

OVERLOOK VIEWS

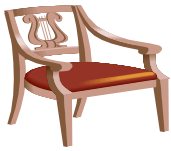
November/December 2007

The Newsletter

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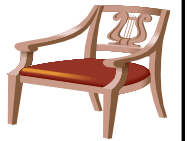
Overlook Neighborhood Association, Portland, Oregon

www.overlookneighborhood.org



WORDS FROM THE CHAIR—LOOKING FORWARD

By Eric Gale



I love our neighborhood. I also love our neighborhood association. In the relatively short time I've lived here I've come to appreciate what a strong and active neighborhood association we have, and the energy and commitment our people are bringing to the challenge of making our home a better place. (It's all volunteer driven, so get involved in any way that you can). That's why I decided to become more involved and take on the neighborhood association chair position. So, amid all of the emotionally-charged issues surrounding the proposed renaming of Interstate Avenue I think it's important to remember what a great, dynamic neighborhood we have and celebrate the work that's gone on and continues to go on.

With all of the developments and changes, particularly along Interstate, one

of the most important activities for the neighborhood association will be to continue to provide a forum for people to learn about issues and developments and to help provide a medium to transmit our feedback, concerns, and visions. Coming up there's the Interstate rezoning project, fire abatement on the bluff, continuing transportation, traffic, and crime issues, a half dozen development projects going on at any time, and, yes, the proposed renaming of Interstate.

I'm also in awe of what others (not me) have done in the neighborhood association to help make our neighborhood what we envision it to be. So, I would like to thank them all for their hard work. Besides participating in numerous parks, transportation, rezoning, and safety committees, they have also helped keep the Overlook House alive, helped start and

maintain the Interstate Farmers Market, organized our annual tree planting, helped organize neighborhood watches, organized a series of great environmental discussions and presentations, helped get the Overlook Parents Network organized, brought neighbors together at our annual potlucks and picnics, and produce and distribute our bi-monthly newsletter that is the envy of neighborhood associations around the city (submissions and volunteer distributors always wanted). And that's all been in the last three years. So, thank you and, to everyone, please stay in touch and stay involved.



Editorial

.....AND BECAUSE I AGREE SO WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH ERIC (See Above)

By Warren Cassell

It saddens me to remember how I felt after the September 18 OKNA general meeting. I was ashamed to be an Overlook resident. At this meeting there was an extraordinarily heavy turnout because of three large issues on the agenda: yearly elections of officers, the summer fire on the Bluff and a presentation about a possible Interstate Avenue name change. This last item seemed to have brought out the worst in my usually soft-spoken neighbors. Instead of a civil hearing of opposing points of view, there were interruptions and shouting down of minority views. Instead of civil discourse, there was mocking of the guest speakers and a nasty employment of the rule of the squeaky wheel: loudest voices having their say above all others. Instead of listening carefully to the message of the speakers, some of those present assaulted the speakers' integrity.

Obviously, there were many exceptions to the above. However, my overall impression of the neighborhood as reflected by this meeting was not a pleasant one. I came away with the feeling that the issue

of re-naming Interstate took a back seat to our community's uncivil reaction to the concept. A meaningful dialogue never happened because sadly, the community would not permit it to happen. I sincerely hope this is an anomaly because these past six years, since my move to Overlook, have been most pleasant and gracious---particularly due to the good nature of my friends and acquaintances who live in every part of the neighborhood. My guess is that many of those neighbors didn't attend the meeting that night.

A little background: I grew up and lived on the East Coast for the first seven decades of my life. We know rude. Snarling store clerks proliferate like the roaches in those high rise buildings. Say hello to your neighbor or worse, to a stranger? Not a chance, or else you will be accused of harassment. Welcoming a new resident to your building? Don't even think about it. New Yorkers are notorious for not knowing their next door neighbors' names even if they have been living in the same building for decades. Coming from this kind of background and moving to

Portland resulted in a bit of culture shock. Store clerks at Fred Meyer, New Seasons and practically every retail establishment I visited in the last six years have always been outgoing and personable. My walks around Overlook always result in friendly greetings from neighbors and strangers alike. I have found this to be a welcoming city built on a tradition of good manners. But just where was that tradition at the September general meeting? Certainly not at Kaiser Town Hall that night.

There is no doubt that we will discuss contentious subjects at future meetings and despite the OKNA board's best efforts in this debacle, I hope we'll be better prepared. My hope too, is that our community will come to realize that there is no place for rude, intolerant and nasty behavior here or anyplace else. A return to civility for which this city is famous would be a welcome replacement.

Editor's note: Not all of those attending the meeting are in agreement with this assessment. See letters on the next page.

LETTERS RE PROPOSED INTER-STATE BLVD RENAMING

Editors note: The proposed name change generated a considerable amount of correspondence with and from Overlook residents. The following were in response to Mayor Potter's letter (with an introduction by OKNA board chair Eric Gale) sent to the Overlook Association's email list. In addition, some of these are in response to the September 18 general meeting in which the issue was discussed. To see the Mayor's letter, go to the OKNA website: <http://overlookneighborhood.org/index.html>.

*Please note that there have been some edits for brevity and only occasional edits for spelling and grammar. **Space limitations precluded our using all of the letters.***

The last two letters are by three OKNA board members and fall into the category of "Not published in the Oregonian."

SENT to the OKNA website from Dan Haneckow

Hello group moderator!

In interest of equal time, I would like to submit this letter, which I also sent Mayor Potter.

Dear Mayor Potter,

I am writing in response to your "Open Letter to the Community" regarding your support for the re-naming of Interstate Avenue. There are plenty of things I could say about pride of place, history, and the connection people feel to their surroundings, but I will limit myself to the reception the Chavez supporters received at their presentation of the Overlook Neighborhood Association meeting of two weeks past.

To quote your letter:

" But when an opinion is delivered with negativity and disrespect, it is not healthy, it is destructive. And this should be unacceptable to every Portlander."

As you were not there, but feel comfortable enough writing about it anyway, perhaps you might be interested in a eyewitness to the meeting.

