

OVERLOOK VIEWS

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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 2

Do you feel “community” in Overlook? – this is the second of a series looking at what it means to have a sense of community, where it’s found in Overlook, and how we can do better (consider ‘how it can be improved’).

Now that that Spring is here, take a walk around the neighborhood – you will find neighbors out gardening, kids playing ball, and friends lending one another helping hands. There are many aspects that make up community in Overlook and not one alone can create that feeling. Many people have different perceptions about the meaning of sense of community. One definition is "a feeling members have of belonging; a feeling that members matter to one another and the group, and a shared faith that member’s needs will be met through their commitment to be together". In Overlook, many know that if they are having a hard time, neighbors will be able to help out.

There are four main elements that compose our sense of community:

Membership – We become members of our community when we feel emotionally secure, personally invested and have a sense of belonging or identification. Overlook has a diverse population that includes a healthy mix of beliefs, ethnicities, age-groups, and lifestyles that co-exist together. Yet everyone comes together to support the Overlook House, the Parent-Child network, Beach School, the annual Tree Planting, Our United Villages, the farmers market... and the list goes on.

Influence – We should feel that our opinion can have influence over what the group does. The most influential people within a group are those who acknowledge the importance of other people’s needs, values and opinions. Anyone who has attended a few Neighborhood Association meetings knows that if you have the time and energy, you can have an impact.

Integration and Fulfillment of Goals – We should feel that we are rewarded for our participation. This is fundamental to maintaining a sense of community. It could be as simple as a pat on the back or a public recognition at a community meeting. Here’s a great example: *Each year, SOLV's Project Oregon program honors five projects with an award. The "Cleanup Overlook House" project, coordinated by Linda Gorg, was selected as one of this year's winners. Gov. Kulongoski is expected to present the award later this year.*

Shared Emotional Connection – The final element that seems to be the defining feature for most people to experience a true sense of community is that we have a shared emotional connection. There are many ways for this to happen. Having common goals or shared history facilitates this shared connection. Some of these connections were highlighted at the recent Oral History project held at Beach School.

What stories will we be telling 25 years from now?

ONCE UPON A TIME...IN THIS PLACE

By Zita Podany



Storytelling is as old as time itself – the elders passing on their knowledge to the young ones in hopes that voices of those long

hushed are heard for centuries to come. So much is lost, so much needs to be recorded of what remains. The folly of youth is they don’t recognize the importance of recording the tales told to them by grandma, grandpa or that older neighbor down the street. Everyone has a story to tell. The remembered threads all weave a collection of fascinating events that history books fail to capture, the characters that play center stage in our lives, the people we meet, the buildings we

occupy, the work we do, all provide grist for the history mill.

Imagine a room filled to capacity on a bleak Saturday in February where people have gathered to hear stories from the neighborhood. Over 70 neighbors came together at Beach Elementary on the morning of February 18, 2006 to hear stories about Overlook neighborhood. Stories you might see as a footnote in history books were given life in the voices of those brave enough to step onto center stage (both figuratively and literally speaking).

There was Alan the “answer man” who has lived in the neighborhood for 55 years. He remembered how in 1962 the Columbus Day Storm rolled in, how the sky turned brown, and he and his friend raced home from school. They climbed a tree from which they had a panoramic view of Swan Island. They were determined to watch the storm come in. But soon it was time to go

home and eat dinner. That evening the winds increased and they ended up going to their neighbor’s basement to wait out the storm. The next day they found that trees covered their house.

A picture on the wall in the Beach Elementary auditorium also had a story behind it. It seemed more of a round robin story as those who remembered added bits and pieces to the facts. The picture came from CS Price and while the auditorium was being remodeled the picture was taken to the Portland Public School Administration building. It took a lot of cajoling by members of the neighborhood to have the picture returned to Beach Elementary once the remodeling was finished.

Someone else remembered the importance of neighborhood schools and how the meat market owner on the corner of Alberta and Interstate played his part watching over the kids as they crossed Interstate. He knew the neighborhood kids and he knew their parents -- a combination that worked well to discourage skipping school. (Continued on page 2.)

ONCE UPON A TIME (Cont'd)

Folks in the auditorium nodded their heads in agreement when statements were made lamenting the phenomenon of skipping school or dropping out, and stressing how important neighborhood schools are to students' future success.

Mary Lou, who has lived in North Portland since 1969, recounted the Training Center at Swan Island. The Reserve Center was in the former Child Care Center which was originally built for the shipyard workers. It was octagonal-shaped with eight buildings. The center courtyard was a covered play area. Later this center was used as housing for Vanport flood victims. She remembered that the drill deck was made from wooden planks.

Elizabeth moved into the neighborhood in 1973, into the house her grandfather built. She remembered that a time capsule was buried at Beach Elementary and that the colors of Beach were green and gold.

Others mentioned the airport at Swan Island and that historical markers exist around the island. A few chuckles emanated from the crowd when someone said that we should check our historical facts with the McDonalds on Swan Island which has on display early pictures of the airport.

Trolleys as a mode of transportation, Lewis and Clark camping at Swan Island, cattle on Denver being led to the slaughterhouse—all paint a picture of a different time and place. Overlook Blvd. and Shaver was a trolley turn-around and hence its odd shape. Madrona Hill was named after the Madrona trees, now classified as heritage trees.

Mrs. Shioke and her husband operated the Publix Market—a Japanese Market, now long gone but remembered fondly by those who knew of its existence in its heyday. Back then, Beach Elementary bought its produce from the Publix.

The area around Ockley Green also has some fascinating tidbits. An underground passageway was built for school children so they could cross Interstate Avenue safely. At one time it was a pony express station and was also a little town.

The stories continued to swirl: Mrs. Ravens, the Ravens dairy, Buttermilk corner; a stream lost when Going was widened; playing on log rafts on Swan Island; Overlook Park, originally a dump, freezing over in the winter; kids would skate on it; it glowed with pink flames at night from the methane gas. There were fond memories of the Christmas crèche on display outside the firehouse on Interstate Avenue. Someone also remembered the old St Johns Road that turned into Greeley Avenue, not without its controversy.

As we munched on lasagna provided by the Our United Villages organization, we marveled over the scrapbooks and photos that were on display from the personal collections of Overlook neighbors.

This enlightening event was truly a community gathering together around a common theme: hear a story, know who your neighbors are and work together to make today's story a better one to tell tomorrow. That's the goal that Our United Villages had in mind when they sponsored this event. Bravo!



IS THIS YOUR SIDEWALK?

By Warren Cassell

If any of the photo montage on the right depicts the state of your sidewalk you may want to read on. At the risk of sounding like a doom-gloomer, I think it is important to remember that if a litigious walker or a litigious small child should trip, you could become the object of a lawsuit. If the photo below is more representative of your sidewalk, enjoy being worry free. Now back to square one. Many people believe that the city is responsible for the repair and maintenance of sidewalks. Not true. According to the City Charter, "In the event timely repairs are not made by the property owner, the Bureau of Maintenance hires a private contractor to make the repairs and bills the property owner for the costs."



