

OVERLOOK VIEWS

July/August 2006

The Newsletter

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Overlook Neighborhood Association

www.overlookneighborhood.org



WORDS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

By Ethan Edwards and Tom Kilbane



Finding Community in Overlook—Part 3

Can we do better? – this is the third article of a 3 part series that takes a closer look at what it means to have a sense of community, where it's found in Overlook, and how we can do better. As mentioned in the first part of this series, building a sense of community requires fostering a connection among our neighbors and developing a sense of pride. Open communication, networking, and involvement are key ingredients in nurturing a sense of community. Community involves joining together to work on neighborhood issues, celebrate, listen, vision, plan, problem solve, and make decisions.

How well do you know your neighbors? If you are like me, I get up every morning, shower, grab a quick bite to eat and I'm off to work. If I'm lucky I might catch a glimpse of my neighbor, we briefly exchange friendly hellos and continue on with our responsibilities. On weekends, I'm busy catching up on household chores and spending time with my family. It seems almost surreal that many of my neighbors are living a similar life and yet, we only seem to connect when it is convenient or by coincidence. My neighbors are fantastic and whenever we take the time to connect I'm reminded that I need to spend more time nurturing these relationships – sharing our lives enriches our sense of community.

Our community boasts a unique combination of assets upon which to build its future. Getting to know our neighbors helps us recognize the gifts, skills and capacities of our community's residents. Everything we need to make our community better is already here. If we make more "neighborly" time in our lives we would be surprised at the array of individual talents (gifts) and productive skills, few of which are being mobilized for community-building purposes. This basic truth about the "giftedness" of our neighbors is particularly important to apply to persons who often find themselves marginalized by our community. It is essential to recognize the capacities, for example, of those who have been labeled mentally handicapped or disabled, or of those who are marginalized because they are too old, or too young, or too poor. In a community whose assets are being fully recognized and mobilized, these people too will be part of the action, not as followers or recipients of assistance, but as full contributors to the community-building process.

I challenge you (including myself) to get out in our community, meet new neighbors, and enjoy each others' "gifts". Together we can meet our needs through our commitment to be together – building community.



We can do better!

Please send us your ideas on how you or someone you know is building community or how we (all) can do better. We will share your positive ideas in the next newsletter!

AN OVERLOOK OVERVIEW... The Historical Perspective

By Dan Haneckow

Where is Overlook?

The Overlook Neighborhood is at the far southeast corner of North Portland, the part of Portland on the peninsula between the Willamette & Columbia Rivers.



From another perspective, it can be said that the neighborhood sits on parts of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon as the peninsula is built of debris washed down the Columbia River during the cataclysmic ice age Missoula Floods.

The official boundaries of the Overlook Neighborhood are west of Interstate 5, north of the Fremont Bridge and south of Ainsworth Street. According to the most recent census (2000) the neighborhood had a population of 6,093 people living on 2,121 acres. Overlook has a population density of not quite 3 persons per acre.

With so few people per acre, why doesn't the neighborhood look and feel like a Southwest Portland suburb?

It is because over half of the land within the Overlook Neighborhood Association has no residences at all. Swan Island and the Mock's Bottom industrial areas as well as the Union Pacific rail yards are all technically within Overlook. When Portland's neighborhood association boundaries were drawn in the early 1970s, those areas were included due to concerns about Swan Island traffic that passed through the neighborhood on the way to Interstate 5.

Without Swan Island and Mock's Bottom, the neighborhood is half as large and twice as dense.

Overlook sits on seven of the original Portland area Pioneer Donation Land claims that were awarded to early settlers in the 1840s. North of today's Killingsworth Street were the claims (from west to east) of Phillip T. Smith, Josiah Atkinson and Evander Howe. South of Killingsworth were Frederick Proebstel's, George Darch's and Jonathan Gerow's claims. Below Going Street was the claim of James Thompson.

His farmhouse was located in the area where Longview Avenue meets Overlook Blvd.

Four other Pioneer Donation claims were on the marshy flood-plain beside the river. Lemuel Hendrickson's claim was Swan Island. An 1852 map described the area on the bluff as having "gently rolling soil good 2nd rate clay loam. Timber: fir, a little maple, cedar and hemlock."

As time passed, the donation claims were divided into smaller lots, farms, pastures and woodlots. Roads appeared on the bluff. In 1890 the Willamette Bridge Railway, a steam powered passenger-carrying railroad was built through the area. It followed the future alignment of Killingsworth, to Greeley, then to Lombard west to St. Johns (then an independent city). Eventually the line was electrified and incorporated into the streetcar system.

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BLOOMTIME IN OVERLOOK

by Jane Finch-Howell

Wondering how that guy next door gets rhododendrons covered with bloom every year? Jealous of your neighbor's roses that peak at the perfect time for Rose Festival? Maybe you've just bought a new home in the neighborhood and you're wondering where to start in your quest for a lush, colorful garden.

Since Overlook abounds with beautiful gardens, in early June I interviewed a few friendly neighborhood gardeners for information you could put to use. Read on for information and advice from newer and more seasoned Overlook residents with backgrounds in several types of gardening, from designing a garden to specimen plant maintenance.



A selection of Annegret Wolford's roses in full bloom for Rose Festival.

Since we have just enjoyed Portland's signature Rose Festival, we'll begin with the garden of Annegret Wolford. Annegret grows a lovely, prize-winning collection of roses on the corner of Castle and Mason. She enjoys the perfect exposure for growing roses: her front gardens and parking strips face south and east, and hold the majority of her collection of standard and miniature roses. Annegret has twice won the Frank Beach Rose Festival award for the best rose garden visible from the street, along with numerous individual rose awards, so you can be sure she knows her stuff.

How she got started growing roses: "When we bought the house we had fifteen roses and I didn't know how to care for them. I



One of Annegret's miniature white roses tumbles over a rock wall on Mason Street.

went to the Lloyd Center rose show for information and someone told me to join the Portland Rose Society."

Her biggest challenge: Annegret cited raising things *other* than roses, like the tomatoes, blueberries and raspberries she grows along the south side of her house. *Her ongoing challenge:* "Keeping the garden looking nice all the time."

