

OVERLOOK VIEWS

April/May 2008

The Newsletter

Vol.4 No. 6

Overlook Neighborhood Association, Portland, Oregon

www.overlookneighborhood.org

EARTH DAY AT OVERLOOK PARK NEAR YOU AND COMING SOON

Mark your calendars now to celebrate Earth Day all day at Overlook Park on Saturday, April 19. Earth Day is dedicated to promoting awareness of environmental issues as well as celebrating local efforts of individuals, organizations and businesses that inspire living in harmony with our planet. Earth Day is planned, designed, organized, built and run by volunteers on a minimal budget. Volunteers are still needed for organizing Kids' Village, Entertainment (3 performance stages!), Health and Wellness Village, Better Transportation Fair and of course, fund raising. If you would like to volunteer your time and energy for Earth Day festivities, get in touch with Bob New at earthday@cityrepair.org. If you would just like to be a spectator or participant on Saturday, April 19, drop by anytime all day. It's just a short walk or bike ride from your home.

HELP MAKE YOUR WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Since 1970, the U.S. has celebrated Earth Day during late April in honor of our home planet. This year, on Saturday, April 19, please come join us in a service project to benefit your community surrounding the Overlook Park area of North Portland. We will be working in concert with thousands of other volunteers around the state of Oregon "converging on approximately 100 project sites in the greater Portland metropolitan area working together to SOLV IT*."

Members of the Overlook and Boise neighborhood associations will be participating. The Interstate Corridor Business Alliance has also spread the word to its membership. Employees of TriMet have also gathered an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Come join us!

We will be cleaning up the I-5 pedestrian overpass found near N. Failing. We will be planting some more plants on the west side and cleaning up the plantings on the east side. We will then continue picking up trash as we head to the Going St. overpass on N. Concord Ave., where we will continue our clean sweep. When we are done, we will return to Overlook Park to celebrate Earth Day!



JUST THE FACTS ABOUT EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

DATE Saturday, April 19 **TIME** 9:00 A.M. — 1:00 P.M.

WHERE Behind Kaiser Town Hall in Parking Lot

Come prepared for the weather, wear clothes that can get dirty, and eat breakfast. We will provide plastic gloves, tools to pick up garbage, paint for graffiti etc.
Contact Information: Rebeca Siplak, Earth Day volunteer at 503-735-4766 or rebecasiplak@comcast.net.



*From SOLV's website: "SOLV IT focuses on cleaning illegal dumpsites, beautifying and enhancing neighborhoods and public spaces, restoring watersheds, and much more. In the past eighteen years, SOLV IT volunteers have removed more than 6,650 tons of debris."

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

By Eric Gale



One of my favorite things about being on the neighborhood association board is seeing our veteran board members in action. Every month I am inspired and humbled by their knowledge, wisdom, and tireless dedication to our neighborhood. They know the history, the issues, and the resources. They've planted trees and cleaned up graffiti. They've sat through countless meetings to either get things started like the Interstate Farmers Market or to help shape big-picture projects like the Interstate Urban Renewal Area. We are all very lucky to have them and have all benefited from what they have done for our community.

I tried to make a more complete list of all that they've done but after 1,000 words I knew I had to abandon that plan, so here is an extraordinarily incomplete thank you.

Thank you, **Cynthia Sulaski**, for all your work in getting over 600 trees planted in the neighborhood over the last nine years, getting the Interstate Farmers Market running (along with **Warren Cassell** and **Kent Hoddick**), and getting the renovation of Patton Park to happen.

Thank you, **Brad Halverson**, for your amazing commitment, your recent 12-night stretch of nightly meetings, being a transportation and traffic guru, and all your work with the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area, Columbia Crossings, and Interstate MAX.

Warren and Melisa Cassell, thank you for putting together the Overlook Views for the last four years and for starting work on the next issue before the ink on this one is dry. The newsletter is the only way that the entire neighborhood can communicate with each other and is invaluable for informing people and facilitating all that goes on here. It's also a heck of a lot of work.

Thank you, **Kent Hoddick**, for getting me involved, for all of your knowledge, all your work keeping the Interstate Farmers Market running, and, retroactively, for your ten years as Arbor Lodge Neighborhood Association Chair. It was no surprise when you met with City Commissions about the Big Ugly Pole that they first thanked you for your years of service.

George Spaulding, thank you for your long history and involvement in public safety issues and the North Portland Public Safety Advisory Committee, your work with the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area, and for lending a hand whenever a hand needs lending.

Finally, thank you **Alan Cranna**. Your dedication and history in the neighborhood is unparalleled. Thank you for organizing the North Portland Clean-Up and newsletter delivery (in its various forms) since 1991, for all your work with the Overlook House, and all of the many, many projects you've been a part of and organized.