The Chavez supporters were received politely. It was only after their presentation that things got heated. Why was this? It was because, after brief introduction to Chavez's legacy, their presentation basically can be boiled down to these points: The Mayor supports this, the Commissioners support this, New Seasons supports this, lots of people support this, you should support this and strongly implied this is going to happen anyway.

There was no compromise hinted at. No acknowledgment that they considered the neighboring community might have their own preferences and local pride of place to consider. There was no possibility given that if the neighborhood found the proposal unacceptable, that it would make the slightest difference. Though not overtly, but through omission, it was a message delivered disrespectful of the feelings of a lot of the people in the room, and as such, to use your words, it was

not healthy, it was destructive.

Still, things were civil.

The tipping point was reached though when one of the Chavez supporters responded that "maybe the city would help" defray the costs to businesses with the re-naming. The room erupted in derisive laughter. This was interpreted, (or cynically co-opted) by one of the activists as that the laughter was being directed at them personally. Her response was "Don't laugh at us."

This was a pivotal moment for future arguments over the re-naming of Interstate because it illustrates two ways of how the story can be framed. If the story is about local preferences verses outside motives helped by a city government out of touch with local feelings, the issue will be resolved one way.

If the story is about a minority group subjected to intolerance, the story will be decided in another way. It is clear by your letter, and your previous stated support for the renaming of Interstate, which interpretation you have chosen.

As Mayor of a city of diverse interests and viewpoints, I would have hoped that your primary focus would be that a City Code based process with input from the very beginning from all interested parties would take place, regardless of your own hopes for the outcome. As such, I have no confidence in the process you have in place to resolve this issue, as there is little doubt what the preferred outcome is.

I will participate however, because I believe that local sentiment, pride and history is important. I will also caution that when Interstate is renamed Cesar Chavez Blvd, the cynicism that brought laughter at the idea of the city helping in North Portland will have grown and the legacy of Cesar Chavez in the surrounding neighborhoods diminished to that of an imposition placed by outside interests.

SENT to the OKNA website from Karen Kane

Mayor Potter, Overlook neighborhood association and the Latino Community,

I wholeheartedly support naming something significant for Cesar E. Chavez. His tireless efforts to bring respect, safety and dignity to farm workers should always be remembered and honored. I would be proud to see his name on something that thousands of area residents would see or visit.

I don't however, think a street does the man justice. Choosing a street just seems like the easy thing to do, maybe it's just the fastest. Is the fact that other local streets are named after honorable people driving this? Just because someone else has done it? Please, I beg you, give this more thought - let's give Mr. Chavez and his work something better -- he deserves much more than a street.

My suggestion is to name something much more prominent such as a school, a community center or a park. I also thought the idea of naming the year-round farmer's market after him was brilliant - THINK about that connection - good, safe, whole food. A school - education. A park - a place for families to gather. A street with a train and a bunch of low class hotels? NO!

Mr. Potter, I ask you to give the Latino community more staff support and help to come up with a better alternative.

SENT to the OKNA website from David Schleiger

I love my city.

My Great Grand Father Walter Holman had a business on Hawthorne Street which still bears his name. My other Great Grand Father Michael Cohn with his brothers also had a business on 12th and Hawthorne which has been gone for about thirty years. So please understand that I love my city and its rich history. The good, the great, and the shady. It is what makes Portland such a special place, a place that we all should love.

Last night I attended my neighborhood association's meeting. The main topic which brought many people whom rarely attend these meetings such as myself was the proposed renaming of Interstate Avenue.

I have to say that the committee that is seeking the name change were very gracious and stood tall against an angry crowd that felt that they had been pushed around by city hall for the last time. We the Overlook Neighborhood association's general membership was taking a stand.

It should be no surprise to any North Portland resident that this vote went down to a burning defeat. What should be a surprise is that no one had a solution for this challenge.

The challenge is a way to honor Caesar Chavez in a way that matches what he had done for farm workers' and consumers' safety. I think personally that some of the opposition is due to the illegal immigrant battles facing Americans today. I only can assume that most people do not realize the Mr. Chavez was a born and raised American citizen and he did many things for the consumers not just the migrant laborers.

Long ago I knew that it is not right to complain about a problem without having a solution. I do have a solution, one that will honor Caesar Chavez in a fitting way and place.

I would like to ask that the city as a whole support naming the new Sauvie Island bridge Caesar Chavez Bridge, and that this bridge have a plaque attached to it with his name or a statue erected at the entrance.

Why the Sauvie Island Bridge some are asking. Well Sauvie Island is the last agricultural area in the city of Portland. The bridge is for the most part to the naked eye heading from north to south. In the next month tens of thousands of school children will be traveling to Sauvie Island for pumpkins.

For me this idea meets all of the goals of the organizing group. It will be an educational experience as children ride the bus to get pumpkins and the teachers can discuss Caesar Chavez and his affects on this country's farming.

SENT to the OKNA website from Devin Culbertson and Michelle Marx

We noted that the Interstate re-naming proposal was listed on the agenda for this evening's meeting. Unfortunately, we are out of town and not

Re-printed from the Jan/Feb 2005 Newsletter

A thought for the new year...

By Melisa Cassell

WE CAN DO THIS

We can reach a hand
across the aching space—to understand.
We can thread a strand
of kind connection
Into the fragile cloth of shared concern.
The world is slow to learn.
The path to peace is hit—or miss,
But we, here? We can do this.

We can disagree
Although minds do not meet
Hearts are free
To imbue dissent with laughter,
And enhance debate with glee.
“They” with power often will accord dismiss
We need not follow their bark and hiss.
We can sing together. We can do this.

We can find a way
We can keep discord at bay
We can be many and yet say
Our oneness is the blessing
that gives the cosmos’ kiss.
We can be divided, yet find bliss.
We can do this.

POUR ON THE GRAVY

By Nalini Kuruppu and Sue Dearborn

It’s that time of year again - fall is upon us, kids are back in school and the Beach PTA Fundraising committee is in full swing! Last year’s giving campaign called *Pour On The Gravy* was so successful and so much fun that we decided to make it an annual event.

