

OVERLOOK VIEWS

September/October 2007

The Newsletter

Vol. 4 No. 3

Overlook Neighborhood Association, Portland, Oregon

www.overlookneighborhood.org

SEPTEMBER ELECTION TIME HELP WANTED—NO EXPERI- ENCE NECESSARY

By Warren Cassell

Our local neighborhood organization desperately needs a candidate or two to run for chair and co-chair at its September general meeting on the 18th. Candidates should be people oriented, well organized and capable of efficiently running the monthly general and board meetings. Candidates should also be able to reconcile conflicting views of disparate groups without causing World War III and should be able to take heat occasionally for supporting unpopular views---without taking it too personally. In addition, two other organization officer positions are open: secretary, whose job is to take legible notes and a treasurer who can add, subtract and balance the finances of OKNA. Finally, we need a number of area representatives to bring your neighbors' concerns to the board as well as to take an active role in the board's deliberations.

If you have been promising yourself to get more involved in neighborhood functions, now is the time to do it. One of the Overlook Neighborhood Association's missions is to make our community a better place in which to live and we do this as an all-volunteer organization. We need people on board who not only have good ideas, but also a willingness to help get those ideas implemented. Come to the September 18 general meeting at Kaiser Town Hall and get involved. Don't be modest if you think you can take on one of these challenging positions and don't hesitate to recommend a friend who may be well qualified.

If you are interested in any of the positions noted above or would like additional information, contact co-chair Tom Kilbane at 503-284-6211 or email: tom.kilbane@comcast.net or Jennifer Callison at 503-285-0364 or email: calhill@spiritone.com.



FIRE ON THE BLUFF— AN EDITORIAL

By Warren and Melisa Cassell

The charred remains of the traffic sign (above) could be a metaphor for arguably the most important event happening in our Overlook neighborhood during the past few years. The July 10 fire at Mocks Crest Park on the Bluff damaged not only the sign but about an acre of the landscape as well. Private property went unscathed, and thankfully, there were no physical injuries to our neighbors--though we believe those living closest to this near disaster may have some residual psychic injuries. To stand on the edge of the bluff at the scene of the fire, with charcoal under one's feet, is to realize how nearly miraculous it is that no major harm occurred. We can credit this close escape to the prompt action of our neighborhood firefighters and the vigilance of the numerous Overlook residents who called them.

In our next few pages, you will read eyewitness accounts replete with gripping details of that fateful evening. In addition, Skidmore Terrace resident Steve Lanigan's artful eye captured a large number of jarring photographs showing the devastation---and gives hints of what perhaps could have been.

But back to that incinerated traffic sign---with its prophetic and challenging words. Do we heed the signal? What happens next? Do we wait for another truck accident on Greeley or sparks from Union Pacific engines or even a lightning strike to inflict major damage on people and property along the bluff as well as adjacent streets in our lovely Overlook neighborhood? Fortunately, this fire did not spread to the crowns of the trees located so close to many of our homes. That would have been a major disaster. To help prevent this possible catastrophe from becoming a reality, we as a neighborhood need to take some immediate and concerted action.

Although the Bureau of Environmental Services along with Portland Parks and Portland Fire and Rescue have done a great job on the Bluff, the job is still incomplete. We need to press the city for additional funds for these groups to finish their fire abatement work. Much of our neighborhood continues to be in danger from natural disaster and carelessness of individuals and corporations. We must urge our business neighbors —Kaiser, Union Pacific, Adidas— to start or continue cleaning up their properties on the Bluff for the safety of all concerned.

Consider the importance of push and pull; in situations like this where the culprit is not a prosecutable delinquent but rather that arch-villain apathy—there is a big need for gathering help from people with pull. That is people who can make changes happen: budget additional money for safety issues; get inconvenient alterations made in hard places; get uncooperative persons of responsibility to do their jobs. People with pull need to be pushed. Although not always easy for the individual citizen, the measures and imperatives described are best achieved through vigorous community action--which is given vitality by your neighborhood association. **We urge you to attend the OKNA general meeting on September 18 to get involved, vote for new officers and to urge the new board to make fire prevention on the Bluff a high priority on its agenda. We remind you that the neighborhood's bluff boundaries extend from Overlook Park to Ainsworth and what happens on the Bluff doesn't necessarily stay on the Bluff.**

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 18 GENERAL MEETING OF THE OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. At Kaiser Town Hall—Corner of Interstate Avenue and North Overlook Boulevard

1. Community Police Report ---Officer Eric Zajac
2. Election of new Overlook Neighborhood Association officers and board members
3. Fire on the Bluff--- Mark Wilson---Portland Parks
Lynn Barlow—Bureau of Environmental Services
Kevin Brosseau---Battalion Chief,
Portland Fire & Rescue
4. Proposed Interstate Avenue Name Change—Jose Romero & Marta Guembes,
Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard Committee
5. Three minute committee reports
6. Old business
7. New business

FIRE ON THE BLUFF

From Peggy Bartelt
Earlier in the year when the armada of weed eaters "attacked the gully," I was happy to leave the noise of home and go to work.