There are, of course, many other folks in our neighborhood who do great things but I would like to give one more special and timely thanks to our neighborhood volunteers on the Community Advisory Group for the Interstate Corridor Rezoning Project: **Amy Altenberger, David Davies, Tabor Porter, and Claire Paris**. They've been attending meetings for over a year (many months after they were supposed to be done) while studying, discussing, and debating complex and important issues and doing a great job of representing the neighborhood.



**INTERSTATE FARMERS
MARKET STARTS ITS FOURTH
SEASON ON MAY 14**

By Ronna Seavey

Mike Moran, Chair of the Interstate Farmers Market Community Board, announced that the opening bell of this year's market will be rung by new market manager, Bob New, on Wednesday, May 14. This popular mid-week market is located on N. Fremont Street, just off Interstate Avenue between Overlook Park and the Interstate Kaiser Permanente Campus - West Building.

"Bob's strong professional experience including extensive program development, work with a food co-op, and event coordination along with his commitment to public involvement complement the board's mission to provide a sustainable community-owned farmers market to North/inner Northeast Portland neighborhoods," said **Mr. Moran**.

"The market is developing a reputation for supplying a rich variety of quality fresh local produce, baked goods, cut flowers, artisan cheese, meat and fish," he continued. "Plus the wireless debit system introduced last season through a partnership with New Seasons Markets' Pacific Village products was wildly successful. The system makes the market even more accessible, especially to shoppers with Oregon Trail cards."

Other volunteers governing the market with **Mr. Moran** include **Kathy Armstrong**, **Ellen Markham** and **Lisa Sauber**. The board is recruiting additional members to include Kaiser Permanente representation, a valued champion of the market, and others in North/inner Northeast Portland supporting local agriculture, health and community.

The Interstate Farmers Market will be held every Wednesday from May 14 through September 24, 3.00 – 7.00 p.m. For those driving, there is **ample free parking** in the Kaiser West parking lot. For non-driving shoppers the market is located at the MAX yellow line Overlook stop and has lots of bike parking.

Visit www.interstatefarmersmarket.com for dates, news and driving directions. The web site will also give you the opportunity to sign up for a weekly newsletter and receive recipes and weekly vendor updates. For further information, call 503-823-0215.



**A VIEW FROM THE SIDEWALK
A CAUTIONARY TALE**

By Brad Halverson

I am fortunate. I live and work in the same neighborhood so I can walk to work. Our excellent system of sidewalks allows me to read, contemplate or just observe while hoofing my way to work or back home. Because of my penchant for over scheduling, walking is often the only exercise I get!

While walking, I realize that there are many barriers to making it safe and easy to do so. I can maneuver around many of the obstacles, but I also admit to taking a face plant after tripping on a lifted sidewalk panel. Now, I survived, but if an elderly person or an adult with a kid in a stroller falls in the same spot, the results could be much more serious. I believe I read of a lawsuit in another part of town stemming from such an incident. I hope that people will take care of their sidewalks by fixing them when there is a problem. One-half inch is all it takes to need repair. Realistically, even if all of the one inch or bigger lifts were replaced, it would be easier to walk through our great neighborhood.

Another challenge is vegetation that grows over the sidewalk. This could be ground cover gone wild, bushes that are too close or low-hanging trees. There has to be 7.5 feet of clearance over the sidewalk and 11.5 feet over the street. I have seen our friendly neighborhood garbage haulers and delivery trucks accidentally “prune” the street trees. This can kill them, so I would like to suggest that the homeowner be proactive and keep the area clear for walking. It makes walking so much more fun if there is room to walk upright.

If you have a tree in the parking strip (between the sidewalk and street), you need a free permit from the city to prune it. They provide you with a pruning guide, which is very informative. Also, when you plant foliage in your yard, please leave room far enough back for it to grow so it does not have to be pruned back near the sidewalk and looks ugly as a result.

Finally, many people don’t realize that the property line usually stops 1 to 2 feet back from the sidewalk. Property owners of many fences and retaining walls built in the right of way could have to take them down if requested. Some fences and walls need a permit while others do not. It can be confusing so it may be worth checking it out with the city before building.

The city’s www.portlandonline.com website can be very helpful, if you are lucky enough to find the information you want. Another option is to call the city/county referral phone line at 503-823-4000 where the operators will triage you to the office that can help you.



JAMES LOW

By Sarah Friedel

Involuntarily listening to the neighbors' music can be a dreaded side effect of warmer weather. Not so for the folks on N. Prescott St. near the Going pedestrian bridge. The indie-rock issuing sweetly from a cozy red Victorian-era farmhouse brings folks out to the sidewalk.

On a cold night in February, singer-songwriter James Low is working out a new tune. Lying by the piano is Ben, a boxer mix James brought home from the Humane Society when he started a day job and quit regularly playing music on the road.

