

OVERLOOK VIEWS

May/June 2007

The Newsletter

Vol.4 No. 1

Overlook Neighborhood Association, Portland, Oregon

www.overlookneighborhood.org

WHAT HAVE WE DONE FOR OUR EARTH LATELY?

By Melisa and Warren Cassell

A few months ago we were fortunate to attend the IFCC showing of An Inconvenient Truth which was sponsored by OKNA's environmental committee. We were inspired. We hope that others of the nearly one hundred attendees were equally inspired to start making a difference to reduce global warming. This crisis affects all of us. In the next issue of *Overlook Views* we will share with our readers some of the efforts we have made on behalf of reducing our "carbon footprint." We would like to have our readers who have also seen An Inconvenient Truth (at the IFCC or anywhere else) to share the changes you were inspired to make in order to improve the earth's quality of life. Tell us what you have done in a short (or long) note to *Overlook Views*, 4037 N. Overlook Terrace, 97227 or send an email to w.cassell@comcast.net. We will print all of your responses and perhaps we'll be able to inspire others to follow suit. Thanks for your contributions.

OVERLOOK MUSINGS

By Warren Cassell

One of the great pleasures of life in Overlook is walking the mostly soundless and traffic free streets and enjoying their compelling variety of architecture and visual enchantments. Seeing the last rose of summer still in bloom in December and January is still a thrill---even five years after moving here from a lifetime in the Northeast where the winters are really frigid and roses after August are found only in florist shops at \$40.00 and more per dozen.

The walking in Overlook experience is a four-season affair. It offers year round and anytime encounters, as well as delights indigenous to only certain months. A few examples follow. I have selected my observations here from many walks and they are in no particular order; perhaps there would be more if I had made notes about them, but that could be for a future edition.

I noticed the first of the political season signs in a recent sighting on Melrose Avenue of a bumper sticker that read: Edwards/Obama '08.



Fall offers a bumper crop of produce from empty lots or friendly neighbors. I have harvested some great pear drops from a vacant lot on Prescott. Luscious grapes, blueberries, peaches and apples are available for the picking all over, and walnuts abound on the sidewalks in many parts of Overlook. And there is much waste. I think we should be thinking "greener" when we have the blessings of such bounty.



One Sunday morning I was walking on Gay Street when I heard the sound of music (but not the familyTrapp kind.) As I got



WORDS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

By Tom Kilbane and Jennifer Callison



If you are a regular reader of the *Overlook Views*, you'll know that there has been a lot of talk about the power line going over the bluff at the intersection of N. Killingworth Ave and Willamette Boulevard.

This power line is a secondary source of power for a large pump station on Swan Island. The pump station is part of the Big Pipe project. The goal of the Big Pipe project is to reduce the amount of storm water and sewage that flows into the Willamette River. (For more information on the Big Pipe Project, please see the BES web site – www.portlandonline.com/cso/index.cfm?c=31727)

Portland General Electric (PGE) began construction to place the pole back in October of 2005 and the construction was immediately challenged by the neighborhood. The major point of contention was that neither PGE nor the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) followed their own procedures for public notification. They also failed to get the proper permits or approvals before construction began.

After many meetings, phone calls and e-mails between the Overlook Neighborhood Association, PGE and BES, the neighborhood has accepted an offer from PGE and BES to settle our grievance regarding the power line.

PGE and BES have each offered the neighborhood \$40,000 to be used for civic improvements. A letter from Dean Marriott, the Director of BES, says:

"We are sorry for the difficulty caused by the effort to provide a backup power to the Swan Island Pump Station. As you know, the pump station began operation in November and has already made improvements to water quality in the Willamette River.

We always want our neighborhoods to be in better shape after we finish a project than when we begin so we are offering to contribute \$40,000 to a fund to be used by the Overlook Neighborhood Association for civic improvements."

The neighborhood Association voted at to accept the offer from PGE and BES at our March general meeting.

This fund presents a unique and exciting opportunity for Overlook to take on one, or several, significant projects. While PGE and BES have established some broad guidelines, the neighborhood can pursue anything that falls into the category of 'civic improvements.'

OKNA is forming a committee to solicit proposals for ways in which the money should be used. Guidelines for the proposals will be established and communicated to the neighborhood. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please call Tom Kilbane at 503-572-6024 or Jennifer Callison at 503-285-0364 by June 1,

In the meantime, start thinking of how you might like to see this money spent to improve our neighborhood!

closer to the Albina Christian Life Center, I was mesmerized by the glorious voices accompanied by piano, guitar and tambourine. Here we had an old-fashioned revival meeting singing out all the joys of belief in tune and in an exhilarating manner. Even a hard-core curmudgeon would smile.



Springtime brings out hordes of walkers, individuals as well as en masse. I've observed that a good number of Kaiser employees get their exercise by walking our lovely streets-- mostly in groups and mostly in fair weather. Could we call them fair weather thrivers?

This season also sees so many absolutely gorgeous gardens springing into color (pun

intended) and the resurrection of outdoor tables and chairs at Sohbet, Mio Sushi and Beaterville on Killingsworth. Speaking of Beaterville, how about those elegant flower beds constructed with found objects? Re-sigh-cle!



And finally (for now), my favorite walk destination in Overlook---the inaccurately named Mock's Crest Park at the end of Skidmore Court and Skidmore Terrace. Here we have a simply fantastic view of downtown combined with the Willamette River and industrial activities on Swan Island. There always seems to be a Richard Scarry moment to be savored from the vista at Mock's Crest while looking down at Union Pacific's various happenings. It's so bucolic on the bluff that even UP's diesels' noxious fumes and noise seem to be receding for a welcome change.



