

**OVERLOOK VIEWS**  
**Vol. 2 Sept/October 2005 No. 3**

**WORDS FROM THE CHAIR**  
by Jim Bennett



The strength in OKNA rests in its volunteers. Over my tenure the association raised over \$40,000, helped implement a farmers market, planted over 150 trees, cleaned up several derelict lots and trash sites, assisted with the Bridge Pedals, held four potlucks, and kept the Overlook House open to the public. In addition there have been other less obvious work items such as commenting on liquor licenses, working with businesses to solve a business related problem, reviewing development plans, commenting on legislation, and more. In all, the association provided over 5000 hours in volunteer support.

There has been a lot of less visible work performed by myself, the vice chair, the treasurer, and secretary to keep the structures in place so all that visible volunteer work can be accomplished. Our financial records are in better shape than ever. We finalized and received our 501(c)3 final determination letter from the IRS. Our various tax and government reports have all been reported on time.

Studies show the number one reason people stop volunteering is because they thought their time was unappreciated or wasted. My #1 goal was to ensure that volunteers felt their time was appreciated and used well. I hope, through good meeting and organizational management, that we have accomplished this.

It is now time for change. Elections will be held at our September meeting for chair and chair-assist. (Cont'd next page)

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**RENAISSANCE AT OVERLOOK HOUSE**— An editorial by Warren Cassell

Three cheers and then some to the Friends of Overlook House committee for hiring Carol Padden as their new program coordinator of Overlook House.

OH's emphasis in recent years has focused on being a superb rental property for weddings, meetings, retreats, etc. This goal has been admirably and successfully accomplished since FOH took over the building's operations from the Parks Department a few short years ago. At that time economic stability was the first order of business for the new venture, and the original premise of OH as a community center was of necessity placed on the back burner.

That was then and this is now, and it appears that Carol Padden is about to make some significant changes. (Cont'd on page 8)

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**CALLING ALL SENIORS**

By Warren Cassell

A new community information program sponsored by Overlook House will be available free to our neighborhood's older residents starting at the end of August and will continue throughout the fall. Called "A powerful voice for local seniors," the Elders in Action organization will present a series of talks designed to answer questions which no one in their thirties or forties ever thinks to ask, but could be of vital interest to those in their sixties and beyond.

The first Elders in Action session at Overlook House is slated for Monday, August 29 from 11:00 A.M. to noon. This will be an informal informational session, partially talk and partially Q&A. about Elders in Action's programs. Free resource materials will be distributed. (Cont'd next page)

## CHAIR WORDS (Cont'd)

Plus, we will be looking for volunteers for all area representatives and the grievance committee. If you have not liked the direction the association has taken, this is a good way to make a difference. If you have thought about getting involved in the association, this is a good time to step in.

People working cooperatively to make life better is what the world needs, in big ways and in small ways. We're doing it here in Overlook and that gives me a good feeling as I offer the chair to a new OKNA leader.

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## SENIORS (Cont'd)

Some of the areas likely to be touched upon include: how to cope with denial of health services, how to fight back when faced with evictions, finding out about low cost prescription drug programs, preventing identity theft, facilitating transportation needs as well as exploring the Elders in Action's ombudsman program.

This initial orientation session will be followed each month by a program dealing with a specific topic of interest. The September 26 program will cover "Senior Scams, Frauds and other Bad Stuff." On October 24, the topic will be "Diabetes Awareness." All programs will be held on Mondays from 11:00 A.M. till noon and they are FREE.

For additional information, call Carol Padden at 503-823-3188 — or email [overlook-housecp@yahoo.com](mailto:overlook-housecp@yahoo.com).

## IMPORTANT NITTY-GRITTY

Want to join us and receive witty e-mail reminders about our meetings, events, etc.? Just go to [www.overlookneighborhood.org](http://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**

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### OVERLOOK VIEWS

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Jim Bennett, Adrian Campbell, Brad Halverson, Peggy King, Jerry Lindsay, Kevin McGovney, Carol Padden, Julie Rawls, Cynthia Sulaski and Linda Warren.