Instead of trying to sell you books, cookie dough or wrapping paper, we sent out letters asking for donations to the Beach PTA. The positive response we received showed the PTA how much Overlook residents want to support our school and appreciate just being asked for what we need.

Educating and raising children is a community effort and anyone -- a parent, grandparent, alumnus, neighbor or business -- can be a part of enriching the educational environment at our school. The money raised during this fall fundraiser will go to support school day and after school enrichment activities and opportunities. Any contribution is welcome, so Pour on the Gravy!

You can mail or drop off your contribution at Beach School: 1710 N. Humboldt, Portland, OR, 97217. Please make checks payable to the Beach PTA. The Beach PTA is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization, and all donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law. If you have questions please contact Sue Dearborn at (503) 222-6812 or suebryn@comcast.net. Thanks and Happy Thanksgiving!

able to attend tonight's meeting. We feel somewhat strongly about this issue, however, and wanted to be sure that we had an opportunity to voice our concerns to our neighborhood representatives. While we are typically in favor naming/re-naming streets to honor great Americans like Cesar Chavez, we feel very strongly that Interstate Avenue is not the appropriate street to re-name. Interstate Avenue is so named because it already bears some historical significance for the City. It was the old Interstate highway. The beautiful neon signs along the street testify to this past life. It just seems so careless to re-christen a significant city street, whose name is already a testament to Portland's history.

Furthermore, Trimet and PDC have spent an untold amount of money investing in transit, infrastructure and building improvements focused on redeveloping the Interstate corridor. Not the least of which is the construction of the yellow max line, both popularly and officially referred to as the Interstate MAX line. Will the name also change to the Cesar Chavez MAX line? Is the City and/or Tri-Met prepared to purchase all new signage for the yellow line MAX? Interstate Avenue is already strongly associated with the City's transit investment, both cognitively within the minds of the population, and officially on MAX way finding and signage. It just seems like a waste of money already spent to rechristen a street so strongly tied into Portland's transit system.

We would like to re-state, that we fully recognize the great contribution that Cesar Chavez has made to this country, and agree that naming a street in his honor is one way that we can recognize that contribution. However, re-naming an already historically significant street whose name is already strongly tied in with the City's transit investment is not appropriate. Another street, with less existing significance to the city, should be chosen.

SENT to the editor of *Overlook Views* from Zita Podany

As an old timer in this neighborhood, 40 years now, I have my concerns about the change. As an old timer and a historical purist I find changing street names a big issue. Though the sentiment may be good, the practicality seems contrived. Why Interstate and not some new area/street/subdivision?

Interstate used to be a truck lane, a highway and now a busy commercial street scape. What does it have to do with Ceaser Chavez? The demographics for this area have not been Hispanic. I am curious as to why the change? I am still having a hard time going from Portland Boulevard to Rosa Parks Way -- to me the street will always be Portland Boulevard -- again I am a historical purist and I think local street names should reflect local names/landmarks -- local names have more meaning, greater impact, sense of pride, and most of all they provide uniqueness in a sea of commonality -- afterall how many times can you use Main Street, or Broadway, or King, or Washington? Local names serve as a reminder of our local history that doesn't always make it into the history books. Take for instance

Mock's Crest, Mock's Bottom, Pettygrove, McLoughlin, they all represent local folks who had local influence by impacting the community and its events. Street names are like landmarks in local history -- they represent what a community values. But should existing street names be obliterated just because it is the fashion of the day to change major street names to reflect current politics? This reminds me of how countries of yesteryear, upon being invaded by another country, would soon loose their sense of identity for the invading forces would change street names, destroy historical landmarks, burn historical archives. In these invasions, local history and culture died out with the breath of the last old timer in the area. I still vote to keep Interstate Avenue as Interstate Avenue.

SENT to the Oregonian by former OKNA co-chairs Tom Kilbane and Jennifer Callison

Your story “Arbor Lodge rejects new avenue name” referred to the Overlook Neighborhood Association’s meeting two days earlier where the renaming of Interstate Avenue was on the agenda.

Regrettably, there was some rude behavior during the discussion after the Chavez Committee presentation, for which there is no excuse, but neither I nor anyone I spoke to after the meeting heard ‘ethnic slurs’ tossed about. Your reporter, who was not at the meeting, admitted that her choice of words may have been misleading. It certainly makes for a more dramatic and newsworthy story to paint this as a racial issue, but it is not; it is about changing the name of Interstate Avenue.

By a unanimous vote, the neighborhood agreed that Cesar Chavez deserves to be honored in some way, but the overwhelming majority of Overlook residents at the meeting expressed their opinion that changing the name of Interstate Avenue is not the way to do it.

SENT to the Oregonian from Warren Cassell, Co-Editor Overlook Views

I, too, was appalled by the rude behavior demonstrated at the October 18 Overlook general meeting. Though Overlook residents were not entirely blameless, the Association’s carefully thought out voting and registration procedures indicated that quite a few of those present came from outside of the neighborhood. Kim Travis’ lament (9/22 letter to the editor) taking the OKNA board to task for misjudging the community is understandable. However, if Kim is really serious, she would join the OKNA board and head up a diversity committee or a new members committee. It’s easy to write a letter and criticize how things are. More challenging and infinitely harder work, is taking an active role in the neighborhood organization to make the changes you believe are necessary. I feel strongly in the concept that “You are either a part of the solution or part of the problem.” I hope Kim can be persuaded to become part of the solution.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION is an annual event presented by The City Repair Project as the facilitating organization of the Earth Day Coalition. At the November 20 Overlook Neighborhood general meeting, representatives from this Coalition will be presenting a general overview of hosting Earth Day at Overlook Park. Next year’s Earth Day Celebration will be Saturday, April 19, 2008. For more information about Earth Day or The City Repair Project, check out the website www.cityrepair.org /click on “Earth Day.” Questions? contact Bob New at earthday@cityrepair.org.



FIRE ON THE BLUFF REDUX

By Adrian Baker Campbell
Photos by Steve Lanigan

The September-October edition of *Overlook Views* provided extensive coverage of the July 10, 2007, Mocks Crest Park fire. Residents who live near the bluff were very frightened by the “narrow escape.”