Her greatest triumph: Last fall, Annegret showed "Gemini" and won Best of Show in the Tualatin Valley Rose Show.

Tips Annegret has found useful: "Don't water at night." She also advises, "Don't spray for aphids: wash them off with water or rub them off with your fingers." Annegret doesn't like to use systemic pesticides, "because they kill the good bugs, too."

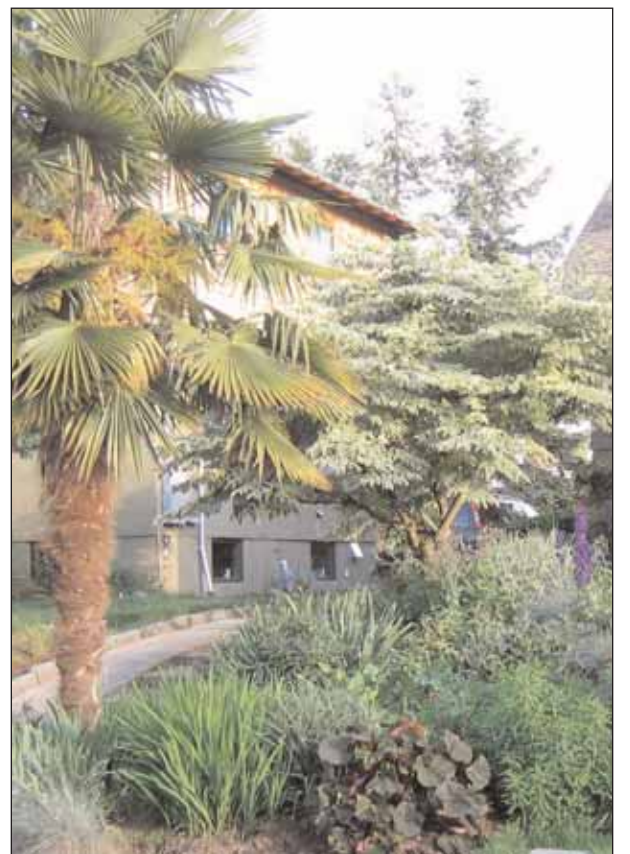


Jim Wilcox and Helen Daltoso's arbor and lush front garden on Humbolt.

Their greatest triumph: Keeping the palm alive through that first icy winter they were in the house.

Most rewarding plant: This query sparked a lively discussion but Helen and Jim finally agreed that the *aralia alata*, or angelica tree, has wonderful year-round appeal for them: pink blossoms in spring, variegated blue-green frond-like foliage in summer and a lovely skeletal shape in winter. They both appreciate the ornamental grasses for their multi-season interest and low care needs. Jim also votes for the Boston ivy with its spectacular autumn color.

Advice for the new gardener: "Don't overdo it. Take it slowly: you have to maintain what you plant. Amend and replenish your soil. Ongoing maintenance, like deadheading the rhodies, makes all the difference next year."



A palm and the graceful angelica tree thrive in Jim and Helen's front garden.

Annegret's advice for novice rosarians: "Join the Rose Society. It's only \$15 per year, you can attend educational meetings each month, and you get a nice, informative newsletter with contacts for experts on specific questions or problems."

At 2236 N. Humbolt, we find the garden of Helen Daltoso and Jim Wilcox. They have been gardening here for just two and a half years, and credit the previous owner of the home (Alan, a local gardening legend) with many of the original planting decisions. That said, they are motivated and thoughtful curators of their "inherited" garden and being true gardeners, have moved and changed plants to suit their needs. They added family-friendly elements in the back garden, such as a small patch of grass for their two young daughters and some raised beds for vegetables.

Jim and Helen's north-facing front garden contains an eclectic mix of Northwest native plants, grasses and perennials on a gentle slope down to the sidewalk. Their parking strip overflows with perennials, grasses and even a palm, and features a rustic arbor supporting three trailing clematis.

Their biggest gardening challenge: Helen responded immediately, "Children...and time!" They want gardening to be family fun, but need to balance that with other activities. They like the overgrown look, but work hard to keep that vision from becoming a maintenance nightmare.

Next on our tour of Overlook gardens is Chad's collection of perennials and roses at the intersection of Melrose Drive and Overlook Boulevard. Chad's roses have won multiple awards, but it's the mixture of visual elements that appeals to me in this garden. Frede owns the home and maintained some garden beds for many years, but when Chad returned from college about ten years ago, he was asked to take over the garden and the transformation is significant.

In addition to his show-quality roses, the garden includes hostas, iris, hollyhocks lavender, calla lilies, agave and succulents.

Chad, like most of us, is a self-taught gardener - as he says, "I only want to know what I need to know." His garden's location is a mixed blessing: he has wonderful exposure for growing things, but his proximity



Chad's tranquil garden and shady gazebo on the corner of Melrose Drive and Overlook Boulevard.

to Overlook Park can create issues. He likes to incorporate small treasures and found objects into his landscape and is happy to find a space for that *objet d'art* you no longer need.



Calla lilies peek from behind the spring-flowering Chinese paper bush, now in its summer foliage.

His greatest triumph: "The lawn looks like it's getting smaller – and it is!"

Biggest gardening challenge: Dogs let off leash (or on too long a leash) that get into the garden and damage it. Chad likes dogs, but appeals to their owners to keep them under control. **Another challenge:** Late-night, south-bound drivers who take that tight Overlook Boulevard corner too fast and plow into the garden beds - it's happened SIX times over the past ten years!

Most rewarding plant: His two-year old *edgeworthia chrysantha*, or Chinese paper bush. The bare crown of this striking shrub is covered with fragrant, yellow and white, waxy flower clusters in early spring. Chad obtained twelve starts from the plant just this year. He attributes its phenomenal growth to his use of compost and careful loosening of the soil around the plant.

Chad's tips and tricks: "Ruffle up the soil to break the surface crust. This keeps it weed-free and allows air and water to penetrate. Keep plant leaves off the ground to minimize transfer of fungus and rot. It also looks nicer!" Chad uses lime to green up his foliage and increase the bloom size on

his roses. He sprays his roses carefully twice a year with fungicide, but believes picking up fallen petals and leaves makes a big difference in keeping the soil clean and fungus-free.