BLUESMAN MOVES FROM MISSISSIPPI TO OVERLOOK

Special to Overlook Views



Photo credit — Taizz Medalia

The Mississippi Delta and North Portland have several things in common. So says Steve Cheseborough, a nationally renowned 1920s-30s-style blues performer/author who relocated here recently.

“There’s a fabulous big river outside; there’s a lot of appreciation for music; and there’s even good barbecue!” said Cheseborough, an Overlook resident. Cheseborough often can be found playing at a great barbecue joint right in the neighborhood: U-licious Smokehouse & Grill, 4057 N. Interstate (he’s often there on Friday evenings – call the restaurant or check Cheseborough’s web site below to make sure). He also will play several times this summer at Interstate Farmers Market; and he occasionally plays brunches at Roux. He also gives private and group lessons at home.

Other than that, Steve plays all over town and on the road. Yachats, Cannon Beach, Charleston, S.C., Victoria, B.C., Seattle and Siletz are some of his recent stops. The blues bug grabbed Cheseborough while he was in his early teens, growing up up in Rochester, N.Y: “I played electric guitar in rock bands, and I was always trying to pull them toward blues, slip a few blues numbers into the lineup. But I kept becoming more and more of a purist, working my way back into the earlier styles – from the Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton back to Howlin’ Wolf and Muddy Waters, and then back to Robert Johnson, Memphis Minnie, Blind Lemon Jefferson and Bo Carter.”

This was music that required no band – just Cheseborough and his voice and acoustic guitar. “At first, when I listened to the old recordings, I thought there were two or three people playing. But one day I realized, that’s just one person, picking the bass parts with his thumb and doing all the rest with his fingers. It was still a long time before I was able to do it, but I eventually cracked the code and started learning to play like that.”

Thinking that this material had little commercial potential, Cheseborough worked for years on the old acoustic blues as a sort of hobby. “Like some people read mysteries, I’d study the old 78 records, trying to figure out what they are saying and playing.”

Friends heard Cheseborough’s renditions and encouraged him to record. “So I went to a studio and made an album on tape. After giving away a dozen or so to friends I still had a couple hundred left. I had to start playing out in public to try to sell them!”

Cheseborough was surprised and delighted to find his 1920s-30s-style blues was a hit with audiences at coffeehouses and concerts. “I got more and more into the music, learning about its history, geography and lore. I recorded more, started touring a bit. I was living in Phoenix at the time and working as a newspaper reporter by day. Then I went to Mississippi for a blues festival and I said, ‘Wow! This is it.’ Not only the music, but the people, the way they talked, the pace of life, the buildings, the cotton fields, the roads, and the food – everything was interesting to me. I knew it would take much more than a week to absorb and learn. Soon I quit my job, moved and enrolled in the master’s program in Southern studies at the University of Mississippi.”

Cheseborough stayed 10 years in Mississippi, living in Oxford, Greenwood and Clarksdale. While in graduate school (where he wrote a thesis on the music of 1930s blues star Bo Carter) he landed a book deal. His book, *Blues Traveling: the Holy Sites of Delta Blues* (University Press of Mississippi, 2001, revised 2004), has become the bible for blues-interested visitors to the Delta. He also landed a spot speaking and playing in a documentary film, *Last of the Mississippi Jukes*, which also features Morgan Freeman. And he honed his craft as a performer and speaker, appearing on riverboats and at festivals, conferences, restaurants and jook joints –

the cozy, sometimes crazy, out-in-the-country places where the blues was born. “Sort of like U-licious!” Cheseborough observes.

Cheseborough was on a Northwest tour in 2004 when he met Taizz Medalia, a respiratory therapist who also sings and plays music on the side – sometimes with Cheseborough, in a vaudeville-blues duo called the Stomp Down Rollers. “We met at a jam session and hit it off right away,” he says. The pair kept in touch and visited back and forth until Cheseborough decided to move to Portland. “Well, I decided to move but I couldn’t seem to figure out when. She solved that by flying down to Mississippi to get me.”

Since arriving here in 2005, Cheseborough has continued his mission to spread the music, as well as the stories and history connected with it. He has played at Portland’s Waterfront Blues Festival, the Port Townsend (Wash.) Country Blues Festival, the Bite of Oregon, and at festivals, clubs and other venues throughout the region, as well as teaching at Puget Sound Guitar Workshop, Portland Community College and other settings.

“But playing at U-licious, with the barbecue slow-cooking outside, and no amplification needed – that is really what it’s all about,” he says. “We’re not so far from the Delta after all.”

Steve Cheseborough plays May 4 at U-licious. For more dates and information, check the calendar at www.stevecheseborough.com or email him at chezztone@gmail.com



PRAISE FOR A SPLENDID BOOK

THREE CUPS OF TEA BY Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

By Melisa Cassell



There is one kind of global warming we actually need. Hearts, frozen by poverty, privation and hate must be thawed. Greg Mortenson, an American mountain climber, has found a way to do just that.

In 1993, K-2 the world's second highest peak almost caused Mortenson's death (a fate met by so many climbers before him.) But he survived, given haven and healing in a tiny mountain village in Pakistan. His "mountain," the need to meet and conquer a huge challenge, takes a new form. The village, Korphe, home to so many generous souls has no school. Mortenson resolves to build one. A simple idea. Not a simple task. In accomplishing it, he encounters first hand the powerful polarities we hear about each day now in the media. Mortenson meets the people who embody these schisms (political, tribal and religious) and shakes hands and prays and dances with all of them. The story of building the school and the fifty others that follow, how he does it, who helps, who enters his life as a result of his passion, is a story the world needs to hear. It is a microcosm of what we as a planet, as a species need to do. And yet, despite being so momentous, this story is a simple telling of one man's inner journey as he approaches with greater and greater clarity the summit of his own humanity.