On the day of the Bluff fire, I was happy to be home from work and watering the garden. I just happened to see a whiff of smoke, and then suddenly a flash of fire jumping high above the Greeley treetops.

Dial 911 was my immediate reflex reaction. I was told, "We are already on it," and felt little relief as I watched flames jumping higher into the very nearby tree tops. I did hear sirens, and heard fire trucks arriving in the neighborhood at the same moment I made my call. Watering the garden took on a new dimension. On the bluff, neighbors started gathering..."what is going on?"

I could see and hear the fire as well as the hiss of water hitting the fire. It was fast and hot. And it was windy. First, a single fire official arrived in a van, window down and looking around. Then a fire truck with more fire fighter staff and equipment negotiated the Terrace, and parked, examining the scene from "above". "It is just a grass fire, not in the trees," I was told initially, as they scanned the gully for a better view. Hmmm. I felt a tinge of under-reaction at first. However, the last of the fire fighting staff were still in the neighborhood many hours later...and went crashing back and forth through the upper gully pointing here and there, and talking about fire lines. I watered my garden very thoroughly that night, and the next few nights as well, as were the treetops.

Neighbors who had spent a tremendous amount of work "taming the wild hillside" next door were relieved at the fire departments approval. I closed inside windows and doors, kept my fingers crossed and kept vigil over the very wet back yard.

"Fire prevention" is not an everyday thought here is Portland as it is in some areas of Oregon. However, when I looked around my back yard that evening I felt a bit of panic. A pile of dried brush, easily considered wet compost a month earlier, stacks of seasoned firewood for the upcoming winter, and wooden fence panels washed and drying before re-installation...the wooden deck and a stash of recycled lumber...at the time all seemed like tinder just waiting for a



spark. In the usually very green Pacific Northwest, during months and months of rain, it can be a challenge to embrace the idea of water conservation. It seems the same with fire precautions. This recent bluff fire reminds me of prevention and awareness. I appreciate the return of the fire department to the local facility and the active neighborhood community. I appreciate immensely those who contribute regularly to the neighborhood association both formally and informally, and am blessed to have regular contact with all of my neighbors. And I applaud the efforts at clearing the bluff of invasive species and appreciate that we have a responsive fire department....and hope to stay clued in to all the unique noise and smells of this great neighborhood: weed eaters, fire-fighters as well as all the usual neighborhood chatter, and I am looking forward to more rain!

FIRE ON THE BLUFF

From Steve Lanigan

The heat was stifling on July 10 when record-breaking temperatures reached 102 degrees in the afternoon. And then things got really hot. Somewhere around 8:30 that evening, there was a loud banging on our front door.

"There's a fire on the bluff and it looks bad," my neighbor Neil yelled when we opened the door. I asked my wife to start watering down the front yard while I ran down to the end of Skidmore Terrace where smoke was filling the air at Mock's Crest Park.

Looking over the edge of the bluff, I could see a fire quickly burning up and across the steep slope. Several people had called 911 to report the fire, so all we could do was wait for the firefighters to appear. The initial call had sent fire crews down to Greeley, but it took at least one additional call to clarify that the fire emergency required responders at the park as well. I was told the fire started when a FedEx truck hit a utility pole on Greeley, sending a spark onto the tinder-dry bluff.

While waiting for the fire engines to arrive, Neil and I noticed cars parked in the turn-around were blocking the entrance to the park, so we shouted, "These cars have to be moved, or the fire trucks will push them aside!"

That got the car owners' attention as they ran over and moved them out of the way.

Meanwhile, I took several pictures of the fire moving up the slope until it became too dangerous to be standing next to the edge. The small trees just down-slope were now exploding in flames and the swirling evening winds were pushing the flames to the very edge of the large wooded ravine on the southeast side of the park. The fire was spreading rapidly and there was still no sign of a fire engine and crew at the park. I worried that the fire might spread to the treetops and start burning as a "crown fire." If this were to happen, I realized there would be little the fire department could do to contain it. The results would truly be catastrophic if the fire reached the homes in our neighborhood.