Advice for the novice: "Compost!" Chad gets a truckload from American Compost almost yearly. He says by bringing in clean

compost and amending the soil, he controls weeds and it's less work to maintain. When planting, he says, "Think about proportion. Think about what it will look like next year and leave space around new plants. Think high and low: you want the garden to be a balance between strength and grace."

Mary O'Neal has tended her south-facing garden area at 4006 N. Concord for the past five years. I watched with interest over those years as she first removed overgrown shrubs that covered the windows, then ripped out the grass she was so bored with mowing (courtesy of husband Al, who operated the sod remover, then shoveled in all the replacement soil.)

Mary started by putting in some perennials, but as she said, "That's a lot of garden and the things I put in looked pretty wimpy." Soon people in the neighborhood began to give her plants, including crocosmia, succulents, irises, heather and gladiolas. But things were still pretty bare that first year, until she filled in between the perennials with flower seeds: the cosmos, zinnias and other annuals exploded into the space. In fact, she had so many zinnias that year her granddaughter set up a sidewalk stand. Mary's garden is maturing now. Among her recent additions are two skimmias, a male pollinator and a female for berries (you can



Mary O'Neal's bright perennial bed along Shaver at Concord.

still get in on her contest to name the pair...Wilma and Fred? Anthony and Cleopatra?).

Mary's biggest challenge: Knowing whether something that just came up is a weed or a flower.

Her greatest triumph: "Seeing everything come back in full bloom each year. I got lucky because I didn't know what I was getting, and yet there's something blooming every day." She also loves picking flowers and making bouquets.

Most rewarding plant: Lavender. It's easy to grow, fills in fast and she can use the flowers in a lot of ways.

Mary's advice for new gardeners: "Don't spend a lot of money on a plant because a freeze comes and you can lose it. Don't be afraid to take out plants or move them or cut them back. Don't let plants get too overgrown. And ask other gardeners for information."

Tips and tricks: "I'm semi-retired, so I work only at tax-time from January to April 15th. It's the perfect time to work because nothing is going on in the garden then." And my personal favorite, "Once a year I invite my sister to come visit. She stays for four or five days and does all my weeding."



The new skimmia couple: George and Martha? Fred and Ginger?

Talking with these gardeners in Overlook, I heard some common themes. Make your garden work for you. Move or change what doesn't work. Share plants and information with your gardening neighbors. Amend your soil. Use your parking strip for more garden space; often that's the sunniest and best exposure for growing things.

One unexpected theme that emerged was the community building that resulted from the pursuit of gardening. Our gardeners made new friends around them in the neighborhood, and they encouraged others to garden by their example and enjoyment.

So I encourage you to ask a neighbor about his or her garden. I think you will find they'll be happy to answer any of your questions. Then you, too, can get out there and start gardening!

OVERLOOK OVERVIEW (Cont'd)



Before it was a part of Portland, the area was part of the city of Albina. In 1891, just before it consolidated with Portland and East Portland, Albina expanded from its core near Russell and Williams streets, all the way to the Columbia River. Although the area was inside of city limits, it was still rural in nature with only a few scattered Victorian era farm houses on the bluff.

Development came from the south and the east. Additions were surveyed and streets established. New houses were built as Portland's northern suburbs expanded along streetcar lines. By 1897 much of the area south of Killingsworth had been surveyed and by 1907 most of today's neighborhood's streets were in place. In many places the houses were still fairly far apart. Even after the housing boom which followed the Lewis & Clark Centennial Exhibition in 1905, the area had some feeling of the countryside. As late as 1915 there were complaints about stray cattle in the neighborhood.

Twenty three additions or tracts of various shapes and sizes make up today's Overlook Neighborhood. Most of their names have fallen out of use although Madrona Hill is still associated with the general area along Greeley. The name Overlook comes from the Overlook Addition, the area south of Skidmore and west of Interstate. It was surveyed for development in 1905, after the land had been tied up in a legal dispute for many years (which explains the lack of any Victorian era houses in that area). The Cooks, Multnomah, 1st & 2nd Patton and North Albina additions were all split by Interstate 5 in the 1960s. The Nutgrove addition is along the east side of Campbell between Killingsworth and Ainsworth. It is five blocks long but only one lot deep.

In 1916 Interstate Avenue was created as part of Pacific Highway #1 by combining the north end of Patton Avenue and the south end of Maryland Avenue. The remaining portion of Patton south of Prescott was renamed Massachusetts Avenue. New segments were graded down the bluff to Albina and north to the new Interstate Bridge. The first auto shops and billboards followed soon after. Many sights of the neighborhood in the 1930s would be recognizable to today's residents. A housing boom in the twenties had filled the majority of the vacant lots in the area. Killingsworth, Interstate and Mississippi were the main commercial streets. Interstate Avenue was part of Highway #99 and was lined with motels and service stations. Beach Elementary school was open for the neighborhood's children. Overlook Park had just been created on land that had been used as a dump. St. Stanislaus Church had Sunday services. The Interstate Fire House was in use--as a fire house.

The sounds in the neighborhood, though, were different. The constant shriek and moan of whistles from steam locomotives, boats and ships went up the bluff from below. The low drone of Douglas DC-3s and Lockheed L-10 Electras came from above as they circled the new Portland Airport on Swan Island. The rumble and clatter of streetcars were heard on Killingsworth, Greeley and Shaver. The gong of service bells rang from the many gas stations on Interstate Avenue.

Things got louder in World War II.



The Kaiser Swan Island shipyard was built on the site of the airport which had outgrown its location. Around the clock, workers constructed T-2 tankers for the war effort. At night, work continued beneath the bluff under massive light towers that cast a glow visible for miles.

Many houses in the neighborhood took boarders to alleviate the housing shortage brought on by the needs of wartime workers. On Interstate, workers and residents rode a new trolley bus line to work and home.

Years later in 1959 Bess Kaiser Hospital would be established on the bluff overlooking the former site of the Kaiser Swan Island shipyard.