(Editors' note: We joyously recommend this book. Do you have a favorite to recommend to your neighbors? It could be non-fiction or fiction and we would love to hear about it in three hundred words or less. Send your enthusiastic review to w.cassell@comcast.net or *Overlook Views*, 4037 N. Overlook Terrace, 97227.)



IFM—SEASON 3

By Ronna Seavey

Hang up your Easter Baskets, grab your market bag because the Interstate Farmers Market's 3rd season starts Wednesday May 16th at 3pm on North Fremont Street and just West of Interstate Avenue and next to Overlook Park.

Market Manager Kevin McGovney brings with him the freshest products from Oregon and Washington, including Rogue Creamery Cheeses, DiPrima Dolci bread and pastry, Phileo Asparagus and Unger Farms Strawberries. Plus by popular demand, there will be more ready to eat food by New Heritage Pork BBQ, Mike's Flame Grilled Hot Dogs and Mississippi's own Por Que No Taqueria.

Another addition, before the rush of summer berries, is a wide variety of unique and inexpensive nursery items.

This year thanks to a gracious donation by New Seasons Market's home-grown brand Pacific Villages, we will also be offering wireless debit and EBT service to our market customers making the market available to those on Oregon Trail and those of us (myself included) who live a cash free life.

While this year's market is underway, working behind the scene is the new Interstate Farmers Market Community Board. The volunteers in this group will be observing, learning and formulating a plan to take the helm directing the 2008 IFM season.

Music is also in the air this year thanks to donations by the Overlook Neighborhood Association with rotating music by Steve Cheseborough, (See article on page 2) Samba Feat, Padam Padam, John Twist and Kate Mann. Check out www.interstatefarmersmarket.com for the exact schedule and to receive our weekly newsletter.

See you at the Market!

OUR UNITED VILLAGES—

Recent Events

By Lacy Nash

Note: For further information about any of the following, contact OUV at info@ourunitedvillages.org or call 503-546-7499

Health and Fitness

OUV held the Health and Fitness Neighborhood Conversation on March 3rd, at Trillium Charter School. There were 12 neighbors in attendance and two projects emerged. One group would like to have a covered basketball court in Patton Park for the neighborhood to use, and the other group would like to start a walking group that has a regular meeting place and time.

Youth Activities

OUV is planning a Youth Activities Neighborhood Conversation for Saturday, April 14th. The event will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church and will have a BBQ, board games for young people and families to play and an opportunity to discuss working together with their neighbors to create more activities for youth in Overlook.

OUR UNITED VILLAGES—

Future Happenings

Look for your invitation in the mail to these upcoming events:

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Farmer's Market Neighborhood Conversation
Location: DiPrima Dolce Bakery

Saturday, July 21, 2007

Art, Music and Culture Neighborhood Conversation
Location: Peninsula Children's Center

Saturday, October 20, 2007

Overlook History Storytelling
Location: Kaiser Town Hall Ballroom

Saturday, January 19, 2008

Overlook Neighborhood Celebration
Location: Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center

OKNA NUTS AND BOLTS—

Part 1

By Warren Cassell

If you have one, tell us please! We will not tell anyone else. Yes, your email address would be a helpful aid to your neighborhood association so that we can keep you better informed about what is going on in the neighborhood. Two things that will **not** happen if you share your email address with OKNA: 1. we will not sell or divulge this information to any organization or individual and 2. this will not affect your future receipt of the hard copy edition of our newsletter. Much can happen in the two months between publications of Overlook Views. Thus, your email address is an important and inexpensive way for your neighborhood association to keep you up-to-date. A few taps on your computer keys will make this possible. Simply go to the OKNA website: <http://overlookneighborhood.org/index.html>, scroll down, and on the left enter your address in the appropriate box. Voila! We will now be able to have instant communication with you--- and we guarantee not to overload your in box.

OKNA NUTS AND BOLTS---

Part 2

Portland's neighborhood association format is a stellar example of grass roots democracy at work---giving the ordinary citizen an opportunity to voice concerns and approval about important issues immediately affecting him or her. This engine drives our neighborhood association general meetings.

OKNA holds its general meetings on the third Tuesday of each month (except August and December) at the Kaiser Town Hall on Overlook Boulevard and North Interstate. Meetings start at 7:00 P.M., usually last no more than two hours and are open to all residents. This includes both apartment and homeowners as well as business owners in the Overlook neighborhood. The meetings generally consist of one or two presentations by different groups and individuals who have information to share and issues to present. Following are examples of topics addressed at general meetings: a developer asking the organization for its endorsement of a zoning change, a resident or business owner seeking approval for a street closing in order to hold a neighborhood event, representatives from PDOT or the police department to talk about traffic and safety problems, etc. In addition to the presentations, there are short reports by each committee chair of the Overlook Neighborhood Association and in addition, there is some time set aside for the discussion of both old and new business. All Overlook residents and business owners are entitled to vote on any issue needing to be resolved.

OKNA holds its board meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at Overlook House 3839 N. Melrose. Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. The format for the board meetings is similar to the general meetings and all neighbors are welcome. The one difference here is that only board members may vote.

