

OVERLOOK VIEWS

Vol. 2 November/December 2005 No. 4



WORDS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

by Tom Kilbane and Ethan Edwards



As the new co-chairs of the OKNA, we want to take this opportunity to outline our two main goals for OKNA for the next twelve months.

First, we want OKNA to continue to look out for the interests of our Overlook neighborhood. This includes being aware of and communicating things that are happening in the neighborhood. We want to make sure that Overlook neighbors have a forum in which they feel welcome to voice their concerns and have the opportunity to provide and receive feedback.

Portland is unique in giving neighborhoods the opportunity to provide this kind of input, and we believe that the residents of Overlook should take full advantage of it. The proposed Killingsworth Station development is a good example of this. PDC will continue to solicit feedback from OKNA regarding the development at the corner of Interstate and Killingsworth, and we, as a neighborhood, need to make sure we use that opportunity to voice our concerns.

Our second goal is to foster a greater sense of connectedness – by continuing to find ways to bring Overlook neighbors together. Getting to know your neighbors strengthens the social fabric of a community and makes it easier to get things done. The Beach School Project is great example of this. Dulane and Mike Moran had a vision of improving the Beach School playground. They carried this vision from a small group of committed parents and extended it to a

(Cont'd next page)

INTERSTATE FARMERS' MARKET—SURVEY RESULTS

By Warren Cassell

During the last few weeks of the IFM I sent out an electronic survey to measure how well our market was doing during its initial season. The short answer in the proverbial nutshell is quite well indeed, but with some room for improvement. Email requests to take the survey were sent to a little over 200 OKNA residents, an indeterminate number of customers on the IFM electronic mailing list and a post on the North Portland Neighborhood website. Thanks so much to the eighty people who responded. Your thoughtful responses and suggestions will help make an already great market even better next year.



(Cont'd on page 5)

NEW PLAYGROUND INSTALLED AT BEACH SCHOOL

By Dulane Moran

You may have noticed the flurry of activity at Beach Elementary School at the end of August. Volunteers logged hundreds of hours installing new playground equipment at Beach over the weekend of August 19—21. Over 70 volunteers unpacked equipment, assembled pieces, mixed 219 bags of cement and set 84 posts—ultimately installing brand-new play equipment in both of the play pits in the Beach School yard. Parents, staff and community members could be found raking drainage rock, leveling and setting posts, installing filter fabric, and pouring concrete. Volunteers also weeded and cleaned flower beds, pruned shrubs, and raked debris away.

(Cont'd on page 8)



WORDS CO-CHAIRS (Cont'd)

large group of neighbors to make it a reality. We hope to see more of this kind of creative activism.

In closing, we would like to extend our gratitude to Jim Bennett for the great job he has done as Chair over the last two years. He has led OKNA through some difficult challenges and is handing over the chair with the association in great shape. We look forward to meeting more of our Overlook neighbors. If you've never been to an Overlook Neighborhood Association meeting – we ask you to give it a try; we think you'll like it.

OKNA BOARD/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

In addition to the board officers listed in the column to the right, there are a significant number of other volunteers who make up your OKNA board and who are trying to make our community an even better place in which to live. Following is a list of the new board members as well as those who are returning for another year. The latter group has an asterisk next to their names.

Area 1—Jennifer Callison
Area 1—Tabor Porter
Area 2—Eric Gale
Area 2—Kent Hoddick*
Area 3—Alan Cranna*
Area 3—Dulane Moran
Area 3 & Public Safety—George Spaulding*
Area 4 & Transportation—Brad Halverson*
Area 4 & Overlook House—Jerry Lindsay*
Environment—Max Mizejewski*
Land Use—Sarah Mizejewski
Overlook House—Greg DuFour*
Publicity—Melisa* & Warren Cassell*
Trees—Cynthia Sulaski*
Web Mistress—Ariana Orton*

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:

OKNA
2209 N. Schofield St.
Portland, Or. 97217

OKNA OFFICERS

Co-Chairs: Ethan Edwards 503-914-7447
email: ethan@yahoo.com **and**
Tom Kilbane 503-572-6024
tom.kilbane@comcast.net
Treasurer: Kent Hoddick 503-286-9803
hoddick@teleport.com
Secretary: Open

OVERLOOK VIEWS

A bi-monthly publication of the
Overlook Neighborhood Association
Made possible by a very generous grant from
Freightliner L.L.C.