Music rarely takes a back seat in James' life, but when he first moved to Overlook in 2002 he had to focus on his house. It was an ugly, fall-apart mess. "It was the only house I could find that I could afford, but I saw some kind of character in it that I really liked. My real estate agent said, 'You are crazy.'"

Obviously, the realtor was unfamiliar with James' home renovation talents. "I tore off the whole front corner and built a new porch. Room by room I gutted and plumbed. I stripped all the nasty brown shingles off the outside, repainted and reroofed. It's still a work in progress."

Construction skills were James' heritage from a childhood in John Day, Oregon, where his parents moved from McMinnville when James was two. After high school in Clackamas where he really got into the vocal music program, James hung out in New York for six years in "an unsuccessful attempt to get a college education."



College no, music yes. At 19, he snagged a kitchen job at The Lonestar Roadhouse, the site of the first Blues Bros show, with Jim Belushi and Dan Akroyd fronting Willie Nelson's band. "I saw Emmylou Harris, Etta James, Maceo Parker, The Violent Femmes, Rufus Thomas, NRBQ, Jonathan Richmond, Joe Ely -- I can't remember who all else.” He wrote and performed his own songs at downtown clubs and open mikes.

In 1995, James decided to head back to Portland for work as a carpenter and to concentrate on song writing. His first CD, Mexiquita, was released in 2000, followed by Blackheart in 2002. He will be releasing a third, The Blackguard's Waltz, this summer. Here is the perfect moment to go to www.myspace.com/jameslow and hear some tunes from the new CD.

Much of James' work is solo. He mostly plays guitar (1950s Gibson acoustic, a smaller 60s Gibson, and a Fender Stratocaster). "For the longest time I tried to have a regular band and it just never worked out for me. A lot of the folks I play with will leave town for six months out of the year to make money, and as (Cont'd next page)

JAMES LOW (Cont'd)

long as I'm not on that level I work and I come home and play with my dog and I practice."

Using the shifting band approach, James has performed with numerous gifted instrumentalists. A couple years ago at the Aladdin, he opened for Junior Brown to a sold-out audience, playing with three guys who ended up in The Eels. "We got a standing ovation at the end of our set," he recalled. He was honored to perform at a hospice, participating in a living wake for a friend of a friend with terminal cancer.

These days, James books about one show a month, "basically me and whoever I hire for a gig, based on the instrumentation and who's available." His next performance is Friday, April 18 at the Mission Theater, a CD release party for the group Scotland Barr & the Slow Drags. (Their MySpace also features some great music.) A residency gig at Laurelthirst Public House was James' home away from home for several years. "Part of the reason I don't do weekly gigs anymore is because I'm trying to put more thought into each show.

A factor in James' more laid-back musical life is his rewarding day job. James is the housing rehabilitation specialist for Washington County. He does inspections of sub-standard housing, identifies rehab needs, hires contractors, and inspects the completed work for quality. "It really is the perfect job for me. The only drawback is it's not flexible in the way I would like as a musician."



READY. SAFE. GO. CONFERENCE AND AWARDS CEREMONY

By Kelly Ball, ONI Crime Prevention Supervisor

Do you want to know more about what you can do to reduce crime in your neighborhood? Are you as prepared as you could be if a disaster should strike?

Come learn about crime prevention and emergency preparedness at the third annual Ready. Safe. Go. conference and volunteer awards ceremony on April 26, 2008. The event will be held at PCC Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St., Portland, and runs from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

“Valuable information is available at the event to help citizens interested in neighborhood watch, emergency preparedness, and other civic involvement,” said George Spaulding, Public Safety Chair for the Overlook Neighborhood Association.

“Good information comes out of these events,” said Arlene Kimura, Chair of the Hazelwood Neighborhood Association. “We’ve used the information at our public safety meetings.”

Ready. Safe. Go. is a partnership between the Office of Neighborhood Involvement’s Crime Prevention Program and the Portland Office of Emergency Management. The goal of the conference is to give community members tools to create safe and prepared neighborhoods.

(Cont'd next column)

“This is a fantastic opportunity to learn new techniques and resources to reduce crime in your neighborhood,” said Stephanie Reynolds, Crime Prevention Program Manager, and the awards ceremony is a nice way to honor those who have worked so hard to make Portland a safe and livable community.”

This free event will offer twenty classes including: how to handle graffiti, resources available online, child predator awareness, identity theft, special needs rescue, victim extrication and patient transport, foreign language phrases for NET responders, basic emergency preparedness, shelter operations, and more.

For a complete list of classes, schedule for the day, and registration information, check online at www.portlandonline.com/oni/cp (after March 1) or contact Theresa Marchetti at 503-823-4064. Pre-registration is required.