OVERLOOK HOUSE SELECTED FOR ROSE FESTIVAL EVENT

By Warren Cassell

This year, the year of Portland's Rose Festival centennial, a glorious tradition returns to its roots and foundations. As part of the celebration, the Portland Rose Festival Association is presenting a new event this June. Titled the "History and Roses Tour," the event presents a selection of vintage Portland landmarks and gardens for public viewing. Both residents and visitors alike will be offered the opportunity and encouragement to visit historic sites around the Portland area, at the same time enjoying a history lesson about early Portland and some of the properties and people that helped shape our "City of Roses."

Overlook House was one of very few historic houses in North Portland selected to be a participant in the History and Roses Tour. As many residents know, Overlook House is a handsome 1928 brick and stucco Tudor home with one acre of beautifully landscaped gardens offering views of the Willamette and West Hills. Located at 3839 N. Melrose Drive, this was originally the home of Herman and Elvira Raven who owned the Raven Creamery. The house was donated (actually, sold for \$1.00) to the city of Portland in 1951. Since that time, it has been used for classes, community events and as a rental facility for meetings and weddings. Currently, stewardship of Overlook House is under the supervision of Friends of Overlook House, a local group of residents who take loving care of the building and grounds.

Carol Padden, who coordinates both the community and rental aspects of Overlook House, has worked out a tour schedule for the History and Roses Tour. Following are the dates and hours you will be able to take a free, informal tour of Overlook's gem on the Bluff:

Mondays, June 4 and June 11, 3-8 p.m.
Tuesdays, June 5 and June 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesdays June 6 and June 13, 3-8 p.m.
Thursdays, June 7 and June 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you haven't visited Overlook House before, this should be an aesthetic and historical treat. Mark your calendar now. For further information, call Carol Padden at 503-823-3188 or email:

coordinator@HistoricOverlookHouse.org.

GOT ROSES?

By Warren Cassell

Can you spare a bunch of roses from your garden to help decorate Overlook House during the Rose Festival Tours? (See article above.) Your contributions will be welcome during each of the two tour weeks starting June 4 and June 11. It will be a nice touch to have the flowers placed throughout Overlook House when we expect a considerable number of visitors from all over Portland and beyond. For drop-off times and dates, please call Carol Padden at 503-823-3188.

TAI CHI CHIH AT THE OVERLOOK HOUSE

Ready for a healthful change...OR...concerned about stress...OR...want to improve your vitality and balance? Consider learning Tai Chi Chih. Recently, AARP magazine named Tai Chi as one of the six secrets of people who never get sick. Whatever your motivation, join like-minded individuals (including boomers and seniors) in acquiring a sense of well-being as you learn this set of 18 movements.

This contemporary Tai Chi was originated by American Justin Stone, now 90, who took the ancient principles of circulating and balancing of chi energy and meshed them with western sensibilities. The result is a non-martial arts moving meditation that is easy to learn and requires no coordination or athletic ability. (See www.taichichih.org). In addition, regular practice can often result in improved blood pressure and weight management.

Overlook resident Steve Marsh is an accredited Tai Chi Chih teacher who also holds a Master of Education degree. He has an extensive background of working with different individuals in a variety of self-care and therapeutic areas. Current students at the Overlook House have cited his patience and gentle manner in helping them comfortably progress thru this "Joy of Movement."

The next eight week session begins on Thursday, May 17th from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.. Register at 503-283-4991 or tccmarsh@hotmail.com. Class fee of \$60 is payable at the first class. Class size limited to 12 people. For those preferring a pending Monday morning class, please indicate that as you register.



Photo credit—Pat DiPrima-LeConche

OVERLOOK HOUSE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT OPPORTUNITY TO HELP!

Dear Neighbors,

When the City decided to mothball the Overlook House, neighbors rallied to keep it open. The Overlook House prospers because many of our neighbors support it with time, energy, and participation. Now we ask you to support the House with your dollars.

The Friends of the Overlook House continue to work to improve the house and grounds. Those of you who frequent the House are aware the floor covering needs to be replaced. The Friends of the Overlook House want to make the improvement this spring.

Neighborhood participation helps our goal of returning the House to a true community asset. Activities such as the Easter egg hunt and the Santa visit happen because of parents who help organize the events. Volunteers help with seasonal yard and garden maintenance. Classes continue because you support them with your attendance. The Ice Cream Social and the Bazaar are "go to" events with the joint support of the organizing volunteers and enthusiastic neighbors attending.

We extend special thanks to our neighbors, Don and Rosalie Dalzell, for their generous donation of \$1,000 dedicated to the carpet replacement fund. The Friends also have been building a capital reserve fund during the past three years. This is your opportunity to increase the fund. We challenge our neighbors to collectively match Don and Rosalie's donation.

The Board is shopping for new carpet for the main floor, stairs, an upstairs room, and hard surface flooring for the multipurpose room. It is our intent to have the new floor covering installed in early May. You can be part of this! Please consider sending a donation of \$10 or \$25 or \$100 or \$___ to "Friends of the Overlook House, Carpet Fund" at 3839 North Melrose Drive, Portland, 97227. Your donation will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

Thank you for helping raise the next \$1,000. Come by later in May to see the flooring your dollars helped purchase.

Carol Cushman
for Friends of the Overlook House

TREASURE PLEASURE AT OVERLOOK HOUSE

By Carol Padden

The April 7 Overlook House Eggstravaganza was a huge success. Despite the rain, our little OKNA children in their "frog" and "butterfly" boots spent an hour outside finding 1,000 toy and candy-filled plastic eggs this year.

I would like to thank Janice Scott of the Jelly Belly Candy Co., Marie Heim (donated Easter baskets), Holy Cross grade-schoolers (who filled 1,000 eggs) and volunteers Carla Heikkila, Allan Padden and Jeanette Stoddard who hid our egg treasures in the yard.