This article is directed toward property owners who have neglected their sidewalks for reasons of finance, ignorance of the liabilities, or inertia. Help is at hand from the Overlook Neighborhood Association. OKNA has appointed a Sidewalk Repair Coordinator who will find a contractor with the best price to repair your sidewalk. This effort will be a neighborhood wide cooperative endeavor in which the contractors will bid on the total number of sidewalks needing repair with a price that will apply to all of the sidewalks individually.

If you are interested in participating, here's how it will work. First, you need to measure the square footage of your sidewalk in disrepair. With this information at hand, you call or email Joe Hoffman, our new Sidewalk Repair Coordinator, and he will record the number of square feet needed, along with your name and phone. He will collect this information from all Overlook residents who would like to take advantage of this plan. Joe, in turn, will put out to bid the total number of square feet needing repair and will accept the best possible price. He



will have an understanding with the successful bidder that the price will apply to all individual sidewalks no matter how many will eventually agree to have their sidewalks repaired. The successful bidder would then be given the list of homeowners in the plan, and he would follow up with arrangements to do the work. At this point OKNA would then be out of the loop. The responsibility for the work and payment will be between the individual home owners and the chosen contractor.

This plan will be a quick, efficient and less costly way to get your sidewalk to look like picture number two. ALSO, it's a good example of how the neighborhood working together cooperatively can benefit individual residents!! The deadline for getting your sidewalk repair requirements to Joe Hoffman is May 20. He can be reached at 503-335-8456 or email joe-hoffman@comcast.net. He will try to get bids by the end of May with the selected contractor calling you sometime in early June.

OUR ONGOING QUEST...

By Barbara Brooks

In the last issue of the Overlook Views, OKNA'S co-chairs Ethan Edwards and Tom Kilbane closed their thought provoking article "Finding Community in Overlook" with the following question:

"Do you feel community in Overlook? Take a moment to think about it."

I am responding to the opportunity they offered and here are my thoughts:

I feel community in Overlook when year after year my son comes home with a sheet full of sponsors or sales collected from our neighbors for his public school fundraisers, and one year he wins the top prize.

I feel community when we rent an edger and my husband uses up the four hours edging our neighbors' lawns.

I feel community when I find a bag of Overlook Newsletters on our porch and within a week our family and a few neighbor kids get to deliver it.

I feel community when we have our street picnic for National Night Out. And especially when we get invited to other street picnics as well.

I feel community when I see a strapping, handsome boy of 17 graduate from high school and can remember him when he was four greeting me at his screen door.

I feel community when mothers I used to see every week when our children were under five get together for a cocktail, now, instead of coffee.

My feelings of community wane when I don't see or interact with the same mothers except for that half yearly cocktail because our children go to so many different schools.

My feelings of community wane when I go to a neighborhood event and see parents and children I don't know because our kids go to so many different schools.

My feelings of community wane when I spend my afternoons driving my kids to activities lamenting the "olden days" of my youth when my sixth grade teacher coached volleyball, baseball, and square dancing right after school, and I found my soul walking home from school every day.

My feelings of community wane at the low level of "neighborhood play" because our kids go to so many different schools.

I feel community when I see people from the neighborhood on MAX, at the Overlook Restaurant, at the Farmers Market.

I feel community when my politically active neighbor invites a group of neighbors to her home to discuss a political issue.

I feel community at OKNA Neighborhood Meetings.

I feel community when my son's friends from school who live in motels knock on our door and I can invite them in.

I feel community when we invite schoolmates to a birthday party and I can relax with the fact that I don't know some of their parents. I am also graced with the opportunity to teach my children that people are gifts when not everyone can bring a present.

I feel community in Overlook because it gives me a chance to take up the hammer and break down the walls around myself that keep me from finding community in economic and social diversity.

I want to feel more community. So I will keep working at it.



KEEPING HOUSE

A VILLAGE CONCEPT WITH A VISION—ENABLING ELDERS TO AGE IN THE COMFORT OF THEIR OWN HOMES

By Sarah Friedel

Part 1.

It is true that in Overlook there are a growing number of strollers, Burley child carriers, and moms walking kids to Beach School. But there are also many Overlook residents who get mail regularly from AARP. While AARP's slick monthly feels like People Magazine for seniors with its focus on "aging" Hollywood icons such as Goldie Hawn, the tabloid-style AARP Bulletin is full of substance.

Arriving in Overlook mailboxes on Dec. 10 was a Bulletin article that got the attention of everyone having an aging parent living on the razor's edge of safety. It was noticed by all with parents in retirement centers or assisted living. Folks who acknowledge the uncertainty of where they themselves will live when living gets overly dangerous and difficult -- these people, too, pushed aside the holiday cards, postponed the shopping, quit baking Christmas cookies, and sat down to read.

The headline proclaimed, "Long-Term Care Declaration of Independents: Home is where you want to live forever. Here's how." The first paragraph introduced a revolutionary concept, of, by, and for the people, that is enabling aging Bostonians to stay in their historic, multi-story Beacon Hill row-houses long past the time when, in another neighborhood, say Overlook, they would have been forced into retirement centers, assisted living facilities, or even nursing homes. What allows this independence, even for folks requiring a high degree of practical assistance, is Beacon Hill Village, an innovative organization that serves as an all-encompassing concierge to meet the needs of its members as they grow older, slower, less mobile, and more vulnerable.

A 75-year old Beacon Hill Village member, John Sears, who was profiled in a follow-up article in the Feb. 9 New York Times, still managed to look after himself in his five-story-tall, one-room-deep house after he was hit by a taxicab and left with a broken knee. He required transportation to and from the hospital, an advocate at medical appointments, home-delivered meals from his favorite restaurants, someone at his side as he hobbled to the bank and the barber, and someone else to install grab bars in his bathroom. He needed people to look in on him, and a way to summon help in an emergency. Without this assistance, he could not remain alone at home.

All Mr. Sears' needs and more were supplied by "The Village." Staffed by a social worker-director and two other full-time employees, Beacon Hill Village sends service providers quickly to members in need: from plumbers to computer advisors to 24-hour nursing care -- or just someone to help insert a cat into a cat-carrier. Careful screening of all service providers has already been done by the Village. Not only do Village employees provide information and referrals, they also telephone members to verify that each job is performed satisfactorily.

Members pay for most services, generally discounted from 10 to 50 per cent from the going rate. The Village also offers a number of free benefits, such as weekly car service to the grocery, exercise classes, and health clinics, all of which take place in neighborhood churches, schools, and a community center.