CROWN MOTEL/PATTON PARK APARTMENTS UPDATE

With thanks to Michelle Haynes, Housing Development Director of REACH-CDC

For those following the saga of the Crown Motel’s journey from the past into the future, here are a few salient points:

- Most of the current guests at the Crown are staying there short term, but a few occupants have been living at the motel for some time. TriMet has been helping those folks find suitable replacement housing. The motel will be vacant by mid-March.
- Almost all of REACH Community Development Corporation’s financing commitments are in place and they are confident they will close their financing in mid-March. REACH plans to take ownership of the property from TriMet on March 14. Shortly thereafter, they will have a sign restoration company carefully remove the Crown neon sign and take it to its warehouse for storage and ultimate restoration. (See accompanying article in next column.)
- It is expected that demolition of the motel will start during the week of March 17 and will take about 10 days. By then, with permits in hand, construction will begin about April 1. The construction period will last about 9 ½ months and REACH expects to complete the new building and be open for occupancy in January 2009.

In the meantime, REACH intends to work hard to recruit commercial tenants. The building will have over 4,000 square feet of commercial space, located at the north and south ends of the ground floor. They have designed the space to accommodate restaurants or other retailers, and REACH will begin actively seeking quality commercial tenants once the building is under construction.

Finally, a word about the Crown neon sign. You are probably aware of a flurry of publicity in the last couple of months about the fate of the sign. This controversy was apparently

set off by a report in the press that REACH planned to demolish the sign along with the Crown Motel. Of course, the report was false. REACH had planned to move the sign to a safe location, until a permanent home could be found for it.

The controversy did have a positive side, however; it helped create a coalition of people who are interested in joining with REACH to find a solution for the Crown sign (and other Interstate Avenue neon signs that could be threatened by redevelopment). REACH will take responsibility to get the Crown sign safely to the restorer. Other coalition members are raising money to restore the sign and find a new home for it on Interstate.

THE CROWN MOTEL SIGN

By Dan Haneckow

From the late 1930s into the 1960s, before I-5 cut a swath through North Portland, Interstate Avenue was a neon lit thoroughfare with countless signs that flashed and glowed to entice drivers off of the Pacific Highway (which Interstate Avenue was part of) to service stations, restaurants and motels.

With the arrival of I-5 and the passage of time, "the Avenue" has dimmed considerably. While many signs have gone the way of the Marco Polo, the Knickerbocker and Mel's Motor Hotel, some, like the Alibi, the Palms and the Westerner’s still survive. The Crown Motel's sign, with its King Arthur meets Route 66 imagery, was in danger as the motel is slated for demolition to make way for residential use.

The Atomic Age Alliance, which works to preserve mid-century architecture and cultural artifacts, hopes to preserve the Crown Motel sign and find a new location on Interstate Avenue for it. They already have sponsors for \$35,000 to \$45,000 to move and restore the sign. The Crown Motel will be demolished on March 16 and the sign will be removed and stored with Portland's Ramsay Signs where the restoration will take place. Ramsay Signs (who restored and maintain the White Stag "Made in Oregon" sign downtown) have agreed to store it for up to a year.

By working with the Portland Development Commission, REACH (a Portland Housing non-profit), Ramsay Signs and the surrounding neighborhoods, the Atomic Age Alliance hopes to find the sign a

new home. I have agreed to be a liaison between the Overlook Neighborhood and the Atomic Age Alliance as their effort progresses. If you would like more information, updates or if you want to help keep Interstate Avenue's history brightly lit, contact me at cafeunknown@comcast.net or telephone 503-282-7155.



WHAT STYLE IS THAT OVERLOOK HOUSE?

by Jane Finch-Howell

Portland's neighborhoods abound with historically significant housing styles, and Overlook is a perfect sample of that bounty. Most of the homes in our neighborhood were built within the last 100 years, many during the building boom that followed the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition of 1905.

For those who are wondering about the home they live in, or are interested in Overlook historic housing types and styles, here's a modest tour in loose chronological order, illustrated by wonderful examples from the rich stock of homes on Overlook streets.



Victorian cottage

Victorian houses were built from 1855 to as late as 1940 and varied widely from modest cottages to elaborate Queen Anne homes. Above is an example of a simple Victorian cottage with narrow, round porch columns topped with a simple detail where they meet the porch fascia board. This home's porch is perfectly dressed with three simple, dark-painted wood rockers.



American Foursquare, or Old Portland

The American Foursquare home is a late-Victorian style with two full stories, a hipped or pyramidal roof, one or more dormers and a full-width porch that may turn the corner on one side. Porch columns are narrow and may be round or square. Windows are often grouped and symmetrical. The inside layout of each floor (at its simplest, one room in each corner of the house) is reflected in the boxy shape of the American Foursquare. You may also hear these homes referred to as Old Portland style. The example above takes good advantage of its corner location with a nicely located wrap-around porch.