The biggest single change the neighborhood ever faced was also the most detrimental. On March 23rd 1960 the Portland City Planning Committee approved the alignment on the Minnesota Freeway, the route of Interstate 5. By the time it was completed 1963, hundreds of homes were displaced. Some houses were moved but most were torn down. A resident of the time recalls neighbors rescuing plants from deserted yards after the houses had been removed.

A swath was cut through North Portland sundering long established connections. Many businesses closed on both sides of the divide. A report by the Portland Planning Bureau from 1964 stated: "Completion of the Minnesota Freeway has had a telling effect on traffic counts in the district. Interstate Avenue has experienced a drastic reduction in traffic volumes."

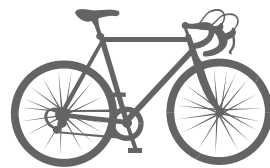
The decline of Interstate had negative effects on the surrounding neighborhood. Concerns about crime, safety, vandalism and traffic from Swan Island were some of the issues that lead to the formation of the Overlook Neighborhood Association in the early 1970s.



Today the neighborhood is in the midst of a vital upswing. There is a farmers market at Overlook Park. Restaurants have returned to Killingsworth and grocery stores to Interstate. The two-year-old Interstate MAX line follows much of the trolley bus route of the 1940s and 1950s. There is new development in areas that had been commercial dead zones. Nearby Mississippi Avenue is exploding with activity. Kaiser Permanente re-affirmed its long standing ties to the area by expanding its Interstate campus and adidas renovated the Bess Kaiser hospital for use as its corporate headquarters. The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, St. Stanislaus Church, Overlook House and Kaiser Town Hall are all community gathering places.

As the value of a close-in and close-knit community becomes apparent, the Overlook Neighborhood is thriving.

(Editor's note: For more on Dan's take about all things Oregon, see his blog <http://cafeunkown.blogspot.com/>.)



NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE

By Warren Cassell

The westernmost parking lot of Christ Memorial Church at 1552 N. Killingsworth will be the home base for a community wide yard sale on August 19 starting at 9:00 A.M. and going on until 3:00 P.M. The church, which has been a decades old fixture in the Overlook neighborhood, will be using the occasion as a fundraiser and an opportunity to become more involved with the neighborhood.

If you would like to participate as a vendor, a small donation of ten dollars will reserve a space for you to display and sell the remnants stored in your attic, basement and garage for too many years. In addition to the space, each vendor will be provided with one table and two chairs. The church expects to have fairly large turnout for this event and they will be advertising in the Oregonian for a full week before the sale takes place.

The deadline for registration is August 5 and there will be an informal meeting for all registrants on Saturday August 12 from 11:00 A.M. until noon. To register, or if you have any questions, please email trizzz@tmail.com or call 503-484-5306 or 503-381-5610. Troy Tate, an administrator for the church, expects the vendor requests to move very quickly and encourages early registration. He also noted, "We are expecting this to be an annual event with much neighborhood support. We hope to see you there!"



NEW URBAN RENEWAL TASK FORCE

By Jeff Berebitsky

April 19th marked the beginning of a series of meetings relating to the City of Portland's first *industrial only* urban renewal area (URA), called the Willamette Industrial Urban Renewal Area (WIURA). WIURA consists of Swan Island and Mocks Bottom, as well as the west bank of the Willamette River on both sides of the historic rail bridge. A task force was set up to discuss ideas, concerns, and implementation strategies for the new URA. The task force consists of leaders from the business community, neighborhood associations, business associations, and government officials. I sit on the task force as a representative for Overlook neighborhood.

The Portland Development Commission (PDC) is leading the meetings, providing information to task force members to come up with ideas on what works and what does not. A few of the issues the WIURA face include environmental impacts, transportation infrastructure, and space constraints. Over the course of the next seven months the task force will work together to sculpt a plan on ways to encourage current business expansion, attracting new businesses, job growth, and infrastructure improvements while working closely with members of the community.

As one of the few industrial sanctuaries in Portland, the WIURA will not only affect our immediate community, but the region's economy as well. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions regarding the task force I can be reached by email at jberebit@hotmail.com.

IT'S ICE-CREAM SOCIAL TIME

By Julie Rawls

Mark your calendars for the 3rd annual Overlook Neighborhood ice-cream social and silent auction white elephant sale on Sunday, August 6th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Overlook House.

What better way to spend a warm summer evening than with your neighbors enjoying a delicious ice-cream sundae! Cost per sundae is only \$1 and gets you all kinds of great toppings too. Inside the Overlook House you can browse tables set up with a variety of silent auction and white elephant items. There will be some fun stuff for the kids and a visit from our local firefighters along with their firetruck. All proceeds from the event go to pay for future programming at the OH.

If you have a gently used (or new) item to donate to the white elephant sale, please contact Julie Rawls at 503-282-7198. The committee appreciates having items ahead of time so they can be priced with a corresponding auction sheet. You can also think about donating your time as part of the silent auction. The committee will enthusiastically accept services such as babysitting, lawn mowing, rose pruning, etc. In the past, cooks in the neighborhood have donated gift certificates worth a dozen cinnamon rolls, fresh bread, or cheesecake and these have been very popular. The committee is also looking for volunteers willing to help at the event. We need ice-cream scoopers, water pourers, and a few very organized people to help out with the auction. Feel free to call Julie if you have any questions.

THE LATEST FROM OUR UNITED VILLAGES

Our United Villages (OUV) is a local non-profit organization founded on the belief that every person can make a positive difference in her/his community. OUV recognizes that every neighborhood is richly diverse, and that building on relationships from what we hold in common is the foundation for discovering our community's full potential.

In April and May, OUV had the help of 40 volunteers from Overlook in hand-delivering Feedback Forms to every neighborhood address. We're in the process of creating a calendar of free events and activities for Overlook neighbors based on their feedback. If you haven't received a Feedback Form, it's not too late! At your request, we will happily get one to you. Contact OUV at (503) 546-7499 or e-mail info@ourunitedvillages.org. If you received a form with an expired date on it, you can still mail it and have your input included.