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

Distribution Captains: Alan Cranna and
Carol Cushman

Thanks to the following lovely people whose contributions made this edition possible:

Adrian Campbell, Ethan Edwards, Brad Halverson, Tom Kilbane, Dulane Moran, Carol Padden, Cynthia Sulaski and Katie VanZanten.

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By Katherine O. VanZanten

The Safety Committee is setting up a neighborhood watch program. The committee recently met with Officer Zajac and Walter Garcia from the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. The neighborhood watch program will help us recognize and respond to illegal drug activity and other crime, identify areas of the neighborhood which need additional resources to remain safe, and work together to keep our neighborhood great. The program is similar to the "Block Program." We need volunteers from each block! Training for the neighborhood watch program will be held on November 16 from 6-7 pm. If you would like to become a block leader or would like further information please contact George Spaulding at gspaulding@police.ci.portland.or.us or Katie VanZanten at kvanzanten@comcast.net.

(Cont'd next column)

If you can attend the meeting on November 16 please contact Katie VanZanten. If you would like to attend but are unavailable on the 16th, we will provide you with the information. Also, consider coming to the neighborhood association meeting on November 15. Please help us keep the Overlook Neighborhood safe!

OKNA BOARD DONATION

At the September 7 OKNA board meeting, the board voted unanimously to donate \$500.00 to the victims of Katrina. The funds were made available from the Kaiser Permanent grant originally earmarked for neighborhood use. The board, looking at the neighborhood in more universal terms, donated the money to Portland's Mercy Corp for use in their New Orleans recovery efforts.

LATEST NEWS FROM OVERLOOK HOUSE

By Warren Cassell

Overlook House's new program director, Carol Padden, is continuing her great efforts to make our grand old lady on the bluff a true community center for all of Overlook's residents. Three announcements heralding Carol's hard work are in order.

First is the use of OH for musical instruction. Joe Hamm, a longtime neighborhood resident, is offering a weekly "Beginner's Combo Fiddling/Guitar Class" free of charge to all residents on a first come, first serve basis. The class usually meets on Thursday evenings and provides a recreational and fun time for all of those who enroll. Joe is a member of the Old-Time Fiddler's Association whose members play regular jam sessions at the Gresham Grange, Oregon City Community Center and at other local venues. For more information and registration, call Joe Hamm at 503-282-2684. This is a class for all ages, both kids and adults are welcome, and enrolment is limited to twenty students.

While fiddling/guitar lessons are an ongoing occurrence at OH, Carol has also planned several once a year events for children and grownups. Mark your calendars for our first Holiday Bazaar scheduled for Friday, December 2nd from 10:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. and the following day, Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Here is the perfect opportunity to do a bit of holiday shopping from a wide variety of handmade crafts, jewelry, candles, ceramics, decorations, artwork, stocking stuffers, etc. In addition, there will be a sale of home-baked goods featuring breads, muffins, candies, fudge, pies and cakes.

(Cont'd next page)



OVERLOOK HOUSE (Cont'd)

This is a wonderful season-saluting way to meet our sweet tooth needs. In order to sweeten the kitty even a bit more, all of the goodies here will be made by your neighbors and the proceeds from the holiday bake sale will go to future OKNA children's events at Overlook House.

Speaking of children, make sure to reserve Sunday, December 11th from 1:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. for what will be the first of Santa's annual visits to Overlook House. Meeting Santa combined with fun activities and treats for all should provide some great photo ops for parents who will want to record this occasion with their cameras. Please note that Warren will not be playing Santa; we expect to have the real thing for this occasion at Overlook House.

Nuts and Bolts—Holiday Bazaar

If you would like to participate as a vendor, a volunteer or you would like more information, contact Myree Williams, Holiday Bazaar Coordinator at 503-285-1600 or Carol Padden, OH Program Director at 503-823-3188.

Nuts and Bolts—Home-Baked Goods Sale

In order to make this work we need your help. Join the bake-a-goody for OH crowd and bring your contributions to 3829 N. Melrose Drive between 8:00 and 9:30 A.M. on December 2 and between 8:00 and 8:30 A.M. on December 3. For more information, contact Carol Padden at 503-823-3188.