So what is being done to prevent this from happening again? At the September 18 OKNA general meeting Mark Wilson from Portland Parks and Recreation, Lynn Barlow from Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and Kevin Brousseau from the Portland Fire Department made brief presentations and answered questions about the fire.

Wilson outlined the details of the \$940,000 FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant awarded to the City of Portland in 2006 to work towards removing high-fuel-load vegetation, replanting native fire-resistant vegetation, and establishing fire breaks in natural areas along the Willamette Escarpment, which includes Mocks Crest Park. North Portland’s share of the FEMA funds (\$390,000) are being used to plan for the long-term management of the Willamette Escarpment focus area, which runs along the east side of the Willamette River between the Fremont bridge and St. John’s bridge. It also funds efforts to inform and involve area residents, as well as hire consultants in fire management and forest management practices.

Lynn Barlow from BES spoke about restoration projects that involve cutting vegetation, applying herbicides and seeding areas to promote growth of native species. BES crews can work on both public and private properties, and currently they are working with 50 public and private landowners on restoration projects covering more than 70 acres. Mitigation efforts for the Mocks Crest Park area include one more herbicide application this fall, and up to four applications during the growing season next year. Companies including Adidas and Kaiser Permanente have been very cooperative, allowing BES crews access to their land along the escarpment. Barlow (at the time of the September 18th meeting) was still trying to reach a local Union Pacific representative and had been directed to a UP employee in Roseberg.

Wilson described management of these lands, including Mocks Crest Park, as being shared by numerous agencies, and because of that he said, “You’ve been neglected.” Wilson and Barlow both offered to champion getting Mocks Crest Park area under one jurisdiction.

A question and answer period followed the initial presentation:

Q: What happens when the grant expires? Will BES continue to remove invasives? What assistance will be available to elderly landowners or to landowners on very steep slopes that are difficult or dangerous to work on?
A: The grant runs through April 2009, and Barlow stated there are grants available that could continue funding. She and Wilson would like to meet with OKNA members in the coming year to look at funding solutions. They are keeping the City Council updated on fire mitigation plans and are working with large landowners such as Kaiser and Adidas to secure their continued commitment.

Q: How much land along the Willamette Escarpment has burned in the past ten years?
A: 37 acres in 2000, 6 acres in 2001, and 2 acres in 2007.

Q: (to Fire Department representative Kevin Brousseau) What worked or didn’t work regarding the July 10 Mocks Crest fire?
A: Getting cars out of the way and off of narrow streets is helpful. Opening locked gates that could prevent access to property is very important.

Q: What can area residents do to prevent fires during high-risk times such as 4th of July?
A: Report illegal fireworks usage to the non emergency police response/reporting line 503-823-3333. The Fire Department can now issue tickets to people igniting illegal fireworks. Also the “legal” fireworks season lasts for approximately two weeks just prior to and just after the 4th of July. Report incidents to the non emergency police line that occur outside that time window.

In closing, residents of Overlook are very fortunate that the City received the FEMA grant for fire mitigation; without the removal of vegetation that has already taken place with money from this grant, the Mocks Crest Park fire could have been disastrous. Once the grant is over, where will funding for this type of abatement come from? When is Union Pacific coming to the table? Overlook residents are probably most at risk from Union Pacific’s lack of community involvement.

North Portland is targeted to be a high density population area. Rezoning is happening already along the MAX line. If the City can’t meet the safety needs of our current residents, then how will they meet the needs of the area when our numbers grow?

BLUFF UPDATE— Wildfire Risk Reduction Project

By Steve Lanigan

Fall invasive plant removal was hampered by stinging yellow jackets. This convinced Portland Bureau of Environmental Services’ crews to wait for cooler weather before fall removal of blackberries and other invasive plants from the Willamette Bluff. You can expect to see crews applying herbicides and doing some cutting in early November. Workers will then seed the hill-sides with native grasses, although little growth is expected until spring. Another major cut and spray will take place next summer.



WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION COMMITTEE TO PROTECT YOUR BLUFF

An Overlook Neighborhood “wildfire risk reduction committee” is now being formed to coordinate with and support Portland agency efforts to reduce fire risk on the Willamette Bluff. Please contact Steve Lanigan (lanoman@wa-net.com) if you would like to be on the committee. More information on the wildfire risk reduction project can be found at www.porlandonline.com/wildfire.

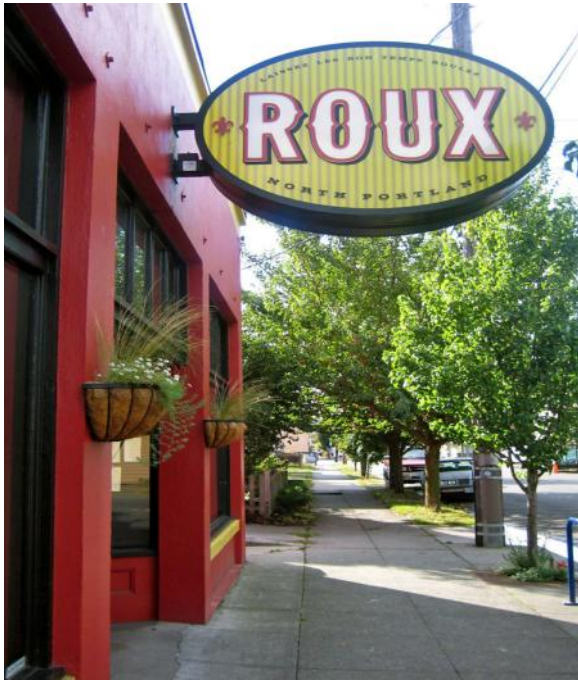


7 GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC/BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS GRANT FUND—and the winner is...

By Kent Hoddick, Grant Committee Chair

The OKNA Board and Grant Committee would like to thank the seven groups who applied for the PGE/BES \$80,000 grant. The Grant Committee and the OKNA board have decided that the best project for the neighborhood is: New street lighting with underground wiring along the scenic bluff area on North Willamette Blvd. The project will replace fourteen old wooden street light poles on the bluff overlooking Swan Island that have overhead wires running along N. Willamette Blvd. from the new high tension power line north. This area has hundreds of walkers, bike riders, and joggers using the area each day. Replacing the old lighting poles will improve the area for all the users which include the Bridge Pedal and the Portland Marathon. Many photos are taken from the bluff, people watch the sunsets, and even an occasional wedding takes place in this location.