FIRE PREVENTION ON THE BLUFF—RE-VISITED

By Warren Cassell

In our March/April edition, I wrote about a city/federal program to eliminate the hazard of fires on the Willamette Bluff by removing non-native, invasive and flammable vegetation through prudent use of cuttings and applications of herbicide. Funded by FEMA and administered by the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services and the Parks Department (BES), this program is cost free to Portland residents. The article elicited an anxious response from at least one Overlook resident concerned about environmental issues. Following is her letter, my response and the response from Lynn Barlow, a natural resources ecologist who is coordinating this program for BES. I hope that other Overlook residents will find these communications informative and assuring.

Dear Mr. Cassell,

I read about the fire prevention efforts that will be offered to property owners near the bluff. For the most part, I was in agreement with the effort until I read that the use of herbicide application will be part of the effort.

Our family walks on the bluff several times a week, and plenty of UP students use it for track practice. It is a favorite route for the many marathons and walk-a-thons taking place this spring, and of course, the hundreds of people who live along it enjoy it a great deal. Are you advocating that dangerous, toxic chemicals should be welcomed into the bluff? What about those property owners who don't want to have herbicide exposure? Has the BES explored other alternatives to curbing the fire potential of this community area? What efforts will be put in place to warn the public when these sprays are applied?

It would be a great service to the readers of your paper to follow up on this initial report with more information about these questions.

Thanks from a concerned resident.

Dear Concerned Resident,

Thanks for your email about the fire prevention on the Bluff article. I am copying this note to both Lynn Barlow at BES who can provide a more complete response, as well as to several interested Overlook residents.

The short answer is that at first reading, I too was concerned about the use of herbicides. However, the specter of a fire enveloping my home turned out to be the greater concern and I opted to grant permission for the work to be done. My understanding is that the homeowner has to give this permission first, prior to any actions by BES or the Parks Department.

Your questions about alternatives to curbing fire prevention and warnings to the public (if needed) are well taken but I am not qualified to answer them. I hope the professionals at BES will be able to give us the assurances that are needed.

Warren Cassell, Co-Editor

Following is the response from Lynn Barlow at BES:

Thanks for your interest in the FEMA Wildfire Risk Reduction project along the Bluffs. I'm happy to answer any questions regarding the project.

*The two methods of vegetation removal we will be using on the Bluffs are 1) cutting and 2) judicious herbicide application. Our program, BES Watershed Revegetation Program, shares your concern about the use of herbicides. We have spent a lot of time and consideration to develop an overall strategy that minimizes the use of herbicides as much as possible. The specific herbicides chosen were also considered very carefully. The only two herbicides our crews use are formulations of **glyphosate** and **tryclopypyr**, both of which have extremely low toxicity factors. For further research, this is a useful website - <http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu/>. These two herbicides are also preferred herbicides for The Nature Conservancy. TNC has concluded that the benefits of careful use of herbicides - in this case wildfire risk reduction and removal of invasive plant species - outweighs the concerns we all have in using them. Additionally, BES applies herbicide in accordance with Portland Parks & Recreation's Integrated Pest Management program (<http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=116237>).*

Typically, herbicide application will occur no more than 2-4 times per year. Herbicide is applied directly to vegetation, not sprayed on the ground or in the air. And, as Warren notes above, only participating landowners will be affected.

City of Portland's goal is to manage the Willamette Bluffs toward the Desired Future Condition of an Oak Woodland community. This is a more open canopy, low groundcover plant community which historically experienced periodic lower intensity fires. A combination of physically cutting and spot treatment with herbicides of noxious weeds is our most practical option toward achieving this Desired Future Condition (DFC) and wildfire risk reduction. This DFC also reduces risk of catastrophic wildfire by providing vertical and horizontal breaks between vegetation, keeping fire from quickly spreading and becoming catastrophic. These treatments also allow the establishment of low growing grasses and forbs (herbaceous flowering plants other than grass) that aid against erosion on steep slopes, compete against new noxious weed encroachment, and provide much less wildfire fuel than the noxious weeds do.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Editors' note: We urge readers who have additional questions or concerns to get in touch with Lynn Barlow of BES at 503-823-2316 or lynnb@bes.ci.portland.or.us.

DESPERATELY SEEKING MYSTERY RESIDENT WHO:

1. Has undecipherable handwriting (I can relate) and
2. Lives on the Bluff and
3. Sent to BES an agreement to participate in the Bluff fire prevention program and
4. Sent only the last page of the agreement with the undecipherable handwriting but
5. Neglected to send the other pages containing your address.

If you believe all of the above fits your description, call Lynn Barlow at BES 503-823-2316 so that you can be included in the initial work expected to take place in April or May.

DOES OUR AIR TASTE FUNNY TO YOU?

By Jeff Berebitsky

On Wednesday, June 20th you will be given an opportunity to learn about the many seasonings you unknowingly breathe into your lungs. Yes, as we learned in Adrian Baker Campbell's article in the January/February *Overlook Views*, North Portland manages to attract some of the worst air quality in Portland.

In response to this article the Overlook Neighborhood Association will be hosting the event, Would You like some Oxygen with Your Benzene?, as a continuation of our Race for the Cause educational series. Together we will explore what is leading to our poor air quality and identify actions we can take to reduce our air contamination.

Some of the questions we plan to explore include: What areas do you believe are most affected by air pollution? Do you think it is possible for individuals to impact air quality in our community? How can air pollution impact your family's health? Why is air quality an issue in North Portland?