## **HELP WANTED—NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**

By Warren Cassell

Our local neighborhood organization desperately needs a candidate or two to run for chair and chair-assist at its September general meeting on September 20. OKNA requires candidates to be people oriented, well-organized, and capable of efficiently running the monthly general and board meetings. Candidates should also be able to reconcile conflicting views of disparate groups without causing World War 111 and should be able to take heat occasionally for supporting unpopular views—without taking it too personally.

Obviously there are no monetary rewards for these positions but you will most likely feel a great sense of satisfaction as you contribute to the well being of your community. (Other times you might feel lousy about the job.) Also, if you are politically minded, (he said cynically) you might see one of these positions as a stepping stone to higher elected office.

If you are interested OR if you would like to recommend someone whom you think would be qualified, please contact Cynthia Sulaski, Chair Search Committee at [csulaski@spiritone.com](mailto:csulaski@spiritone.com). She will be happy to answer all queries, naïve or otherwise. Don't be modest if you think you can take on one of these challenging positions and don't hesitate to recommend a friend who may be well qualified. Bottom line—this is for the good of a really great community.

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### **The Overlook Parent-Child Network Presents THE OVERLOOK FAMILY FALL FAIR September 19, 2005 — 5-8 p.m. at Overlook House**

Come bring a picnic dinner and we'll supply the juice, beer, music and kid's entertainment. (Thanks to Kaiser Permanente and OKNA for the grant awarded to the Overlook Parent-Child Network!!) We hope to have a few cool raffle items for the parents.

**THE MAIN EVENT!** We'll have resource tables for the following:

- Babysitting co-ops
- Age-specific playgroups and social events
- Overlook parents for Beach
- Art/music classes — do you need them? can you provide them?
- Carpool
- One we haven't thought of—an idea from you.

If you want to work on one of these (either behind the table or behind the scenes) email Tracy at [tklosterwoman@aol.com](mailto:tklosterwoman@aol.com).

**Terrific 'teen temps...** are you one or do you know one who is great at babysitting, yard work, pet sitting, etc.? Contact Elaine at [mannec@earthlink.net](mailto:mannec@earthlink.net).

**...AND TO MAKE THE FAIR FLY...**Do you know willing musicians, cool children's entertainers or sources for far out raffle items and other donations? Do you have more ideas? Do you have questions? Email Peg at [margaretmaryking@yahoo.com](mailto:margaretmaryking@yahoo.com) or call 503-460-3146

**Sign up for the Parent-Child Network listserv: send an email to [Overlooknetworksubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Overlooknetworksubscribe@yahoogroups.com). Thanks and we'll see you on Monday, September 19th.**

## NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

By Warren Cassell

At the end of last year, our good neighbor Kaiser Permanente awarded the Overlook Neighborhood Association a grant of \$5,000 to be used for the purpose of benefiting the community. Essentially, this was a no strings attached grant and the responsibility for disbursing the money became the province of the OKNA board. The board in turn, went out to our community for guidance, and asked for proposals by individuals and groups for their recommendations about how to best utilize this marvelous windfall.

Four of the five accepted proposals focus in some way or the other on children. This is consistent with the findings of our recent neighborhood survey which indicated that the highest priority for the association should be related to schools and children. And the envelope please... The well-publicized Beach School Playground Improvement Project spearheaded by Beach School parents has been awarded one thousand dollars to cover a portion of the costs of refurbishing the antiquated playground equipment currently in use. Another school to directly benefit by the awards is the Ockley Green Middle School. A five hundred dollar grant administered by Higher Stages Arts Academy will enable them to have a new after school arts training program. A third grant, of five hundred dollars was made to Bethel Lutheran Church for the purpose of off-setting fees charged to parents whose children use the church's after school drop-in youth center.

Last but not least of the children/school oriented grants was made to the Overlook Parent/Child Network in an amount of up to five hundred dollars reimbursements to cover actual costs. The money will be spent on creating a network of parents with children in Overlook and would help pay for

refreshments and supplies for several events the network will sponsor at Overlook House. (See announcement on page 3.)