Three Craftsman bungalows

Perhaps no 20th century house type has been as well-loved as the Craftsman bungalow. Wildly popular when they were first built between 1900 and 1930, Craftsman bungalows enjoyed renewed popularity as inner cities again became popular and their bungalows rediscovered and restored.

The true bungalow is a relatively long, low one- or one-and-a-half story home with a conspicuous roof, deep eaves and a wide front porch with strong tapered supports or thick columns. Overlook bungalows don't always fit this description, but what unites them is the way they sit low to the ground, nestled in nature. Craftsman bungalows were designed to showcase their structural elements such as stone porch columns, heavy support beams and simple but carefully finished wood details and trim.

The extreme popularity of Craftsman bungalows gave way in turn to a number of Revival housing styles in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Looking back to our American historical roots gave us the Colonial Revival style. This tradition-based style had symmetry as its hallmark, with multiple sets of shuttered windows typically placed over each other on two floors. A central door was set close to the ground and accented by a small, arched or pedimented porch with slim columns. Usually the roof was gabled, as in the example below, and could be punctuated by multiple small dormers.



Colonial Revival

Colonial Revival was so popular, it was commonly combined with other styles. The simple lines of the Cape Cod, below, have been jazzed up with the addition of a Colonial Revival pedimented porch roof supported by the requisite narrow columns.



A Cape Cod with Colonial Revival porch and columns

In fact, many Overlook houses have more than one style or influence as seen below: on the left two Old English or Tudor-style homes have typical, steeply pitched rooflines, brick siding and decorative "half-timbering" trim. On the far right is a two-story Craftsman cottage, also with half-timbered details. It fits right in.



Two Old English or Tudor-style homes on the left, and an English-influenced Craftsman cottage on the far right



Dutch Colonial bungalow with typical roofline

A popular variation on the Colonial Revival style was Dutch Colonial, as seen above and directly below. These homes have all the symmetry of Colonial Revival but have what is called a gambrel roof. This unusual roof form has two pitches to it, one

Romantic Revival storybook home below is a delightful mixture of many styles. With its pink stucco exterior, entry tower, steep roofline, leaded glass windows and quirky ornamentation, it is a unique addition to our survey of Overlook houses.



Romantic Revival Storybook cottage



This Dutch Colonial, left, and the brick English, right, showcase the distinctive roof lines of each style.

steeper than the other. Dormers on Dutch Colonial homes may be continuously framed, as in the example directly above, or framed individually, as in the example at the top of the page.



Tile-roofed Spanish Revival stucco home

Another popular Colonial Revival style was Spanish Revival. More common in Florida, California and the Southwest, these homes were still built in many American cities, including Portland. Typical of the style were arched casement windows, deep overhanging porches, paneled wooden doors and, of course, red tiled roofs. These homes are almost invariably stucco sided. The Spanish Revival home above has been thoughtfully restored, right down to the iron spear supports for the upstairs balcony awning.

English Revivals also took on fanciful romantic styles. Looking like it has just jumped out of a book of fairy tales, the

During the second world war, relatively few homes were built, so the next big housing trend in Overlook is represented by Postwar bungalows. Land was cheap after the war, but increasing costs for labor and materials meant that most of these earlier one-story homes were modest in size and simple in design. These were unassuming but very livable homes that filled the needs of a nation anxious to get back to normal life . One feature that gained prominence at the time was the picture window. After years of managing with multiple panes in large windows, the picture window presented full and unobstructed views of the outdoors. Although not all Postwar bungalows were well sited for the views those windows allowed, many took advantage of the vistas. Below, for example, this Postwar bungalow near the bluff has the typical unadorned facade but sports a picture window perfect for gathering in a big view of downtown Portland.



Postwar bungalow

Along came Modernism beginning in 1940 and the ranch home was right behind it in a comfortable interpretation of that modern trend in American home building.

Although the majority of Overlook homes were built earlier in the 20th century, we have a representative smattering of mid-century ranch homes that infilled a few empty lots in the 50s and 60s. The ranch was a loose adaptation of a one-story house assumed to be typical of ranch dwellings in the American southwest. Its sister, the split level, had a single story at one end and two stories at the other end, often accommodating a garage on the lower level.

Both styles retained the picture window and low, ground-hugging profile of Postwar homes, but these houses spread themselves out along the street on their lots. The spare simplicity of these styles was sometimes softened by the addition of Colonial Revival elements, such as fixed shutters beside the picture window or perhaps an eagle over the door.



Two mid-century ranches

Where will Overlook home trends go from here? Since American home styles have historically been combinations of elements fused together into a new style, perhaps there's a clue in the example below. This once-modest ranch is being remodeled in a way guaranteed to turn heads (and capture the view of downtown.) The strong architectural details are unabashedly modern, but the warm wood siding and sheltering porch speak reassuringly of the comforting elements of Overlook homes we have enjoyed for years.



