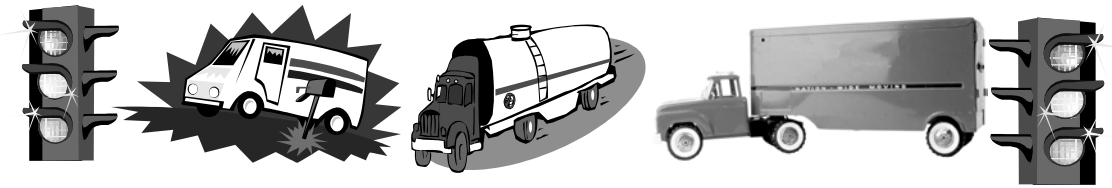
- Discussed the phenomenal response rate for the Farmer's Market survey. Kaiser Permanente donated \$25,000 to OKNA to start the farmer's market.
- The neighborhood tree planting is to be held Feb. 12th; sadly this will be the smallest planting with the lowest neighborhood home owner responses. There was a discussion about planting trees on Omaha in the future to replace the trees that have been removed.
- The Overlook House was featured in the Sunday Oregonian on January 2nd. It recently has incorporated as a non-profit. The Overlook House is negotiating a new contract with Portland Parks.
- There was a discussion on obtaining grant money from the North Portland Trust Funds. Potential ideas were proposed for different ways to enhance the neighborhood and attract more neighbor involvement. It was noted that the money should go towards projects that would benefit the largest number of neighbors.



February 1, 2005 Board Meeting

- The grievance committee responded to a letter from Pat Lanagan, owner of Fat Cobra Video, who alleged that Will Crow wrote an unsigned slanted & biased editorial article in a publicly funded OKNA newsletter & that the OKNA allowed a non-Overlook resident to be a member of an OKNA subcommittee. The committee contacted Mr. Lanagan who did not respond. They found that the article was not written by Mr. Crow as alleged, the newsletter is not publicly funded and the bylaws do allow non-residents to serve on subcommittees.
- Beach PTA Playground Committee addressed the board asking for support in their effort to raise funds to replace playground equipment. The playground equipment is especially important as the area that Beach serves is in a designated "park deficient" area. The board approved a letter of support.
- The board addressed ways to encourage more community involvement.
- There was a discussion of the Portland Freight Master Plan. (See page 5)

Submitted by Marcella Marsh, Secretary OKNA



GOING/GREELEY/GONE?

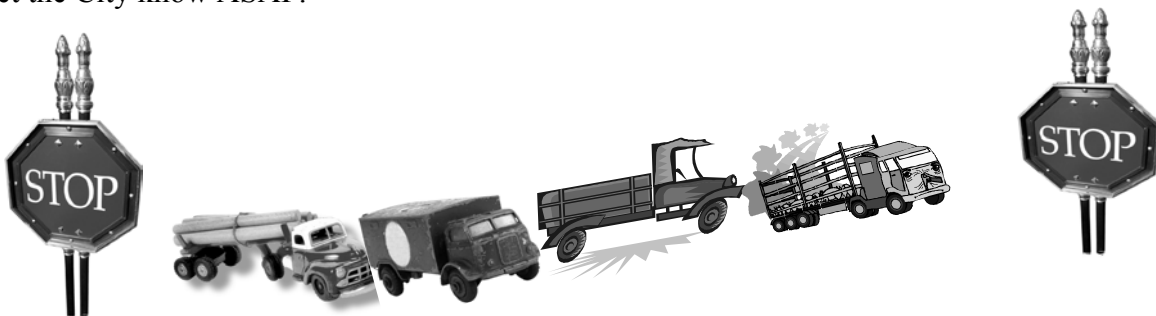
By Brad Halverson

When talk of a light rail line on Interstate Avenue started in the early 1990's, one question many people asked was "Where will the trucks go?" if Interstate was reduced to one through travel lane in each direction. Since then, the MAX Yellow Line has been built, but the trucks remain using Interstate Avenue between Going Street and points south. The trucks need to travel between I-5 and Union Pacific Railroad's Albina Yards near Russell Street. However, an alternative to Interstate Avenue remains to be improved: the Going/Greeley interchange. Currently, it is illegal and not very safe (even if it were legal) to drive down Going then turn south on Greeley to get to the rail yards. Conversely, it is legal, but not very safe, to head north on Greeley then east on Going to access I-5.