This successful grant winner, having met the criteria established by PGE and the city, will benefit Overlook for many years to come. We look forward to the installation of new street lighting for the neighborhood. However, before this grant can become a reality, OKNA and PGE need to work out some logistical details. In addition, the association will need to vote its approval (or not) at the general meeting to be held on November 20. Stay tuned.



LAISSEZ LE BON TEMPS ROULEZ: ROUX TURNS 2

Story and photos by Lauren Holden Kilbane

In the short time it has taken Roux to turn 2, many have noticed good things happening at the corner of Killingsworth and Concord; the restaurant was named to Food & Wine's 2006 "Go" list, a 2006 "Cool Place" in Oprah's magazine and Portland Monthly named Roux among "Best Bars" this year. Travel + Leisure, Gourmet, Bon Appetit and various west coast publications have also included mentions.

Critical success can be attributed to the vision and attention of owner Dwayne Beliakoff. Roux is his meticulously planned concept. The menu, staff, *southern hospitable*-style service and beautiful bar and dining space have all been executed through to fine detail. Beliakoff cites partner and owner T.J. McHugh as a key influence, and former employer Bruce Carey (with whom he worked at Zefiro, Saucebox and Bluehour) as an important mentor. The staff, he says, "has been incredible." An opinion shared in nearly every online review of the restaurant.

Reminders of what was once Paramount Drapery are limited to the exposed ropes and pulleys of the vintage Otis freight elevator in the dining room. Everything new can be credited to Beliakoff and McHugh's fine-honed design skills: the urban space feels at once light with space and skylights, and handsome with ebony floors, burgundy banquettes and dark wood booths, intimate with Tiffany-style sconces. Artwork is a well-curated mix of local visual artists, antique New Orleans prints and posters as well as original photography.

On the culinary side, this thoughtful obsession to detail comes through in a contemporary menu that features Creole inspired dishes made with the best of the Northwest: house-cured meats, smoked sausages, homemade grapefruit bitters, pickled condiments and garnishes along with the requisite emphasis on local and seasonal (in several instances, most notably crawfish season, "local" extends to Louisiana.)

Growing up in the Southeastern U.S., with extended family in New Orleans, Beliakoff's passion for the good cooking and hospitality of the region was primed early on. After studying at FSU and managing restaurants in that area, he was ready to explore some of his own culinary ideas further. His father encouraged him to "head west." He listened and, following a tour of some of Portland's most stylish restaurant kitchens and dining rooms, he and McHugh saw the concept of Roux through.

"When we started, the idea was to create something that was neighborhood-centric...good dining doesn't have to be downtown. We wanted to provide great food and service where we lived, here in North Portland." When asked if he's achieved this, Beliakoff muses "The first 2 years are the craziest time for any new restaurant, but we were having fun as a hot destination right out of the gate. Since then, we've had queries about relocating and duplicating Roux in other places, what we have is unique, but we haven't yet exhausted the possibilities here and now. As we settle in, and with Sean McKee now leading the kitchen, I feel like we're just getting a sense of the neighborhood groove."

Famed Louisiana chef John Folse's quip "Cajun cooking is for the kitchen, Creole cuisine is for the dining room" may explain why Roux is at times, misunderstood. Critics expect a menu of down-home Cajun comfort food like jambalaya, gumbo and po' boys. But, aside from the occasional seasonal fete, Roux's approach, is decidedly Creole, contemporary and of the Northwest. "There were already restaurants doing that very well: Montage, Dixie....but Louisiana has a rich culinary history that extends far beyond that and there is so much that is wonderful about the Northwest, my idea was to bring them together in a new way."

Beliakoff hesitates to recommend any one best way to experience Roux (mine is to sit at the bar with my husband, enjoy a cocktail and a small plate, then head home pleasantly sated yet not having broken the bank...others rave about the beignets, bacon and benedicts at the family-friendly brunch). However, he did offer up this scenario as one potential option: "First of all, trust our wait staff. They know the menu and can take you on a tour. I'd recommend stimulating the appetite with one of Molly Finnegan's 2 Sazeracs: Peychaud's Original, made with Cognac, or the New Orleans, made with rye whiskey. Start with one of the gratineed oyster dishes: Bienville oysters with shrimp, bacon, cognac, cream are good and smoky. Share the crawfish pie, it's the most traditional dish on the menu and represents the true spices and flavor profiles of



New Orleans; white roux based sauce, mirepoix, it's full of crawfish meat and covered in an unbelievable butter crust. For the main course I'd go with the cornbread and andouille stuffed rabbit (it won over the magazines) or the Hunter Style chicken. I never order chicken when I go out, but this is special. It is distinctly Creole in flavor and we pull in

Oregon chanterelles so you get the sense that you are eating Northwest food. I love that. For dessert, I'd share the beignets or indulge in another one of Melissa McKinney's desserts like the Bourbon and Chocolate pudding soufflé."

With recommendations like that, it's no wonder Roux is often given credit for leading the Killingsworth vanguard, but Beliakoff quickly sets the record straight, "Mio and Sal's did that, they took the risk, they've done well and we came in trusting that Roux could work because of their success. But as a destination restaurant, I think we've served the neighborhood well in bringing people in and changing old perceptions of North Portland - they see that it's a great, safe and beautiful place."

THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHED THE NEIGHBORHOOD By Warren Cassell with photos by Lauren Kilbane

After years of waning attendance at the OKNA summer potluck usually held in Overlook House, former board co-chair Tom Kilbane suggested a new tack with a cookout to be held at Pause Restaurant on Interstate Avenue. Owners Mike Raleigh and Cap Meyers had volunteered their restaurant as the venue and promised a menu and price per person designed to be welcoming. They more than fulfilled their promise, offering far more variety and quantity of food than they originally outlined. Also, they provided an enjoyable ambiance that welcomed over 125 Overlook neighbors. As a matter of fact, the enjoyment level was so high, we'll be going back for a repeat performance next August. See you then.