The last neighborhood grant in this round was another indication of OKNA board recognition of high priority community concerns: safety. The Willamette Boulevard Speed Bump Project was awarded five hundred dollars to help offset some of the costs of installing eight traffic calming speed bumps on Willamette Boulevard between Greeley and Portland Boulevard. The city of Portland had designated this area as one that would benefit from speed bumps. In response, a group of local home owners initiated a campaign of community awareness, petitioning and fund raising to make this part of Overlook a safer place for everyone. We wish them well.

If anyone has bothered to do the math, you will note that only three thousand of the original five thousand dollars awarded to the association was disbursed. Additional requests for proposals will most likely be made in the next year so that other worthy neighborhood enhancing projects can be happily launched and supported.

Our thanks and gratitude go out to our phenomenal corporate neighbor Kaiser Permanente, without whose support none of these great projects would have been possible.



**You're invited to  
OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD'S 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TREE PLANTING  
February 18, 2006**



Susan Hubbuch with her Homestead Elm planted in 2001

**WHY PLANT  
STREET TREES?**

Here are some  
homeowners'  
responses:

"Are you kidding? This is an incredible deal! I got a beautiful tree without going to a nursery, dealing with the city forester, or digging a hole! And planting day was fun. All for \$30!"

"I planted those trees in memory of two important people in my life. Every time I look outside, I think of them."

"I wanted shade from the sun. I can't believe how quickly my tree has grown!"

"My house needed some landscaping, but I didn't think I'd get such a large and handsome tree."



Courtney Olive planted an American Yellowwood this year



Pat Hazlett and her two Persian Ironwoods



Michelle, Peter and Wanda next to their Japanese Hornbeam planted two years ago

—Dedicate a tree to your children and grandchildren—  
—Renters, please pass this flyer along to the property owner—

**More reasons to plant street trees on the next  
page and ——how you can make it happen!**

## STREET TREES CAN:

Increase a home's value up to 21% more than the same house without trees.

Keep a home up to 20° cooler in the summer.



Provide privacy, help muffle noise and improve air quality.

Make great homes for hammocks, birds and other wildlife.

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## TO ORDER TREES, FILL OUT & MAIL COUPON BY SEPTEMBER 30

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**Overlook Neighborhood Association Tree Planting**  
**c/o Overlook House — 3839 N. Melrose Drive**  
**Portland, OR 97227**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
(We won't share your information with any other organization.)

\_\_\_\_ I WANT TREES for my planting strip that I will help maintain. I will help plant them on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

\_\_\_\_ I don't need planting strip trees, but want to donate money so that trees can be planted.

\_\_\_\_ I don't need planting strip trees, but want to volunteer to help plant trees.

## What will happen next...

1. A city forester will determine how many trees will fit in your planting strip.
2. We'll mail you a list of the tree species from which you can choose. Friends of Trees has spent years developing a selection of beautiful trees that are well suited for Portland's planting strips. You can also check the list at [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org) under *tree resources/tree database*.
3. You'll then choose the trees you want and mail in your selections along with \$30.00 per tree\*. SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AVAILABLE.
4. You'll join us on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006 for the tree planting.  
Then you'll weed, mulch, water and enjoy your new tree(s)!

**\*The cost of each nursery quality tree has been reduced by \$40.00 thanks to donations from our generous sponsors! Thank you adidas, Kaiser Permanente, Arciform, DC Custom Silk-screening, DiPrima Dolci Italian Bakery and Overlook Tree Preservation, Ltd.**

## QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email Cynthia Sulaski at [csulaski@spiritone.com](mailto:csulaski@spiritone.com) or call her at 503.249.7728 or write c/o Overlook House, 3839 N. Melrose Drive, PDX 97227.

## YOUR IFM NEWS

By Kevin McGovney, Market Manager  
and Linda Warren, Community Outreach Coordinator



We are halfway through the market season so it seems like an appropriate time to reflect on the experience. The market has been a sensory smorgasbord of colors, smells and sounds. We've had near monsoons, scorching hot days, local dignitaries, a famous author, lots of dogs, the Kaiser community, neighborhood residents and an array of local farmers contribute to the market experience. Favorite images include people purchasing cheese, bread, cookies or fruit and then retiring to a spot on the lawn, in the shade of a tree to enjoy their food; a toddler sitting in a wagon contentedly eating his way through a basket of berries; and three young girls excitedly marching into the market, smiles on their faces, dollars clutched in their hands ready to make a purchase.