Besides having their practical needs met, Village members enjoy social offerings -- most of which they also pay for -- lectures, weekly lunches in a local restaurant, plays, concerts, museum visits, and day trips. Members' social horizons continue to sparkle and expand, not dim and shrink as is often the case when seniors quit driving, stop walking to the bus stop, and start living life through the TV.

Any resident of the Beacon Hill or Back Bay neighborhoods aged 50 or older can apply for Village membership, which costs \$550 a year per person, \$750 a year per couple, and \$100 a year for lower-income residents, who also get a \$250 credit toward services. The Village employs persons who charge as little as \$15 an hour for odd jobs. In many cases, remaining at home and using the Village's à la carte services is much cheaper than assisted living. Even if someone becomes ill enough to need 24-hour care or other expensive services, and the total costs equal those of a nursing home, **there is one big difference: you are in your own home.**

According to Judy Willett, the Village's social worker-executive director, even though all members are entitled to highly personalized attention, the tiny staff, which operates out of a one-room neighborhood office, has never been overwhelmed because only about a third of the members call the Village frequently. Many draw mainly on the social offerings.

Beacon Hill Village was conceived by a core group of 12 neighborhood residents who all wanted to remain at home while avoiding dependence on adult children. Most of the founders are Harvard alumni, many are trustees of Boston cultural institutions, and their Harvard Business School friends gave them a lot of free advice. With their connections at Massachusetts General Hospital, they arranged access and timely appointments for Village members to an otherwise-closed geriatric practice. To subsidize memberships for 63 neighbors whose annual incomes were below \$45,000, they enlisted foundations. Large start-up donations came from original members, who continue to contribute money to the Village, which in February had 340 members ages 52 to 98. The Village now has an annual budget of \$300,000 and a stable of established service providers.

An obvious question is whether a Beacon Hill Village is possible in less privileged communities. Besides dues and donations, financial help must be sought from foundations. State and federal monies might be available from pilot programs supporting the elderly at home; in some states, Medicaid provides vouchers for home care services instead of for nursing homes. Multiple communities (for example, Overlook, Arbor Lodge, Beaumont and Irvington) could combine to form a village.

KEEPING HOUSE GROWING OLDER IN OVERLOOK NOW

Part 2.

So far, nobody has come along and said they want to crown their Golden Years with a move to a retirement center. They don't want to move their parents into one either. People would rather talk about almost anything else. Still, four neighbors, Bob Lasich on Skidmore, Zonnie Swann on Castle, and Freda Walker



Freda and John Walker: John was one year old when Freda began caring for her bed-ridden father round-the-clock at home.

and Mary Stachniewicz on Concord, agreed to consider the subject and some of its tangents for a little while.

Freda has about 15 years until retirement. This past October, she buried her dad, Jimmy "Bang-Bang" Walker. At Jimmy's funeral at Jefferson High School, friends and family ex-

tolled the way Freda cared for him at home for five years. "The biggest challenge," she says, "was the infringement on my personal time. Additionally, I took care of my parent while raising a young child at the same time. A Beacon Hill Village might have helped in the first two years or so, because during that time, he attended an adult day-care. At first he was resistant but he actually enjoyed the companionship."

Advantages of Overlook for the aging, according to Freda, include the kindness of neighbors and business owners in the area, as well as proximity to light rail. She observes



Zonnie Swann: Zonnie ran an all-purpose concierge service in the Overlook area.

that a Beacon Hill Village-type effort would be challenged by the mobility of newer families who move in and out, buy and sell in 3-5 years.

Zonnie, who has scaled back work to part-time, stays in close touch with her mother. "A very active 81," her mother drives herself in her San Francisco Bay neighborhood (not on the freeway) to do daily errands, relying on friends for

transportation to evening events. People check in on her regularly. "She would never want to leave her home. She's been there since 1961. If we need to, we will find someone to live there with her," said Zonnie. (Continued next page)

(KEEPING HOUSE (Cont'd)

Living in a retirement center, Zonnie thinks, "would depress me. Maybe because it would serve as a constant reminder of my age. I think it's better to be around younger people." Also, the frequency and regularity of deaths in all-senior communities would be difficult to endure. "I get attached to people. I don't like it when people die."

Zonnie's interest in the Beacon Hill Village concept is more informed than most people's, in that for a time she ran her own concierge service. One of her clients was an elderly lady in the Piedmont/Wilshire neighborhood with no family in Portland. "Her cat had to go to the vet and there was no way she could carry it." On the same trip, Zonnie picked up her client's prescriptions at Hollywood Rite-Aid and then stopped by QVC and shopped for a few groceries. "I made one big circle," she said. "It's natural to help folks. Almost everything I did for people was already part of my real life. We all have the same needs."

Retired fireman Bob knows the powerlessness of the elderly and infirm from the many 911 calls to which he has responded: people falling out of bed, stuck on the toilet, stuck between the toilet and the sink, and so on. The embarrassment factor prevents people from asking friends, neighbors or relatives for help in such circumstances.

When his wife Patty's mom was no longer able to care for herself at home, even with daily visitations of Patty and her sisters, the family moved her to Assumption Village, her home for two years before her death a year ago. Bob said they saw immediate improvement in her physical and mental condition within a week of her move to Assumption, which they credited to increased activity and to the medicines that she actually took because attendants always made sure. "Patty or her sisters could leave the pills right there on the counter, and Mom would say she'd take them, and the next morning they'd still be there."



Mary Stachniewicz, Bob and Patty Lasich (and Lucy the lab): Mary, Bob and Patty have been friends and neighbors for 30 years.

Bob hopes he can be stimulated to stay alert and healthy without moving to a retirement center. "It's depressing. People sitting in chairs being old. And there's a certain

aroma." He doesn't have the magic formula though. "A lot of it is a HOPE. I want to have the mental clarity and physical ability to make it to the end. And I don't want to be a burden on my kids."

One Overlook neighbor who is experiencing what Bob, Patty, Zonnie, and Freda can only anticipate is the lovely Mary "Stack." Mary is still able to live alone because two of her three children, daughters Sharon and Karen, both work at Kaiser Interstate, so they stop by Mom's with groceries and to offer assistance. Mary fixes her own meals. "Not three big ones, but I do eat three times."

Empowered by a sunny outlook, Mary walks regularly to MAX for trips to Fred Meyer and Rite-Aid. "I'm just a little too far from it (MAX)," she said. "The hardest thing is when I need medicine right away."

Neighbors help this warm and gracious lady. From the corner of Skidmore, Mary suddenly spots her newly mown lawn halfway up the block. "Oh! He mowed my lawn and I didn't even have to ask." Her yard angel is George White, who lives across the footbridge by Beach School. "He put me at the top of his list!" she smiles.

Pondering who she might enlist when she needs a handyman around the house, she says nothing but points straight at Bob Lasich, her friend of 30 years. Mary, Bob and Patty all attended Blessed Sacrament together for mass and parish social events.