This free event will be held at the Kaiser Permanente's Town Hall ballroom, Wednesday, June 20th starting at 7:00 p.m. going until 8:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). Dr. Linda George, Professor at Portland State University, will lead a one hour presentation on what pollutants are adding a bit too much flavor to our oxygen. Following the event, we will have a neighborhood representative facilitate a 30 minute community discussion of the issues presented by Dr. George.

Please email Jeff Berebitsky at jeff@sescogroup.com or call 503-236-8616 to reserve your seat today. Kaiser Permanente's Town Hall is located at 3704 N. Interstate Ave. There is no cost to attend the event.



SHOP LOCAL—Scene 2

By Adrian Baker Campbell

(Editors' note: this article is a part of our continuing series highlighting the retail renaissance that's happening in Overlook. In the last issue of *Overlook Views* Adrian Baker Campbell brought us a charming portrait of Deborah Doell's Lucrecia, one of the new businesses on Killingsworth. During that same adventure, she and her husband Kevin discovered another locally owned emporium. Here is her account of that visit.)

After spending a good 45 minutes or so at Lucrecia, we headed east to visit Kert Wright's new shop-in-a-house, Sabi Home and Garden, which opened in December 2006. We had met Kert previously at an OKNA general meeting where we had heard about her plans to start her new business, so it was fun to actually see it up and running. The initial impression I had when we walked into Sabi, was that we had just arrived at a friend's house to have tea and a chat in front of the fire. And that is exactly what we did. Surrounded by furnishings for sale that evoke the definition of Sabi (pieces that gain beauty with their age and imperfections) we sat and talked about how she came to live in, and run a business from, this house in North Portland. Kert retired a few years ago and figured she'd "take a break." She came to Portland after working for Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, CA, for 20 years. Her son and daughter-in-law live in Portland, and she was ready to leave southern California. She is happy to be in North Portland. She feels it's very eclectic and loves the older homes. Her first introduction to North Portland was attending a NASCAR event at the Portland International Raceway a few years back, and we joked about the fact that at least she knew about PIR before she moved into the area.

Kert became acquainted with Portland by volunteering for various nonprofit organizations in the city. She signed up to work every day, six days a week, for the first four months she was here. It gave her a sense of what was going on in the city and acclimated her to the area. She worked at a food bank, Friendly House, the Raptor Road Trip on Sauvie Island, and she continues to volunteer at the Union Gospel Mission on 3rd and Burnside, which is her favorite place. She also has helped deliver

Overlook Views for the past couple of months to residents in the area.

The residence which is now her place of business, as well as her home, just jumped out and grabbed her when she first saw it. She had become a regular at Beaterville and good friends with Beaterville's owner, Bill Lockner. She was looking for a place in the area and was actually looking at the space where Debora Doell now has Lucrecia, when she came down the street and saw the For Sale sign on the house and said "YES."

Kert started attending OKNA general meetings while she was in the process of readying her store for opening, and she says she's very impressed with the way the meetings are run. As part of her neighborhood involvement, Kert organized a neighborhood crime prevention meeting with the help of the North Portland Crime Prevention Coordinator, Havilah Fer-schweiler. Ten or so people attended the initial meeting, and one of the outcomes of that first meeting was that Kert and Debora decided to put together a loosely-formed association for the North Killingsworth-area businesses, spanning from I-5 west to Greeley. This is consistent with the overall plans the city has for revitalizing the North Killingsworth area as a destination for shopping and dining.

Kert is adamant about keeping her business looking as home-like as possible and works very hard at being a considerate, caring neighbor, both to businesses in the area and to the other residents on the street.

In the spring, (Editors' note: that's now) Kert will open up her back yard, which includes a covered gazebo and has lots of room for garden sculptures and yard ornaments. Her other love is landscape design, so be sure to stop by as the weather improves to see what she has going on outside. Of course, we had to buy something from her store. Couldn't go home empty handed, after all. We now have a lovely small hand-woven wool rug from her store plus a couple of gold-leaf glasses which we'll use to hold votive candles. I can't wait to get back to North Killingsworth to see what is going on and to check in with my two new friends—truly lovely people—whom we are very fortunate to having living and working amongst us. Welcome, Kert and Deborah!

Sabi Home and Garden is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10-6, Saturday, and Sunday from 9-5. Closed Tuesdays.



Photo credit—Adrian Baker Campbell

AT LONG LAST!

By Warren Cassell

Overlook Park is finally going to get its new playground equipment as a result of a levy passed several years ago. Dogged by delays caused by contractor and bureaucratic issues, the Overlook Park playground improvement is part of a citywide program. It focuses on safety measures, i.e. replacement of equipment that has lead paint and resurfacing of the areas under the merry-go-rounds. Overlook Park will also be the beneficiary of a new teeter-totter and swing set. The tentative construction schedule shows Overlook Park at the top of the list for North Portland and if all goes well (weather, etc.) the improvements will start at the end of April. With that caveat, Portland Parks and Recreation is predicting that, "Once work begins at a site, it should go relatively quickly." Let's hope so; this has been a long time coming

ALBERTA STREET—REALLY, NOT A THRU STREET

By Brad Halverson, OKNA Transportation Chair

After receiving more complaints about trucks getting stuck down at the west end of Alberta Street where it dead-ends into the back of the adidas campus, we have convinced PDOT to take another look at the problem. Apparently the "No Trucks" sign at Interstate Avenue didn't do the trick. PDOT will also look at the Alberta & Gay intersection to see if some signage is needed there as well (for those that miss the first sign). There may be a problem with some of the mapping programs and paper versions showing Alberta running thru to Greeley, but I believe those companies have been notified. If you have a Garmin, Tom Tom, or other car-based GPS mapping service, please take a look at it and notify the authors if there is an error there.