Photo left:

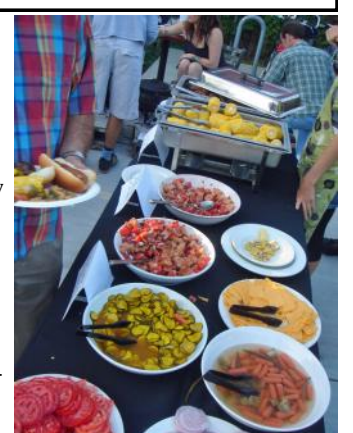
Ice cream was a hit with the younger set. Carmella on the left has a way to go and Satie looks like she's ready for seconds.



Photo left:

Our gracious hosts, Pause owners Mike (on left) and Cap relaxing with a brew at a very successful OKNA summer event.

Photo right: The spread featured delicious house specials.



RACE FOR THE CAUSE

By Jeff Berebitsky

Over the course of this year the Overlook Neighborhood Association has played host to an educational series called, "Race for the Cause." The purpose of the series was to bring awareness to the question of "why is there so much disease and suffering in our country?" It is common to find events focused and marketed around a "cure," but what we seem to have forgotten is this: we have disease for a reason. What is this reason? Is it possible there are underlying causes, and if enough attention were given to that cause, would cutting edge pills and surgery be necessary? We presented four events to explore these questions.

We focused our discussions around global warming by viewing Al Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Truth" (www.climatecrisis.net). We asked naturopathic students from the National College of Natural Medicine (www.ncnm.edu) to lead a presentation on how food choices in the grocery store impact both our health and the health of the environment. We invited Dr. Linda George of Portland State University (<http://cse.pdx.edu/linda.george/>) to highlight the many ways in which individuals are creating an air pollution crisis in North Portland. And the most recent event, Bill Renfro, of Kennedy Jenks Consulting (<http://www.kennedyjenks.com>), spoke to the community on how medications, cosmetic products and nano-materials are ending up in our water supply.

The theme I saw coming from each discussion was INDIVIDUALS were unknowingly a major contributor to the pollution problems we have in the United States today. However, the events were not doom and gloom, each ended with a community discussion focused around effective actions we could implement. The two most important actions we came up with were:

1. Spend your money on items more environmentally focused – capitalism is driven purely by YOU, the consumer. If the consumer says no to cheap imported toys coated in lead, then the market will respond by selling more earth friendly toys that come with no side effects. If the consumer demands more fuel efficient cars, the market will reward the most responsive auto makers and punish those who ignore consumer direction.
2. Tell others about each action you take no matter how small – No one person will make a difference, it must be a collective effort. By speaking to others about your changes, like plugging your electronics into a power strip and turning it off at night, you are letting others know your commitment and they will follow.

It has been a great deal of fun and surprise for me to learn about the many ways in which my choices impact my neighbors. I look forward to next year when our Race for the Cause series continues with a focus on how we are exposing our children and ourselves to extraordinary amounts of contaminants in our home. And just

maybe it might become clearer why we have so much cancer, obesity, asthma and autism, to name a few, in America today.

If you ever have an interest in volunteering or receiving handouts highlighting basic actions you can take in your home and in the community please contact me at 503-236-8616 or by email, jberebit@hotmail.com.

ANNA'S LIST

By Anna Kullgren

Editors' note: This will be the last of a list of ways to reduce our carbon footprints made by various Overlook neighbors in the past few issues of the newsletter. These suggestions were inspired by a recent showing of the movie, An Inconvenient Truth, under the auspices of the neighborhood association with thanks to the leadership of its environmental chair, Jeff Berebitsky. Anna Kullgren is a Beach School parent and a firm believer in helping to preserve the environment for us, our children and the generations to come.

• We plant trees in our yard, since they are well known reducers of carbon dioxide. A well placed shade tree on the south or west side of the house can shave off \$150-200 on your annual energy bill, or if you have air conditioning cut 30% of your a/c bill. The net cooling effect of a healthy shade tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. If you shade your a/c-unit it will improve its performance by 10%. In addition, it will reduce wind velocity, creating a buffer zone and slowing air leakage in a structure.

• We compost our yard clippings and kitchen wastes. Little by little, we are getting rid of the lawn altogether, in favor of more drought tolerant ground covers. What little is left is easily cut with a push mower.

• We try to plant plants native to this and similar climates. Drought-hardy plants save on our water bill.

• We plan to install an on-demand water heater.

• We replaced almost all our light bulbs with Compact Fluorescents. In addition, we don't leave lights on in rooms when they are unoccupied.

• We bought a TV/DVD with a shut-off button, so that it won't churn away uninterrupted in Stand-by mode. We unplug small appliances when they are not in use – even if not actively working, there is still electric current running through anything connected to an outlet.

• For the not so rainy season, we rigged up a clothesline in our yard. The clothes smell wonderfully fresh, and it saves a lot of energy. We use the dryer only during the rainy days. A better washing machine with higher RPMs in the spin cycle is on our wish list.

• We bring our own bags to the grocery store.

• Whenever we can, we try to buy locally produced food.

• We buy as much as we can in bulk or refill, bring our own containers to the store, and refill. Overall, we try to reduce our use of plastic and other petroleum products. We minimize portion packed foods – instead we buy the larger packages and dole out our own portions in reusable containers.

• We avoid leaving the water running when doing dishes, brushing teeth etc. When comfortably among friends and family we adhere to the old "if it's yellow, let it mellow – if it's brown, flush it down"- principle. You would be surprised how much water you will save per month.

