

# OVERLOOK VIEWS

March/April 2006

*The Newsletter*

Vol.2 No. 5

Overlook Neighborhood Association

[www.overlookneighborhood.org](http://www.overlookneighborhood.org)



## WORDS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

By Ethan Edwards and Tom Kilbane



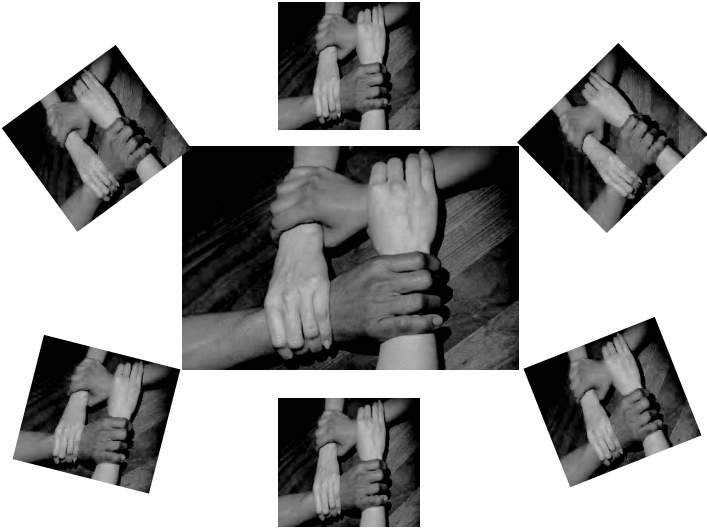
### Finding Community in Overlook – 3 part series

What is a sense of community? – this is the first of a 3 part series looking at what it means to have a sense of community, where it's found in Overlook, and how we can do better. A sense of community is an intangible yet vital component of our neighborhood. It encompasses elements such as image, spirit, character and pride, along with processes such as communication, group relations, and networking. In many places across the nation, people are losing their sense of what binds them together. With current trends of out-migration, sprawl, rural-flight, urban decay, and increased mobility, many residents do not feel strongly connected to their communities. Striving for a sense of connection is at the core of all efforts to reinforce and build a strong neighborhood. It arises from a clear sense of collective purpose that values diversity and uniqueness. It prevails over divisions caused by competition, conflicting goals, and historical quarrels, allowing communities to move ahead to solve shared problems.

Many times a sense of community has deep historical roots. It can be centered around a place, building, or event, church, Independence Day parade, etc. — which may have been in the community for generations. Some communities come together around a crisis or an opportunity, and find that a shared purpose, intent, or vision —protecting children, preventing crime, or helping the needy— reveals wellsprings of commonality heretofore undiscovered. A sense of mutual concern can also come from a collective vision, where neighbors are asked to participate in creating the vision versus being told what their vision is.

Ease of mobility and increased ability to communicate mean that today many people have decreasing loyalty to their community of place. Many continue to uproot, following the next economic opportunity. However, for an increasing number, quality of life is an important factor in their decision to relocate or stay put. Good schools, clean air and water, walkability, low crime, and an intangible feeling of friendship are increasingly key factors.

Building a sense of community requires fostering a connection among its members and developing a sense of pride. Open communication, networking, and involvement are key ingredients toward achieving that goal. The process is driven by joining together to work on neighborhood issues, celebrate, listen, vision, plan, problem solve, and make decisions. Every community is made up of diverse people with different interests, experiences and backgrounds. These characteristics may divide a community into natural groups but there must be cooperation amongst all if the community is to work well as one. Such a strong unit values the uniqueness of groups and their traditions, but also recognizes their interdependence. Increased communication and understanding of different perspectives among groups within the neighborhood as a whole are important factors in establishing a vigorous sense of true sharing and joy in living and getting along together.



Take a moment to think about it – do you feel community in Overlook?

## A PERFECT PORTLAND PROVENANCE

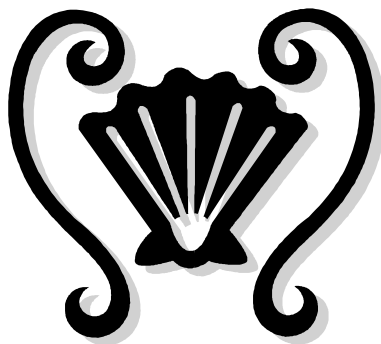
By Melisa and Warren Cassell

A turn of the century world's fair, one hundred year old wetlands, a house divided and afloat, an eccentric ballerina, a surgeon, an American antiques expert who is an Anglican vicar in a small English village, and a cream-colored mansion towering over other houses on the bluff?

Before you exclaim, "Oh here comes another Overlook Views editorial journey into the fantasy world of Walter Mitty," let us assure you that isn't the case. The motley collection listed above has more coherence than it would appear. Everything on this list is directly relevant to the large and architecturally imposing house with the quartet of soaring Doric columns facing the Willamette on Overlook Terrace. The unusual architecture (both inside and out), a bit of mystery and some unusual owners made this residence a fine candidate for the first of a series about unique houses we expect to feature in Overlook Views. (Garden lovers fear not—we hope to do a feature on Overlook gardens in our July/August edition.)

