

# Overlook Views

your neighborhood newsletter

Winter 2014

November/December/January

Overlook Neighborhood Association, Portland Oregon  
www.OverlookNeighborhood.org

## New OKNA Board Seated; Holiday Party Coming in December

September's OKNA election meeting was well-attended, drawing in several neighbors as new members of the volunteer board. Please welcome and thank your 2014/2015 OKNA Board:

Dannielle Herman	Chair
Alan Cranna	Vice-Chair
Kent Hoddick	Secretary
Tamara Maher	Treasurer
Cynthia Sulaski	Parks-Green Spaces
Leslee Lewis	Sustainability
Mary Skarie	Land Use Notices
George Spaulding	Public Safety
Mitch Bixby	NET
Ben Meyer	

Board members meet on the first Tuesday of each month and attend the OKNA general meetings on the third Tuesday of the month. Additionally, they participate in committees outside those times to produce the activities and business of the neighborhood association. They're always looking for more willing hands, so if you'd like to get involved, come to a meeting and say hello!

### Save the Date for the Annual OKNA Holiday Potluck Party!

After all the fun of summer when we see our neighbors daily, the dark of winter means we just have to organize our get togethers, and OKNA once again provides the framework for a community gathering.

Friday, December 12th  
6:30 PM — 8:30 PM  
Daybreak Cohousing  
2525 N Killingsworth St

As is tradition, we'll have door prizes to raffle off, so don't be late!

Bring an entrée, side, salad or dessert to share (or bread, soup or your famous specialty) and let's socialize!

## Indiana Jones On and Off Screen

by Cynthia Sulaski  
OKNA Movies in the Park Committee Chair

Indiana Jones was everywhere—on the huge movie screen, on stage and in the audience. More than a dozen lookalikes could be seen at Overlook Park on August 31.

Before *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark* started, we hosted a costume contest. Besides three participating adults, five youth transformed themselves into characters from the film. Contestants won *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark* movie posters, "Pizza School" from Pinky's Pizzeria and rubber snakes (*Snakes. Why'd it have to be snakes?*).

Also dressed in costume were the contest judges: Michelle Thompson (*Overlook Views* editor), Chantelle Castle (United Advantage NW Federal Credit Union manager) and Bryan Tranel. I teamed up with Bryan and George Aulbach to plan this year's event. Thank you, Bryan and George, for all your creativity, energy and commitment.

Fortunately for us, Agnieszka Laska, president of the Polish Library Association, which is located on Interstate Avenue across from St. Stanislaus Church, kindly offered her talented dance troupe to perform as part of the entertainment before the film's showing. Thank you Agnieszka and the **Agnieszka Laska Dancers!**

Representatives from the Overlook House, Overlook Neighborhood Association, Aspire Project, Pesticide-Free Overlook, Everett Custom Homes, Janus Youth Programs, the Polish Library/Polish Festival, and the United Advantage NW Federal Credit Union shared information about their projects and businesses. PP&R gave out free popcorn and Eddie's Flat Iron Pizza took orders and delivered full pizzas and meals to hungry people in the park.

Our second opportunity to partner with Portland Parks & Recreation as part of their *Summer Free For All Movies in the Park* series was a great success. PP&R estimated that 2,600 people attended, about 100 more people than last year's showing of *E.T.*

This event could not have taken place without the generous contributions from the following organizations: **The Prescott, Everett Custom Homes** and the **United Advantage NW Federal Credit Union**. Thank you so much!

Thank you, Jon, owner of **Pinky's Pizzeria**, for your generous donation of three Pizza School prizes. And big shout out to Merideth Boe, Overlook resident and graphic designer, for her great work on the flyer and poster!

Lastly, we want to extend a big thank you to **Kaiser Permanente** management for allowing attendees to use their surface parking lots on N. Interstate Avenue, which helped reduce parking in the neighborhood. Many filmgoers chose not to drive, but instead took the MAX, walked or biked to the park. Thank you as well!

If you'd like to make next year's movie event another memorable experience, join us. Write me at [movies@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:movies@OverlookNeighborhood.org) to sign up and we'll start planning in January.