Evening functions rarely draw Mary out anymore. "I never feel safe at night all alone, and I hate to be a 'Gimme ride.'" She has space limitations inside her house, too. "I don't go UP, and I don't go DOWN."

Even though she knows they are glad to help her, she is concerned about putting too much responsibility on her daughters. To the girls she says, "You can't keep doing for me and eliminating yourself."

She asks them for as little as possible. On this blustery spring day, Mary's cheerful Christmas decorations brighten the living room and dining room. (The decorations need to go UP.) Mary brushes off the idea that a neighbor might pack Santa and his friends back upstairs. "How important is it really?" is part of Mary's recipe for contentment.



KEEPING HOUSE GROWING OLDER IN OVERLOOK THE FUTURE?

Part 3..

Aging Overlook residents are getting to be a larger and larger population in need of a meaningful alternative to assisted living and nursing homes. From conversations with these seniors, I sense a readiness for them and many others to embrace the "Village Concept" exemplified by the Beacon Hill initiative.

Fortunately for those interested in pursuing the subject, Beacon Hill Village encourages imitations and has just published a how-to manual: ideas and approaches that worked, dead ends and mistakes to avoid, and marketing approaches, forms, letters and contracts the village has used so far. The manual is expensive (\$300) because it is used as a fund raising device for Beacon Hill. However, it would serve literally as a "bible" for a core group of citizens eager to attempt creating a facsimile of Beacon Hill in Overlook's back yard.

Maybe after reading this article, some of you would like to become a part of that core group.

Others may not want to be that active initially, but would be interested in participating down the road. Whether active now or later, many of you would perhaps like to make a modest donation toward purchasing the manual.

If you would like additional information or would like to participate in KEEPING HOUSE in Overlook either as part of the core group or later on, please get in touch with me: Sarah Friedel,

Telephone: 503-284-5715
Email: srfried@teleport.com
US Mail: 1628 N. Prescott, PDX, 97217

If you would like to make a donation toward the purchase of the manual, send your check made out to Overlook Neighborhood Association, c/o Warren Cassell, 4037 N. Overlook Terrace, PDX, 97227.

Here are the websites which provided information on Beacon Hill Village:

- 1) http://www.aarp.org/bulletin/longterm/declaration_independents.html
- 2) <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/02/09/garden/09care.html?ex=1143349200&en=940fefafeb901ade&ei=5070>
- 3) <http://www.beaconhillvillage.org/>

SEVENTH ANNUAL TREE PLANTING A SUCCESS By Cynthia Sulaski



To respectfully borrow the U.S. Postal Service's famous inscription, neither snow, nor rain, nor freezing cold of morning stayed our volunteers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds -- planting trees! On Saturday, February 18, approximately 80 people helped plant 68 trees throughout our neighborhood, graciously "overlooking" the cold and wind of the day. Besides the many Overlook residents who helped, volunteers came from other neighborhoods in North, Northeast, and Southeast Portland. Hillsboro too!

During this seventh planting, we surpassed the 500 mark – 518 trees to be exact. Kaiser Permanente donated (for the seventh time) space for our staging area, as well as staff and refreshments. Adidas was the corporate Friends of Trees sponsor for our planting. In addition, we again received financial donations from **Richard** and **Anne De Wolf** at Arciform and **Connie Selleck** at DC Custom Silk Screening; pastry donation from **Pat DiPrima-LeConche** at DiPrima Dolci Italian Bakery; and truck, mulch and labor donation from **Kevin, Kai and Liem MacKenzie** at Overlook Tree Preservation. We also received a grant from Metro, which helped reduce the owners' cost for each tree.

In addition, we want to recognize Holy Redeemer Catholic School Pack 417/Bears and Webelos Dens for their planting help and **Glenn Birdsall** for his truck driving help to pick up the trees from three nurseries. Lastly, Friends of Trees—we could never have planted so many trees over the years without their great staff, volunteers and expertise!

Look for our announcement in September

about our eighth tree planting. It's never too late to plant a tree!





REAL ESTATE UPDATE PORTLAND/OVERLOOK



An overview of the Portland Metropolitan area as of the end of February 2006 shows that the average market time was 45 days, compared to 58 days for February 2005. It appears that the market is topping off, with pending sales, closed sales and new listings all down a bit from a year ago. In North Portland there were 186 active listings (including 139 new ones) in February, 124 pending sales and 87 closed sales with an average sales price of \$233,500. The appreciation rate is 20% for the past year (second highest in the Metro area). Listed below are sales in Overlook since the last newsletter.

RECENT OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

ADDRESS	BED/ BATH	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	DAYS ON MAR- KET
4668 N. Campbell Ave.	3/1.1	\$199,000	\$122,500	11
5825 N. Boston Ave.	2/1	249,900	244,500	4
2134 N. Humboldt Ave.	3/1	269,000	245,000	46
5426 N. Maryland Ave.	3/1	279,900	250,000	11
5635 N. Denver Ave.	3/2	259,500	250,000	106
1521 N. Humboldt St.	2/1	265,000	260,000	109
5523 N. Detroit Ave.	3/1	279,000	260,000	72
1645 N. Humboldt St.	4/1	289,900	280,000	110
2325 N. Willamette Blvd.	3/2	299,900	301,000	124
3945 N. Massachusetts Ave.	4/3	310,000	300,000	7
2214 N. Skidmore Ct.	4/1.1	330,000	337,000	---
2045 N. Alberta St.	3/1.1	379,000	379,000	1
1904 N. Skidmore St.	4/2	444,900	433,000	74

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor

Thank you for the excellent and eminently readable article about the 4031 N. Overlook Terrace house (“A Perfect Portland

Provenance”) in the March/April 2006 issue of Overlook Views. Here are a few additional facts about the property and my own reflections as to its origin. Neighborhood lore has long held that this house was once part of the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition, likely one of the “state” buildings. For example, engineer Roy Young who was born about 1910 at 4048 N. Overlook Terrace (two houses north of the subject property, who later built the houses at 4049 and 4037 N. Overlook Terrace, and who lived at the latter address (directly across the street from the subject) from the late ‘40’s until his death in 1983, always maintained that the house was ferried across the river and sited at its present location in 1911.

Some have thought that it was once the “Lincoln” house (the Illinois State building), or the Massachusetts State building. It is well documented, however, that these two buildings were destined for other locations. The Illinois State building was eventually acquired by designer Eric Ladd and moved to SW 20th & Jefferson Street where it stood unoccupied until demolished in 1995. The Massachusetts State building was moved by Dr. Henry Waldo Coe, to 6650 SE Scott Drive in Mt. Tabor to serve as a sanatorium. It later passed to other ownerships, deteriorated, and was torn down in 1942.

There were eleven state buildings at the Exposition, one each from: CA, CO, ID, IL, MA, ME, MI, NY, OR, UT, and WA. A careful examination of multiple photographs of these structures (in the collection of the Oregon Historical Society) does not support the case for any one of them being the subject property.