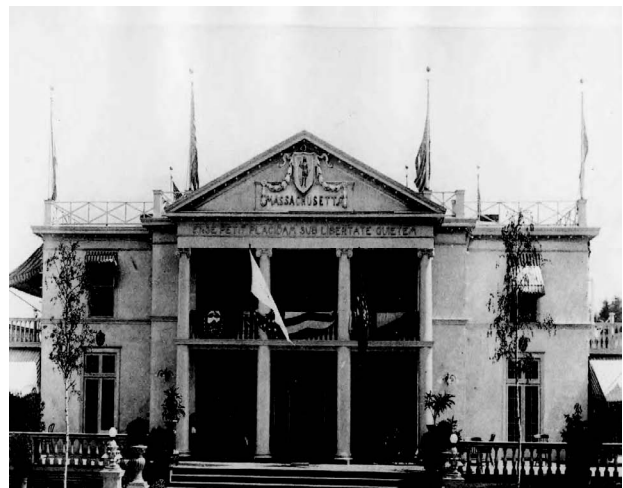


NOW!



For those of you who don't walk, jog, run or drive around this part of our neighborhood, a recent picture of the residence in question is shown below on the left. Above right is a photograph of a similar looking building taken in 1905 but not quite a residence. It was, however, a temporary home for the state of Massachusetts exhibition hall at the Lewis and Clark centennial fair which took place on what was a wetlands in the area where Montgomery Park is now located. Are these houses the same? There's the mystery. The original owner of this majestic mansion was a gentleman named George H. Watson and the records show that he built this home on Overlook Terrace (formerly known as Alhambra Avenue) in 1910. Historical records reflect that Watson owned several restaurants in Portland and that he was a food concessionaire at the Centennial. These factors in addition to the marked similarities between the two buildings led to the oral tradition that Watson had bought and disassembled the exhibition hall, ferried parts of it across the river and used the design and parts to construct his new digs.

There have been only two-plus owners since the original. (More about the plus in a moment please.) The first was Dr. M.E. Steinberg who purchased the house soon after the end of the First World War. Dr. Steinberg, a surgeon, also became a neighborhood family doctor after moving in. He lived there with his wife (who had been a ballet dancer) until he died sometime in the 1930's. His wife, who was much younger than the doctor, stayed on, until her death in the 1970's. The home was then willed to University of Oregon Medical School and held briefly by that institution until the present owner, Michael Daggett, purchased it in the spring of 1980. Daggett rented the house to its present occupant, a tax accountant and business consultant, in 1986. Daggett, an antiques and fine art specialist, then moved to England to become an Anglican priest.



Oregon Historical Society

THEN?



So much for a social history of this majestic building, which sometimes seems out of place surrounded by more modest bungalow, craftsman and contemporary looking homes. Those of you who have seen it first hand know that it is stunningly large. Though we were unable to obtain the exact measurements of living space, our guesstimate is in the neighborhood of 5,000 square feet. The building has four livable floors with a finished basement and finished attic. And of course, the yearly utility bill is commensurate with the gigantic proportions, i.e. over \$5,000 a year for heat and electricity. Some of the architectural details are equally fascinating. The columns which support the front façade, over twenty feet tall, are made of redwood (this was turn-of-the-century Oregon) and were hand carved to taper in the classic Greek tradition.

The re-assembling of the house, after its Willamette crossing, was done by boat carpenters. Thus, many of the techniques they used treated the house as a big ship.

Considering this rather patchwork history, one might expect the interior to be inharmonious or too disparate in style. Such is not the case. Delightful "ambassadors" from each of the house's chronological journeys abound: Federal wallpaper in faded colors of the era, beautifully worked stairs, finials, railings — carefully chosen (then) and preserved (now!), pieces of furniture that speak eloquently of another time. The tall windows defined by noble dark wood moldings are dressed with swags and folds of fabric patterned with the florid but subtle images of another century when the word "synthetic" had to be looked up in a heavy leather bound dictionary. Underfoot, there are (to cover the well-patinaed hardwood floors), a collection of impressive oriental rugs—not pretentiously in good condition, but frayed and worn because of real and longtime use. Antiquity is one thing, but antiquity which shows the ravages of real life— that's great! Thanks to all—both past and present, who have made this building a living chronicle of Portland's history.

**HU.MOR (From the American Heritage College Dictionary)** 1. The quality that makes something laughable or amusing; funniness. 2. That which is intended to induce laughter or amusement.