At press time, neighbors on Alberta Street and Denver Avenue were gathering signatures to install speed bumps west of Interstate. Four to five bumps may go in if 2/3 of the adjacent property owners consent. Funding - which usually is shared by neighbors and PDOT - would be provided by mitigation funds from Interstate MAX construction. This is the same pot of money that paid for the pedestrian islands along Denver Avenue. If less than 2/3 want the bumps, they won't be built. Stay tuned.

CROWN MOTEL UPDATE

REACH Community Development is moving ahead with its plan to redevelop the Crown Motel site as a mixed-use housing project. Financing applications have been submitted, design work is proceeding, and a Design Review Pre-application Conference will be scheduled later this Spring. This review will be open to the public. REACH plans to complete construction in late 2008.

DEMOCRACY AT WORK

(Editors’ note: When the possibility of changing the command structure of the North Precinct was initially announced, there was a roar of disapproval from community activists across many neighborhood lines throughout North Portland. The roar developed into a committee. The committee called a meeting with Chief Sizer. The committee called a meeting with Mayor Potter. After a considerable number of views had been exchanged, there was an agreement to keep the Commander position as is. Following is a copy of the email announcement Chief Sizer sent confirming the results of their meetings with the community.)

-----Original Message-----
From: Rosie Sizer
[mailto:RSizer@portlandpolice.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2007 2:28 PM
To: Doretta@Doretta.com
Cc: Maria Rubio; Bret Smith; Brian Schmautz; Jim Ferraris; Lynnae Berg
Subject: North Precinct proposal

Per our conversation this afternoon, I think it is fine for those of us who talked last Thursday evening to say that we have all agreed to keep the Commander position at North Precinct.

Assistant Chief Lynnae Berg will be meeting with her staff next week to work out some operational details below the rank of commander. I anticipate having the new proposal available by the 20th of April. The proposal will not re-draw precinct boundaries but will keep a commander, sergeants, officers at North Precinct and will keep the precinct open. It may or may not include a lieutenant's position.

I will also have the Strategic Services Division provide some information to all of you on calls for service (vis-à-vis the configuration Cornelius proposed) etc. I do not at this point have an exact date that I can deliver that material to you.

NEW SCHOOL NEAR THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Portland Village School, a Waldorf methods public charter school patterned after the Eugene Village School, will open in North Portland in the fall of 2007. The school will focus on developmentally appropriate curricula with an emphasis on learning through all of the arts: music, story-telling, painting, drawing, sculpting, knitting, gardening, cooking, and we will offer Spanish language classes beginning in Kindergarten. We will begin with K-4 starting in the fall, growing to K-8.

The school will be located at 7654 North Delaware Ave, which is currently the home of De LaSalle North Catholic High School. For more information, please visit our website at: www.portlandvillageschool.org, or call 503/490-7362.



REAL ESTATE UPDATE PORTLAND/OVERLOOK



An overview of the Portland Metropolitan area as of the end of February, 2007 shows that the average market time for a residential property to sell was 66 days, compared to 45 days a year ago. The number of new listings increased by 18.9% compared to February, 2006, pending sales decreased by 1.2% and closed sales declined by 7.9%. The average sales price for the Metro area increased by 13.6%.

In North Portland, there were 292 active listings (including 161 new ones), 140 pending sales, and 88 closed sales with an average sale price of \$264,600 and an average market time of 60 days. Appreciation has increased 15.9% since February, 2006. Listed below are properties that have sold in Overlook since the last Newsletter.

RECENT OVERLOOK SALES				
Address	Bed/Bath	List Price	Sold Price	Days on Market
5637 N. Greeley Ave	2/1	\$224,900	\$235,000	2
5534 N. Denver Ave.	2/1	\$279,900	\$270,000	135
1646 N. Killingsworth St.	4/1	\$318,000	\$295,000	128
2224 N. Willamette Blvd.	3/2	\$349,000	\$349,000	87
4205 N. Massachusetts Ave	3/2	\$364,900	\$350,000	74
1805 N. Jessup St.	3/2	\$357,500	\$357,500	3
2407 N. Willamette Blvd.	4/2.1	\$364,900	\$363,500	97
1725 N. Sumner St.	3/2	\$369,000	\$374,900	2
2044 N. Willamette Blvd.	3/2	\$399,000	\$389,000	4
4008 N. Colonial Ave.	3/1.1	\$489,000	\$495,000	79

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

GREEN MIRACLES

By Cynthia Sulaski, Overlook Tree Liaison

On February 10th, Overlook residents and friends planted 30 trees throughout the neighborhood in partnership with Friends of Trees. Over the past eight years, over 530 trees have been welcomed into the neighborhood. In return, they have given us beauty, shade, wildlife habitat and have helped to clean our air. And for that, we are grateful.

We are also thankful to the following people and organizations:

- Kaiser Permanente** — for a donation of access to and staffing of Town Hall for our staging area as well as some refreshments;
- adidas** — the corporate sponsor for the Overlook planting;
- Metro** — for a grant that helped subsidize the cost of each tree by \$60;
- Arciform** — for a financial donation;
- Overlook Tree Preservation** — for a truck, mulch and labor donation
- Lastly, **Friends of Trees** — we could never have planted so many trees over the years without their great staff, volunteers and expertise.