When the fire trucks rolled up, flames about 10 to 15 feet high licked the top of the bluff. The park was filled with sunset viewers getting more than their usual show and neighbors investigating the smoke and sounds of fire engines. The fire crew quickly assessed the situation, hooked up their hose, and went to work putting the fire out, while Portland Police worked to keep the gawkers out of their way. It was hard to keep track of time in all the commotion, but I think the fire was put out in less than 30 minutes. There were eventually two fire trucks at the park on Skidmore Terrace, and two or three trucks down on Greeley, all directing water on the fire. Another rig was standing by on the south side of "our" ravine on Overlook Terrace. One truck also stayed and hosed down the burned area until midnight, just to be sure a smoldering ember didn't start another fire, and more fire vehicles drove up and down our street until 3:30 a.m., monitoring conditions to be sure the fire was completely out.



"It could have been a lot worse I feel fortunate the fire was controlled before it spread to any homes because it easily could have been a lot worse. The conditions were exceptionally hot and dry and blackberries and scotch broom, which normally covered the bluff, burn like gasoline. We were lucky that earlier this year a fire abatement plan for the Willamette Bluff was started through the combined efforts of the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Parks, and the Fire Department. This meant that all the blackberries and other invasive plants growing on the bluff, and in the ravine across from my house, had been cut down by city crews where landowners had given them permission to do so. Instead of blackberries being five or six feet high, 12-inch tall re-sprouted blackberry plants covered the bluff.

This prevented higher flames from occurring, which I believe kept the fire from spreading faster and getting up into the large trees in the ravines.

The fire abatement program is funded by FEMA for another two years, with the goal of reducing the fire load by replacing highly combustible blackberries and other invasive plants with low growing native grasses and some selective thinning of trees. Anyone who thinks blackberries won't burn because they are green should take a look at what was left after the fire. Nothing was left – the vegetation burned right down to the soil. The Willamette Bluff seems to have a fire on it every year or two, and you know it's just a matter of time before another fire starts somewhere in our neighborhood. While I appreciate the city's ongoing efforts, I hope the railroad also joins in the fire abatement program on the large piece of land they own on the bluff, extending down to Adidas Village. When it comes to fire prevention, we all need to work together.



standing on top of the truck watching the bluff for any signs of smoke. They pointed out a fire that was going on across the river on one of the docks, and apologized for the siren. They had been looking for their binoculars to see the distant fire and had accidentally hit the siren button.

In the morning when I went out to see the fire line, I noticed that the crabapple tree right next to the bluff had some baked apples on it. Most of them were half-baked the side that was closest to the fire was cooked.

The story I heard was that a FedEx driver hit a power pole and the transformer exploded. He sheared the pole off and carried it about 25 feet before it fell backward and started the fire. I heard he walked away from it and nobody was badly hurt.

They were installing a new pole at 3-ish in the morning when I went out there.

FIRE ON THE BLUFF

From Julie Rawls

Exciting yes...but scary too! I was awake off and on all night last night worrying that an ember was still burning and would reignite! I was impressed when I walked to the end of our cul-de-sac to find the neighbor in the last house has cut a good 40' wide swath as a firebreak. What a great idea! He has obviously worked hard to keep the encroaching ivy, vines, weeds and grasses away from his property in the event of a fire. My kids were mightily impressed with the firefighters and as they tried to lift up a section of the fire hose, they found out just how heavy the hoses are when they are filled with water.

A couple of thoughts: 4th of July activities in the neighborhood worry us bluff dwellers each year. For some it is great fun to go to the pocket park at the end of Skidmore Terrace and shoot bottle rockets off the bluff into the vegetation below. As homeowners we dread this every year...wondering if someone's "fun" is going to be our home fire. Fireworks get worse each year and we hope that



FIRE ON THE BLUFF--- WHAT'S BEEN DONE—AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

By Warren and Melisa Cassell

Several of the harrowing accounts on this page indicate the fire could have been a considerably larger disaster had it not been for the fire abatement project initiated by three city bureaus: Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), Portland Parks and Recreation, and Portland Fire and Rescue. This effort was made possible by a \$940,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant was to provide fire abatement procedures to three areas of Portland including Powell Butte Park, Forest Park and the Willamette Escarpment. Funding for the Willamette section, which includes Overlook, garnered the lion's share of \$390,000. Powell Butte received \$150,000 and Forest Park \$110,000. In addition, almost a third of the total grant (\$290,000) was budgeted for consultants, reimbursements to city staff, supplies and public relations efforts.