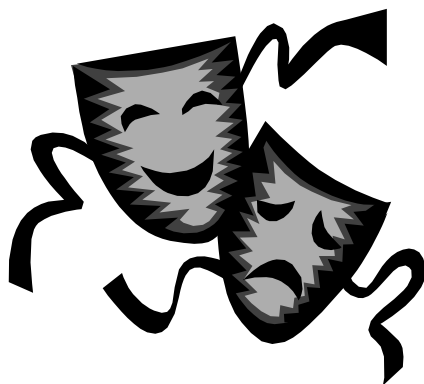
By Warren Cassell

Those of you who are blessed with photographic memory and a few other readers may recall in the last Overlook Views a piece we named: "Dreamtime in Overlook #1--- Union Pacific to Move Albina Freight Yards to West Side." We had very mixed reactions to this satirical article. Many of you told us that you laughed out loud, others were confused, and still others simply found this completely fabricated story neither amusing nor able to induce the laughter for which it was intended. For example, resident (and a major supporter of this newsletter) Julie Rawls wrote to us saying, "I thought this article was mean spirited. I am frankly shocked that you would take this tack with such a large employer near our neighborhood. ...I am concerned about the employees and management at UP and how they will view this article. I can tell you that if it was my firm, they would not find it

amusing. ...Honestly, I think some sort of apology is in order for the next issue." Humor is in the mind of the beholder and since there is fortunately a diversity of minds in our neighborhood, we are guaranteed to offend some and amuse others. We hope and we believe there were more of you amused by the piece than were offended. Some people find Seinfeld or Jon Stewart or heavens to Betsy, Howard Stern amusing; others will certainly find Stern offensive, and others, still, will disapprove of Seinfeld's or Stewart's brand of humor. One thing is for sure. We can probably all agree that these entertainers are not bland. In doing an occasional humor piece, or injecting a bit of irony or using a double entendre or two, or posing a sassy title or headline, we hope to give Overlook Views a little bit of liveliness; we like liveliness with all of its inherent dangers.

Several readers, including Julie, noted that the article might have been taken at face value, i.e. that it was really true. In fabricating this story about Union Pacific we thought we provided the reader with several obvious verbal clues about its fantasy aspects. However, it appears that some of you in doing a fast reading may have missed a word or two, which may have left you with the conclusion that this was the real thing. Our guess is that in future items like this we'll have to make the clues more obvious or some of our readers will have to slow down and read more carefully---or perhaps even a combination of the two.

(Note: Your comments on the above or other articles in the newsletter are welcome. Please send to [w.cassell@comcast.net](mailto:w.cassell@comcast.net) or 4037 N. Overlook Terrace, PDX 97227.)



## OVERLOOK VIEWS—NEW, NEW LOOK.....

By Warren Cassell



Our last issue's new, one-time only newspaper format proved to be so popular that we decided to make our temporary change a permanent fixture. In addition to readers' preferences, our tabloid style newsletter is considerably less expensive and gives us more layout/graphic options. And last but not least, this will allow us to use color printing in occasional future issues without breaking the bank.



### .....AND NOW, REGARDING MAIL SLOTS/MAIL BOXES

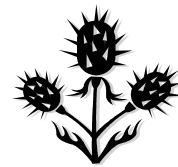
After more than a half dozen emails and several telephone conversations, we finally received a clarification from the United States Postal Service concerning the delivery of the newsletter. If your home has an outside mailbox, we are not permitted to use it; it is a receptacle only for USPS stamped mail. However, if you have a mail slot through your door or outside wall, then your newsletter can find comfort in its dry temporary home. My last informal count of residents' mail receptacles indicated a 65/35 split with the majority in the warm, dry category.



Song of social dove  
Hi! Coo!  
Take-over in penthouse  
High coup  
This? Haiku

### OVERLOOK ORAL HISTORY

Have you been a long-time resident of the Overlook neighborhood (south of Ainsworth, north of Fremont, west of I-5 and east of the Willamette River)? Long time in this case would be for more than 30 years. If so, would you be willing to share your stories about our neighborhood with other readers? Your stories lend spice to what one finds in history books. Do you remember what Greeley Avenue used to look like? Do you remember the cherry blossoms of Swan Island, the trolley on Denver? If you are willing to add to the collection of stories, please call Zita Podany, 503-289-9837 (message phone) or email [zitap123@hotmail.com](mailto:zitap123@hotmail.com).



### A SPRING PARABLE

By Melisa Cassell

Lore and legend  
Sonnets and songs proclaim  
That Spring bursts forth  
Victorious over winter's strife  
Burgeoning—to great acclaim

But we know another  
truth. A sterner clear-eyed Mother  
Bids us sit beside her fire  
To hear an older tale  
that will enlighten and inspire.

Spring comes with a careful unfolding,  
Seeds, birds, lambs, so many  
smallnesses, holding  
Their promise so tightly,  
like orphans in a famine.

Imagine the molecular mayhem  
Within these myriad sacs.  
Imagine tiny tidal thrusts,  
Churning within a twig,  
Seeking to erupt into a wooden surf  
of pale verdure.  
They retain their treasure, waiting,  
layer on layer of nourishment,  
crowded in divine discomfort unabating.  
Every one to cherish, knowing so  
many perish in the journey to the sun.

So she tells us, don't take it lightly.  
Be joyous, yes, but please, not sprightly,  
as you witness the season of  
youth advancing,  
A force akin to tumult,  
informs its dancing.

Adversity's enemy is a slow  
revealing labor.  
Each orb of affirmation must  
be warmed and nurtured.  
As it sheds its shell,  
It must be honored while being  
welcomed  
To this small fragile place  
Where we dwell.