The city of Portland's Transportation System Plan for the next five years includes improving the Going/Greeley interchange and adding a climb lane so trucks can use this section safely and thus avoid running along Interstate Avenue between Greeley and Going. The truck traffic along Interstate generates a significant amount of noise through the area. In addition, the trucks (and cars trying to do the same) add to the congestion along Interstate. There are MAX trains, bicyclists, pedestrians and local auto traffic (including large numbers accessing Kaiser Permanente's Campus) also using Interstate.

The City has a Freight Master Plan Committee which is prioritizing projects to focus on right now. So far, the city staff have not recognized the impact of the trucks along Interstate and the need to do something about it.

Now is the time to speak up! Please send your comments to Deena Platman at Portland Department of Transportation, 1120 SW 5th Ave, Room 800, Portland, OR 97205. You can also e-mail her at Deena.Platman@pdxtrans.org, or you can call her at (503) 823-7567. Please leave a voice mail if she is not there. Tell her you want the Going-Greeley interchange fixed so the trucks can get off of Interstate Avenue. If you want to see this project get built, please let the City know ASAP.



North Portland Tool Library Welcomes Overlook

By Matt Moritz

My fiancée Amy and I are relatively new homeowners in the Overlook neighborhood and already love the place and the people. So I am thrilled to share news of a project I am involved with. It's called the North Portland Tool Library and you can borrow tools free of charge!

NORTH PORTLAND TOOL LIBRARY

KENTON FIREHOUSE BASEMENT
2209 NORTH SCHOFIELD*
Drive north on Denver, take a left at N. Schofield

HOURS: SATURDAYS 9:00 A.M. — 2:00 P.M.
*Thanks to North Portland Neighborhood Services for use of the space.



As you can imagine, this service reduces the costs of maintaining and improving homes, yards and neighborhoods for both homeowners and renters. NPTEL eliminates the need to buy tools! Here's how it works: You are eighteen or older—you are a North Portland resident—you come down to the library and:

1. Bring Oregon ID, Utility bill, and a 2nd piece of mail to verify your address
2. Review NPTEL Borrowing Guidelines
3. Complete NPTEL Registration Form
4. Sign Liability Waiver

I recommend taking a look at the website www.northportlandtoollibrary.org. It has information such as our list of tools (over 250 of them), hours, and directions. Documents needed to register may be printed from our website and are available in either English or Spanish.

NPTEL also offers free tool workshops. Our “Basic Skills” workshop in January was a great success. Learn more on the website or by stopping in.

As a member of the NPTEL steering committee I am inspired to see the community come together as we turn a superb idea into a reality. As my fellow Committee member, Laura Dalton, would say... “Power Tools to the People.”