In a recent progress report, Mark Griswold Wilson of the Parks Department said:

Currently the fuel reduction projects on the north Escarpment [Mocks Crest bluffs] include 55 public and private landowners, 11 project sites, and 77.4 acres. To date, Environmental Services' contract crews have cut invasive vegetation including Himalayan blackberry, ivy, and clematis, applied herbicide to the same invasive vegetation, and in some areas seeded with grasses. We have not seen good germination from the spring seeding, so we are planning to seed again this November, which is our normal seeding season. Germination from fall seeding will be most evident the next spring (2008). Environmental Services' crews will continue all these treatments on these active project sites through April 9, 2009, to reduce the invasive, flammable vegetation, and thus reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

As noted above, the bluff fire could have been much worse. Additional abatement procedures must be initiated beyond the efforts already achieved and in planning.

However, according to Lynn Barlow of BES, "The FEMA grant funds budgeted for this portion of the project are enough to cover these treatments through April 9, 2009, **but there are not enough funds to initiate more projects in this area**" (Editors' emphasis).

Because of this bind, we have invited representatives from BES, PP&R and Fire and Rescue to address the subject of funding and fire prevention on the bluff at our September 18 general meeting at Kaiser Town Hall. We hope that a large presence from Overlook residents will indicate the importance of this discussion. Please plan to be there.



FIRE ON THE BLUFF

From Ariana Orton:

I was sitting in my chair reading when I heard the explosion. I figured it was someone setting off fireworks, but it rocked my chair.

A few minutes later, a woman came to the door and told us about the fire. I saw only smoke, but it was a lot of smoke, so I grabbed my daughter, her teddy bear, and the dog, and left. My daughter was very frightened. My husband stayed and called the fire department. The traffic light at Interstate and Greeley was out, and I could smell and see the smoke all the way to the Coliseum.

Neighbors called me to let me know the fire was out, and we came home. But we couldn't get into our driveway because all of the trucks were there and the fire hose was blocking our way.

We hung out with the on-lookers for a few hours and played in the water in the street, then went to bed. The trucks were all still there at bedtime. At about three in the morning, I heard the siren again, for about five seconds. I got up and went outside to find a fire engine, a fire truck, and another vehicle parked on the Bluff. They had a table set up with coffee and snacks out there. Men were

REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT —Anna's List

(Editors' note: We continue to receive meaningful suggestions about how we can reduce our carbon footprint from Overlook neighbors and will continue to publish them with the hope that many of you will find these ideas easy to adapt for yourselves and your families. Beach School parent Anna Kullgren submitted the following partial list. We will print the balance of her suggestions in the next Overlook Views.)

Changes we have made – in no particular order:

Many of these were lifestyle choices that we have always lived by, and some of them were inherited from thoughtful parents. However, the urgency for change increased after seeing "An Inconvenient Truth."

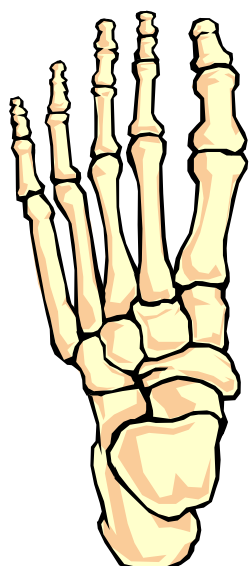
- We use our bikes, walk or use public transportation whenever we can.

- We try to drive with anticipation (defensively, if you wish) without excessive accelerating and braking. It saves a lot of gas. In addition, since gas consumption increases exponentially with the rate of the speed, we try to stick to the speed limits, or even below when time and traffic permit.

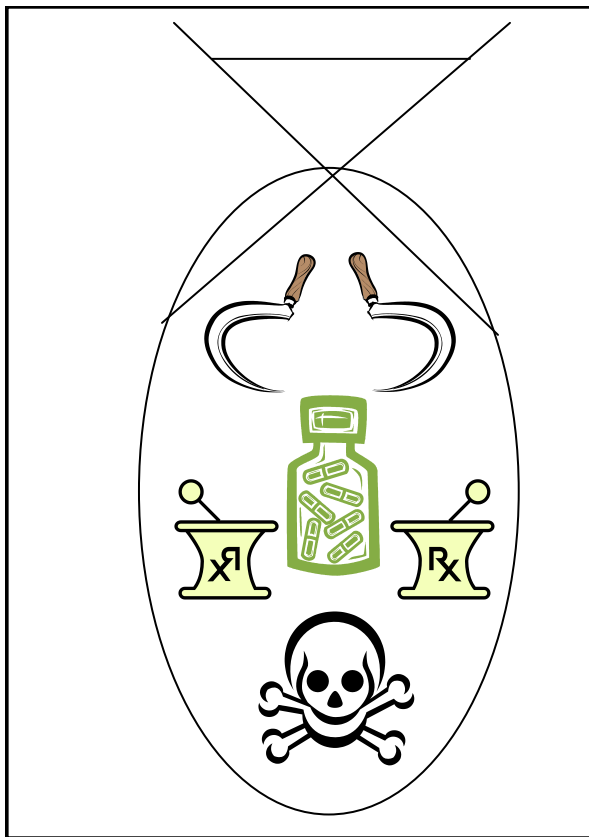
- We have always been scavengers, and now we found out there is actually a new word for it - "freegans." "Freeganism" is a trendy, new movement based on the principle that one man's trash is another man's treasure and is essentially a quiet revolt against excessive consumerism. Trade, give away, scavenge - most of all REUSE anything you can think of.