## VOTER OWNED ELECTIONS

By Warren Cassell

Editor's note: As indicated below, public financing of local elections became part of the Portland political scene last year when the City Council passed an ordinance designed to further democratize our electoral process. Since that time an organization known as "First Things First" has spearheaded a movement to repeal the ordinance through a voter initiative and ballot in the May elections. I asked Carol Cushman, an Overlook resident, who is also the president of the Portland League of Women Voters, to do a short piece on Voter Owned Elections for the newsletter. The LWV opposes repeal, though at the time of this writing it is possible that First Things First may not have enough qualified petition signatures to get their initiative on the ballot. In any event, any Overlook resident who would like to offer his or her view in the newsletter is welcome to submit one for publication in our next issue.



### Voter Owned Elections – Elections Fair for All

By Carol Cushman

Portland City Council enacted Voter Owned Elections, a publicly-funded campaign finance system, in May 2005 after holding three public hearings spanning eighteen months. Hundred of citizens signed endorsement forms, sent postcards, wrote e-mails, and testified in support of the system.

The ordinance establishes a system where anyone who collects 1,000 \$5 donations from Portland citizens and promises to take no other campaign funds can receive \$150,000 to run their campaign.

Citizen participation is the standard, including the panel that administers the system. The qualifying rule sets a high hurdle; only serious candidates will be able to benefit from the system. Voter Owned Elections will also have an effect on privately funded candidates who will feel pressure to keep their spending on par with publicly financed candidates.

Voter Owned Elections make elections fair for all. A qualifying contribution of \$5 from a low-income person has the same value as a \$5 contribution from a wealthy individual. All Portlanders have an equal opportunity to be involved in city politics.

When candidates are free to run a campaign focused on discussion of the issues, government will be more accountable to the voters. Free of the influence of special interest donations, commissioners will be able to make the best decisions for the entire city.

The League of Women Voters, which I serve as LWV Portland president, has been working for campaign finance reform since 1973. To learn more about the campaign to save Voter Owned Elections in Portland, visit [www.votenopowergrab.com](http://www.votenopowergrab.com) or contact me directly.

## CRIME PREVENTION IN OVERLOOK

By Havilah Ferschweiler

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement has announced the appointment of Havilah Ferschweiler as its new Crime Prevention Program coordinator to replace Walter Garcia. Havilah is a Portland native who grew up in several different neighborhoods including Lents, Centennial and Sunnyside and attended both Lincoln and Cleveland High Schools. She later graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and returned home to Oregon two years later after working as a grassroots political organizer for the Nevada State Education Association. Havilah has worked most recently for Southeast Uplift as Outreach Coordinator and Site Coordinator for the Lents/Brentwood-Darlington Weed & Seed site. She has extensive experience in conducting outreach, training, and event planning to address neighborhood liveability and crime prevention issues. She enjoys working with neighbors and helping build community bonds and relationships. She has a passion for community organizing and involvement and is looking forward to working with neighborhood associations, including Overlook, through North Portland Neighborhood Services.

As part of Havilah's job as the Crime Prevention Coordinator, she will focus on problem solving, community organizing and education on issues related to crime and public safety. She is looking forward to helping make Overlook and all of North Portland an even better place in which to live.



Havilah, Herself



Author of the following article, Corinna Buchholz, chatting with newsletter co-editor Warren Cassell at Our United Villages' kick-off meeting with Overlook residents

## OVERLOOK NEIGHBORS GET INVOLVED

By Corinna Buchholz

Friendly neighbors, kids playing outside, proximity to downtown, and nearby services were just some of the reasons why residents at a recent neighborhood gathering said they love Overlook. More than 50 neighbors shared breakfast and learned about community building opportunities on Saturday, January 28. Adidas donated the space for the event, which was sponsored by a local non-profit called Our United Villages.

"I enjoyed meeting people I would not normally have crossed paths with," said Overlook neighbor Katie Sundby. "I'm excited to meet more neighbors and to feel a sense of community and belonging."

For some who braved the rainy weather on Saturday (including me), this was the first time they attended any type of organized neighborhood meeting in Overlook. Other participants have been deeply involved in the neighborhood for more than 30 years. Our United Villages is an independent organization founded on the belief that every person can make a positive difference in their community.

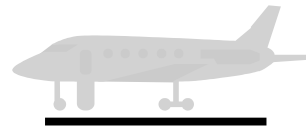
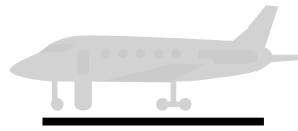
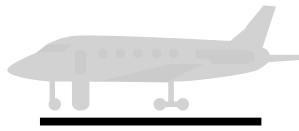
Over the next two years, every Overlook neighbor will be invited to help set the agenda and direction for a variety of gatherings, workshops, and events aimed at bringing neighbors together to find common connections. Look for posters, announcements, and a flyer asking for your feedback in the mail to find out more.

Nearly forty neighbors have already volunteered to help with various aspects of community building. Anyone who wants to find out more can call Our United Villages at 503-546-7499, email [info@ourunitedvillages.org](mailto:info@ourunitedvillages.org), or stop by 4001-A N. Mississippi Ave. (at Shaver).