• We stay away from unnecessary battery use, try to use rechargeables, and have asked the grandparents not to buy toys with batteries for the kids.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From Ingrid Parmeter, Skidmore Street

Dear Overlook Views,

I just had an interesting conversation with the head of the Inner City Youth Basketball program that I thought I might pass along. Over the last couple years living here I have been solicited multiple times by young people looking for donations to help them go on various school trips. Usually I said no, and sometimes I wondered if I had seen these same kids before too..... Anyway, this last week, two young men came to my door looking for donations to the Inner City Youth basketball program to help the team travel to San Diego. They had paperwork, a letter from their coach, a binder, a list of names and carefully wrote down donations saying they would, "send a receipt". I gave \$20 after looking up the organization on my computer and seeing that they have a very successful academic piece to their program. The next week, one of the same guys came to the door, very stoned, giving the same pitch. He didn't remember that he had been there before. I sent an e-mail to his "coach" saying that this kid was totally stoned and out soliciting money for the team, making the team look bad, and guess what the coach said?! Inner City Programs does not solicit money! They are privately funded. He doesn't have a high school team! In addition, he has heard of kids hustling for money in the name of Inner City Youth before. When I gave my \$20, I saw all sorts of names of other neighbors on there. These kids are pretty dang organized and look pretty impressive. I thought people should know before they donate to a "cause" that is not Inner City Programs.

Editors' note: The content of Ingrid's letter falls into the category of "No good deed goes unpunished." This appears to be a very clever, well-thought out scam and it's too bad the kids perpetrating the rip-off don't use their intelligence in more constructive ways. The lesson for the neighborhood is to be suspicious of strangers knocking on your door. They could be legitimate fundraisers, but erring on the side of caution is always the best approach.

OVERLOOK ON PARADE

By Dan Haneckow

There was typical Rose Festival weather on Saturday June 28, 1938; mostly cloudy and unsettled with anticipated highs in the sixties.

Readers opened the Oregonian to read about the aerial bombing of the Spanish City of Valencia by the Nazi backed forces of Generalissimo Franco. In Salem the brand new state capitol building was being prepared for its formal opening. In Portland, local theater features included "A Yank at Oxford" at the New Rivoli, "Love and Kisses" at the Clinton and "Gold Diggers in Paris" at the Orpheum. Downtown, it was the final day of Meir and Frank's "17th annual M&F Day Sale" with Van Raalte stockings, regularly priced at \$1.00 available for eighty cents and all women's white shoes priced between \$6.85 and \$9.75. In the Overlook neighborhood, the kids were about to put on a parade.

As many as seventy five to a hundred children in costumes, on foot, on bikes, in wagons, with buggies and strollers waited with their parents and friends in front of the new Overlook Park (which only six years before had been the site of a dump). The kids formed into a long line and listened for the signal to start marching. Then, with a cacophony of brass and drums from the Beach School's band, the parade began!

As they marched up N. Castle, the crowds along the sidewalk were treated to a miniature Rose Festival Court, portrayed by dolls on a rose decorated wagon pulled by Jane Widmer. She was followed by "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" a float inspired by the popular Disney feature released earlier in the year. Behind the float was a line of flower covered baby buggies, tricycles, and scooters weaving in and out in barely controlled chaos.

At N. Shaver Street, the parade crossed the tracks of the old Russell-Shaver streetcar line, abandoned a year earlier but still in place, and continued north. "Mayor Carson and Family" (Vaughn Tappen and Joyce Chinn pushing a baby stroller with Jeanine McClintock carrying their banner), greeted and waved to the crowd. Mayor Carson had been known as Portland's "Batchelor Mayor." At the start of his term he lived at the opulent Portland Hotel in the center of downtown. He got married while in office and the cou-

ple's new baby was a city-wide sensation.

The kids turned on Mason and headed east to Longview. There was a covered wagon, a group of "Indians," a Girl Scout troop and wide variety of storybook characters. Airplanes, like those seen everyday taking off and landing at the Swan Island Airport, were popular. The largest float was "Overlook Royalty," a flower bedecked cart in which sat "Queen" Jane Olson and "Crown Prince" Dennie McGuire along with "Princesses" Grace Mead, Shirley Paget and Elise Berberick. Motive power was provided by Jack Rose and Floyd Campbell.

The parade rounded the corner onto N. Longview Ave with the Beach School's band's drums beating and horns blaring. The kids marched back to the park where the parade ended as it began. But the festivities were not over yet. At the house of Mrs. H.C. (Elvira) Raven on Melrose Drive there was a costume contest and free ice cream for all! Mrs. Raven was very involved in the Overlook Women's Club, which organized the yearly parade. Mrs. Raven and her husband owned the Raven Creamery downtown. At sunset, the events ended and the kids and their parents walked back to their homes.

An Oregon Journal article about the parade stated that the precedent of the parade, followed by ice cream had been followed for several years. There is a photograph in the Oregon Historical Society collection of a parade float from the following year in 1939, but as of yet, no evidence of it occurring during the war years or after.

In 1951 Elvira Raven would sell her house to the City of Portland for \$1.00 to be used as a community resource. Today her house is known as the Overlook House. It is being used the way that she had envisioned, with among other community events and activities, a yearly ice cream social. The Overlook Women's Club disbanded in 1963, the year of its fiftieth anniversary, due to declining membership.

Does anyone remember being in or seeing the parade? When the last one was? Or when the next one will be? If so, please contact Dan Haneckow at cafeunknown@comcast.net or call 503-282-7155.

A NEW COURSE FOR PARENTS AT OVERLOOK HOUSE

By Warren Cassell

Janet Allison, a new Overlook resident, a parent educator, Waldorf consultant and family coach will teach "The Language of Parenting" at OH in a five session class starting Monday, November 5. The course will run from 7-9 P.M. Mondays until December 3.

Designed for parents of toddlers to teens, this course focuses on language—the words we choose and the way we say them. The emphasis is on how those words can affect our children in a positive manner, by building cooperation and self esteem into every verbal interaction. As most parents know, this is not an easy task. The aim of the course is to simplify the process through discussion and written reflections, all woven together through lectures and stories. This will be a fun and dynamic class in which practical skills are learned and can be used immediately. In addition, participating parents will discover their own learning style and how it relates to their children's learning style. Parents will also enjoy the deep connection achieved with their children through words, voice quality and body language.

This is a class that truly has life long implications. One former student/parent noted that, "I've had lots of revelations through the work in class and in general feel a calmness in my parenting that wasn't there before."