So it seems that we have done a good job. The market is thriving with local farmers, the community, and Kaiser Permanente side by side enjoying the summer bounty. As fall gets closer everyday, we remember that one important lesson we have learned from our experience is the "Law of the Farm". We must preserve a portion of the harvest to be enjoyed throughout the coming seasons. In the rainy months ahead, pull blueberries out from the freezer, savor the raspberry jam that will be in short supply by the time the 2006 crop is here, and with every taste remember that this was a great year at the market.



**MANY THANKS** to that stalwart crew of volunteers who braved the hot summer sun to staff the OKNA community booth at the market on August 3: **Alan Cranna, Alan Padden, Cynthia Sulaski, Brad Halverson, Julie Rawls, Ethan Edwards, Mary Ellen Brassard and Max Mizejewski.**

## RENAISSANCE (Cont'd)

No, she is not going to discourage weddings and meetings at OH. She will continue to pursue rental opportunities with vigor so as to maintain the solid financial base needed to initiate a broad panoply of community oriented events, classes and activities at OH.

In speaking with Carol and in our email communications, her dynamic vision of Overlook House's integral role in the lives of the neighborhood's residents becomes absolutely contagious. She is determined to make OH a vital community resource which will affect a broad spectrum of age groups, ethnicities and interests for folks living anywhere and everywhere between Fremont and Ainsworth. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, the needs of the very old and the very young get Carol's initial attention with the inauguration of the Elders in Action for seniors and the Parent/Child Network program for our younger residents (and their parents, of course!). Carol's imaginative and ambitious crystal ball foresees in the next twelve months an amazing range of enterprises including, but not limited to a December Holiday Bazaar, a June children's rose parade (in the tradition of Elvira Raven), estate planning classes, a Multnomah County Library partnership for reading sessions with kids, CPR for kids and adults and themed Wine Tasting socials. And that's just the beginning! It is certainly apparent that creative programming ideas come naturally to Carol and that will be one key to her success in assuming the mantle of OH's program coordinator.

However, writing as a concerned member of the community, I find myself envisioning three challenges that she will want to address.

The first involves space-time logistics. The parallel priorities at OH present an interest-

ing conundrum. How do we provide facilities for the rental factor while at the same time protecting the space-time requirements of the community cultural activities that these same income producing rentals will support?

The second challenge I foresee involves how to attract more Overlook residents living north of Going Street to activities taking place at Overlook House. There is certainly a convenience factor for residents who live south of Going and thus fairly close to our new community center. However, more than two thirds of Overlook's population live North of Going; making OH a community hub for them will require Herculean efforts. Whereas the previous challenge involved logistics, the second involves an emphasis on people-to-people gestures involving hearts and minds.

Finally, even though Carol's massive effort at transforming OH will be starting practically from scratch, it should be considered a long term endeavor. Her challenge here is not to get discouraged when it all doesn't happen at once. It is my hope that the entire Overlook community supports her efforts. As I have mentioned in another part of this newsletter, Overlook is a great place to live in and Carol's boundless energies will be doing much to reinforce that idea.



## OVERLOOK HOUSE—A GOOD WORK IN PROGRESS By Jerry Lindsay

Overlook House Community Center is bursting with new vitality just two short years after escaping permanent closure. Friends of Overlook House, the neighborhood group responsible for managing this facility, has successfully navigated the shoals associated with restoring such a facility to viability after the City had decided to shut it down. (Cont'd on page 10)