A light moment with Overlook residents at the Our United Villages' meeting





## PORTLAND AIRPORT SOARS INTO HISTORY ON A SWAN

By Zita Podany

What do Charles Lindberg, Raffaele Mauillari (known as the “Flying Iceman”, round-the-world racer of the 1920’s), and a 1920’s Studebaker president, have in common? Did you say, “Why of course, they all had a photo op at the Portland Airport on Swan Island?” Yes, that is correct, the Portland Airport’s humble roots started on Swan Island.

In 1891, the state legislature established the Port of Portland and bestowed upon it responsibility for the maintenance and development of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers to the Pacific Ocean. At that time, the Swan Island bar was a hazard to cross and more than a couple of vessels ran aground on it. Solutions had to be found to accommodate more modern vessels that required deeper channels. The river had to be made deeper if Portland was to continue as a hub of commerce.

So, the Port of Portland purchased 256 acres from the Swan Island Realty Company in January 1922. In the fall of 1923 dredging started on the West side of Swan Island to improve the navigability of the Willamette River. For a while the island was used as a dumping ground during the dredging process. Dredging continued until 1926.

The city was growing and its transportation needs were increasing. By this time, transportation in the world was expanding to the air. Portland did not want to get left behind so its leaders forged ahead in finding a site for a proposed airport. Contemplating several areas as a possible airport site, it was decided that the small, tree-covered, swampy lagoon, once a home to swans, would become the most reasonable place to construct an airport.

According to early accounts, Swan Island was an ideal place; the ground had already been developed during the dredging process, sod had been planted to clean up the island, it was located close to commercial outposts, it was free of obstructions, had no erratic air currents, and it was large enough for planes to take off and land in any direction.

Construction on the airport began in 1926. Even though the airport wasn’t finished, Charles Lindbergh flew in on the *Spirit of St. Louis* to its dedication on September 14, 1927. Official status was accorded to the airport in 1931 when airmail and passenger service were started by Pacific Air Transport.

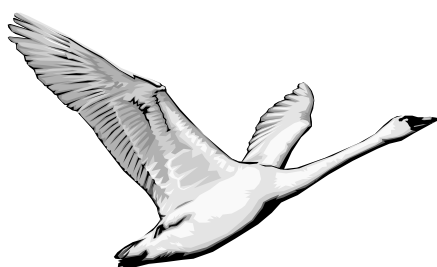
The airport consisted of a terminal and administration building, four hangars, a runway and a viaduct to the mainland. A revolving beacon sat atop the administration building, turning all night. Fifteen flood lights, set on poles 20 feet high, were turned on when a ship came in at night. The administration building also housed a restaurant, waiting room for passengers, public observation platform, and the control room.

Commander Richard E. Byrd (of North Pole fame) and General Mason M. Patrick, Chief of the Army Air Service, proclaimed the airport as one of the finest, if not the best airport in the nation. Some of the fill from the dredging was paved and provided a three-mile scenic drive around the airport. According to several accounts, the area was effectively landscaped. Scotch broom shrubs were planted along the river banks and 640 Japanese Cherry trees (lineal descendants of the famous Potomac park trees) were planted around the periphery of the island. During spring, people from miles away would throng to Swan Island to enjoy the cherry blossoms during “Cherry Blossom Day”. Later these trees were destroyed in the name of progress and to make way for a shipyard.

The airport was a popular place according to some accounts and during its heyday, it was estimated that it drew between 3500 to 5000 people on Sundays. It was not unusual for the spectators who came to watch “hop” flight planes, to announce that they were going to go up too. Many of those who took the “hop” flights arrived at the airport without any intention of going up. They would stand around, watch the hubbub and suddenly they wanted to go up also. Try that these days.

Besides air planes and sea planes, Columbia Helicopters company had its start at the Swan Island Airport. The sea plane facility (Marine Air Service) was still in operation after the airport closed.

But the early optimism of a long-lived thriving airport was shattered with the landing and take-off requirements of newer planes and the building of the St. Johns Bridge in 1935. The Federal Government ruled the airport was unsafe because of the bridge towers and the airport’s proximity to the West Hills. By 1941, the airport was basically deserted and the entire site was leased to the Federal Government. In 1942, the airport moved to its new location along the Columbia River. After 1948, the Federal Government had no use for Swan Island and sold the area back to the Port of Portland. The old Swan Island airport terminal was torn down in 1964.





### REAL ESTATE UP-DATE PORTLAND/OVERLOOK



An overview of the Portland metropolitan area as of December, 2005 shows that the average market time was 41 days, compared to 59 days for December, 2004. Last year's total volume was \$10.6 billion in real estate sales compared with \$8.1 billion for 2004. Getting closer to home, in North Portland there were 205 active listings (including 107 new ones) in December, 78 pending sales and 99 closed sales with an average sales price of \$228,700 and an average market time of 33 days. Listed below are sales in Overlook since the last newsletter.