To get involved with OUV sponsored activities in Overlook, please contact the office at (503) 546-7499 or e-mail info@ourunitedvillages.org.
Look for the calendar in your mailbox soon!

WAITING FOR GO

By Brad Halverson



Many of you have experienced long waits trying to turn left at the Killingsworth & Interstate traffic signal. You may have noticed that the wait is shorter now. After the city's traffic signal engineer said the light was working as programmed but the waits were still unreasonable, he put an event recorder at the site. It proved you correct: 32 cars waited over 2 minutes in one day and the worst was over 5 minutes to get the green to turn left. The engineer has been trying various algorithms bypassing the usual methods in order to reduce the turn waits, and he has succeeded. The last test showed only 4 cars waited over 2 minutes. The engineer anticipates being able to leave the jury-rigged improvements in place.

New computer equipment (in the last 4 years since the lights were redone during MAX construction) can actually figure out who has been waiting the longest and give them the green first. The new equipment can also keep the Interstate lights on green after a train goes thru if no one is waiting to cross or turn left at the intersection. These improvements should help the flow of traffic along and across Interstate Avenue. Hopefully this equipment will be bought by the City's Office of Transportation's general fund, the Interstate MAX traffic calming funds, or the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area funds within the next few months or at the most a year. One way or another, we'll get this fixed yet. Thank you for your comments, and please keep sending any observations of signal problems to info@overlookneighborhood.org.

DEFINING THE IFM

By Kevin McGovney, Market Manager

What defines the Interstate Farmers Market today? An average of 1500 customers visit the Market each week, an increase of over 500 visitors per week over last year. The IFM community is the most economically and ethnically diverse of any farmers market in Oregon.

Eighty percent of our twenty-five vendors are returning favorites from last season, selling everything from local berries, veggies, artisan cheeses, fresh baked bread and pastry, seafood, mushrooms, honey, jams and jellies.

Weekly live, local music plays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., and chef demos continue on the first and third Wednesdays of each month starting at 6 00 p.m., with tastes and recipes given to all who attend.

We are always in search of volunteers to help greet people as they arrive, as well as those who can help set up and tear down tents, tables, etc. If you are interested, please visit us @ INTERSTATEFARMERSMARKET.COM and follow the link for volunteers.

The market is a dynamic, vibrant work in progress. We depend on the neighborhood community for direction as we take shape. So come talk, shop, eat, laugh, and help us define your Interstate Farmers Market.

Where and When? Each Wednesday from 3 – 7pm on North Fremont Street next to Overlook Park. See you at the market!



OVERLOOK HOUSE—All Kids All the Time

By Warren Cassell

Well, not quite all the time, but there are some great summer programs scheduled specifically for kids in the neighborhood. So, mark your calendar now for the Multnomah County Library "Reading Fun Series." There is no cost for this program.

July 14 (Friday) 10:00-11:00 A.M. STORY-TELLING MAGIC for grades K-5. Children participate in telling stories using everyday objects like scissors, paper and a deck of cards. The endings are always a surprise, and the kids have a great deal of fun.

July 21 (Friday) 10:00-11:00 A.M. SURVIVOR DEEP WITHIN for grades 2-5. The children must tackle and maneuver through award-winning picture books to decide which book is the ultimate survivor in children's literature. Teams use their sharp intellect to explain why they chose a particular book. Then, teams will vote books off "Biblio Island" until there is only one survivor.

A bit more serious program (at no cost) will be held on:

July 22 (Saturday) THINKFIRST program sponsored by OHSU and a repeat of last year's very successful program geared toward bicycle safety. The focus is to reduce the incidence of brain and spinal cord injuries and fatalities in Oregon by providing age-appropriate education to the community. The target group for the Overlook House presentation will be ages 2-12 but all ages are welcome. The program will start at 10:00 A.M. and will feature a talk and discussion about bicycle safety. Past programs have sparked a lot of interest in kids and their parents. The bonus for all attending will be the opportunity to purchase a helmet for \$8.00 and have it professionally fitted. The team from OHSU will stay until 2:00 P.M. and will provide as much individual attention as is needed.

And finally, an enriching and entertaining weeklong experience presented by the Northwest Children's Theater:

August 21-25 (Monday-Friday) 9:30 A.M.--12:30 P.M. "The Magic Forest Playhouse" summer camp for children 4 ½ to 6 years of age. The camp will include stories, crafts, games, music, a costume presentation and then some, over the course of the week. Camp is limited to a maximum of sixteen children and the fee is \$100.00 per child. Deadline for signing up is July 24. You can reserve a place for your child by sending your check made out to NWCT to Overlook House, 3839 N. Melrose Drive, Portland, Oregon 97227.

Note: All of the above programs will take place in the newly renovated basement of Overlook House or weather permitting, in the glorious outdoor backyard. For additional information, signing up, questions and comments, etc., get in touch with Carol Padden, Event Coordinator for Overlook House at 503-823-3188 or email: coordinator@HistoricOverlookHouse.org.

SOLV AWARD GOES TO OVER-LOOK HOUSE

By Warren Cassell

Each year SOLV makes a number of awards recognizing volunteer action to preserve this treasure called Oregon. In the last issue of Overlook Views we noted that Linda Gorg was instrumental in writing the proposal which resulted in Overlook House becoming the recipient of the SOLV award for the best project in the face of adversity. It was ironic therefore, that she was unable to attend the award ceremony in Salem on June 1 pictured above. We are sure she was there in spirit along with her Friends of Overlook House colleagues. The actual award, a plaque (shown above being held by Greg DuFour), is now on display in a cabinet at the Overlook House.



From the left: Jack McGowan, Exec. Dir. Of SOLV, Mary Oberst wife of and representing Governor Kulon-goski, Greg duFour, Co-Chair, Friends of Overlook House, Alan Cranna, Phil Gorg and Pat Hazlett, all board members of the Friends of Overlook House.

MORE OVERLOOK VOLUNTEERS

By Warren Cassell

The recent all North Portland clean-up day was graced by the presence of a significant number of Overlook residents working on projects throughout the neighborhood. Pictured below is part of the team sprucing up Beach School.