- We switched to one of our utility company's sustainable options. Likewise, we have disconnected our downspouts to protect our rivers from polluting water runoff. This simple maneuver will also reduce your sewage bill by up to 35%. Contact the water-utility for details.

- We have been setting our thermostat to a few degrees lower in the winter. Wear an extra sweater and slippers instead of cranking up the heat. Each degree difference can save you up to 5% of your heating or cooling costs. Our next project around the house is to improve the insulation, which presently is substandard.



Continued
Next
Issue



DOES THIS FISH TASTE LIKE PROZAC TO YOU?

By Jeff Berebitsky, Chair OKNA Environment Committee

On September 25 in the Kaiser Permanente Town Hall Ballroom at 7:00 P.M. (doors open at 6:30), the Overlook Neighborhood Association (OKNA) will host the educational event, "Does This Fish Taste like Prozac to You?" This will be the last in a four-part installment of the "Race for the Cause" educational series sponsored by OKNA during this past year. Naturopathic physician Ariel Policano will explore with the community the many ways our high rate of vitamin and pharmaceutical consumption coupled with our addiction to cosmetics and plastics are not only bringing harm to our bodies, but also to the environment.

Recently the Oregonian reported that studies are showing measurable amounts of Prozac, in the Willamette River and other nearby waterways. While I have not checked out if the salmon are depressed about having to swim all the way up river, I would imagine their serotonin levels are doing just fine without our help. Yes, somehow our Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) are ending up in the river, which means in the ocean, which means in the plankton (algae and fish eggs), which means in small fish, which means in slightly bigger fish, which means in us.

Come and learn how we are playing chicken with our hormones and our hormones are losing. However, the individual can do something about the problem and this presentation will help by providing basic easy actions you can take---actions, which collectively will make a difference.

Thus far, we have had over 150 participants in the Race for the Cause series. Please come out and support our way of fighting diseases like childhood obesity, autism, breast cancer, and attention deficit disorder, by focusing on the cause.

For questions about the event, please contact Jeff Berebitsky, at jberebit@hotmail.com or call 503-236-8616. Kaiser Permanent Town Hall is located at 3704 N Interstate Avenue.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OVERLOOK HOUSE

By Warren Cassell

FALL T'AI CHI CHIH CLASSES AT OVERLOOK HOUSE

Perhaps you've seen us lately in Overlook Park on Thursday evenings or an occasional Saturday morning moving in soft flowing patterns together. This "Joy of Movement" moving meditation has many beneficial effects when done regularly. Medical research has proven that it can lower blood pressure and reduce stress and tension, among other benefits. Appropriate for all ages, its 19 moves and one final pose can be learned in 8 weeks. Students do not need athletic ability or coordination. Both evening and morning classes are being offered. Evening classes begin Thursday, September 20 from 6:30 P.M. - 7:45 P.M. and morning classes begin Monday, September 24 from 9 A.M. -10:15 A.M.. All classes will start at Overlook House. Fee is \$60. Register or obtain additional information at 503-283-4991 or tccmarsh@hotmail.com. Overlook resident, Steve Marsh, M.Ed. is an accredited T'ai Chi Chih teacher.

ACRYLIC PAINTING CLASS RETURNS

We will start on Tuesday, September 18. This informal group is back with sessions every Tuesday, from 9:15 to 12 noon. The fall focus will be on still life and outdoor painting (as weather permits). No experience is necessary, just the desire to explore the process of art and painting. Fee is \$6 per class. Any questions, contact Julie Rogers, class facilitator, 503-282-3828.

INTERSTATE/CHAVEZ BLVD.?

At the July 10 OKNA board meeting, two members of the Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard Committee (CECBC) made a presentation to the board and asked for their support to rename Interstate Boulevard. Although most board members were quite impressed, and supported the idea of recognizing this great civil rights leader, it also felt that the ultimate decision should be in the hands of the entire neighborhood and not just its board representatives. The board requested that the committee make another presentation at the general meeting on September 18 for a wider discussion.