#### RECENT OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

ADDRESS	BED/BATH	APX SQ FT	PRICE	DAYS ON MKT
5823 N.Detroit Ave.	1/1	528	155,000	-
6522 N.Curtis Ave.	2/1	1131	169,950	19
6125 N.Greeley Ave.	2/1	962	182,310	31
1539 N.Colfax St.	2/1	1144	186,000	11
6423 N.Gay Ave.	3/1.1	936	188,500	-
6226 N.Detroit Ave.	3/1	1084	205,000	-
1805 N.Sumner St.	3/1.1	2355	207,000	46
6624 N.Villard Ave.	3/1	1442	231,900	2
1820 N.Prescott Ave.	3/1.1	960	240,000	20
1541 N.Humboldt St.	2/1	2216	253,000	79
6102 N.Concord Ave.	2/1	948	255,000	28
5558 N.Greeley Ave.	4/2	2666	270,000	68
6536 N.Campbell Ave.	3/1	2588	293,000	13
1725 N.Skidmore St.	5/2	2384	312,000	49
2111 N.Humboldt St.	3/2.1	2186	320,000	55
1618 N.Simpson St.	4/3	1600	325,000	5
4067 N.Missouri Ave.	3/2	2182	330,000	-
5719 N.Denver Ave.	4/2.1	2688	359,000	108
5728 N.Delaware Ave.	3/2.1	2213	369,900	29
6355 N.Deleware Ave.	3/3	2815	408,000	82
2989 N.Willamette Blvd.	2/1.2	3232	430,000	11
2931 N.Willamette Blvd.	3/3	2984	475,000	162

Thanks to Overlook neighbor **Bob LaDu** of Re/Max for providing the information for this current real estate market up-date.

### A TOXIC RIVERFRONT SITE— RESTORED!—WITH YOUR HELP

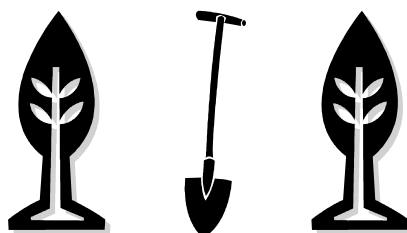
By Mikell O'Mealy

On Saturday February 11, over 250 Overlook residents and other North Portland neighbors took time from their busy weekends to be down on the Willamette River bank planting native trees and shrubs. Their groundbreaking work represents the first step in restoring an area – the McCormick & Baxter Superfund Site – which until recently posed a serious health threat to people and the environment. Community members planted over 3,000 native trees and shrubs on this 41-acre site, with kids and adults, scout troops and school groups all pitching in. Another 17,000 trees and shrubs will now be planted around other areas of the site, and we will all get to watch this new native habitat grow. Over the coming decades, a diverse riparian forest of Ponderosa pine, Oregon oak, Pacific madrone, cascara, and black hawthorn will emerge, with a lush understory of swamp rose, Oregon grape, red-flowering currant and other native shrubs. These plants and trees will provide food for native animals, and we hope, peaceful natural areas for people to enjoy as well.

Many of you are familiar with the toxic history of the McCormick & Baxter site (for more information, see [www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/mccormick.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/mccormick.htm)) – including how it became contaminated and what was done to clean it up. Your interest in restoring this part of the Willamette has been vital in making it happen, and I **thank you** so much for your support. *Special thanks to those of you who planted trees on February 11!* For information about upcoming tours of the site this spring and summer, please contact Mikell O'Mealy, DEQ project coordinator, at 503-229-6590.



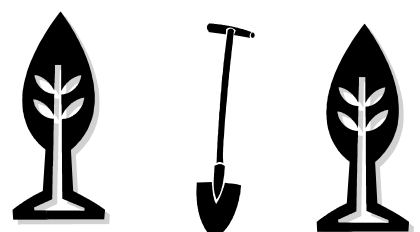
Planting Staging Area



Information Booth—Were you there?



Digging In



## ALL THINGS OVERLOOK HOUSE

By Warren Cassell

The news from Overlook House is good. Here in chronological order are a few events past and future for your perusal and consideration.

### Holiday Thank You's

Carol Padden, Program Director of OH, wants to go on record to praise and thank all of you who participated in the 2005 Holiday Bazaar and "Santa" event at the Overlook House. Our neighborhood bakers helped raise over \$150 for OH programming with their delicious culinary efforts. Harbor Freight's donation of a tricycle as a raffle item raised another \$100. And of course, New Seasons' ongoing support in the form of providing juice for all of the attendees at the "Santa" event is deeply appreciated.

### Easter Egg Hunt

If you are the proud parents of kids age eight and under, mark your calendar for the first annual Easter Egg Hunt at Overlook House to be held on Saturday, April 15 from 11:00 to 12:00.

Two age groups, four and under and five to eight year olds, will be organized for a fun-filled pursuit of candy eggs hidden in the backyard of OH. Parents are asked to make sure each participants has a basket or other container for collecting.

Donations of candy-filled plastic Easter eggs may be dropped off at the OH on the morning of April 15 or call/email Carol Padden for alternate arrangements or for additional information. Phone is 503-823-3188 and email is [coordinator@HistoricOverlookHouse.org](mailto:coordinator@HistoricOverlookHouse.org).