Back row (standing) from the left: Tom Grove, Chris Sullivan, Febe Armandirez, Dulane Moran, Mike Moran, Sheila Wilcox; middle row (sitting) from left: Roland Scott, Torie Scott, Jennifer Lohse, Neal Olson; other (sitting): five unidentified but really cute Beach School kids.

AND MORE...The dynamic clean-up duo at the Concord Street overpass.



Mark Shuford and Alan Cranna at the Concord Street overpass

MINI-RENAISSANCE ON INTERSTATE AVENUE?

By Warren Cassell with contributions by Cynthia Sulaski and Julie Rawls

Some of us thought this would never happen, others said it would take forever. But it is happening now. Five recently announced public and private projects are all in the works on a short strip of Interstate Avenue's east side. Starting on the southeast corner of Alberta and running north to the northeast corner of Killingsworth, the five projects mix housing, parks and education. All of these ventures will eventually result in a jump start for the rejuvenation of Interstate Avenue as a viable part of the Overlook neighborhood.

PROVIDENCE MEDICAL CLINIC

At the southernmost end, the Providence Health System will erect a 10,000 square foot building at Alberta Street to house their facility currently located at Portsmouth and Lombard. Among the services to be provided at the new location will be family practice with obstetrics as well as lab and radiology services. The lot has been cleared for construction of this building and it is targeted to open during the first quarter of 2007.



Site of Providence Clinic building on N. Alberta St. (Former site of dilapidated gas station)

TRIMET DEVELOPMENT



Crown Motel

A few hundred feet north of the Providence site stands an eyesore landmark of the neighborhood. Rife with a history of drugs, prostitution, alcohol and other unhealthful proclivities, the Crown Motel is to be converted into a more positive neighbor in the form of a housing project sponsored by TriMet. TriMet originally purchased the site, which also includes a vacant lot adjacent to the motel, with

federal funds designated to stimulate transit station area development. After a lengthy and thorough process by TriMet, REACH was chosen from twenty candidates to develop the property. Their team was selected on the basis of qualifications, experience and proposed approach to the project. According to Jillian Detweiler, TriMet's Development Planner, the nature of this undertaking could best be characterized as providing housing units "for long term affordability." The project program and design—number of units, unit sizes, commercial components, height and style—will be developed in consultation with the surrounding community and in response to available resources. The REACH team anticipates completing the project by September, 2008.

PATTON PARK REDESIGN

During the summer of 2005, the ICURA-funded Master Plan for Patton Park began with a community survey and a community design workshop. Using that input, Portland Parks created a draft plan concept that was then reviewed by the community at several venues, including the Overlook Neighborhood Association meeting. The next stage, design development, was recently finalized. The Plan's major changes will result in enhanced safety, comfort, access, recreation, attractiveness and design integration with the architecture of IFCC. The Plan's features include: two main paths made of pavers radiating out from the Park's center; directional up and down lighting into the tree canopy; a bollard and chain fence installed on Interstate Avenue; an entry plaza linking IFCC with the Park; benches; tables; children's play area; landscaping and a central plaza.

Parks staff is now determining cost estimates and expect to begin the Phase 1 construction, which will most likely involve demolition, digging, irrigation and installation of lighting, in Spring 2007. Construction will not begin this year because of the funding and bidding particulars. Assuming all goes well, the remainder of the project will be completed by Fall 2007. With a party to celebrate of course! If you have any questions, email me at csulaski@comcast.net. Note: Cynthia is the ICURAC Parks Committee Chairperson.



Patton Park



Interstate Rentals

TRILLIUM SCHOOL

Just across from the park, looking north, is the fifty plus years old Interstate Special Events rentals, always a positive member of the commercial Interstate community. They are planning on moving out and will relocate to Northeast Lombard Place. They have sold their Interstate property to an organization we expect will become another good neighbor, the Trillium Charter School. Currently located on North Page Street and

having outgrown the facilities at that address, they are planning on relocating to the Interstate property for the 2006-2007 school session.

The new location will permit Trillium, a four year old tuition free Portland Public school, to serve the educational needs of up to 320 students in grades K-12. In addition, they will offer a fee based pre-school program for thirty children at their new site. According to their Community Development Coordinator, Arianne Newton, Trillium will increase their staff to approximately 27 full time and part time educators and administrators. She notes that, "Trillium is committed to offering school choice to the North Portland area and we strive to give students a democratically based, project oriented environment that allows student choice and independence in which to pursue their passions." Welcome to the neighborhood!

KILLINGSWORTH STATION



The last stop on this mini-renaissance journey sits on the corner of Killingsworth and Interstate.. This 32,000 square foot property owned by PDC didn't fare very well in recent efforts to develop it. In April, PDC re-issued a Request for Proposals calling for at least 40 ownership housing units and ground floor retail. Because of its ideal corner location adjacent to the MAX station, there is huge potential for successful retail. At least half the housing units will be priced at levels affordable to households with incomes at or below 100 percent median household income (\$66,900 is the 2006 median family income in the Portland Metro area for a family of four as set by the federal government). Units should be a mix of one, two and three-bedrooms. The site also contains a Portland Heritage Tree—a mature Southern Catalpa – that will be preserved during development.

Three developers submitted proposals and two open houses for the community to meet the development teams were held in June. PDC expects to announce its choice of the preferred development team by the end of July.



PROVIDENCE BRIDGE PEDAL SUNDAY AUGUST 13, 7 AM TO NOON

Once again, Overlook residents are staffing the North Portland Water station. Volunteers are needed; the funds we receive for our volunteer efforts help to underwrite the Beach School SMART program. For additional information or to volunteer, call Alan Cranna at 503-285-7944 or email at ascran3@hotmail.com.