Vernal Entreaty by Melisa Cassell

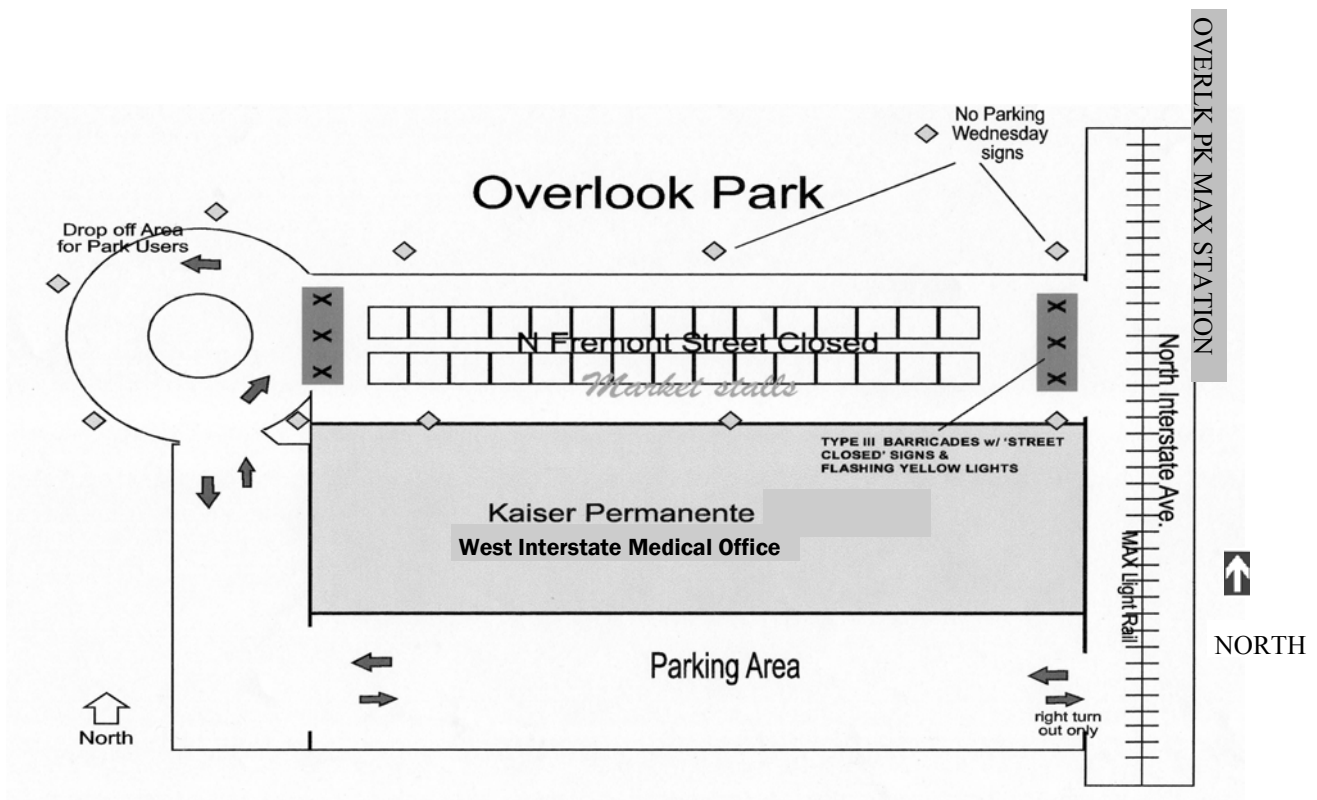
Spring. We really need you this year. You have some callous cousins. They do harsh work. They, like some of us, are cruelly pragmatic. Talk to them. Try to calm them down. (We try our best with our resident demons.) Tell them of your gentle labors....about the shriveled orbs, like abused rocks—that you transform to bloom...about the frozen grey ice-cracked earth, and how your fingers caress it to awakening.. Tell them of the ewe, heavy and tired, whose lamb you beckon into the light. Tell them how you lift your arms to the sun and guide it back to its home, closer to our side. Spring! Sing out your message. We really need you this year.

IFM NEWS

1. IFM NUTS AND BOLTS

During the first summer of operation the IFM will run from May 18 (we hope!) through September 28 from 3:00 P.M. till 7:00 P.M. each Wednesday afternoon/evening. It will be located on Fremont Street at Interstate between Overlook Park and Kaiser Permanente's Interstate West building. The entire length of Fremont from Interstate to the turnabout will be used with vendors located on both sides of the street. Check it out the next time you bike, MAX, walk or ride past the site---and say to yourself, "That's where our market is going to be!" (See map) There will be thirty or more booths selling fresh vegetables, fruits and berries. In addition, depending upon the mix of vendors and health department regulations, there will be a variety of other products offered. These could possibly include herbs, nuts, flowers and plants, cheeses, seafood, poultry and meats. All of these products will come from Oregon or Washington. In addition, there will be several booths allocated to non-profit organizations, community needs, health information and resources, et. al. And yes, there will be music, food and entertainment too. Details related to all of these areas will follow in future newsletters.

