

OVERLOOK VIEWS

October/November 2008

The Newsletter

Vol.5 No. 3

Overlook Neighborhood Association, Portland, Oregon

www.overlookneighborhood.org

OKNA GENERAL MEETING! CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OCTOBER 21 OVERLOOK ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE BEACH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM. THE LOCATION IS 1710 N. HUMBOLDT AT CONCORD. The November 18 meeting will be back at its usual Kaiser Town Hall location.

WANTED: Backup Deliverers for the Newsletter

Here is a golden opportunity for exercise challenged couch potatoes to have a meaningful, physically invigorating experience. Become an Overlook Views substitute deliverer, which requires you to walk a route of about one hundred homes delivering the Overlook Views newsletter as you stroll. This will take about an hour and a half to do; its benefits include great socializing interaction opportunities with your neighbors and a fine but not overwhelming cardiovascular and skeletal-muscular exercise session. Only serious applicants need apply by getting in touch with Alan Cranna at 503-285-7944 or as-cran33@hotmail.com or Carol Cushman at 503-288-3888 or chcraill@aol.com. Just one phone call or email will enable you to become a member of the best-damned neighborhood substitute delivery team in Portland.



**HOW GOES THE
INTERSTATE
FARMERS MARKET?
One Man's Opinion**
By Warren Cassell

In two brief words: not well.

I was one of the founding members of the Interstate Farmers Market (IFM) and have had more than a passing interest in its becoming a thriving (pun intended) summer fixture here. I represented the Overlook neighborhood as a community member in what was to be a community-corporate partnership with Kaiser. It didn't work. That fact became a harbinger of future problems. I spent several years contributing untold numbers of hours trying to make the IFM an outstanding market. However, I became disillusioned (at my age!) with the reality of Kaiser's complete dominance of the policies and operation of the IFM and so I left its board. Two years ago, Kaiser severed its management connection with the IFM and a new community board was formed to set policy and oversee the everyday operations of the market. I welcomed this change but I am not quite sure if it has worked as well as it might have...so far.

I recently made several email requests to the new market management for facts and figures but these entreaties bore no fruit (!). As a result, I can share only my personal observations from having visited the market almost every week since the beginning



WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



After a year where the world of our neighborhood association was dominated by renaming and rezoning (the year of the re?), I've wondered what there will be for us to do in the next year. Then August came. The ice-cream social at the Overlook House, the picnic at Pause and a great block party on my street reminded me of the goodness of people simply coming together. Then there are the events that will (hopefully) happen between when I write this and when you read it: the Diversity Committee's neighborhood chat, our annual election and the first deliveries of our Welcoming Committee's welcome packets. There are also exciting projects in the works: the bluff lighting project, the sculpture park by the Concord St. pedestrian bridge and the 10th anniversary of our tree planting and the planting of the 700th tree.

Could it be the year of the we?



of this season. I emphasize the word personal because these observations may or may not represent the experiences of other residents visiting the market. And, if my nattering negativity is out of synch with reality, I would love to have the record set straight by responses in the next newsletter. But, let me continue.

1 Attendance: I never had the feeling on any visit to IFM that there were significant numbers of people attending. Rather, shoppers seemed to be in short supply and I would characterize each week's turnout as sparse at the time of my visits. Moreover, I never saw anyone taking a count (and a really healthy and accurate count of shoppers is what persuades vendors to participate).

2 Vendors: Similar to shopper scarcity, the number of vendors appeared to have been sparse to say the least. I believe the IFM budget was based on selling 30 booth spaces each week. My occasional and informal assessments always hovered at 25 or less. Practically non-existent was the weekly appearance of farmers with a **full line of produce**. Rather, only one vendor seemed to fit that description...and that booth was always jammed. There were other farmers with fruits and perhaps a few other items of produce. In contrast, most of the vendors' offerings at this farmers market consisted of baked goods, coffee, barbeque and other processed and prepared foods. It seems to me that these kinds of items are readily available throughout the year at local shops. You go to a farmers market for locally grown produce, picked that day and available for sale in the neighborhood. That essential was absent from IFM. (The single exception being the farmer mentioned above.)



3 Market Promotion: Other than a weekly email from the market and my awareness of its physical presence on Wednesdays, I never had the feeling that there was much done by way of

promotion. Kaiser did put up a billboard, but that was Kaiser. Whatever happened to the huge yellow Interstate Farmers Market banner spread across the side of the West building every Wednesday? It was a great reminder to pedestrians, MAX riders and other potential customers driving, riding and walking nearby. It seems doubtful to me that there was any serious discussion about how to promote the market so that the attendance would increase---and thrive!

4. Volunteers: There seemed to be a major dearth of volunteers, especially the first month. Too frequently, the IFM booth appeared to be unattended. There were no greeters or counters. This, despite the fact that the call for volunteers in the weekly market email generally took more space than the announcements about what was new at the market that week. It appears that a new market manager and board must have been so overwhelmed with a new community-run IFM that non-email efforts to acquire volunteers were given a very low priority. There was a "trial run" period of the IFM last year. This was during the transition from Kaiser to Community in which the market was under the auspices of North Portland Neighborhood Services. It seems evident that a one-season trial run proved insufficient.



Enough of this rant! The above topics deal with just a few questions regarding my concerns about the viability of IFM's future. I certainly hope that all of my conjecture is wrong because our Interstate Farmers Market is such a good thing we have to get it right.



OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD WELCOME COMMITTEE

By Warren Cassell with thanks to Kelly Orehovec

Starting in September, we will have begun a new way of welcoming folks who have recently moved into our neighborhood. The **Overlook Neighborhood Welcoming Committee** has been meeting for the past few months to formulate a plan, which assures that new residents moving into Overlook will have the resources to make living in our neighborhood easy, accessible and fun. The committee has worked on putting together welcome baskets to hand deliver to new folks. The welcome baskets will have packets of informational material including but not limited, to the following areas of interest to newcomers:

- Area schools
- Safety and disaster information
- Bike and bike maps
- Voter registration
- History of our neighborhood
- Community centers
- Tool library and other local libraries
- Links to government services
- Calendar of festivals
- and a current edition of Overlook Views



In addition, the packet will include a welcome letter filled with information, internet links and phone numbers to call if people want or need more information. To add a personal touch, a committee member will be in charge of getting the welcome basket to a resident who lives close by to deliver it to his/her new neighbor.

Our committee welcomes new members who believe, as we do, that the Overlook neighborhood is a great place in which to live and who would like to share that enthusiasm with new residents. In addition, if you have just moved here in the last few months and have not received your newcomers' basket, please call Kelly Orehovec at 503-407-1120 or email her at Kellygaylecollson@yahoo.com

...But this lovely basket above is a virtual one. All its benefits and bounties can be summoned from miles away by a phone call or the click of a mouse. However, there was a time when "miles away" meant days of travel with the help of a horse (clack) and that a "click" meant there really was a mouse in the house. Bob LaDu turns the -clock- back and gives us a glimpse.

OVERLOOK: Beginnings

By Bob LaDu

Many of us would find it hard to believe that the neighborhood we now know as Overlook was once part of Clackamas County, that it was located in a city other than Portland, and that its northern boundary was Skidmore Street. Strange but true. But first...

Prior to 1824 when the Hudson's Bay company established Fort Vancouver, only native peoples traversed the largely fir forest that covered what is now the Overlook area. By 1832 the native population had been decimated by diseases, such as measles and small pox, introduced by the white man, against which the Indians had no resistance. Essentially, then, this part of the Oregon country was empty and ready for settlers. These began arriving by the hundreds in wagon trains in 1842. Only when Oregon became a Territory of the United States in 1848 could these new arrivals think with confidence

about obtaining title to the land they had settled. Congress made this possible in September, 1850, with the Donation Land Claim Act (DLC).



The Act provided that citizens above the age of 18 who arrived in Oregon by December 1, 1850 and lived on their land claim for four years could receive from the government one half section of land (320 acres) if single, or an entire section (640 acres or one square mile) if married, one half to be held by the husband, the other half to be in the wife's name (this was the first time in the U.S. that a married woman could own land in her own name).

The Act also required that a Surveyor General be appointed to survey the Oregon Territory so that

land claimants could properly describe their claims. On June 4, 1851, then, Surveyor General John Preston drove a stake at a spot that is now just off Skyline Blvd. near W. Burnside Street and from it established a North/South meridian (the Willamette Meridian, from California to Canada) and an East/West baseline (from the ocean to Idaho). From these lines, townships of six square miles in size were marked off (each township containing 36 sections; each section made up of 640 acres). All surveyed land claims were described in relation to the stake starting point. Eventually the stake was replaced with a more durable marker and today it is called the Willamette Stone. (Below)



The location of the original stone is now indicated by a stainless steel marker in **Willamette Stone State Heritage Site**, an Oregon state park approximately four miles (6.4 km) west of downtown Portland. The site is on Skyline Boulevard, in the West Hills overlooking the Tualatin Valley and the Willamette River watershed.

When the government land office was opened in Oregon City (the territorial capital) in 1851 to receive applications for DLCs, James Thompson and his wife Paulina (from Ohio) declared that they had settled on their claim of 595.44 acres on December 17, 1850, claiming

parts of sections 21, 22, 27 and 28 in Township 1 North, Range 1 East. Today that land would be bounded by Martin Luther King Avenue on the east, the Willamette River on the south and west, and Prescott Street on the north – encompassing what would later be called the Overlook subdivision of Portland. (See next page for Map 1 which is a contemporary overlay on a copy of the original document. Also, see page 4 for a copy of the original affidavit signed by Thompson.)

In the meantime, however, Portland, whose population in 1850 was 821 people, would not be incorporated until 1851 and would exist only on the West side of the river until 1891. The City of East Portland, incorporated in 1870, occupied the area bounded by Hancock Street on the north, Holgate on the south, 24th Avenue on the east, and the river on the west. North of East Portland, the City of Albina was platted in 1872-73 and incorporated in 1887. When it (and East Portland) was annexed by the City of Portland in 1891, its boundaries were Columbia Blvd. on the north, Hancock on the south, 24th Avenue on the east, the river/Portsmouth on the west. So the first municipality to which Overlook belonged was the City of Albina. Until 1854, when Multnomah County was created by the Oregon Legislature, all of the three above named cities were located in Clackamas County, one of the first four counties created by the Provisional Government (1843-1847). Its initial size was breathtaking: from more or less the Willamette River to the Continental Divide; and from somewhat south of Portland to the 54th Parallel, far into Canada.