The facts that we have about the actual construction of the Overlook Terrace property, which consists of two lots, are few. Fannie Watson purchased one of the lots from the Overlook Land Company in 1905 for \$1,100. On October 24, 1910, George and

Fannie Watson purchased the adjoining lot from Carolen Bateson.

Throughout his life, George Watson was a carpenter, according to his obituary. He must have substantially finished the Overlook Terrace house before acquiring the second lot, since a plumbing permit dates the first inspection as February 9, 1910. The permit describes the building as “2 story frame. New.”

A likely theory is that George Watson was well aware that materials from demolition of the Exposition’s buildings were available after 1905 at bargain prices and used these to construct the Overlook Terrace house. The contractors who built the Exposition’s buildings (could Watson have been one of the workers?) were also supposed to demolish them after the Exposition closed (“all materials belonging to the contractor”). But demolition was protracted. A 1920 photograph shows the Montgomery Ward (now Montgomery Park) building under construction between two Exposition buildings—the Forestry Center on one side, the Oregon State building on the other. Contractors were probably eager to sell materials from demolished buildings at rock bottom prices to anyone who would haul the material away.

(Continued next page.)

(LETTERS cont'd)

One of the few unifying features of the Exposition's different buildings was the prolific use of columns—Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. In extant photos one can count between 50-100 such columns—even on the first aid station and the American Inn, perhaps reflecting the influence of James Knox Taylor, architect of the U.S. Treasury who designed the Exposition's U.S. Government building and others, and later provided his employer with post offices with classical facades.

In any event, I suspect that George Watson saw a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire some of the columns and brought to the Overlook neighborhood the four that continue to grace the remarkable Overlook Terrace home.

Bob La Du
4049 Overlook Terrace

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Neighbors
We wanted to share with you our opinion of the Eden Garden Development project slated to be built at 1542-1552 N Kill-

ingsworth Street. We live on Killingsworth across the street from the proposed development. We are concerned about the scope and magnitude of the building. The developers had a meeting with surrounding neighbors on January 31st, but only gave one day's notice of the meeting. We received the flyer the night before the meeting. They also presented their plans at the February Overlook Neighborhood Association General Meeting, where the neighborhood approved the proposal of building a 5-story condo development through a vote. We feel that not all the voices of the neighborhood were heard that night because the Overlook Board had given out the wrong general meeting agenda, and it wasn't corrected until the Sunday before the meeting.

We are opposed to such a large building being put on that site. It will be the largest building in the near vicinity, and the residents nearby would be living in a fishbowl. We are not against the owners developing the site, we would just prefer something that would fit better into the neighborhood, and be only 3 stories. We went out and talked to our neighbors, and we had over 30 people sign a petition against the 5-story proposal. The developer has been asked to present his proposal again at the May 16th neighborhood association meeting. This will be your chance to voice your opinion. There could also possibly be a motion made at that meeting to take another vote. Please come out and let the developer know what you think.

Amy Altenberger, Matt Cudworth, Tanner Spaulding and Michaela Flores

**UNION PACIFIC REVISITED—BUT THIS IS NO JOKE!**

By Warren Cassell

Perhaps it wouldn't be such a bad idea after all, for UP to move their Albina freight yards somewhere else. At least, the Overlook neighborhood would be a bit safer from potential harm. In mid-March I was visiting my favorite place in the neighborhood, Mock's Crest Park (see page 9), and noticed a large repair crew using heavy duty equipment in an effort to put three derailed cars back on the track. I thought it would make an interesting photo for the newsletter so I went home, retrieved my camera and returned to take the accompanying picture.

I then started thinking, "What if?" What if those three freight cars contained explosive, noxious, combustible or other hazardous materials? What kind of pickle would Overlook be in if this had been the case? This seemed, literally, too close to home. I thought I might be able to get an answer or two from Union Pacific and called Mark Davis, their director of regional public relations, who refused to give me an email address to send an inquiry. He said he couldn't let me have that information for "security reasons." I then accessed UP's website and sent him an email raising several concerns. An excerpt from that letter follows:

"Dear Mr. Davis,

I am not quite sure why you told me this afternoon that giving a UP email address to a concerned citizen who has questions about a derailment would be a security problem. You are listed on the UP web site and there is a place to click on "Send e-mail." I am sure that my sending an email to you would not result in disruption of train schedules, harm to UP personnel or equipment, or any other nefarious activity covered under the rubric of "security."

As a concerned homeowner who lives adjacent to UP property, I would appreciate answers to several questions:

1. How frequently does UP have derailment problems in the Albina freight yards? How many per year involving how many freight cars?
 2. What percentage of trains moving in and out of Albina freight yards contains hazardous material? By hazardous, I mean noxious or poisonous gas as well as flammable or explosive materials.
 3. What special precautions are taken with freight cars containing hazardous materials?
 4. What training for handling hazardous materials is required of your employees at Albina and how frequently are they required to undergo this training?
- Finally, how much assurance can you give me that UP has enough controls in place so that a massive conflagration of fire and poison is simply not possible in the Albina freight yards which are part of the Overlook neighborhood where I live."

As of the second week of April, I haven't heard from Mr. Davis or anyone else at Union Pacific, and the potential danger from the proximity of their freight yards to their residential neighbors in Overlook still exists. As for UP's arrogance in not responding to an inquiry from a concerned neighbor, well, that's just beyond belief!

ONLINE ANSWERS ABOUT YOUR MOST EXPENSIVE INVESTMENT

By Warren Cassell

If you would like to find the latest skinny on your home's value, zoning, (on-the-record) improvements plus much arcane information you'll never ever use, go online to portland-maps.com. There, simply enter your address, or if you feel wicked, enter your neighbor's. The next screen will give you a map showing the location of your house in relation to other residents in the immediate vicinity and it will also show your property boundaries. In addition, this screen indicates the market and assessed values of your home and more information such as your taxes, year built, etc.



But of course, you knew all that anyway. Then go to the top of your screen and click on the word, "assessor." This brings up considerably more tax and assessment history as well as additional important information which you might want to use in a home bragging contest. If you return to the line with word "assessor" you will see several other tabs to click on—all of them designed to tell you more about the relationship between your property and nearby parks, schools, development, etc. Most of the information about your home and its environs found on this site will be fairly accurate. Not all though. However, it is a useful tool when you are thinking about buying or selling a home.

THE BIG, UGLY POLES

(An unwelcome and uninvited neighborhood landmark)

By Jerry Lindsay

The large utility poles, recently erected to the neighborhood's surprise and dismay at the intersection of Killingsworth Ave and Willamette Blvd., still stand, blighting our greenway bluff, but hopefully for not too long.