VIRTUAL OVERLOOK HOUSE

By Warren Cassell

As of this writing (mid October) the Overlook House web site is but a tweak or two away from completion. Go to www.HistoricOverlookHouse.org for a look at a really beautiful job of showing the grand old lady on the bluff in all of her glory. (A couple of typos here and that would have been one nude lady.) Credit for the spectacular photographs, for the web site's complete professional design and its implementation goes to Overlook resident Joshua Armstrong. Josh is a graphic media designer and eBay reseller who maintains and administers several web sites including his popular PaperCars.net. Take a virtual tour of Josh's Overlook House efforts and see the work of a very gifted designer whose pro bono creative efforts on behalf of OH will likely have a major impact on the building's rental receipts. By the way, I took a look at Josh's PaperCars.net. I am not particularly interested in the subject, but I was intrigued by his imagination. Though very different from the OH website, it has the same creative characteristics. It is a treat for anyone interested in the use of the internet as an entrepreneurial tool by a very talented individual. Go, Josh!

FASCINATING IFM SURVEY FACTOIDS

All eighty respondents to the survey said they had shopped in other farmers' markets before the IFM was created.



All eighty respondents to the survey answered the question about where they lived. Seventy percent said they resided in either Overlook or Arbor Lodge with the rest spread out in North Portland.

IFM SURVEY (Cont'd)



The first few questions asked respondents to give their opinions about the variety, affordability and quality of the products offered at the market. The answer format was a scale of one through five with one being the worst and five being the most favorable. Respondents were asked not to answer if they held no opinion in these categories and 79 of 80 respondents answered this series.

Response: Starting with the best first, over 92% of you rated the quality of merchandise with a four or five. This was followed with two thirds of you rating affordability with a four or five. However, not quite half of you (45%) could bring yourselves to rate the variety of products so highly.

The next three questions measured customer response to three non-vendor type booths: Community, Kaiser Permanente and IFM information. Using the same scale above and taking into account the request to not answer if they held no opinion about these booths, respondents were not as overwhelmingly positive as they were in their assessment of the products themselves.

Response: On average, nearly 40% of you who rated these booths gave them a four or five. Nearly 30% of you appeared to have no opinion and didn't respond here---possibly because you didn't visit these booths or if you did, did not stay long enough to gain an impression.

The next three questions dealt with ambiance, cooking demos and music/performers. In the interest of trying to keep the numbers in this report to a bare minimum, let me note that ambiance won hands down--- with major positive reaction to this category.

Response: About 40% of you rated both cooking demos and music/performers highly with a four or a five. About a fifth of you didn't answer, indicating no opinion about the music/performers, and a third of you did not respond about the cooking demos.

The next group of questions asked respondents to rate their purchasing experience from different kinds of vendors. As above, the ratings were on a scale of one through five with one being the worst and five the best.

Response: As might be expected, the purchasing experience garnering the highest percentage (75%) of fours and fives went to veggies and fruits/nuts. A little more than half of you rated your purchasing experience of baked goods and flowers/plants with the highest marks. Less than a third of you gave equally high marks to vendors of meat/fish, prepared foods and beverages. Finally, about 22% of you rated dairy with a four or five.

(Cont'd next page)

IFM (Cont'd)

The more compelling aspects of the survey for me were the respondents written comments as well as their suggestions for IFM improvements. Obviously they can't be quantified with a neat mathematical formula, but the flavor was positively upbeat. "A great addition to the community," "We love having the IFM," "A great success," "Nice job," "Well run," "A fun event," were just a few of the marvelously affirming responses.

As for improvements for next year, the overriding theme seemed to be: we want more. More vendors and more variety in the offerings will make a great market even more successful. There's even more to this report than space allows here. If you would like to see the complete results let me know by email (w.cassell@comcast.net), and I will send it to you in a Word document.

Also, you will find some brief but fascinating IFM factoids from the survey in other parts of this newsletter.



AWAITING REPRIEVE

By Melisa Cassell

Sometimes,
Poetry comes hard.
One hears music
But the mind's minstrel
Scuttles away to hide
Chuckling, cackling,
An illusive inner bard.

Rhyme—its absence
Is a trial
Lurching, stumbling
towards meaning,
Searching, fumbling
for light, but gleaning
Only the murky nubbin
of denial
Until the famine passes
And I can smile.

Song—stops silent
In the throat.
Lungs store stanzas muted,
Melodies fester, unstrung, unfluted.
Then the lock relents.
It all makes sense.
No longer shivering, I'm warm again
Wearing, though tattered, my lyric garment
My poet's coat.

WHEN YOU COME RIGHT DOWN TO IT

By Melisa Cassell

When you come right down to it
All that's important
Is to wake up in the morning
and be kind to those who are close
and make happen a gentle lift of the heart.