# SCOOP OF THE DAY

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL WINS AGAIN AS THE "COOLEST" OKNA EVENT OF THE SUMMER



Assembled merry makers 2



Assembled merry makers 1



A little mystery at the silent auction



Carol and friends

### THE SCOOP by Julie Rawls

The second Overlook Ice-Cream Social took place on Sunday, August 7 beneath perfect blue skies and warm temperatures - perfect for enjoying ice-cream! Approximately 150 bowls of ice-cream were served to neighbors of all ages who came to enjoy the company of others and an affordable treat. Inside the Overlook House a silent auction took place of new and used items. The auction enjoyed easily twice as many donated items this year so there was lots to chose from. Some of the items included fresh flower arrangements, gift certificates to area businesses as well as jewelry and holiday gifts. We are still working on tallying the proceeds from the evening, but definitely expect the auction to make a profit that will go toward future programming at the Overlook House. Thanks go out to many people who helped make the event a success. The Ice-Cream Social committee includes Julie Rawls, Mary Ellen Baldauff, GeorgAnn Flagg and Carol Cushman. They had tremendous support from Carol Padden, Steve Flagg, Chris and John Koonce, Christine Quigley and her niece, Katie, Nicole and Matt Thorburn, Greg duFour, Marcella McGee, Mary Lewis, Akira Mann with Cassin and Hutton, Leslie and Kevin Rawls and many others who helped set up and clean up the event. A special thanks to our wonderful firefighters at Station #24 who also brought over the fire engine to the delight of children and adults alike.

The Ice-Cream Social seems to be a big hit which means we will do our best to make it an annual affair. Hope to see you next summer!



Assembled merry makers 3



Assembled merry makers 4



Thank you engine 24

## OVERLOOK HOUSE (Cont'd)

Tom Griffin-Valade and Ronna Seavey, of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, were key partners with Friends of Overlook House in helping to negotiate an original contract with the City of Portland and in providing staffing during the first few months. Tom in particular continues to be an ongoing source of support, and we owe a big debt of gratitude to both Tom and Ronna for all their assistance.

Overlook neighbor Linda Gorg took on the position of Program Coordinator assisted by colleagues Pat Hazzlet and Alan Cranna at a critical juncture last Fall. Linda has done a truly superb job of organizing the nuts and bolts of running a community center facility with its many varied aspects. Much to everyone's disappointment, Linda needed to let go of the many responsibilities associated with the Program Coordinator position in June when her job description with Portland Public Schools was greatly expanded. Fortunately, Linda continues to share her wisdom and organizing skills as a member of the Overlook House Steering Committee.

The amazing part of the Overlook House rebirth is that just as one neighbor has had to focus elsewhere, another has come forward with new skills and enthusiasm.

Carol Padden, a 50 year Overlook resident and neighborhood activist, has again stepped in to support her beloved neighborhood in a time of need. Carol assumed the reigns of responsibility of the Program Coordinator position from Linda in June and is doing a terrific job. Carol with her deep neighborhood roots and professional marketing experience is forging new ground. This is no surprise to anyone who knows her history. Carol has brought her energy and leadership to a variety of neighborhood issues in the past, including securing a pedestrian bridge over Going St. and helping to resolve the drug and prostitution problems that plagued Interstate Ave. and

Park in the 1980's.

Building on Linda's well laid framework, Carol is using her marketing skills, historical neighborhood contacts and understanding, and perhaps most importantly her wonderful enthusiasm and interpersonal skills to expand neighborhood usage of this venerable facility. (See "Renaissance at Overlook House" by Warren Cassell on page 1.) Thank you Carol and Linda and all the rest of the Overlook neighbors who are working so hard to honor the legacy of Elvira Raven. Elvira donated her home to the city of Portland intending it to become a community center for the Overlook neighborhood.

Just a reminder: the Friends of Overlook House Steering Committee meets at 7:00 P.M. the 4th Tuesday of each month at Overlook House and will enthusiastically welcome all newcomers!



**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.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**—Mark your calendar now for the annual Bethel Block Party and Rummage Sale, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday, September 10 in and around Bethel Lutheran Church at 5658 N. Denver Ave. We'll have rummage, baked goods, some crafts, a variety of bands (and hip hop?), face painting, raffles, community info, bingo, free hot dogs for lunch, and good times and good deals. Further info, contact Alan Cranna at [ascran3@hotmail.com](mailto:ascran3@hotmail.com) or 285-7944.