CROWN MOTEL UPDATE

Work is well underway to finalize \$11 million in commitments necessary to begin redevelopment of the Crown Motel on Interstate Avenue. The proposed redevelopment, led by REACH Community Development, will provide 4,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor and 54 units of affordable housing. This will include 12 units available to very low-income households whose occupants have been displaced by rising housing costs in the neighborhood. Funding partners for the project include the Portland Development Commission, Oregon Department of Housing and Community Development, Enterprise, Metro and TriMet.

REACH Community Development submitted a design review application to the City of Portland in early August. After the city completes the review process, an opportunity for OKNA to comment on the project will be provided. However, this does not include a formal public hearing. REACH expects to

AN APPRECIATION FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR ANOTHER GREAT ICE CREAM SOCIAL

To: Julie Rawls, Mary Ellen Baldauff, Carol Cushman and Christine Quigley
who were members of the organizing committee

To: Carol Padden, Chris and John Koonce, Matt Scoggin, Nicole, Matt, Amelia and Sadie Thorburn, Jim Bennett, Carol Hult, KC & Kevin Rawls, Randall Pratt, Mike Quigley, Marcella McGee, Pat Hazlett, Destiny Fulton and Alan Cranna who were volunteers (we couldn't do without them!)

Special thanks

To: Carol Cushman and Christine Quigley who oversaw the
silent auction/white elephant sale

and

To: Mary Ellen Baldauff who oversaw the ice cream line

and

To: Jim Bocci of Food Services of America for the donation of Supplies and for
selling the ice-cream at cost---resulting in increased funds for neighborhood
programming at Overlook House

and

The following local businesses who generously gave merchandise and gift certificates to
help make our ice cream social such a success—please reciprocate. Their largesse should
be repaid by a grateful neighborhood: Ainsworth Drug, Alibi Restaurant & Lounge,
Beaterville Cafe, Best Friends Bath & More, Bridging Boro, DiPrima Dolci Bakery,
Exodus SPA & Salon, Fire on the Mountain, George's Corner Sports Bar & Grill, Harbor
Freight Tools, Interstate Bar & Grill, Interstate Lanes, Lucrecia Variety Boutique, Mad-
rona Hill Cafe, Naked Sheep Knit Shop, New Season's Market, Pause Kitchen & Bar,
Roux Restaurant, Sabi Home & Garden, Sal's (Pizzicato), Tickled Pink, U-Licious
Smokehouse & Grill.



SOME THOUGHTS ON THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

By Melisa Cassell

Before our eyes, a veritable Cinema Verite of
wonderful neighborhood images inspiring the
following “snapshots” with a pen:

A sunny (after early clouds) Sunday sundae—
Vanilla!— complete with specks of the bean and
a myriad of gloopy toppings.

The best sprinkles—tiny ones—babies all
over in sorbet colors, sitting in the waving grass
under the dancing trees, rolling under bridges
made by grown-ups’ legs, pulling up to standing
(she couldn’t be more than seven months) by
holding the back of our chair.

And their parents ---with such wonderful play-
ful energy coupled with that touching sense of
ever watchful child-care seriousness—smiles—
conversation, with a precious burden straddling
the hip.

Older people---perhaps less aerobic, but add-
ing to the colorful panoply nonetheless. Sitting at
the many decorated, crayon supplied tables—or
walking through the allegro throng of younger
revelers. Gray hair, one in a rakish knot adorned
with a boho jewel—a bunch of beards, a cane or
two—a multi-generational metaphor, surely.

Some brave buskers, cheerfully persevering
in their al fresco theatrics (as buskers have done
since forever) —needing a mike—having none—
needing an audience—having instead, a crazy
participating gallery-- sporting Victorian dresses
and fake moustaches and costumes made by that
age-old master—Sense of Humor! Bravo.

A gracefully determined announcer, voice
emerging above the din, in true small town tradi-
tion, announcing announcements: Silent auction
winners, countdowns, listen ups, acknowledge-
ment of so much effort.

But mostly—a wonderful, almost Breugelian
scene of charming community chaos. People be-
ing people in a grand spectrum of diversity—on a
Sunday afternoon. They made it into a true par-
fait!

BEACH SCHOOL NEWS

By Vivica Elliott, President Beach School PTA

Positive, positive, positive! That is the feeling in and around Beach Elementary School. And,
since schools function as cornerstones for communities, that’s a good thing. An excellent way to
become actively involved in children’s education is to be part of the PTA. You do not have to
have children attending Beach School; anyone concerned with the education and well-being of
kids can be a PTA member.