### OH Rose Festival Parade Coordinator Wanted

Elvira Raven, who was the original owner of the Overlook House and who donated it to the city for use as a community center, created many traditions at her home which benefited the entire neighborhood. One of them was a yearly parade for all of the community children which ended up at her home, where the kids would enjoy the ice cream delights Mrs. Raven served. It would be nice to honor her memory by renewing this tradition. If you are interested in coordinating this event, which could be scheduled for June 4, get in touch with Carol Padden at Overlook House. Contact info above.

## COMMUNITY USE OF OVERLOOK HOUSE



Do you have a community programming idea for presentation at Overlook House?

Carol Padden, executive director of OH would love to have your sug-

gestions for making additional use of OH's facilities to benefit neighborhood residents. Pointing out that OH has recently been a center for yoga classes, guitar lessons, wine tastings and many children's activities, Carol noted, "We have plenty of time slots and space available for one-time and continuing classes, seminars, events and activities that are truly community oriented. We welcome residents' ideas for programming and look forward to their input as part of our planning process for the spring." So the question is: Do you have an interest or skill or area of expertise you would like to share with other residents or is there some particular topic you would like to see presented at Overlook House? Call Carol at 503-823-3188 or email her at [coordinator@HistoricOverlookHouse.org](mailto:coordinator@HistoricOverlookHouse.org) and let her know.

## SALUTE TO OVERLOOK VIEWS DELIVERERS—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

By Warren Cassell

The Overlook neighborhood is blessed with a cadre of activist and public spirited residents who share with their neighbors their time, expertise and energy in various ways. One segment of this community minded group are our newsletter deliverers who slog through rain, sleet, snow and occasionally unfriendly (nasty) dogs to bring you all the Overlook news fit to view. Our Overlook Oscars go to:



**Amy Altenberger, Sarah Barrett, Kathryn Beamer, Jim Bennett, Jeff Berrier, Marge Bontje, Trish Bradley, Carl Brenden, Barbara Brooks, Sue DeSart, Jen Ferrante, Jane Finch-Howell,**

**Sarah Friedel, Linda Gorg, Brad Halverson, Dan Haneckow, Pat Hazlett, Jim Heiman, Nate Hemphill, Jay Hunt, Stephen & Apryl Jackson-Clark, Tammy & Ben King, Liz LaDu, Michelle Laherty, Jim Leverich, Jerry Lindsay, Steve Marsh, Max Mizejewski, Dulane Moran, Matt Moritz, Mike Murphy, Courtney Olive, Claudine Paris, Christine Quigley, Julie Rawls, Mark Schuford, Kara Sisk, George Spaulding, Cynthia Sulaski and Gilah Tenenbaum.**

Their efforts do not go without rewards of a sort. We asked our Oscar winners to share some of their delivery experiences with us and here in very abridged form are some of their responses. **Cynthia Sulaski** noted that "It's good exercise and a great way to meet my neighbors." **Trish Bradley** occasionally has her eight year old grandson help on her route. "Seeing him ride his bike along the sidewalk delivering newsletters reminds me of the 'paperboys' of my youth." **Julie Rawls** involves her kids with the deliveries. "I feel it is important that they see me doing work on behalf of the neighborhood association...and that it is important for them to learn at a young age that volunteering is a very good thing we can do as neighbors."

**Jane Finch-Howell** appreciates the advantages of her summertime delivery stint. "[It lets] me indulge my gardening interest by enjoying the neighborhood gardens on my route, and talking to some enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardeners I might not have met otherwise." And finally, there's **Jim Heiman's** apocryphal, "I found out by delivering newsletters that a three-legged pit bull can't run as fast as a 57 year old guy with a bag full of newsletters."

And staying with our Oscar oriented theme for a moment longer, we would like to present the lifetime achievement award to our delivery captains, **Carol Cushman** and **Alan Cranna**. They are responsible for counting the right numbers for the various routes and making sure all the routes are covered. In addition, they distribute the newsletters to the deliverers cited above and cover a route or two themselves in the more than occasional pinch. If you would like to join our illustrious group of deliverers and experience the joys of dispatching the newsletter to your neighbors, call or email Alan at 503-285-7944/[ascran3@hotmail.com](mailto:ascran3@hotmail.com) or Carol at 503-288-388/[chcrail@aol.com](mailto:chcrail@aol.com).

## CITY ORDERS DEVELOPER TO REPAIR LAND DAMAGE IN OVERLOOK

By Craig Gaare

A city hearings officer has ordered a housing developer to repair the environmental damage done to vacant land in the Overlook neighborhood.



The case dates back to 2004 when Host Development hired a geotechnical contractor to assess the 2.2 acre site south of North Going Street and north of North Prescott Street. North Prescott is unimproved along the frontage of the site. The contractor, operating without a required city permit in an Environmental Conservation Zone and using mechanical equipment in violation of zoning regulations, disturbed about 4,000 square feet of earth while conducting soil boring tests. Blackberry shrubs, vine maples and ground cover were removed. John Miller, executive director of affordable housing developer Host Development, said after the January 11 hearing that his firm is no longer interested in purchasing the land for development.