In that light, everything else must gracefully
capitulate to insignificance

(War, walls, boundaries, nations, egos, hatreds,
obsessions, money, war, greed, power, pride,
jewels, weapons, pollution, possessions, war,
pretension, friction, factors, numbers, counting,
measuring, cheating, strutting, pushing, pound-
ing, pressing, war, praying, screaming, schem-
ing, dreaming, damning)

All that matters is to hold someone's hand
as the sun rises.
That's what's important.

When you come right down to it.

NEWS FROM AINSWORTH DRUG AND GIFTS

By Warren Cassell

I had a pleasant chat recently with Teri Wasco, one of the principals at Ainsworth Drug and Gifts. A recent and welcome addition to our neighborhood, Ainsworth could be considered a pioneer in the positive development of the Interstate corridor. Pioneers usually have it tough going at first and this independently owned business is no different. However, Teri seemed very optimistic and with good cause. Two thirds of the customers from their former location are now loyal to Ainsworth on Interstate. They have had a considerable increase in sales as a result of their proximity to Kaiser and in addition, they have had a good bump from the farmers' market. But most of all, the neighborhood has been supporting Ainsworth and that's how it should be. Knowing that independent businesses have to do more than just open their doors and wait for the customers to come in, Teri called my attention to several new promotional and customer service oriented plans Ainsworth is going to initiate. They all seemed designed to benefit Overlook neighborhood residents. For example, on the third of each month they will provide free blood pressure testing. This is in conjunction with a program sponsored by the American Heart Association. A registered nurse will be available for the procedure between 10. A.M. and 2:00 P.M. The next clinic will be on November 3, but call the pharmacy at 503-282-0787 just to confirm. Another service for some neighborhood residents will be free delivery of medicines for the elderly and those unable to get to the store. This is the kind of person-to-person service unheard of by the big box and corporate drug stores.

Ainsworth's postal services have been a major draw for the neighborhood. With this in mind and in order to make the holidays



easier, Ainsworth is going to keep the store and the post office open late on Thursday and Friday evenings starting on December 1. This means that their new store hours in December will be Monday-Wednesday from 9:00 to 7:00, Thursday-Friday from 9:00 to 9:00 and Saturday from 10:00 to 6:00. So, mark your calendars now for convenient shopping and mailing hours in December. As an added bonus for the late night shoppers and mailers, there will be wine and food specialty items for tasting throughout December. And finally, shoppers during the late hours on December 1st and 2nd will get a 15% discount off gift and specialty food items. Shoppers on Saturday, December 3 will earn an extra 15% discount all day for most gift and other merchandise in the store. (Wine, plants, flowers, over the counter products, TriMet and prescriptions are excluded.) It is apparent that Ainsworth Drug and Gifts is making a concerted effort to do right by Overlook customers and residents. Let's help make these efforts bear fruit so that we can continue to have the presence of a true neighborhood drugstore.

Editor's note: We are interested in hearing about the unique qualities of other local (Overlook) businesses for inclusion in future newsletters. Send your inquiries and information to w.cassell@comcast.net.



BEACH SCHOOL (Cont'd)

The monumental effort drew press coverage and a visit from Mayor Potter, but the most impressive part was the feeling of community and support for the school shared by everyone involved.

Following the installation work, the game lines were re-stripped and the poles repainted to improve the look and safety of the playground. A September 16th ribbon-cutting event drew coverage from four local TV stations, the *Oregonian* and several other media outlets. The event allowed the children to meet and thank the major sponsors of the project, including representatives from the National Allstate Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The play equipment was purchased with funds raised by the Beach PTA through grants, donations and other fundraising as part of a larger, playground improvement project. The bulk of the funds came from a major grant by the Allstate Foundation through a partnership with the Injury Free Coalition for Kids housed at OHSU. Other funders include the Juan Young Trust, North Portland Trust, Overlook Neighborhood Association, and many private citizens and local businesses (see sidebar for complete list). In the coming months the PTA

will order and install benches, improve the tree beds in the school yard, and make other grounds improvements as remaining funds allow. We can still use volunteer help, if interested contact Dulane Moran at 503-735-3867 or email: dulane@easystreet.com.

This project simply would not have been possible without the contributions of time and money from many people and organizations. On behalf of the children of Beach School and in the neighborhood, THANK YOU.