Thus the land claimed by James and Paulina Thompson could first be described as being located in Clackamas County and, somewhat



Map 1. A contemporary street overlay showing Thompson's original Donation Land Claim (DLC) at the arrow. This was the beginning of our neighborhood in the 1850's. Today that land would be bounded by Martin Luther King Avenue on the east, the Willamette River on the south and west, and Prescott Street on the north.

became Terminal Four); Fredrick Proebstel (whose claim of 159 acres had Killingsworth and Going streets as its north/south boundaries, with Delaware Avenue on the east and extending west to Swan Island); and James Johns who developed St. Johns on a part of his DLC (and who left his substantial estate for the benefit of area schools). Thompson and friends may well have traveled from Portland to Oregon City on Capt. William Irving's small steamship *Eagle*, paying \$5.00 for one-way passage.

The land offices eventually received 3134 applications from persons qualified to receive DLC land. The Thompson claim was number 1437. Many of the settlers did not perfect their claims and so did not receive title to their land, but the Thompsons did. A duly executed certificate from the land office dated December 31, 1862 informed the Commissioner of the General Land Office that the Thompsons had fulfilled all of the requirements specified in the DLC Act and a patent could be issued to them for the land they claimed.

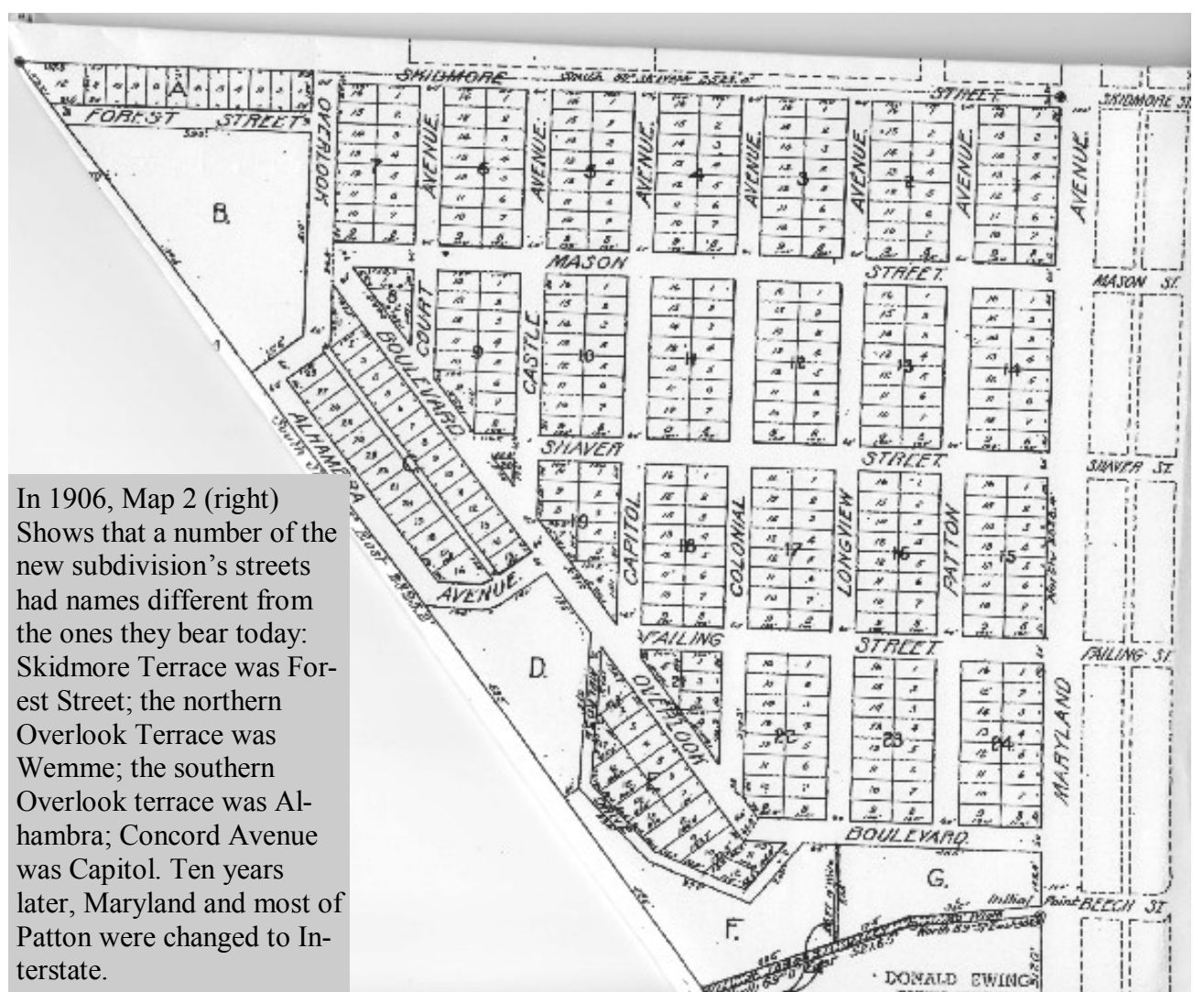
A few years later, the Civil War was over and new developments were in the air. Westward expansion intensified and the nation looked to the marvel of the railroad to help accomplish the settling of the West. In Portland, entrepreneurs with railroads on their minds anticipated the use that could be made of the Thompsons' land lying between the Overlook bluff and the river. In 1866, Daniel Abrams and John Knox made the Thompsons an offer they couldn't resist and purchased the entire DLC for \$4800. The Thompsons, with their three sons, took the money and faded from the scene. Fifteen years later, the foresight of Abrams and Knox paid off, when the sold 173.28 acres along the river (west of Greeley and more or less from Prescott to Russell) to the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company for a bit over \$21,000.00.

later, within the City of Albina, and later still to be in the City of Portland, Multnomah County.