The Overlook Neighborhood Association has been working steadfastly to reach an agreement with PGE and the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) on an alternative route for the power to supply the new "Big Pipe" pump station on Swan Island, thus allowing this eyesore to be removed from its ill-chosen perch.

After the initial outcry from the neighborhood, the City told PGE that a 'use determination' would be required before work on the power line could continue. The Bureau of Development Services (BDS) ruled that it was not a 'use' that is regulated by the City of Portland's zoning code. As a result of this, OKNA filed a Notice of Intent to Appeal this use determination to the State Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA).

In the meantime, a series of on-going meetings have been hosted by Commissioner Sam Adams' office (which oversees BES) with representatives from BES, PGE and OKNA. These meetings are a good faith effort by all parties involved to restore the breach of trust created by the failure of PGE and BES to notify the neighborhood of their plans and to find an alternative solution. Given the need to power up the pump station by this September, it is likely that the bluff route will be used, at least temporarily.

If you want to express your concern about the poles, and if you would like to express your support for OKNA's efforts to urge PGE to do the right thing, here's how to do it: Please call or write to Commissioner Adams and tell him you want the City and PGE to find a better route for this power line.

Office of City Commissioner Sam Adams
1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 220
Portland, OR 97204

Phone: (503) 823-3008
Fax: (503) 823-3017

e-mail: commissionersam@ci.portland.or.us

Note of course, that politicians usually have a better ear for the voice of the people during election season. So, do it now before you forget. Your community will be grateful. Thanks.



**A group of good people called OKNA
Has moxie that surely might shock ya
When PGE's pole didn't strike us as droll
We said --move or—
We'll find laws to atokya**

ILLEGAL SIGNS OF THE TIMES

By Warren Cassell

Graffiti, sometimes called "street art," but more often referred to as just plain vandalism, has been recurring with greater frequency around the neighborhood. The best way to deal with this aesthetic annoyance is to get rid of it as soon as possible. That doesn't mean you personally have to get out a bucket and scrub brush (that will work too), but if you call the graffiti hotline at 503-823-4824 they generally respond quite promptly. You can also go online at www.portlandonline.com/oni (select "report a graffiti problem"), and that will work too. You can also send digital photos (no larger than 2 Mega-pixels) to the Graffiti Abatement Coordinator, Marcia Dennis: mdennis@ci.portland.or.us. If you are witnessing property being tagged, call 911 with your handy cell phone.

And now regarding a different signage problem...The political campaign season always creates a rich harvest of decorative lawn signs. Some would find these as displeasing as graffiti; others would proclaim them a fine expression of the first amendment. Opinion aside, be aware that it is not legal to post lawn signs in the public right of way (e.g. between the sidewalk and the street). The homeowner and the person posting the sign can be cited and fined. For more information about this subject, check out www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=60385.

THE OVERLOOK/PDC CONNECTION— A New Look

By Julie Rawls

Redevelopment of Killingsworth Station and Crown Motel - Complementary development plans for two publicly owned sites in the Killingsworth MAX station area will offer a range of residential choices for households of different incomes and sizes.

PDC owns the 32,000 square foot property on the northeast corner of N. Interstate Avenue and N. Killingsworth Street referred to as the Killingsworth Block. A team lead by Kemper Co. had been selected to develop the project, but withdrew late last year due to rising construction costs and unresolved complexities of the project. The Kemper pullout allowed PDC to re-think the situation. Over the last two years, there has been considerable community input. A new development proposal would need to take that into consideration as well as respect the constraints of available funding.

During this interim TriMet acquired the 24,000 square foot Crown Motel site, just south of Patton Square Park, identified by the community as a property favored for redevelopment. Located two blocks south of the Killingsworth site, the TriMet property includes the existing Crown Motel and adjacent vacant lot. Funding for acquisition was part of the federal allocation for the light rail construction and implementation. Federal funds were made available to TriMet to buy property that would support transit oriented development and increase ridership on the light rail line. PDC and TriMet have been meeting together and with community members to determine how the Killingsworth Block and Crown Motel sites can be redeveloped to implement the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area Housing Strategy, provide successful commercial uses, address neighborhood concerns about density and parking, and be financially feasible.

On February 27, 2006, PDC and TriMet staff presented a general development plan and timeline to the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Advisory Committee. Urban renewal resources are anticipated to help finance the development of both projects. Below is a summary of the development plans:

(Continued on page 11)

NEIGHBORS MEET TO TACKLE CRIME AND VANDALISM

By Cynthia Sulaski

After growing weary of the graffiti, broken glass and garbage that litters the Failing Street Pedestrian Bridge on the Overlook side, Cynthia Sulaski called neighbors together to tackle the problem. As of this writing, the committee planned to meet a second time on April 11. Participants include representatives from the Polish Library, Polish Church, Kaiser, ODOT, Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Portland Police, Overlook Neighborhood Association and residents living near the Bridge. If you're interested in helping to maintain the safety and aesthetics of this area, just contact Cynthia at csulaski@spiritone.com. It's a great way to make a difference!

MOCK'S CREST: THE MIS-NAMED PARK

By Warren Cassell



Pocket park? Mini park? Open space park? I used to call it the Unnamed Park but then found out its official name is Mock's Crest Park, even though its location doesn't appear to be anywhere near the area of North Portland known as Mock's Crest. You can find this gem (one of the best kept secrets in the Overlook neighborhood) at the most westerly point of Skidmore Terrace and Skidmore Court. I'm betting that most of you don't know about it and have never visited, but I'm sure you will be in for a delightful experience some fine spring day. Its amenities? Almost zero. There are a total of three benches strategically located. There is one wooden backless bench on either end and there is a more comfortable machine fabricated bench with a back support, in the middle of this delightful dale. The backless pair is a fine place to be for a Richard Scarry experience. (Parents of the under seven crowd will know.)* The other bench is designed for a more meditative time. But more about this in a moment.

What then is the great attraction---other than the exclusivity afforded by the fact that Mock's Crest Park is almost invisible? Several things come to mind. On a clear day, one can see forever in the form of Portland's impressive skyline of beautiful bridges and marvelously diverse architecture to the south. And when you look north, there is a fine view of the University of Portland, the Railroad Bridge and St. Johns Bridge. The photographs below don't do justice to these splendors but you get the idea. And if this isn't enough, one can sit and be mesmerized watching the constant coupling and uncoupling of Union Pacific's freight trains. Sometimes though, someone or something gets a bit rambunctious and a mishap will occur. (See Union Pacific article and photo on page 7.) You can also see what appears to be a steady stream of traffic up and down Greeley and in and out of Swan Island on Going. It quickly becomes apparent from your bird's eye view at this park that there is a constant vibrancy and energy here. This is further evidenced by the simultaneous activities of workers doing their thing on the "Big Pipe," the slow motion of ships moving up and

down the river and the never ending chugging of freight trains and the trucks delivering to and picking up from them. Finally, the numerous and many splendedored cranes with their seemingly perpetual up and down motions like huge flamingos complete a very busy tableaux; thus, the Richard Scarry moment. However, both adults and children alike will find this constant go-go activity mesmerizing.