KNITTINGAS ART

By Will Crow

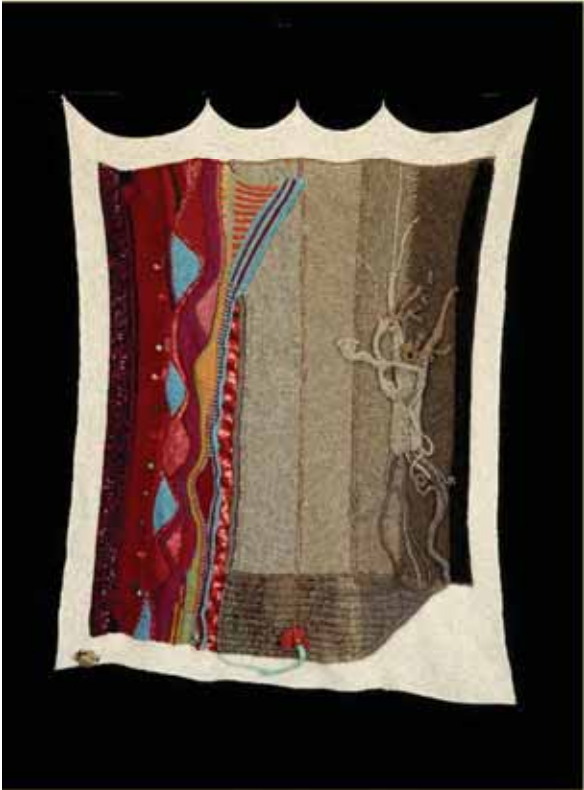
"Knit cafes," knitting magazines, how-to-knit kits -- yarn is a hot commodity these days. With her one-woman show, "Knitting as Art," Overlook resident Melisa Cassell shows a different path for the ancient craft. Her fluid, abstract shapes, subtle interplay of colors and lively rhythms make a strong case for knitting as an art form which she describes as "painting and sculpture both at once."

"Knitting as Art" opens July 18 and runs through Aug. 16, 2006, at the Multnomah Arts Council, 7688 SW Capital Highway Portland, OR. An opening reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. July 18.

Trained as a dancer, Cassell sees a continuum between the two media. With knitting, she says, "I seek to echo the freedom inherent in the material, the unbroken thread.... This allows a great space in which to explore the facts of the fabric: its tactile lure, its timeless pull on memory through imagery and symbol."

Cassell danced professionally for 35 years, beginning her career as the protege of dancer Jose Limon and choreographer Doris Humphrey. She performed with the Jose Limon Company during the 1950s, along with performances at the 92nd Street "Y" and the Juilliard Dance Theater. From 1960 through 1985 she taught dance and improvisation at private schools and arts centers around the country. As a knitter, Cassell has shown at the Rhinebeck (NY) Crafts Show; Crafts Park Avenue, New York City; the Bruce Museum Crafts Show, Greenwich, CT; and a one-woman show at the Greenwich Arts Council.


Knitting



Winter Tree—wall hanging 48"x60"

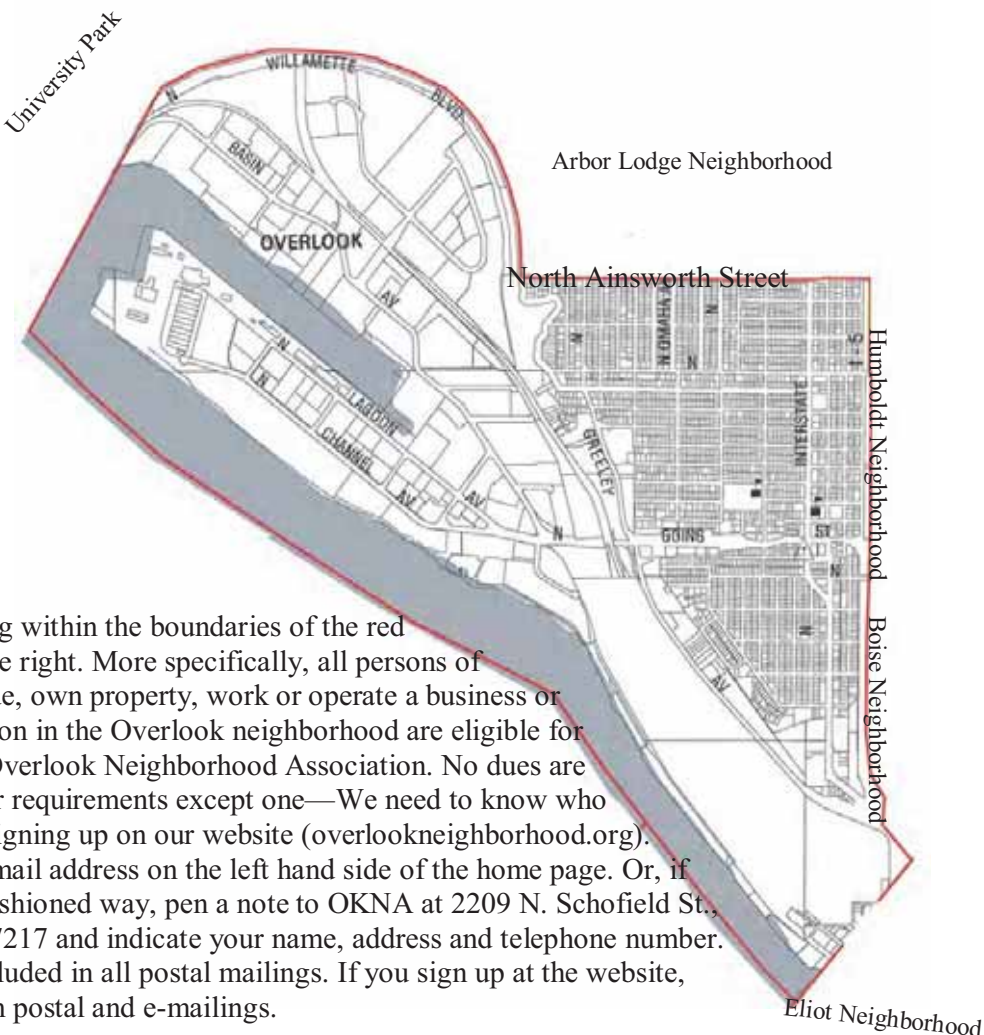
MELISA CASSELL

....as Art



Syllogism—sculpture 24" high

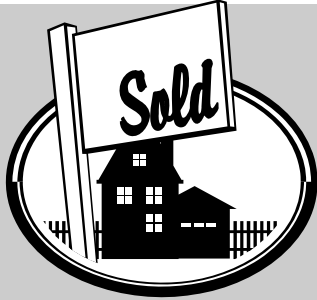
WHO IS A MEMBER OF OKNA ?