After hearing testimony from interested parties and city staffers, Hearings Officer

Ian Simpson ordered Host Development to plant 10 vine maples and 110 shrubs and ground cover by hand in the environmental zone and remove non-native invasive plants from within 10 feet of the new plantings. According to the order, Host Development is to monitor the site for three years and water the plants and trees to make sure they are established. Miller testified at the hearing that his company was "unaware of the extent that the contractor was going to disturb the site." (sic) He said Host Development "certainly had no intent to make such a swath" through the steeply sloped site in an environmental overlay zone.

According to the city staff report, such a zone protects "environmental resources and functional values that have been identified by the city as providing benefits to the public."

George Lampus, a real estate broker representing the property owner, Panagula Investment Co. and Mary Maletis LLC, said after the hearing that they would "love to sell the property" but also acknowledged potential high site development costs a new owner would face before any construction could begin. He added the owners had offered the site for sale to land conservation groups, but had no takers.

## MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS (Are there any other kind?)

### CELEBRATE EARTH DAY



To commemorate Earth Day, North Portland neighborhoods can clean up their communities by participating in an area-wide initiative on April 22. Headquarters for this effort will be at

St. John Lutheran Church at 4227 N. Lombard. Residents are encouraged to bring unwanted but reusable items. Wood, yard debris, tires, household junk and items for ARC will be accepted. Please, NOT accepted will be: kitchen garbage, hazardous waste and construction debris. Hours for this site will be from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Volunteers are needed and they are guaranteed to be treated like royalty!

For more information about royal treatment and participation in North Portland's Earth Day clean-up, call Mary Jaron Kelley at 503-823-4099 or email her at [mkelley@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:mkelley@ci.portland.or.us)

### FREE MONEY FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Cash in on the North Portland Trust Fund with a project to benefit the Overlook neighborhood. Sometimes called noise guilt money, the NPTF is mitigation moolah made available by the Portland International Raceway to underwrite projects benefiting North Portland communities. Since PIR can't turn the noise level down, they graciously underwrite community projects as atonement for their dissonant sins. It is anticipated that \$30,000 will be made available to assist groups and individuals in implementing community projects in North Portland. If you would like to apply for a grant on behalf of your neighborhood association, business association, school, parent group, church or other community group, run, do not walk, to get an application either via email at [npons@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:npons@ci.portland.or.us), or by calling Tom Griffin-Valade at 503-823-4524. Applications are due no later than March 9, 2006.



Good thing  
about large pages  
Words can sip space  
leaving some cups empty



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### INTERSTATE FARMERS' MARKET

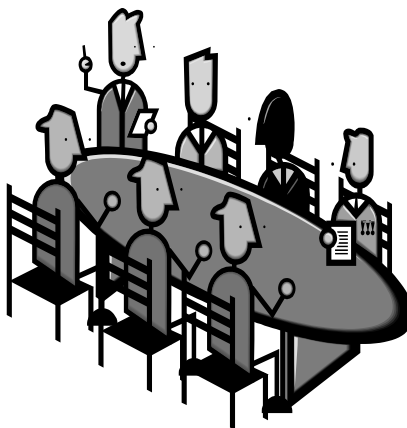
By Warren Cassell

Shall we start the countdown now? If you miss being able to purchase those superb locally grown fruits and veggies in virtually your backyard, help will soon be on hand. Our farmers' market will be open for business starting Wednesday afternoon May 10 and will continue for a twenty-two week season, ending on September 27. And the big news from the "If it ain't broke, don't fix it department": the IFM will remain at the south end of Overlook Park, adjacent to the Kaiser Permanente West building. With the expectation of additional vendors, plans are afoot to move some of the market activities directly into the park beyond the traffic circle.

Incidentally, the market would not be back if it weren't for the hard work of so many folks last year including, but not limited to, Ronna Seavey, Cynthia Sulaski and Warren Cassell, who served on the Interstate Farmers Market Advisory Group. In addition, there was an incredible core group of market volunteers from Overlook. Of course, the market couldn't have been a success unless all of you had made it a habit to stop by to purchase fresh and delicious local fruits, vegetables, cheeses, breads and assorted other tasty edibles; purchase gorgeous flowers; learn more about your community, health and nutrition; and enjoy chef demonstrations and live music performances. Look for more details about IFM—Year 2 in the next Overlook Views.

### TASK FORCE POSITION OPEN

The Willamette Industrial Area Urban Renewal Area Task Force (Can you say that quickly three times in a row?) is seeking one solid citizen, male or female, to join their group for the purpose of assisting in establishing long-term priorities on how money (tax increment financing) should be spent in the Willamette Industrial Urban Renewal Area (WIURA). Generally, the purpose of the WIURA is to "stimulate new private and industrial and manufacturing investments" to encourage new jobs and business growth. Participation in the task force would require two 2 hour meetings a month with a total of ten meetings anticipated. Some of the issues addressed will include business assistance, environmental clean-up, and infrastructure improvements. If interested, call Carolyn Sharp, Public Participation Coordinator at 503-823-3220, or send an email to her at [SharpC@pdc.us](mailto:SharpC@pdc.us).



Seventeen syllables  
can encompass  
an expansive  
range of thought

### 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.  
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### OVERLOOK VIEWS

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Do you Haiku?  
If so—go to  
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