For a more meditative experience at Mock's Crest Park, settle yourself on the fairly comfortable bench mid-park where the view isn't busy at all. In fact, the noisy activities seem to fade into the distance and your vista is now a calming West Hills, a quiet Willamette River and silent hawks soaring above you. Here, one can reflect, meditate and find solace in this lovely urban and natural environment that surrounds and embraces you. During the day, very few people pass by. You'll be aware of an occasional dog walker or two, a Kaiser employee on lunch break taking a determined walk and thriving with the effort, and perhaps a jogger with that perennially pained look.

Though I've never been to the park at night, the residue of its human nocturnal visitors is unfortunately too apparent. The meditative bench seems to be an attractive place for trysters and drinkers who leave their detritus of beer bottles, condoms and cigarette butts for others to pick up and discard.

But that's the only down side to this lovely piece of landscape located conveniently in our neighborhood. It's worth a detour from and for a busy day or a simple visit as part of the neighborhood experience. In an era of bigger is better, here is the healthy alternative. Slightly more than a half acre, the sublime attractions of this mis-named park are many and diverse for all of Overlook to relish and enjoy.

*Note: Richard Scarry is a children's book author and illustrator who has been delighting children and their parents for several generations. Google for more information or if you prefer the old fashioned way, check the local library.



Looking south—view downtown.



Looking north—Swan Island and St Johns Bridge.

YESTERDAY



Greeley looking south circa 1949. Sumner street is on the left. On the right is the area where the hospital parking lot will eventually be built.

NEIGHBORS COME, NEIGHBORS GO

By Zita Podany

TODAY



Adidas Today

My dad still remembers the stately white house on a small hill across from Bess Kaiser Hospital. I remember the muddy hillsides under constant construction or de-construction attracting neighborhood children (much to the chagrin of their parents) as they raced down muddy slopes on bicycles. A long-time Overlook resident, Alan Cranna remembers the early days of the hospital's construction and how the construction site became a natural draw for the neighborhood kids.

The hospital was built in 1958. The empty site above Mock's Bottom must have provided a fine vantage point over the Kaiser shipyards – like a mother hen watching over her brood. In a Friday ceremony on August 8, 1958, Edgar F. Kaiser and Bishop Benjamin Dagwell laid the cornerstone of Bess Kaiser Hospital, the first post-war health facility to be built in Portland. Still under construction at the time of the ceremony, the main building was going to be six stories high while the outpatient clinic was going to be three stories high. It was also the first hospital, at that time, to be fully air conditioned.

The hospital was named after Edgar Kaiser's mother, Bess Kaiser, better known as Mrs. Henry J. Kaiser, a woman who was characterized as a humanitarian and a "giver." The hospital opened in 1959 with her picture hanging in the lobby.

According to Alan Cranna, the hospital proved to be a good neighbor. Some of the employees of Kaiser moved into the neighborhood and the hospital expanded in the '80s. The only sore point that Alan can remember was over the parking lots. Large homes once stood on a small hill across from Kaiser, on Greeley, between Sumner and Going. Properties were purchased, one by one, and each beautiful house was either torn down or moved. The hill was reshaped or as my dad described it, "shaved off." Sumner was blocked off, and what used to be a curved stairway to the white columned house with lush green lawns surrounded by rhododendrons, became a concrete drive to the upper parking lot.

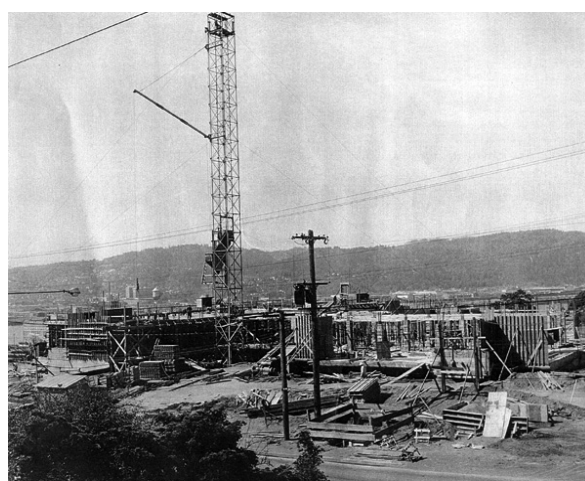
In 1998, the hospital closed its doors, saddening many North Portland residents.

Adidas soon bought the property, gutted most of the hospital's three buildings, tore down the original pedestrian overpass, and built colorful parking structures over the parking lots. Gray aluminum panels interspersed with color evoking the hues of the Olympic flag now decorate this section of the neighborhood, sometimes dubbed by local residents as our "LEGO village." Even though Adidas has been in the neighborhood for over five years, we still call this section of Greeley, the old Kaiser site.

AND INBETWEEN



Preparing the foundation for Kaiser Hospital by tamping down the earth circa —1957.



Kaiser Hospital construction circa 1958.



Kaiser Hospital completed circa 1958-1959.

PARTY FOR AN HISTORIC OLD LADY

By Warren Cassell

Note it on your calendar now! On June 17 from noon until 4:00 P.M. Sharon and Bob Sullivan are giving a party to celebrate the plaque unveiling of their newly registered historic house located at 2022 North Willamette Boulevard. More about the celebration later, but now that we have your attention here's a bit of background to consider.



The original Elliott House as it appeared in 1902

The plaque unveiling signifies that their one hundred four year-old Queen Anne style residence has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places under the auspices of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Is this a first for the Overlook neighborhood? We're really not sure, but we do know that the Elliott House, as it is listed, has an interesting architectural and social background. The original owner and builder was an allegedly corrupt city engineer, William Elliott, who had purchased a considerable amount of the adjacent land. After he built the

house in 1902, he took a job as city engineer with the city of Portland until 1905 when he was indicted for "negligence and malfeasance of

duty." These charges involved him in a corruption scandal related to a sewer project being built by the city, but eventually the charges were dismissed and Mr. Elliott left public life to return to his career as a contractor and surveyor. The Elliotts also built the house next door and lived there until he died in 1934. During WW 11 the Historic Elliott House was divided into upper and lower apartments to serve as residences for the ship builders on Swan Island.

At some point in the late 40s or early 50s the upper level of the tower and wraparound front porch were removed. The wooden front porch was replaced with a monolithic concrete porch and steps. (See picture above for a view of the original house before these alterations.) Sharon and Bob Sullivan acquired the house in 1999 along with a dream of restoring it to its original architectural splendor. Their dream was accompanied by a modest budget and considerable elbow grease. The initial focus was outside, replacing the upper level of the tower and the porch. (See picture below for a work-in-definite progress.) Inside, their concern was with restoring and repapering the plaster walls and ceilings throughout the house.