By 1852, the Thompsons had built a cabin on the land just north of Overlook Park. With a full Donation Land Claim being

one square mile, the word "neighbor" had a somewhat different meaning than it does today. The lack of roads, stores and social organizations that make up the fabric of today's social interaction contributed to the settlers' isolation. Nevertheless, records show that James Thompson often reached out to help others. At different times, he travelled to the federal land office in Oregon City to provide affidavits for persons who were applying for their land claims (the government required two disinterested parties to volunteer affidavits for the claimant). These included Lemuel Hendrickson (from Ohio, whose DLC was Swan Island and who probably was Paulina Thompson's brother); Solomon Richards (also from Ohio, whose DLC covered the Linnton area); William Blackstone (from Ohio, who claimed the land from NW 28th & Thurman to the river); William Gatton (who married a relative of Paulina's and whose DLC was downriver from St. Johns – part of which



In 1906, Map 2 (right) Shows that a number of the new subdivision's streets had names different from the ones they bear today: Skidmore Terrace was Forest Street; the northern Overlook Terrace was Wemme; the southern Overlook terrace was Alhambra; Concord Avenue was Capitol. Ten years later, Maryland and most of Patton were changed to Interstate.

By 1906, not only were railroads a common sight in Portland, but thousands of people had used them to attend the 1904 Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition, held near Guilds Lake in Northwest Portland. The main purpose of the Exposition was to promote Portland as an up and coming city, a city that would welcome newcomers who wanted to enjoy its mild climate, lovely neighborhoods, and civic attractions. One of the Expositions' staunch supporters was E. Henry Wemme, a young German who had established a tent making company in Portland (which eventually became White Stag) supplying tents for the Yukon gold seekers, the U.S. Army (during the Spanish American War), and making a fortune for its founder.

Innovative uses to which this bachelor put his money was purchasing in 1899 the first automobile to be seen in Portland (a Locomobile, a single cylinder vehicle that, according to his biographer, "steered with a stick, started when it pleased, stopped on suspicion, made more noise than a rock crusher") and the city's first airplane. He was also very interested in real estate and one of his projects was destined to be Overlook.

Wemme bought the land that Abrams and Knox still had on the bluff and on November 24, 1906, he filed a plat for Overlook. Its map shows "The Overlook Subdivision" bounded on the east by Maryland Avenue (now Interstate Avenue), by the bluff on the west and south, and by Skidmore Street on the north. (See map 2 on previous page.) A number of the new subdivision's streets had names different from the ones they bear today: Skidmore Terrace was Forest Street; the northern Overlook Terrace was Wemme; the southern Overlook terrace was Alhambra; Concord Avenue was Capitol.

On December 16, 1916, anticipating that parts of Maryland and Patton streets would make up a portion of the major route from the nearly completed Columbia River bridge to downtown Portland via the magnificent Broadway bridge (opened in 1913), the Portland City Council passed an ordinance declaring: "Section 1: that the name of Maryland Avenue, from Fremont Street to Prescott Street, and the name Patton Avenue, from Prescott Street to Columbia Boulevard, be changed and hereafter known as Interstate Avenue. Section 2: That the name Patton Avenue, from Overlook Boulevard to Prescott Street, and from Skidmore Street to Prescott Street, be changed and hereafter known as Massachusetts Avenue." (See Map 2 on the previous page.) The Interstate Bridge across the Columbia opened shortly thereafter, on Valentine's Day, 1917, with a 15mph speed limit.



Wemme had given careful thought to the kind of neighborhood he wanted to create. Restrictions in each deed stated that the area could be

OREGON.

No. *340*

Form of Settler's Oath.

(Claiming by virtue of Settlement and Cultivation commenced subsequent to 1st Dec. 1850.)

I, *James Thompson a married man of Clackamas Co Oregon*

am a claimant of the Public Land described in the annexed notification to the SURVEYOR GENERAL OF PUBLIC LANDS IN OREGON, number *340* under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved the 27th day of September, 1850, entitled "an Act to create the office of SURVEYOR GENERAL of the Public Lands in OREGON, and to make donations to settlers of the said Public Lands;" and I do solemnly

Swear that I am not acting directly or indirectly as an agent for or in the employment of others in making such claim, but that the land so claimed by me, is for my own use and cultivation, and that I have made no sale or transfer, or any arrangement or agreement for any sale, transfer or alienation of the same, or by which the said land shall inure to the benefit of any other person.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in *Clackamas* this *4* day of *May 1852* *James Thompson*

M B Justice
SURVEYOR GENERAL OF PUBLIC LANDS IN OREGON.

ABOVE: A copy of the original 1852 affidavit signed by James Thompson (a married man of Clackamas Co Oregon) affirming his right to land under the Donation Land Claim Act.

used only for residential purposes, that there could be only one house per lot, and that each house had to be a minimum of 20' from the street. To bind the neighborhood to the City, in 1907 Wemme gave to the Portland Railway Light and Power Company the right to lay tracks on certain streets and to install overhead trolley wires for streetcars. A 1908 map of Portland and vicinity show that this had been accomplished with the Russell-Shaver streetcar line, indicating a double track from MLK and Russell Street to Shaver Street and Maryland (now Interstate Avenue) and a single track from there to the end of the line at Capitol Avenue (now Concord). Service was every 20 minutes from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., with speeds reaching 12 miles per hour. Transfer points were at Mississippi, Williams and MLK.