Contemporary

MULTIGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY TO BREAK GROUND IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By early May, people walking, cycling or driving west on North Killingsworth Avenue toward Greeley will notice a large sign on the north side of the street between Wilbur and Delaware. The ReBuilding Center's sign will tell passersby that 12 apartments on this property are being deconstructed to make way for the future home of Daybreak Cohousing, slated for an early May groundbreaking.

Daybreak is one of Portland's newest cohousing communities—a type of multifamily housing created by people who play an active role in the design, governance and operation of their community and value knowing their neighbors like extended family. Daybreak members include individuals,

couples and families—from toddlers to retired folks.

Thirty homes—flats and townhouses—will face onto a large terrace, gardens, play area and other open spaces. They will have most of the features of conventional homes, and will also share the use of outdoor areas as well as a large “common house.” The common house will be a gathering place for community meals and meetings and also provide guest rooms, a kids' playroom, a workshop and laundry, living room, family room, spiritual space, bike storage and repair areas and a large kitchen and dining room. Homes will be purchased as condos and a few rentals are also anticipated.



A number of sustainable features have been incorporated into the project, from on-site storm water management to passive solar design to advance framing. Architects are Schemata Workshop of Seattle. Portland's Barrs & Genauer Construction is the contractor.

As a community, Daybreak members are committed to becoming connected with the Overlook neighborhood. They currently hold meetings at Northminster Presbyterian Church. The community is still seeking additional members and holds informal, family-friendly socials twice a month for people wanting to learn more. For dates, locations, and more information, go to www.daybreakcohousing.org or call Tiffany at (503) 236-6035.

OVERLOOK HOUSE NEWS

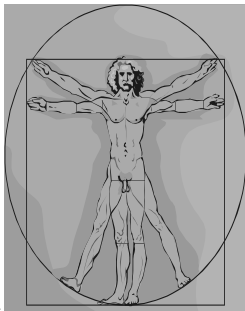
GIRL SCOUTS AT OVERLOOK HOUSE

"Daisy" Girl Scout Troop #1171 meets at the Overlook House every Thursday afternoon from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Troop leader for this group of five year old girls is Keri Kuper. Keri has passed all accredited courses as well as a background check in order to qualify for her role as a troop leader. The yearly fee for enrolling is \$10.00. If you would like to sign up your daughter or would like additional information, call Keri at 503-806-5523. Also, you can visit www.girlscoutscrc.org, the Columbia Council official Girl Scout website, for detailed information.



COSMIC CHI AND T'AI CHI CHIH CLASS AT OVERLOOK HOUSE

Justin Stone, the 91-year-old originator of this contemporary T'ai Chi says, "The circulation and balancing of the 'Chi' is the great secret of life. It is an exercise that affects the inner organs, as well as the muscular structure. It is a moving meditation with many benefits. The benefits are cumulative and should be practiced regularly." More helpful information may be found at www.taichichih.org



Spring class at the Overlook House begins Thursday, April 10 for 8 weeks from 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. All ages and all fitness level appropriate. Fee: \$60. Free ongoing monthly group practices also continue thru the year in order to help foster one's growth in a supportive atmosphere after the class is completed. Steve Marsh, M. Ed, accredited teacher. Register/Questions at tccmarsh@hotmail.com or 503-283-4991. Looking for a morning class? Let Steve know.



The Historic Overlook House
3839 N Melrose Drive
www.HistoricOverlookHouse.org

Overlook residents are welcome to attend all Overlook House Steering Committee Board meetings which are held the 4th Tuesday of the month from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. We look forward to seeing you there!

MANY THANKS FROM OVERLOOK HOUSE PROGRAM COORDINATOR CAROL PADDEN:

to **Creative Flooring Solutions** at 4812 N. Interstate Avenue for their donation of new rug squares for children's classes at the Overlook House. Our smallest Overlook residents can now sit on the basement floor and stay warm while enjoying Penny's Puppet Productions and the Bean Sprout Story Hour!

And, to long-time Overlook resident, **Clarice Barrett**, who has generously donated monies for craft supplies in behalf of her Bean Sprout Story Hour. This program has grown in popularity as program director, **Esther Brock**, continues to introduce new games, songs and “creative craft time” for children 4 years and under. Additional thanks to **Lisa Edwards** for her contributions.

The Historic Overlook House
3839 N Melrose Drive
www.HistoricOverlookHouse.org

In order to notify our friends and neighbors of upcoming events, classes and meetings, we would like to invite you to be on our e-mail list. It is our hope that you will return this information to us either by e-mail, or by filling out this form and dropping it off, or sending it to the Overlook House.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Household members (i.e. adult, senior, baby, child) Note: this information is optional and only to be used to notify of events that might apply to a specific age group.