The fee for this class is \$75.00 plus \$50.00 for materials. For additional information and registration, call Janet Allison at 503-493-7404 or email: janet.familycoach@comcast.net.



...Third Annual Overlook House...

HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR

Saturday DEC 1 — 9-5 **** Sunday DEC 2 — 9-3



Neighbors! (Near and far). This bazaar promises a splendid bounty (three floors!) of lovely gifts to give and get because of the high quality of the vendors' offerings.

Vendors note: Contact Carol Padden for details regarding table costs, set-up and other information at 503-823-3188 or email to coordinator@historicoverlookhouse.org.

HERE HE COMES— SANTA AT THE OVERLOOK HOUSE—

Saturday, December 8
from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
Ho, Ho, Ho!

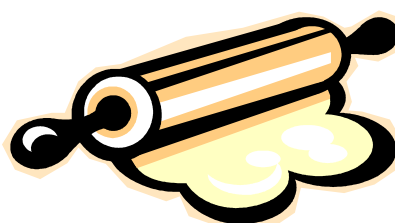
Pictured below at last year's Santa visit:
Alex Emmerich hearing about what's in store.



THE BIG BAKE SALE (A part of the Holiday Bazaar)

We need bakers to contribute their goodies for sale at the holiday bazaar above. All proceeds of the bake sale will go to programming for children at Overlook House.

Contact Carol Padden for more information at 503-823-3188 or email to coordinator@historicoverlookhouse.org.



¡ANUNCIANDO!

2007 **CENA COOPERATIVA** de la Vecindad Overlook

El martes **18 DE DICIEMBRE, 6** de la tarde
La cafetería de la escuela Beach 1710 N. Humboldt Street

Traiga un platillo de comida **DELICIOSA** para compartir y una
cuchara para servir

(Se proveerán las bebidas, platos y cubiertos.)

Entrada a este evento es gratis. Cualquier donación de comida en lata para
el Oregon Food Bank (Banco de Comida de Oregon) sera bien recibida.
Tendremos un lugar para coleccionar la comida en lata para ayudar hacer
las fiestas de otros un poco mas feliz.

¡NOS VEMOS ALLÍ!



ANNOUNCING!

2007 Overlook Neighborhood **HOLIDAY POTLUCK**

Tuesday, **DECEMBER 18 ... 6 P.M.**
Beach School Cafeteria 1710 N. Humboldt St.

Bring a **DELICIOUS** dish and a serving spoon.
(Beverages, paper plates and utensils will be provided.)

There is obviously no admission to this event, but your donation of
canned goods for the Oregon Food Bank will be appreciated. We will
have a collection place available at the potluck for you to help make
someone else's Holiday a little better. **SEE YOU THERE!**

OTHER MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NOTE:

NEW INTERSTATE ZONING PLANS TO BE UNVEILED NOVEMBER 3

Mark your calendars now for this important community informational meeting to be held at Ockley Green School from 10.00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. This session will be designed to help local residents learn more about the Interstate Light Rail Corridor Zoning Project. You will have the opportunity to provide input to the project staff and the Community Advisory Group. The CAG is composed of representatives from businesses, developers, neighborhoods and other key interest groups. For more information, contact Julia Gisler at the Bureau of Planning-503-823-7624 or jgisler@ci.portland.or.us or Kevin Cronin at Portland Development Commission-503-823-3305 or cronink@pdc.us. Zoning maps will be found at: <http://www.portlandonline.com/planning/index.cfm?c=44550>.

"GOT TREES" DEADLINE

by Cynthia Sulaski

If you haven't registered yet to get street/yard trees during our February 16th neighborhood tree planting, there's still time. Just email me at csulaski@comcast.net or call me at 503-249-7728 by *November 16* with your name, address, phone number and email address (if you have one). Only \$15 for each tree--don't pass up this great opportunity!

OPEN HOUSE & VILLAGE PARTY

Historic Elliott House at 2022 N. Willamette Blvd. will hold its annual open house on Saturday, November 17 from 10 A.M. until 2 P.M. On display will be an exhibit of 160 HO scale buildings with animated pieces including trains and hundreds of accessories. Following the tour and exhibit, there will be a village party from 2 P.M. until 9 P.M. For more information, call Sharon Sullivan at 503-285-4313.



REAL ESTATE UPDATE PORTLAND/OVERLOOK

An overview of the Portland Metropolitan area as of the end of August, 2007 shows that the average market time for a residential property to sell was 56 days, compared to 39 days a year ago. The number of new listings increased by 9.1% compared to August 2006, pending sales decreased by 18.1% and closed sales declined by 13.1%. The average sale price for the Metro area increased by 7.8%.



In North Portland, there were 545 active listings (including 228 new ones), 125 pending sales, and 117 closed sales with an average sale price of \$273,400 and an average market time of 42 days. Appreciation has increased 8.6% since August, 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
1411 N. Alberta St., #5	1/1	\$144,900	\$140,900	63
1411 N. Alberta St., #1	1/1	\$154,900	\$143,560	117
1411 N. Alberta St., #10	1/1	\$156,900	\$148,000	102
5726 N. Interstate Ave.	4/1.1	\$259,000	\$175,000	51
1411 N. Alberta St., #7	2/1	\$234,000	\$188,900	102
1411 N. Alberta St., #8	2/1	\$259,900	\$199,900	96
1914 N. Sumner St.	2/1	\$220,000	\$231,000	4
5725 N. Detroit Ave.	2/1	\$269,900	\$269,900	2
5605 N. Detroit Ave.	3/2	\$339,000	\$290,000	77
2044 N. Killingsworth St.	2/2	\$329,000	\$318,000	62
4124 N. Concord Ave.	3/1	\$369,950	\$352,500	59
1623 N. Prescott St.	4/2	\$399,900	\$422,500	69
5521 N. Campbell Ave.	3/3	\$495,000	\$495,000	85
2916 N. Willamette Blvd.	4/2.1	\$510,000	\$530,000	6

IMPORTANT NITTY-GRITTY

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

Or via snail mail:

OKNA
2209 N. Schofield St.
Portland, Or. 97217

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OVERLOOK VIEWS

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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 December 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.