ALL OF YOU living within the boundaries of the red line on the map to the right. More specifically, all persons of voting age who reside, own property, work or operate a business or non profit organization in the Overlook neighborhood are eligible for membership in the Overlook Neighborhood Association. No dues are required or any other requirements except one—We need to know who you are. Tell us by signing up on our website (overlookneighborhood.org). Simply enter your email address on the left hand side of the home page. Or, if you prefer the old-fashioned way, pen a note to OKNA at 2209 N. Schofield St., Portland, Oregon, 97217 and indicate your name, address and telephone number. You will then be included in all postal mailings. If you sign up at the website, you will receive both postal and e-mailings.



REAL ESTATE UPDATE
PORTLAND/OVERLOOK



An overview of the Portland Metropolitan area as of the end of April 2006 shows that the average market time was 41 days, compared to 48 days for April 2005. New listings increased 7.5% over last year at this time, but accepted offers and closed sales fell by about 18% and 16% respectively.

In North Portland there are 253 active listings (191 new ones), 141 pending sales (down 9% from a year ago) and 119 closed sales with an average sales price of \$259,800 and an average market time of 27 days. Appreciation stands at 21.6%, virtually the highest in the Metro area. Listed below are sales in Overlook since the past newsletter.

Recent Overlook Sales

ADDRESS	BED/BATH	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
1724 N. Sumner St.	2/1	\$175,000	\$158,000	31
1541 N. Alberta St.	1/1	189,000	189,000	96
1805 N. Jessup St.	2/1	165,999	190,000	6
1530 N. Alberta St.	2/1	193,000	202,000	217
1545 N. Jessup St.	2/1	225,000	221,000	98
6245 N. Curtis Ave.	2/1	215,000	225,000	4
5615 N. Maryland Ave.	3/1.1	219,950	226,000	52
1722 N. Simpson St.	3/2	219,900	228,525	1
6222 N. Campbell Ave.	2/1	219,900	240,000	2
6606 N. Villard Ave.	2/1	249,500	247,000	37
5926 N. Burrage Ave.	2/1	245,000	250,800	8
6423 N. Gay Ave.	3/1.1	259,000	252,500	14
1235 N. Prescott Ave.	3/2	247,500	255,000	3
2426 N. Sumner St.	2/1	255,000	256,200	9
5606 N. Boston Ave	3/1	245,000	257,290	3
1550 N. Blandena St.	4/1	274,000	258,000	166
7134 N. Oatman Ave.	2/1.1	259,900	265,000	2
6915 N. Fenwick Ave.	2/1	259,900	267,900	3
4922 N. Maryland Ave.	3/2.1	269,900	268,800	17
6315 N. Omaha Ave.	1/1	219,950	270,000	7
6637 N. Greeley Ave.	5/2.1	289,900	274,900	55
6334 N. Atlantic Ave	3/2	279,900	279,900	5
2436 N. Emerson St.	3/2	269,950	290,000	8
5710 N. Delaware Ave.	4/1	285,000	295,000	14
1730 N. Church St.	4/1	289,000	295,000	1
5934 N. Atlantic Ave.	4/2	289,000	295,750	4
5927 N. Boston Ave.	4/2	310,000	310,000	4
2023 N. Willamette Blvd.	4/2	330,000	330,000	31
1807 N. Prescott St.	3/2	314,876	310,000	15
6025 N. Atlantic Ave	3/1	309,900	333,000	2
1628 N. Simpson St.	3/2	329,900	334,900	5
3826 N. Massachusetts Ave.	3/2	315,000	353,000	2
1732 N. Alberta St.	4/2	360,000	355,000	183
1618 N. Simpson St.	4/2	344,900	368,000	2
6305 N. Omaha Ave.	3/2.1	389,900	389,900	3
1551 N. Skidmore St.	4/2	399,900	390,000	185
1657 N. Webster St.	4/2	399,000	400,000	4
3804 N. Colonial Ave.	3/2	509,000	515,000	34
2220 N. Alberta St.	4/2.1	549,950	549,950	5

Thanks to Overlook neighbor Bob La Du of Re/MAX (503-495-5431) for providing the information for this current real estate market up-date.

IMPORTANT NITTY-GRITTY

Want to join us and receive witty late-breaking 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

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OVERLOOK VIEWS

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Alan Cranna, Jeff Berebitsky, Will Crow, Ethan Edwards, Jane Finch-Howell, Sarah Friedel, Dan Haneckow, Brad Halverson, Tom Kilbane, Kevin McGovney, Bob La Du, Julie Rawls and Cynthia Sulaski.

EDITORS' NOTE: We would like to acknowledge the major contribution made to this edition by local resident and garden expert Jane Finch-Howell. Jane was responsible for the entire garden section found on pages two and three. This means she selected the gardens, interviewed the gardeners, wrote the text, took the photos and then composed the graphic presentation of the article. It is unusual for one person to have so much talent in a variety of areas, and we feel very fortunate that Jane was willing to contribute these talents to the newsletter.
Thanks so much, Jane.

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 15th` 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.

A MINOR MYSTERY--Can you solve it?

Found at the Historic Kenton Firehouse recently was a flag/banner about two by three feet, made of felt, depicting Overlook House. Our understanding is that it was at one time on display at City Hall. Does anyone know who created this item? If so, get in touch with Alan Cranna at ascran3@hotmail.com or call him at 503-285-7944.



CANINE CARE IN AUGUST
By Sarah Friedel

Four-dog couple seeks August assistance. Perhaps you have seen us (or just my husband Roger) walking our four dogs. While we are on vacation from Aug. 6 - 13, they will still need walking. Two people can handle all four; one person should probably take two at a time.



If you would be willing to help walk them, please call us at 503-284-5715. They are walked morning and evening. Wages to be negotiated. You don't have to sign up for every day. Any shifts would be appreciated.

Editors' note: The dogs shown here are for illustrative purposes only and are meant to inspire a positive response to this request.