As we approach the coming school year, we have reason for excitement. Beach PTA continues to
grow stronger, bridging communication between home and school, parents and teachers. Mem-
bership and meeting attendance increased again last year. The Beach PTA five-year strategic plan
has been adopted. Its mission is “to support a creative, nurturing educational environment by in-
creasing parental and community partnerships at Beach.” Goals and objectives include:

1. Increase PTA participation
2. Ensure smooth transition between board/committee positions
3. Maintain a viable budget
4. Build unity across diverse segments of the Beach community
5. Maintain a positive school image
6. Create opportunities for partnerships with local businesses/organizations
7. Provide academic-enhancing activities and identify needs and areas for enrichment

Wow, tall order. However, together as a community, we have an excellent opportunity to achieve
and/or implement all of the above. Our first PTA meeting of the 2007-2008 school year will be at
6:30 P.M. September 11 at Beach School. If you have ideas, suggestions, experience ... please
consider attending and/or joining. In addition, to make sure our PTA represents a solid cross-
section of our community, we hope to increase the number of our Spanish-speaking members.
¿Habla usted español? Venga por favor a la reunión.

Watch for Beach School’s message reader board. Outstanding efforts by our fundraising commit-
tee and assisting volunteers raised all funding for this project. If construction plans go smoothly,
the reader board is scheduled to be in place by the first day of school. Thank you to all of the in-
dividuals and businesses who have already donated, and continue to donate their time and money.
Without you, projects like this one would not be made a reality.

If your calendar is open on September 20, 2007, please come to our Open House and Book Fair.
Proceeds benefit the Beach School Library. Alternatively, consider donating an hour of your time
for the August 25 Grounds Cleanup at 9:00 A.M. at the school. Beach School website is
www.beach.pps.k12.or.us/



POWER POLE WHIMSEY ON NORTH DELAWARE



How charming and disarming
to use a vertical log
and pretend it is a bulletin board
or even a non-cyber blog!

A moment of gentle reprieve
(crumple newsprint, turn off TV)
comes when one can perceive
Sunflower and Sweet Pea

Here it is in all its glory
The delay did make us wonder
Waiting so long for a place for kids
To climb and play,
up over and under?
But it all got done—
Rods and beams above,
soft landings below,
the last, well worth the wait.
So here we go, stretched muscles,
no stubbed toe
A happy ending to relate.

OVERLOOK PLAYGROUND REDUX—(Finally)



GAY STREET-SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL



Blessings on Portland
and its embrace of all
embraces
That there can be such
sweet
contrast between three
different places.

Omaha Street is
weirdly
wide
and so is dear Detroit.
Between them—
Gay Street—wends its
narrow way,
confident and adroit.



ICE CREAM SOC



Theater Uber Alles



Les Phillips and assorted neighbors—view from the balcony.



Dishing out the goodies—from left: Jim Bennett, Nicole Thorburn, Amelia Thorburn, Matt Scoggin, Sadie Thorburn and Mary Ellen Baldauff

PHOTOGRAPHIC AND POETIC

Warren Cassell

A GREAT GARAGE SALE (Sans garage!)



The median strip on Omaha
every July ia the site
of the mother-of-all garage sales
for both profit? And delight!

Another recycling triumph
ranging from Hummel to spa
eliciting all manner of comment from
ouch, to of course
Oh! Ma!—Hah!

OVERLOOK BOULEVARD ROYALTY PARKING



Wisdom may come and
Wisdom may go
Yet, it's always clear to see
That every bee is not a Queen
Nor every Queen a bee.

MESSAGE TO THE MOCKS CREST BENCHMARK AUTHOR



There are finer ways
to make your mark
Than I.D. ing yourself as a
vandal

Make art—though your
effort
seems rustic and stark,
you'll find that's a much
better handle.



There they are on Overlook Terrace
near that huge venerable tree,
dancing and reaching to bear us
the gift for our hearts to see.

PHOTOGRAPHIC — PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN RAWLS



One has her eyes on the camera and the other has her eyes on the prize.



Christine Quigley & Destiny Fulton—fierce guardians of the
auction/white elephant sale items.



Two Victorian type ladies with great hats.

MEETINGS FOR EVERYONE

WHEN	WHERE	WHAT
Sept. 4 7:00 P.M.	Overlook House 3839 N. Melrose Drive	OKNA Board All are welcome
Sept. 11 6:30 P.M.	Beach School 1710 N. Humboldt	Beach School PTA All welcome-especially parents of pre-schoolers
Sept. 18 7:00 P.M.	Kaiser Town Hall 3704 N. Interstate Avenue	OKNA General Meeting All are urged to attend
Sept. 25 7:00 P.M.	Kaiser Town Hall	Does this Fish Taste like Prozac? All are welcome
Oct. 2 7:00 P.M.	Kaiser Town Hall	OKNA Board
Oct. 16 7:00 P.M.	Kaiser Town Hall	OKNA General Meeting

GOT TREES?