THE BEACH ELEMENTARY PTA WISHES TO THANK ALL OF OUR PLAY- GROUND PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS, INCLUDING:

- ◆ *Allstate Foundation*
- ◆ *Injury Free Coalition for Kids*
- ◆ *Juan Young Trust*
- ◆ *North Portland Trust Fund*
- ◆ *Overlook Neighborhood Association*
- ◆ *Wells Fargo*
- ◆ *First Call Heating/Cooling*
- ◆ *Neil Kelly*
- ◆ *Research Into Action*
- ◆ *Gevurtz, Menashe, Larson & Howe, P.C.*
- ◆ *DC Custom Silkscreening*
- ◆ *DiPrima Dolci Bakery*
- ◆ *North Portland Acupuncture*
- ◆ *Beach School Children, Families and Neighbors*

!!!!!!!!!!!!CONTEST!!!!!!!!!!!!!! A FIRST AT OVERLOOK VIEWS!

Identify all of the volunteer workers pictured below at the Beach School playground installation and win a free three-year subscription to *Overlook Views*!



PACKED ON MAX???

By Brad Halverson

Riders on Interstate Avenue's MAX line may have noticed it is cozier in the last month. A combination of factors may have induced feelings of claustrophobia. TriMet is trying to ease the overcrowding of the Red Line (between PDX and Beaverton) by moving some of the second cars on our line over there. Both lines could use double car trains, but there are only so many cars available. At the same time this change occurred in early September, the kids went back to school. Many use MAX to get to schools outside North Portland. Finally, everyone knows the price of gas is much higher than it used to be. Add it all up, and you have more riders on fewer cars.

TriMet has heard the complaints and added a second car back to one of the trains. In addition, times are being adjusted to help better match the demand with the supply. It is reasonable to expect to not find seats on the train as you get closer to the Rose Quarter and downtown. However, you should be able to hold onto a post while riding.

If you still feel the trains are too crowded, you can contact TriMet at 503-238-RIDE or customerservice@trimet.org to express yourself. Please be prepared to tell them exactly what time the train is arriving at your station so they can track the problems.

A couple of tips to make it more comfortable to ride MAX. Try boarding at the middle sets of doors so you don't have to work around the bicycle riders getting on and off. Also, if your stop is not the next one, please move away from the doors so others can get in and out quicker which makes everyone happy.

FASCINATING IFM SURVEY FACTOID

Slightly over half of the respondents visited the IFM two to five times, nearly a third visited six to ten times and ten percent shopped at IFM ten or more times during this first season.



SMALL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Tree Planting on February 18th. Don't delay any longer! The deadline for letting us know that you want street or yard trees has been extended to November 14th. Just send an email to Cynthia Sulaski at csulaski@spiritone.com and include your name, address and phone number. Or mail the information to her, c/o Overlook House, 3839 N. Melrose Drive, 97227. You won't be sorry! The trees we planted last year are beautiful.



LARGE ANNOUNCEMENT

THE RIVER PLAN--begins with North Portland. The city's Bureau of Planning needs your input on the Willamette River Plan in a citywide initiative to reclaim the Willamette River as Portland's centerpiece. Some of the issues that will be addressed include natural resources, recreation and neighborhoods. Overlook residents may be especially interested in providing input on access to the river and trail proposals, as outlined in the Swan Island Trails Action Plan. A seven-member River Plan Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, November 15 from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M at the Portland Bureau of Planning, 1900 SW Fourth Ave., fourth floor and the public is welcome. The meeting agenda and minutes will be found at www.portlandonline.com/ (click on "Search" and type "River Plan Committee").



HUGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary of OKNA—We are in dire need of that hard to find combo—Willing & Able—who can take brief notes at the board and general meetings and then transcribe them into some sort of legible format. Spelling, punctuation, grammar skills not a requirement but probably would be highly desirable. Yes, we are desperate. For the time-to-do-it-challenged, please note that this is a board position with minimal time requirements. There's gotta be someone out there? If interested or if you could be cajoled, call Tom Kilbane at 503-572-5064 or Ethan Edwards at 503-914-7447. Either one of them would be overjoyed to hear from you.

SUPER COLOSSAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Substitute Newsletter Deliverers—There are still a few choice openings for individuals who would be willing to deliver newsletters every once in a while rather than have a definite commitment every two months. These Super Subs as we call them, should be able to make themselves available every once in a while when the regular delivery people are ill, out of town or stayed out too late at the Alibi. Most delivery routes take about sixty to ninety minutes to cover, and consist of anywhere from eighty-five to a hundred homes. This gives the deliverers (both supers and regulars) the opportunity to make new friends and influence people. Deliveries take place during the last week of every other month. To get your name on the short super sub list, email Carol Cushman at CHCRail@aol.com or Alan Cranna at ascran3@hotmail.com.