By 1914, Overlook was one of the newest neighborhoods of the City, conveniently located near downtown and made more so by the increasing use of the automobile. World War I was yet to come with the building boom that would follow, completing many of Overlook's streets. With some 387 lots selling for about \$1,000 each, James and Paulina Thompson, had they known, would likely have shaken their heads in chagrin, recalling that they had sold all of this land and much more for \$4,800.

**Though I have not used citations in this article, I especially want to acknowledge the writings of Eugene E. Snyder, the helpful expertise of the staff of the Oregon Historical Society, and the ever-gracious assistance of the volunteers of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon.*

***For additional information about the Overlook neighborhood, see Dan Haneckow's excellent article "AN OVERLOOK OVERVIEW... The Historical Perspective" in the Vol.3, No.1 (July/August 2006) issue of OVERLOOK VIEWS.*
<http://overlookneighborhood.org/newsletters/2006/july-aug2006.pdf>

HYDROPARK FOR OVERLOOK

You are invited to plan Overlook's newest neighborhood park! Just north of the sound wall along Going Street and east of the pedestrian overpass, between Concord and Colonial on Going Court, lies a little known area of public property. The site is known as "Pittman Addition" to nearby neighbors who have "adopted" the site, and have been working to create a community space. Your neighbors have already donated outdoor sculptures and have dreams of reclaiming this site as an urban oasis.

You may be wondering...how does a site like this become a "HydroPark"? With Commissioner Leonard's leadership, the Portland Water Bureau has taken on the exciting challenge of turning water infrastructure sites into public open spaces. Since 2006, six new neighborhood parks have been opened around Portland. The "Pittman Addition" site will be the first HydroPark in North Portland. Typical HydroParks often include a variety of basic amenities, including walking paths, picnic tables, and benches.

Please join us in a rare opportunity to design your own park! Wednesday, October 1st 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Historic Overlook House, 3839 N. Melrose Drive. For more information, contact Darcy Cronin at the Portland Water Bureau, 503 823-3520.



ELECTION CENTRAL

Editor's Note: In the spirit of the season and in order to get a neighborhood slant, I asked Overlook resident and past neighborhood association chair, Jim Bennett, if he would provide me with a few hundred well-chosen words about why he is supporting Obama for president. In order to provide balance, I agreed to find a willing Republican Overlook resident to make the case for John McCain. I emailed the chair of the Multnomah County Republican Party requesting the name of a likely scribe living in the neighborhood, but unfortunately, I never received a response and scratched that idea. However, I did get a positive reaction on a local level (all politics being local!) and both candidates running for City Council said yes to my request for a short piece. The question I posed to each of them was, "...why you would be the best representative for the City Council and if possible, what kind of salutary affect on our neighborhood would make it worthwhile for residents to vote for you." Following are their unedited responses:

From Charles Lewis

Ten years ago budget cuts eliminated music from our local schools and I took action. With just a dream and a credit card, I created the Ethos Music Center, right here in the heart of North Portland, to provide music instruction to kids, regardless of family income. In addition to a music education, Ethos provides an alternative to the streets, drugs and violence that could rob our children of their future. Today Ethos serves over two thousand deserving children, has 78 employees, and a budget of nearly a million dollars.

As the Executive Director of a successful nonprofit, and a former small business owner, I know first hand how to create jobs, make payroll for employees that depend on me and provide important services while keeping a close eye on the bottom line. I have a track record of finding creative solutions to problems with limited resources. We need this kind of experience - finding common sense solutions and the dedication to see the job through - on the Portland City Council.

Few things are as important as the health of our local economy and keeping jobs here in Portland. With so much at stake, we need a council member with a demonstrated track record of getting results that matter: creating jobs and balancing the books to make sure we get every dollar's worth out of our taxes for public services. We need a council member with a background in business and a demonstrated commitment to public service. I can be counted on to create jobs and economic opportunity in Overlook and surrounding neighborhoods because I have been doing so for the past decade.

To find out more about our campaign please visit CharlesLewis.com. I would be honored to be your next City Commissioner and humbly ask for your vote and support.

From Amanda Fritz

Amanda Fritz is running for City Council to make sure basic services are provided in every neighborhood and business district - public safety, well-maintained streets, good schools. Having served on the Portland Planning Commission for seven years and her neighborhood land-use committee for sixteen, Amanda will provide needed expertise on land-use issues and the revision of the Comprehensive Plan during the Portland Plan. She followed the Interstate Avenue rezoning process on her blog, AmandaFritz.com, including expressing concern at the late introduction of the height bonus.

Amanda is a Registered Nurse, who for 22 years has worked with mentally ill patients at OHSU. She will ensure the City works more closely with Multnomah County to provide services for mentally ill people who are homeless in Portland. She will improve the ways the City attracts and retains both small and large companies, protect family wage jobs, expand school-to-work apprenticeships, and work to ensure City contracts employ Portland workers. Mother of three college students, Amanda volunteered in Portland's public schools for 17 years, and will invest in partnerships to improve schools. She will draw attention to the needs of language-immersion programs and emerging K-8 schools, including great schools like Beach.