The Sullivans expect to continue their efforts for several more years before the work is completed. This means that those features that classify a Queen Anne, i.e. leaded glass, patterned shingles, bay windows, multi-gables, drop siding, front wraparound porch, an open pergola, will all eventually be restored to their original splendor.

In the meantime however, it's time to celebrate the plaque unveiling with a party. Your hosts are arranging for a street closure for the afternoon of June 17 and are planning to include in the festivities carriage rides, live music, barber shop singers, Elliott House tours, costumed guides, the Oregon Zoo tent, etc. The official plaque unveiling will take place at 1:00 P.M. For additional information, call your gracious hosts, Bob or Sharon Sullivan at 503-285-4313 or email bobert@spiritone.com.



The Elliott House today—a major work in progress

PDC (Cont'd)

Killingsworth Block: The plan includes ownership housing with ground floor retail. Because of its corner location at a MAX station, the Killingsworth Block has greater potential for successful retail and is able to accommodate the parking needs of ownership housing. PDC will issue a Request for Proposals in April requiring at least 40 ownership housing units and ground floor 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 (\$61,100 is the 2005 median family income for a family of three as set by the federal government). A Request for Proposals or Request for Qualifications for a development team was issued in April 2006. An open house will be held in late May or early June 2006 for community members to review the submitted proposals. A development team will be selected by the end of June 2006.

Crown Motel: TriMet and PDC determined the Crown Motel site would best serve the need for long-term affordable rental housing for families. The proximity to Patton Square Park is an important amenity for families. TriMet has issued a Request for Qualified Developers which closed April 21. Developers will be required to plan for a minimum of 26 rental apartments. At least 13 units need to be designed for families with children and at least 13 units need to stay affordable to low-income households for 60 years. TriMet expects to select a development team by mid-May. There will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposals.

More information on both projects is available at www.pdc.housing/killingsworthstation. You can also contact Christine Hermann at PDC at hermannnc@pdc.us or by calling 503-823-3239.

OVERLOOK ORAL HISTORY

Have you been a long-time resident of the Overlook neighborhood (south of Ainsworth, north of the Fremont Bridge, 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.



NEWS FROM OVERLOOK HOUSE

Editors' note: Words from the Chair on page one acknowledged the SOLV award to be made to Linda Gorg for her great work at Overlook House. Following is the complete letter of notification from Bev Ardueser, the

program coordinator at SOLV, to Overlook House's program coordinator, Carol Padden:

Carol,

Each year, SOLV's Project Oregon program honors five projects with an award in five different categories. The "Cleanup Overlook House" project, coordinated by Linda Gorg, was selected as the winner in the category "Best Project in the Face of Adversity."

I am working with Governor Kulonogski's office to schedule a time when he can participate in our Project Oregon Awards and Kick-Off Ceremony. We have been privileged for many years to have the governor participate, along with

SOLV's Executive Director Jack McGowan. The ceremony typically takes place on a week-day morning on the outdoor steps of the State Capitol in Salem.

I wanted to give you and Linda Gorg a heads up and congratulations on winning this award. I will continue to be in touch and will let you know the date and time just as soon as I am able to confirm this. Feel free to invite as many people as you want.

Congratulations,

Bev Ardueser, Program Coordinator
SOLV



INTERSTATE FARMERS MARKET — YEAR TWO

By Warren Cassell



Just the facts:

WHO Kevin McGovney—IFM Market Manager and
Rebecca Sturges---Community Outreach Coordinator

WHAT Year Two of a great neighborhood happening right on our doorstep. Here's a way of shopping for fresh, locally grown produce and other healthful products, and in the process be entertained with live music, educated about health issues, enticed by dishes and recipes of local chefs, and as an added bonus, you can socialize with your friends and neighbors. You can even take a walk in the park.

WHERE Between Kaiser Permanente's Interstate West building on Fremont Street and the south end of Overlook Park. What could be more convenient?

WHEN Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. starting May 10 and continuing all summer through September.

WHY It's good for us, it's good for you and it's great fun!



YOUR NEW IFM COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

By Rebecca Sturges

Hello neighbors. My name is Rebecca Sturges, and I have recently accepted the position of Community Outreach Coordinator for the Interstate Farmers Market. In the eight years my family has lived in the Overlook neighborhood, numerous positive changes have occurred including the addition of great restaurants, bars, coffee houses, markets, retail stores and of course the MAX Yellow line. These have all added to the vitality of our neighborhood.

Prior to my involvement with the Interstate Farmers Market, I spent the past couple of years at home with my children, Annika and Zachary. This has been both very challenging and rewarding. My husband, Jeff, was at home with Annika for her first two years, and I now admire his patience and diligence in being a full-time father. Last year he completed his Masters in Education, and now works as an elementary school teacher.

My career history is in event planning, most recently working as the event coordinator for the Portland Streetcar's RiverPlace rail line grand opening. I worked for several years at BridgePort Brewing Company as their Manager of Special Events, planning all of their in-house banquet events, as well the pub's special community festivals. I hold a BS in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Northern Arizona University

This is a wonderful opportunity to work in my neighborhood amongst friends old and new, and share in the bounty of fresh local produce, flowers, cheeses and food. Our Interstate Farmers' Market season kicks off on **Wednesday, May 10 from 3-7pm** adjacent to Overlook Park. We will have live music each week and volunteer helpers to guide you through the various market offerings. Periodically through the season the market will have cooking demonstrations using fresh market foods. During the summer months, the Portland Parks and Recreation Rec n'Roll bus will be based at Overlook Park to coincide with our market, enhancing the whole experience. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering. You can reach me through our website www.interstatefarmersmarket.com or call me at 503-752-6139. I look forward to meeting you shopping at our market.



IMPORTANT NITTY-GRITTY

Want to join us and receive witty e-mail reminders about our meetings, events, etc.? Just go to www.overlookneighborhood.org and subscribe by entering your e-mail address as directed on the home page. Mailing lists are never sold or distributed.

Or via snail mail:
OKNA
2209 N. Schofield St.
Portland, Or. 97217

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OVERLOOK VIEWS

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Amy Altenberger, Barbara Brooks, Ethan Edwards, Sarah Friedel, Brad Halverson, Tom Kilbane, Bob La Du, Jerry Lindsay, Zita Podany, Julie Rawls and Rebecca Sturges



HELP! – WE NEED A WEB MASTER OR MISTRESS

Your neighborhood association is in dire need of a computer literate individual (anyone from near to total nerd will do) who can maintain the association's website and expedite the association's email announcements, notices and letters. This is not a time intensive volunteer job and will require only about an hour a week or so. Of course, if you would like to take on the additional challenge of upgrading our web site your time commitment could be considerably more extensive. Take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help play an active role in a vibrant community organization using your technological skills. For more information email Brad Halverson at: halverbk@comcast.net.