If you do not have Internet service, perhaps you could form a buddy system with someone you know who is on our list. Note: This information will be used only to notify people of events and items of interest at the Overlook House. We will not sell or share this list with any other party.

YES, WE GOT TREES!

By Cynthia Sulaski

You may have noticed on February 16 quite a lot of activity going on throughout Overlook. Homeowners and other volunteers successfully planted 63 trees and helped to raise our grand total to 600 trees planted in nine years! In addition to acknowledging their contribution, I would also like to thank the following individuals and businesses:

- **Kaiser Permanente** – For nine years, they have generously supported our plantings. This year **Kaiser** gave us a staff person and access to their dining room for volunteers to enjoy a lunch after the planting.
- **Adidas**-- for another year, **Adidas** was the **Friends of Trees** official sponsor for Overlook. In addition, they sponsored the other four neighborhoods that also planted trees on February 16.
- **Arciform** – another long-time supporter, they donated a truck and money to help defer expenses. Thank you **Richard and Anne De Wolf**.
- **Overlook Tree Preservation**--truck and labor donation. Thank you **Kevin MacKenzie**.
- **Glenn Birdsall**--trees pick-up and delivery
- Lastly, **Friends of Trees**—we could never have planted so many trees over the years without their great staff, volunteers and expertise!



Overlook resident, Mona Bhalla, gets help from some friends to plant her new Rocky Mt. maple

Speaking of those trees, don't forget to water them! The rule of thumb is to give each tree planted in the last two years 10-15 gallons once a week. For more information, go to http://www.friendsoftrees.org/tree_resources/maintenance.php.

Lastly, I am beginning to plan for our tenth year event and would like help in making it a blowout success! I want us to plant 100 trees throughout Overlook and have lots of fun in the process. If you are interested, give me a call (503.249.7728) or email me at (csulaski@comcast.net).

METRO COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Do you have an idea to help make our community greener, cleaner, safer or healthier? The good news is that Metro has grants available to help make it happen. Projects must benefit residents of Overlook and/or other North Portland neighborhoods and approximately \$60,000 is available to North Portland for the 2008-09 funding cycle.

Metro's North Portland enhancement grant program has awarded more than \$2 million to 400+ projects since 1987. In Overlook, grants have supported the community's vision and responded to its unique blend of needs - from subsidizing the cost of trees for homeowners and helping with graffiti and pole-litter removal efforts, to creating a low-cost health care clinic, establishing a tool-lending library and building an outdoor science lab at a neighborhood school.

Do you need help with an application for your project proposal? In mid-April, Metro offers a

free grant-writing workshop with tips for first-time grant writers.

To reserve your place at the workshop or to get more details about the grant program, contact Karen Blauer, Metro's grant coordinator, by phone (503/797-1506) or email (blauerk@metro.dst.or.us).



NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY TEAM BENEFIT

Join us for the fabulous Overlook NET Benefit on Saturday, May 17th, 5 to 8 p.m. at Mississippi Pizza Pub located at 3552 North Mississippi Ave. Adults \$5.00 to enter, kids age 0 -18 are \$1.00. Enjoy incredible music, scrumptious pizza, delicious microbrews and participate in the raffle to win fabulous prizes to call your own and adore!

Your **Neighborhood Emergency Team** is a group of citizen volunteers, trained by the Portland Fire Dept. and the Portland Office of Emergency Management to assist neighbors like you, in small or large disasters. All proceeds from this benefit will go directly to purchase equipment and materials such as cots, bandages, etc. that will be used to help YOU if disaster strikes. Check out NET at <http://www.pdxprepared.net/>!

Come to learn about your **Neighborhood Emergency Team** and stay for the amazing music! Relish the soulful mix of rock, folk and blues of Portland's own Redray Frazier on acoustic guitar. Enjoy the bittersweet, poignant pop of the bedazzling Ezra Holbrook, ex-Decemberists drummer. After you hear your raffle number called, enjoy Tater and Craig as they deliver the haunting harmonies of proto-bluegrass.

Questions? Contact Teresa Hill at terebacki@yahoo.com or 503-860-6703.

Overlook Neighbors,

Thank you for the time, energy and ideas you shared with each other and with Our United Villages over the past 2 years. Thank you for all the varied ways in which you build community every day!

*Hopefully, you all received a copy of **Ideas to Inspire Actions from Overlook Neighbors**. It is a compilation of ideas, photos and projects that emerged from the Neighborhood Conversations we sponsored in Overlook. If you didn't receive a copy, or would like more, please let us know. We have plenty!*

The Neighborhood Celebration at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, with over 200 neighbors attending, was our last neighborhood focused event in Overlook. We'll still be around to support neighbors working together on projects that strengthen the social fabric of their neighborhood. Drop in for a cup of tea when you're in our "neck of the woods."