Amanda Fritz is a longtime community leader who will bring a new perspective to City Hall. With her experience and success bringing people together and helping them move past disagreements to accomplish shared goals, she has earned endorsements from both the Democratic and Republican parties, business leaders and labor unions. She is endorsed by Governor Barbara Roberts, former City Commissioners Gretchen Kafoury and Mike Lindberg, State Senators Avel Gordly, Rod Monroe, and Laurie Monnes Anderson, and State Representatives Chip Shields, Tina Kotek, Jackie Dingfelder, Diane Rosenbaum, Mike Schauler, and Carolyn Tomei. For more information, and to add YOUR name to endorse Amanda, please visit www.AmandaFritzforCityCouncil.com.



HELP US CELEBRATE OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY PLANT A TREE!

By Cynthia Sulaski



In 1999, Pat DiPrima-LeConche and I organized the first Overlook Neighborhood tree planting with great results. With the organizational support of *Friends of Trees*, we recruited volunteers, raised money and solicited the interested homeowners who ordered sixty street trees. I was exhilarated that spring to walk through the neighborhood and see all the new trees leafing out and beginning to show their personalities and individual characteristics. Some of those trees are now taller than the houses they help to cool in the summer and to reduce water runoff in the winter.

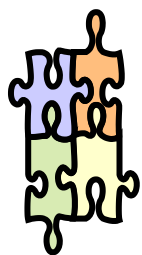
Amazingly, in nine years, (with continued support from Friends of Trees, Kaiser and other generous businesses like Adidas, Arciform and DC Custom Silkscreening), we have managed to plant six hundred street and yard trees throughout the neighborhood. They are trees of all kinds. Their species groups include the maple, ash, oak, dogwood and beech families. Because there are still many homes and businesses in Overlook that could benefit from adding trees to their property, we have set a goal of planting one hundred by January 31 of next year. The symmetry of seven hundred trees in 10 years just seems right!

So, if there is space in your planting strip and/or in your yard, now is the time to sign up for some beautiful new arboreal friend. It's "dirt" cheap—\$15 (the cost is reduced by our donors and other funding sources)*—and it's real easy. Just go to friendsoftrees.org and sign up. I will then get an email informing me of your interest. We will keep in touch so the process should be hassle-free.

For the first time, we will partner with our neighbors to the north—Arbor Lodge. We will still enjoy Kaiser Town Hall as our staging area, but we are looking forward to a robust and energetic planting with the many residents of Arbor Lodge who will join us. In addition, we are planning new ways to make planting day fun and rewarding, including raffle prizes and yummy food!

Email me at csulaski@comcast.net if you have any questions. If you don't have email, call me at 503.249.7728 and I will register you.

*We may be able to help reduce the cost of concrete cuts and stump grinding, so don't hesitate to ask me. We are happy to do what we can so that you can nurture and enjoy some beautiful trees.



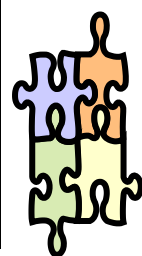
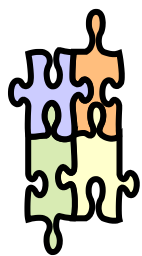
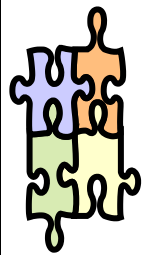
DIALOG ACROSS DIFFERENCES

By Molly Franks

Eleven Overlook residents gathered Monday evening, September 8th for a workshop entitled "Dialog Across Differences." The diversity committee of the Overlook Neighborhood Association organized the talk, which was facilitated by Jeri Williams and Judith Mowry of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. The group engaged in an exercise designed to stimulate conversation about how people tend to form groups based on similarities, almost unconsciously. Later we talked in pairs about different aspects of our identities and histories. Back in a large group, people shared experiences they'd had being renters and trying to be able to afford housing, being white and being in schools where most students were people of color, and working together with people in our neighborhood who speak other languages. The group talked about the process of creating a welcoming neighborhood association that represents the broad range of people in our community.

The Diversity Committee was formed following the debates about changing Interstate Avenue to Cesar Chavez Boulevard. One motivation behind forming the committee was to provide a space to discuss issues related to race or class that are often not talked about, or that people are afraid to discuss. Following the forums about the street name change, many people expressed confusion and pain about what had happened. Many white people felt hurt by accusations of racism, when they didn't perceive any racism involved. Simultaneously, other participants, both white and people of color, were frustrated and disappointed at the hostility felt from white neighbors toward the Chavez committee. The process clearly revealed underlying tensions and differences in perception that have not been resolved.

The Diversity Committee hopes to provide ongoing forums that promote communication, questioning, and learning. We meet the second Monday of the month at the Overlook House. If you are interested in hearing about upcoming events, contact Molly Franks at 503-953-2991 or molly_franks@yahoo.com.



HI-JINKS IN OVERLOOK: THE SUMMER FOLLIES

At the Overlook House Ice Cream Social

Photographs by Kevin Rawls

OVERLOOK HOUSE



Sadie and Amelia Thorburn



James Wolford, Verna Church, Annagret Wolford, Dr. Houston and ?