As with most other farmers' markets, the IFM will be almost entirely volunteer driven. The only exceptions are two part time positions: a Market Manager and a Community Outreach Coordinator. The Market Manager will deal with the day-to-day administrative logistics, day of market set-up, vendor relations and will maintain contact with the immediate neighbors of the market: Kaiser Permanente, Portland Parks and Recreation, TriMet and the Portland Department of Transportation. The Community Outreach Coordinator will work with the Market Manager and his/her primary duties will involve the recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers at the market. In addition, the COC will schedule booths for community organizations as well as help in the setup and breakdown of the market each week. (Continued next page.)



IFM NEWS

As of this writing (first week in February) the names of the two people who will take on these challenging positions are not known, but they will be announced in our next newsletter. However, we do know the names of community and Kaiser Permanente volunteers who have agreed to serve on the Advisory Board of the IFM for at least the first year of operations. They are:

Alex Lowenthal—Chair—Campus Manager, Kaiser Permanente Interstate
Warren Cassell—Vice Chair—Board Member, OKNA—Community Representative
Bill Beamer—African-American Health Coalition—Community Representative
Cynthia Sulaski—Board Member, OKNA—Community Representative
Ronna Seavey—Office of Neighborhood Involvement—Community Representative
Dr. Erika Schuster—Medical Doctor--Kaiser Permanente
Ileana Lee—Dietitian—Kaiser Permanente
Vernon Jones—Pharmacist—Kaiser Permanente

In addition, there will be two farmers (still to be chosen) to serve on the Advisory Board.

2. IFM SURVEY RESULTS

Over four hundred of you—and still counting— completed our eighteen-question IFM survey distributed on-line and in the most recent Overlook Views. Bravo and thank you for your conscientious participation. Because of space limitations, it is impossible to present all of the results here, so we'll just touch upon the highlights.

First and foremost, the survey confirmed what all of us on the IFM advisory board believed to be true—that there is much more than a passing interest in establishing a new farmers' market in the Overlook area to serve the needs of all of North Portland. As a matter of fact, the enthusiasm is almost overwhelming. Practically every respondent to the survey said they would definitely or probably shop at the IFM. In fact, only one person responding to the survey indicated he/she didn't think an IFM a good idea and definitely wouldn't shop there. Maybe even that person can be enticed to join us.

Only half of you indicated that you either

never or just occasionally had shopped at a Portland farmers' market in the past. However, nearly all of you said you would add the IFM to your future shopping experiences. There were no surprises about what you would most likely purchase. i.e. fresh fruit and veggies, flowers, baked goods, honey, etc. However, many of you would like to see many additional products such as herbs, plants, cheeses and other dairy products as well as practically anything organically grown or raised.

Nearly half of you said you would walk or bike to the IFM. Hopefully, by the time the market opens in May, the walkers in particular will develop new muscles to carry all of their goodies home.

Only two of the eighteen survey questions dealt with the health information and resources that you would like to see available at the IFM. However, nearly all of you mentioned one or more health-oriented services that you would like to see offered. The most popular areas of interest, with over two hundred requests each, were for nutritional information and for healthy cooking. (Next page)

IFM NEWS

In total, there were over one thousand requests in these areas as well as in basic health screening services, information about community health groups, chronic disease prevention, etc.

Finally, a substantial number of you see the IFM as a community/health information center providing bulletin boards, and booths with printed materials, experts and consultants. In addition, the information dispensed should cover not only health related issues and activities, but also information about N. Portland opportunities in the arts, recreation, community events, etc.

Note: The complete survey report can be found on-line at the OKNA website: info@overlookneighborhood.org.

3. IMF FREQUENTLY ASKED ?

Why not a weekend day?