Linda, Kate and Lacy
Our United Villages Outreach Office
www.ourunitedvillages.org

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND BEACH SCHOOL'S
3rd ANNUAL FUNDRAISING AUCTION
ON SATURDAY, APRIL 12
AT MADELINE PARISH HALL-3123 NE 24TH STREET**

Doors open/silent auction begins 5:00 p.m. Tickets \$25 (dinner included)

**Guest host for the evening is
Fox News Channel 12's Tony Martinez
Music by Jackstraw**

The public is invited. Support your neighborhood school! Tickets may be purchased by contacting Tracy Klosterman at 503-282-2626, at Art & Sole Footwear at 6517 North Interstate Avenue, online at <http://beach.pps.k12.or.us>, or in the school office.

**Todos están invitados para atender a la tercera subasta
anual para recaudar fondos para la escuela Beach
El día Sábado, 12 de Abril
A la sala de reunión de la parroquia Madeline
3123 NE 24th Street**

Las puertas se abrirán a las cinco de la tarde.
El costo será \$25, incluyendo la cena.

**El representante de cena será Tony Martinez
de el canal 12.**

Habrá música con el grupo *Jackstraw*

El público está invitado. Apoye la escuela de su vecindario!
Los boletos están disponibles con Trace Klosterman al telephone 503-282-2626, a Art & Sole Footware en la dirección 6517 N. Interstate Avenue, en el internet a <http://pps.k12.or.us> o en la oficina de la escuela.



**REAL ESTATE UPDATE
PORTLAND/OVERLOOK**



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

As of the end of January 2008, the average time for a residential property to sell in the Portland Metropolitan area was 83 days, compared to 65 days a year ago. The number of new listings increased by 11.9% compared to January 2007, pending sales declined by 34.3% and the number of closed sales fell by 31.9%. The average sale price in Multnomah County increased by 9%.

In North Portland, at the end of January, there were 511 active listings (including 225 new ones), 101 pending sales, and 49 closed sales with an average sale price of \$268,100 and an average market time of 76 days. Appreciation has increased by 8.3% from a year ago. Listed below are properties that have sold in Overlook since the last Newsletter.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Bed/Bath</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>	<u>Days on Market</u>
1411 N. Alberta St., #11	1/1	\$159,900	\$142,665	258
3970 N. Interstate Ave., #207	1/1	199,900	199,900	11
3970 N. Interstate Ave., #103	1/1	199,900	210,400	39
3970 N. Interstate Ave., #310	1/1	244,900	257,400	17
2334 N. Willamette Blvd.	3/2	299,999	279,000	50
5603 N. Boston Ave.	3/1	309,900	311,000	16
5310 N. Concord Ave.	3/2	329,900	313,000	42
1600 N. Emerson St.	3/2	349,900	328,100	40
5310 N. Denver Ave.	3/2	360,000	351,700	5
4216 N. Overlook Blvd.	3/1.1	380,000	377,000	95
5641 N. Wilbur Ave.	4/2.1	475,000	459,900	31
5705 N. Wilbur Ave.	4/2	475,000	475,000	6

NEW RECYCLING ROLL CARTS

The heart of a new system will be the replacing of the two yellow recycling bins currently used with a single roll cart. All material currently placed in the yellow bins can be combined in the roll cart, except glass. A lid keeps recyclables dry and sturdy wheels make the cart easy to set out. The carts also are easier and safer for trash haulers to collect, since mechanized trucks can tip the carts into the truck. Glass should be placed in one of the remaining yellow bins. Sometime in the next few months you will receive your new roll carts--one for recycling and one for yard debris. In addition, your July garbage bill will go up by about \$2.60 a month to help pay for the new carts, double the yard debris volume and greatly expand plastics recycling. Ah, the price of progress! All of this is a result of the Portland City Council's recent adoption of the residential portion of the Portland Recycles! Plan. It is hoped the changes that will help people recycle more by making it easier and more convenient.

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

Chair: Eric Gale 503-737-5227
ericsgale@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kent Hoddick 503-286-9803
Hoddick@teleport.com

Secretary:

OVERLOOK VIEWS

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

Co-editors: Warren and Melisa Cassell
Poet in residence: Melisa Cassell

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

Thanks to the following lovely people whose contributions made this edition possible:
Kelly Ball, Jane Finch-Howell, Sarah Friedel, Eric Gale, Brad Halverson, Dan Haneckow, Michelle Haynes, Bob LaDu, Ronna Seavey, Claire Silva-Strommer and Cynthia Sulaski.

Extra thanks to Jane Finch-Howell for her superb two page photo/essay about the houses of Overlook.

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 May 5. 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: warrencassell@wcassell.com. For additional information, either email above or call 503-288-8323.