Mob scene lining up for the goodies

DARE WE SAY IT? THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES

By Julie Rawls

The Overlook Neighborhood Association picnic took place on August 19 under damp and cloudy skies at the Pause Restaurant on Interstate Avenue. A little Portlanesque precipitation did not dampen the enthusiasm or spirits of those who attended. The folks at Pause set out a delicious spread that included burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers, plus tasty salads and ice-cream goodies for dessert. Everyone ate their fill and many enjoyed spirits from the bar. Most people stayed inside the restaurant, but a few who came dressed for the elements braved the weather and sat at picnic tables outside. Inside, neighbors chatted with each other, and many table-hopped so they could catch up with those they had not seen lately. The staff at Pause was extremely friendly, and manager David Murphy roamed the room to take empty plates and make sure everyone was having a good time. This was a really wonderful event, and many thanks should go to the neighborhood association and Pause for keeping the meal affordable, tasty and the atmosphere fun and family-friendly...great ingredients for an ongoing tradition!

PAUSE



Dominic and Dawn Griffin and John Linke



Joe Hagedorn, David Rebanal, Tatiana Rebanal, Ophelia Rebanal, Hau Hagedorn and Cole Hagedorn

JUST DESSERTS

By Melisa Cassell

When we say Plain Vanilla we usually mean bland, unadorned, un-extraordinary. But plain vanilla at the Overlook House Ice Cream Social means the opposite. True, that's the only ice cream flavor available---but there the simile ends... *toppings galore---family fun abounding---small kids, big kids--- parents and grandparents sitting down and smiling---crayon bejeweled tablecloths---home-grown entertainment-- a yearly traditional silent auction virtually shouting out the generosity of local donors---a sky so blue it channeled Gershwin---trees filtering sunbeams, breezes caressing everyone...Plain Vanilla? No, we call it a Royal Sundae.*



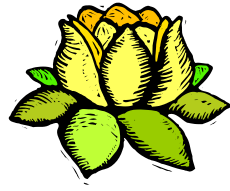
K.C. Rawls, Steve and GeorgeAnn Flagg

NEW CLASS OFFERINGS AT OVERLOOK HOUSE

3839 N. Melrose Drive—Portland, Oregon — Carol Padden, Coordinator — 503-823-3188 or Coordinator@historicoverlookhouse.org

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

Overlook resident, Debbie Liptan, will present an introductory talk about the benefits of Buddhism on Monday, October 6 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. She will enlighten attendees about topics such as:



- What happened 3000 years ago to get it all started?
- What is a Buddha?
- Basic Buddhist philosophy of life
- The Practice of Chanting
- A Movement for World Peace through Individual "Human Revolution"

This introductory format will include a 50-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A session. Debbie is a life-long Oregonian and long-time Overlook resident. She began her practice and study of Nichiren Buddhism in 1969 and has continued ever since. A lay Buddhist, her primary focus is on teaching people how the ancient philosophy of Buddhism applies to every day life in our very real world. Debbie has decades of experience presenting Buddhist concepts in a style that makes them easy to understand. This *free introduction* is being held on Monday October 6 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the basement of the Overlook House. For further information contact Debbie at debbie@liptan.net or call her at 503-285-8481.

INSIGHT MEDITATION GROUP

You are invited to a free Insight Meditation retreat on Saturday, November 1 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) through Sunday, November 2 (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.). Beginners are welcome. The retreat will be conducted primarily in silence, with alternating periods of sitting and walking meditation. Instruction will be given, and there will be time for group sharing. Participants are asked to be willing to commit to both full days and to the retreat schedule. The retreat is freely offered; however, contributions are welcome, in the ancient tradition of supporting retreats and teachers through a practice of "dana" (our generosity).

Leading this first time offering at Overlook House is Arinna Weisman. She has been practicing meditation for about 30 years and teaching for around 20. Arinna was the first resident teacher at the Insight Meditation Society in Barre, Massachusetts and is a visiting teacher at Spirit Rock Meditation Center in the Bay Area. In addition, she has co-authored the book "A Beginner's Guide to Meditation".

For further information or to register in advance call Sandra Graves, 503-675-0872. The meditation retreat will be held in the basement of the Overlook House.



ACTING WORKSHOP

Ever wondered what life is like for an actor on a movie set? Now is your chance to find out. On Wednesday, October 15 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Hollywood acting coach, David Livingston, will be giving a special presentation of his workshop in the living room of the Overlook House. It is free of charge and for ages 16 and over.

"In the pragmatic world of big budget movie making, intimidation is easy to come by. It is easy for an actress to *rush an identity*, especially if she is good at taking on a persona. She can be caught up in servicing a personality without knowing it and lose her ability to live moment-to-moment, which is the most important thing in acting. Actors, like dancers and other performers, train throughout their professional lives, a foundational part of which is learning to recognize 'rushing an identity' when it happens; and then, how to settle back in the moment—even in midstream—to regain the power of one's energy."

In work situations, actors rely on an intuitive sense of their potential, in order to effect this truth baring transformation. Sometimes, this becomes difficult in performance---hence, I offer this acting workshop where we can discover that what's **safe** is living dangerously; what's **unsafe** is manipulation and being unrevealing.

Join me, for an evening of living dangerously on October 15. davidtheactingworkshop.com

KILLINGSWORTH STATION PROJECT UPDATE

By Matthew Collier, CollierM@pdc.us with Warren Cassell

The Board of Commissioners approved a revised DDA (Disposition and Development Agreement) for the project in July. This means that the project has been submitted for design review and is currently in advanced stages of design development. After many starts and stops, the Killingsworth Station Project is finally scheduled to break ground in spring 2009.

There will be community input on the design as the proposal moves forward with design review; however, it will be limited at this point since the developer already went before the Overlook Association for this purpose last year. Comments and appeals can be filed after the design review application is completed which is expected in October. Christine Caruso at the BDS (Bureau of Design Standards) will notify the neighborhood association when the application is complete.