This was the most asked question and indeed, why not? First, the availability of farmers to become vendors for another market held on the weekend is almost nil. We would have been in competition with other markets where farmers have had long standing relationships. The same problem also exists for potential customers. It just doesn't make sense for us to try to compete with so many other existing markets for the same or similar shoppers.

How can I become a volunteer, a vendor?

If you email me at w.cassell@comcast.net or drop me a note at 4037 N. Overlook Terrace, I will pass on your interest to the soon-to-be-hired Market Manager or the Community Outreach Coordinator.

Where can I park?

Kaiser will supply more than enough parking spaces to accommodate IFM shoppers on their campus and the market is not expected to impact Overlook resident parking. However, because of the current parking garage construction, details on this key issue need to be kept in abeyance. In any event, the most healthful ways (environmentally and personally) to get to the IFM is to walk, ride a bike or MAX.

What bathroom facilities will be available?

The Overlook Park shelter can be used by IFM patrons and other facilities may be available as well.

Will IFM accept food stamps? Absolutely.

However, the logistics still need to be worked out

Will there be extra bike racks?

Yes, there are a number of bike racks already in place near the park entrance. We expect to have additional racks available, but the number and location are still to be determined.

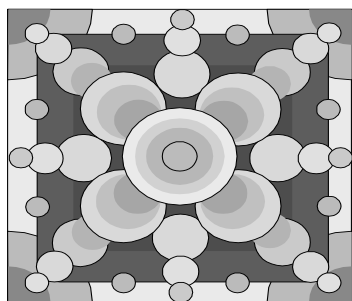


YES, BROCCOLI IS GOOD FOR YOU!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CALENDAR & OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF

GET FREE TAX HELP

AARP Tax-Aid, which is "An IRS Sponsored Program" helps middle and low income taxpayers regardless of age, file their personal income tax returns. Volunteers are trained to assist in filing basic tax forms and schedules. In North Portland, taxes will be done at the North Portland Library, the Peninsula Senior Center, MLK Multicultural Center, and Peace Lutheran Church. The church site is located at 2201 N. Portland Blvd. and will be open for "WALK IN" service from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays, beginning February 5 until April 9th. For appointments at the other sites please call 1-888-227-7669 where callers will be directed to their closest location. Please bring your last year's tax forms, W-2's, all 1099's forms etc. to help get your taxes done.



OVERLOOK HOUSE MAINTENANCE

WHEN-Saturday March 12 1:00-3:00 PM.

WHAT-Some gardening, clean-up and general maintenance.

WHO-You marvelous neighborhood volunteers of course. Children over ten years of age with parents are welcome.

WHY-Overlook House needs a little extra care. Besides, cookies and beverages will be available for all volunteers.

For further information, contact Linda Gorg at Llgorg@aol.com or 503-287-2614.

New from OKNA !!

TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

If you live north of Going and have transportation difficulties getting to general meetings on the third Tuesday of the month, help is now at hand. Call or email Kent Hoddick at 286-9803 or Hoddick@teleport.com. He will be pleased to provide a ride for you.

THANK YOU

Our warm thanks and appreciation go out to Gayle Vrla and Bill Smalley of Vrla Mailing Services (vrla@comcast.net). They are located in Overlook and generously offered to donate their expertise and logistics to mailing our newsletters. Unfortunately, the US Post Office wouldn't kick in for the cost of the stamps so we'll need to stay with our current volunteer system. However, this offer was a real neighborly thing to do and we appreciate it.

MEETINGS

General Association and OKNA Board meetings are open to all Overlook residents. Board meetings are scheduled the first Tuesday of each month at Overlook House. General meetings are scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month at Kaiser Permanente Town Hall. The March 15 general meeting agenda will include:

1. Port of Portland Terminal 4 Clean-up Update and
2. PDC Killingsworth Station Update.

For additional information:

www.overlookneighborhood.org or OKNA
c/o Overlook House, 3839 N. Melrose Drive,
Portland, Or. 97227.