By Cynthia Sulaski

If not, do we have a deal for you! For the ninth year, the Overlook Neighborhood Association is partnering with Friends of Trees to make it possible for Overlook homeowners to plant street trees in front of their homes for a very reasonable price. Don't pass up this opportunity. Trees increase a home's value, provide shade and privacy, help muffle noise, improve air quality, and beautify your house and neighborhood.

To begin the process, all you have to do is give me the information requested below by September 28. A city forester will determine how many trees will fit in your parking strip. I'll mail you a list of the tree species from which you can choose. (Also available at www.friendsoftrees.org under tree resources/tree data.) Then, if you're still interested, you'll choose the trees you want and mail in your order along with \$15.00 per tree*. (Scholarships are available.) You will join us on February 16 to help in some way with the planting. Lastly, you'll weed, mulch, water and enjoy your new tree(s)!

*The cost for each tree will be subsidized by our generous donors.

Please email Cynthia Sulaski, Overlook Tree Liaison, at csulaski@comcast.net with the following information or mail this coupon by September 28h to:

OKNA Tree Planting, % Overlook House, 3839 N. Melrose Drive, 97227

Name _____

Address _____

Phone(day or evening)_____ email_____



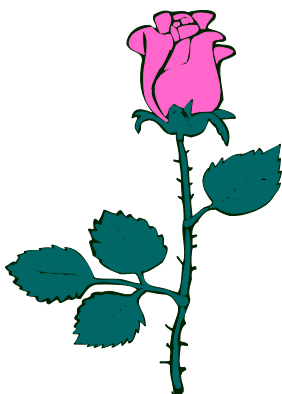
REAL ESTATE UPDATE
PORTLAND/OVERLOOK

An overview of the Portland Metropolitan area as of the end of June 2007 shows that the average market time for a residential property to sell was 59 days, compared to 42 days a year ago. The number of new listings increased by 12.7% compared to June 2006, pending sales decreased by 18.5and closed sales declined by 10.4%. The average sales price for the Metro area increased by 8.9%.



In North Portland, there were 509 active listings (including 275 new ones), 121 pending sales, and 130 closed sales with an average sale price of \$261,400 and an average market time of 34 days. Appreciation has increased 10.4% since June 2006. Listed below are properties that have sold in Overlook since the last Newsletter.

Address	Bed/Bath	List Price	Sold Price	Days on Market
1411 N. Alberta St., #6	1/1	\$149,900	\$149,900	45
1412 N. Alberta St., #3	1/1	\$159,900	\$159,900	66
1413 N. Alberta St., #2	1/1	\$164,900	\$164,900	27
1414 N. Alberta St., #12	1/1	\$174,900	\$169,000	46
1415 N. Alberta St., #4	1/1	\$179,900	\$179,900	33
1605 N. Webster St .	1/2	\$219,000	\$210,000	22
5635 N. Omaha Ave.	3/1	\$285,850	\$222,500	105
5705 N. Delaware Ave.	3/2	\$325,000	\$308,000	49
3774 N. Melrose Dr.	6/2	\$339,900	\$330,000	19
5536 N. Delaware Ave.	3/2	\$349,900	\$350,000	13
4074 N. Concord Ave.	4/1.1	\$385,000	\$355,000	18
1615 N. Sumner St.	4/1	\$359,000	\$359,000	5
2415 N. Alberta St.	3/2	\$475,000	\$379,000	259
3762 N. Melrose Dr	7/2.1	\$367,500	\$365,000	45
1650 N. Church St.	3/2	\$414,900	\$415,000	12
1725 N. Willamette blvd.	4/2	\$469,999	\$440,000	20



OVERLOOK
HOUSE WINS GAR-
DEN AWARD

By Warren Cassell

Carol Padden, Program Director for Overlook House, recently announced an award for its beautiful rose garden by the Royal Rosarian Foundation. In its Seventieth Annual Rose Garden contest, the Foundation honored Overlook House with a certificate of merit in the Commercial Garden (Division 12C) category. Many thanks are expressed to the various volunteers and friends of Overlook House who made this award possible. Particular thanks go to Chad and Annagreitz for their unflagging enthusiasm, expertise and down in the dirt work.

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

OKNA OFFICERS

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tom.kilbane@comcast.net and
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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 October 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.