It should be noted that a public hearing with the Design Commission could be requested if the project is appealed, but at this time none is required.

There will be 54 total units consisting of 48 one-bedroom units, and six two-bedroom units. The 1-bedrooms will go for between \$177,000 and \$235,000. The 2-bedrooms will sell for between \$315,000 and \$343,000. There are currently 16 garages and 34 on-site parking spaces. In addition, there will be approximately 9,000SF of commercial space available for sale to local small businesses and entrepreneurs. The spring 2009 groundbreaking is firm in that the developer in the DDA's schedule of performance agreed to the date.

The project is far along in the design process, close to completing permit documents. As a matter of fact, Killingsworth could break ground earlier than Spring 2009, but this possibility must be tempered by the problematic nature of winter. Inclement weather can make pouring foundations difficult which ultimately increases costs. Because of this, the developer chose to start next spring and deliver units in the spring of 2010.

We can now say there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and it will be exciting to see this project breathe life into that corner after so many years of "vacant lot-itis."

WILLAMETTE BLUFF LIGHT POST PROJECT: A BRIEF UPDATE

By Sally Kavanagh

At recent Overlook Neighborhood Association meetings and via e-mail and telephone, neighbors and community members responded passionately regarding the look and light quality of the replacement light posts. We utilized the input we received to come up with a custom light post design. The design sketch went out to bid to several outdoor lighting specialty companies and we are happy to report that an excellent, cost effective company was chosen to manufacture the posts. (We are purchasing the post components through a reputable local supplier.) The new design employs a taller hunter green pole (so that it "fades" into the natural beauty of the site) and employs details including a decorative base, cap, and a fixture that is in the same family as the cobra head fixture type, yet is decorative in nature. We are now starting the process of requesting bids from contractors for installation of the poles and burying existing overhead wire. (Previously we did not get "bids"; instead, we had three contractors give us "preliminary cost estimates" to be sure we could get the job done within the budget of the grant funding.) Although some extra steps have been taken that have slowed the project down a bit, we are pleased to say that with YOUR involvement we are moving forward on the right track! Please send comments or feedback to Sally Kavanagh at sallytodaro@hotmail.com or call 503-442-9957.



REAL ESTATE UPDATE PORTLAND/OVERLOOK



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

REAL ESTATE UPDATE: PORTLAND/OVERLOOK

As of the end of July 2008, the average time for a residential property to sell in the Portland Metropolitan area was 78 days, compared to 58 days a year ago. The numbers of new listings decreased by 1.7% compared to July 2007, pending sales were down by 22.3% and closed sales decreased by 30.2%. Compared to June 2008, new listings increased by 0.5%, pending sales increased by 0.4%, and closed sales were down 2.5%.

In North Portland, at the end of July, there were 639 active listings (including 256 new ones), 91 pending sales, and 96 closed sales with an average sale price of \$266,400 and an average market time of 57 days. Appreciation has increased by 5.1% from a year ago (the second highest rate in the metropolitan area). 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>Sale Price</u>	<u>Days on Market</u>
1540 N. Humboldt St.	1/1	\$214,900	\$205,000	38
4046 N. Montana Ave., #3	2/1	259,900	239,000	91
1815 N. Prescott St.	2/1	225,000	239,500	29
2056 N. Willamette Blvd.	4/1.1	339,000	325,000	15
1626 N. Sumner	5/2	329,000	334,000	14
5523 N. Detroit Ave	3/2	339,900	336,000	16
2146 N. Blandena St.	3/2	350,000	337,550	128
2105 N. Alberta St.	3/2	379,900	375,000	2
2302 N. Wygant St.	3/2	425,000	390,000	93
1725 N. Emerson St.	2/2	439,000	425,000	17
5310 N. Denver Ave.	4/2	486,900	449,900	115

FALL FESTIVALS IN OVERLOOK

Community Help Institute for Learning, Inc. (CHILD) will host a harvest festival (a celebration of food and an alternative to Halloween).

WHEN: October 31 at 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Christ Memorial Church—
1552 Killingsworth Street

Kids are encouraged to dress up but **please**, no witches, ghosts, axe murderers, etc. We will have a trick or treat route, bobbing for apples, a cake walk and other games.

INFORMATION —503-282-9460 or email
Child.inc.pdx@gmail.com

Overlook House will present a Halloween party for ages one-five.

WHEN: October 31 4:00—6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Overlook House—
3839 North Melrose Drive

There will be numerous fun activities:
Story time at 5:00 p.m.
Pumpkins to take home
A truly spooktacular time and kids are encouraged to wear their costumes.

INFORMATION—Contact Carol Padden,
Event Coordinator at 503-823-3188 or
email at historicoverlookhouse.org



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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Matthew Collier, Molly Franks, Amanda Fritz, Eric Gale, Brad Halverson, Sally Kavanagh, Bob LaDu, Charles Lewis, Kelly Orehovec, Julie Rawls, Kevin Rawls and Cynthia Sulaski.

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 November 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.

DISCLAIMER

The ideas expressed in any editorials are the thoughts of the editors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the OKNA board unless explicitly stated otherwise. In addition, the Overlook Neighborhood Association and editors do not endorse, warrant or assume any responsibility for the ultimate value, quality, safety or fitness of any of the people, establishments or events identified in the newsletter or other forum. The Association and editors strongly support the concept of using local stores and services, and visiting events that are neighborhood based.