By the way, don’t forget to water your trees during the hot, dry summer. The rule of thumb is to water slowly those trees planted in the last two years 10-15 gallons once a week. For more information, go to: http://www.friendsoftrees.org/tree_resources/maintenance.php.





USEFUL EVERYDAY TIPS FOR OVERLOOK
By Zita Podany

Opt Out of Junk Mail

Tired of getting junk mail and pre-screenings for credit card offers? Then choose to Opt-OUT by calling 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688). Calling this number (which you now can see at the bottom of most junk mail credit card offers), will prevent the credit bureaus from releasing your personal information to credit card companies. Thus, you should receive fewer credit card solicitations in the mail. However, this will not stop your bank, credit union, brokerage company, etc. from selling your information -- for that you will need to contact each company yourself. Be aware that you will be asked for your social security number when you call the OPT-OUT number because that is how the credit bureaus track your financial information. They will send you a form and once you return the form the three credit bureaus (Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian) won't release your information for several years . The added benefit of removing yourself from pre-approved credit card offers means less temptation and opportunity for those who engage in mail theft, and peace of mind should you move from your present home knowing that your pre-approved card offers won't be left at your old address.

National Do Not Call List

Here is your chance to stop those annoying telemarketers. Log onto: <http://www.donotcall.gov>. Over one hundred million people are now on the list according to recent news reports. Once you have been on their registry for 31 days, most telemarketers will cease calling your num-

ber; if they don't stop, you can file a complaint against them on the Do-Not-Call-List web site. The registration is free for your home and mobile phones and is effective for five years. However, the rules do not apply to political campaign calls or people with whom you do business. Being on the do-not-call list gives you a diplomatic way of hanging up on a telemarketer without really being rude, "Before you go on, please be aware that we are on the do-not-call list." Amazing how a long litany turns into a very short phone call. If you have elderly parents, this is the best option for them.



Upromise

Do you use a Safeway or Fred Meyer club card? Here's a chance to earn a little extra pocket change. The Upromise Web site (<http://www.upromise.com>) allows shoppers to earn extra money for college. Every time you make certain types of purchases, participating vendors will contribute to your account. You will get junk mail from Upromise once in a while, but you can also earn a little pocket change – this is more an example of found money as long as you are using those products and club cards anyway. If you buy McDonald gift certificate booklets, read how you can earn Upromise cash. You can cash out your account at any time.

IMPORTANT NITTY-GRITTY

Want to join us and receive witty late-breaking e-mail reminders about meetings, events, etc.? Just go to www.overlookneighborhood.org and subscribe by entering your e-mail address as directed on the home page.

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

OKNA OFFICERS

Co-Chairs:
Tom Kilbane 503-572-6024
tom.kilbane@comcast.net and
Jennifer Callison 503-285-0364
calhill@spiritone.com
Treasurer: Eric Gale 503-737-5227
ericsgale@yahoo.com
Secretary: Troy Tate 503-484-5306
trizzz@tmail.com

OVERLOOK VIEWS

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

Co-editors: Warren and Melisa Cassell

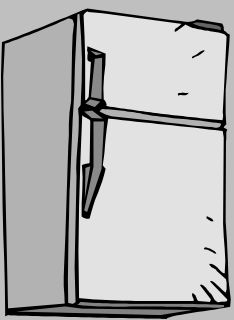
Distribution Captains: **Alan Cranna and Carol Cushman**

Thanks to the following lovely people whose contributions made this edition possible:
Jeff Berebitsky, Jennifer Callison, Adrian Baker Campbell, Steve Cheseborough, Carol Cushman, Brad Halverson, Michelle Haynes, Tom Kilbane, Bob La Du, Steve Marsh, Lacy Nash, Carol Padden, Zita Podany and Jeffrey Sprague.

The Overlook Views is published six times a year and your comments, suggestions and/or contributions are welcome. This really is your newsletter! Deadline for the next issue is June 10. Articles must be submitted electronically and should not exceed three hundred words unless there is prior agreement with the editors. Submissions should be sent to: w.cassell@comcast.net. For additional information, either email above or call 503-288-8323.

FUN, GAMES AND HOMEWORK AT BETHEL
By Warren Cassell

Bethel Neighborhood Drop-in Center recently announced their new after school program for kids in grades 6-10 on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.. Overlook students will be able to "hang out" with their friends, make new ones and develop their skills at pool, foosball, computer and board games. In addition, kids who need assistance with their schoolwork will find the help they need with adult staff and volunteers serving as tutors. For more information, call Melody Bucholz, Director at 503-285-4919 or email ydic@bethelpdx.org. Bethel Neighborhood Drop-in Center is located at 5658 N. Denver.

503	NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES		*503*	<div>TAPE THIS LIST HERE  FOR FUTURE REFERENCE</div>
Abandoned Vehicles (after 48 hrs)	823-7309	NP Crime Prevention	823-4098	
Animal Control	988-3066	NP Precinct (Police)	823-2120	
Bicycle Program	823-2925	NP Police Officer assigned to Overlook: Eric Zajac	823-4676	
Child Abuse Hotline	731-3100	Neighborhood Mediation	595-4890	
Drug Activity Reporting	823-DRUG	Noise Reporting & Control	823-7350	
Garbage Service (Info/Problems)	823-7202	Non-Emergency Police	823-3333	
Graffiti (Info/Assistance)	823-408	Office Neighborhood Involvement	823-4519	
Graffiti Hotline (Police)	823-4824	Parking Enforcement	823-5195	
Landlord/Tenant Mediation	282-1964	Rider Advocates	823-4223	
NE Coalition of Neighborhoods	823-4575			