*Dressing up as Doctor Jones was a big part of the fun!  
photo thanks to Jim Heiman*

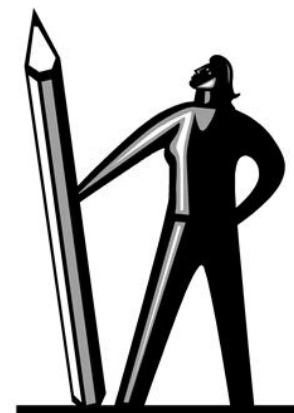
## Still Seeking a Newsletter Editor — Is That You?

by Cynthia Sulaski  
OKNA Board Member

As she wrote in the last issue of *Overlook Views*, Michelle Thompson is retiring as communications chair after five years of dedicated service. She knew she would never find *one* person to replace her and accomplish all the communication jobs she took on: print newsletter, Facebook page, website, weekly email newsletter. (Whew. I'm tired just thinking about juggling all those balls in the air. Let alone with the competence, humor and spirit she exhibited. **Thank you Michelle!**)

So she divided them up into chunks. Having generously offered to take over the website and weekly email newsletter, Chris Trejbal has already shown that he can ably handle those responsibilities. Several of us contribute to the Facebook page and will continue to do so.

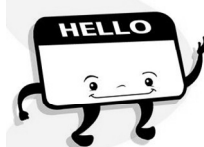
Unfortunately, we have yet to fill the position of **newsletter editor**. The Overlook neighbor who came forward after the publication of the last newsletter found that his schedule prevented him from taking on another assignment. Without someone to coordinate the articles (that is, make sure *someone else* writes them) and bits of information that fill up our issues, we won't be able to produce any more newsletters.



Most neighborhood associations do not produce print newsletters. Overlook has been fortunate to have had two talented and articulate neighbors who were willing to share their talents and time to creating one (Warren Cassell and Michelle). We'd love to continue their legacy. But we need someone to take over the reins now. Could that be you?

What's required? A person who will organize, follow through, edit and write (although not much original material); who cares about the community and values sharing information; and who has some free time. Michelle has offered to mentor the new editor; I and other board members would also be available to help.

Have you been meaning to get more involved in the neighborhood? Do you want to make a difference and you're comfortable with the written word? Can you contribute about 35 hours/quarter to this (ad)venture? If so, write [views@overlookneighborhood.org](mailto:views@overlookneighborhood.org) with your contact information. To be continued, I hope...



### Hi, Neighborino!

We'll see *you* at the  
Overlook Neighborhood Meeting

The 3rd Tuesday of Every Month

**November 18, 2014**

► ► ► **6:30-8:30 pm** ◀ ◀ ◀

**@ Kaiser Town Hall**

3704 N Interstate Avenue  
Corner of N Interstate and Overlook Blvd

### NOTE NEW MEETING TIMES!

#### On November's Agenda:

Don't be late; you'll want to be here for  
**Hands-only CPR demo & training!**

PF&R Stations 24 & 8 will be here teaching you this potentially life saving skill.

# A New Way to Feed Our Neighbors

# Daybreak Cohousing Celebrates 5 Year Anniversary



by Richard Nudelman  
Project Coordinator, The Portland Food Project

Thirteen compassionate Overlook residents became Green Bag donors at the recent Overlook Neighborhood Association meeting in October. After hearing the presentation, all were attracted to the simplicity and perfect sense this new program is making in the fight against food insecurity.

The Portland Food Project is an all volunteer non-profit providing non-perishable food to 15 local Portland food pantries. Upon signing up, donors receive a bright green shopping bag to keep at home. At each shopping trip, they pick up an extra grocery item or two and stash them in the PFP bag. Once every eight weeks, the bags are set out on front porches and a Neighborhood Coordinator

picks up all the bags and they're delivered to the Portland Food Project's depot where the magic happens. In just one day, everything is sorted and rerouted to a food bank partner.

This method packs a lot of power. Instead of an annual food drive that brings in a large quantity of goods all at one time, PFP volunteers are keeping the pantries stocked with a sustainable supply in this ongoing donor drive model.

You can join in this effort any time! The next pick up is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th. When your Neighborhood Coordinator picks up your green bag, they will leave you with an empty one to fill and a reminder card to let you know about the next pick up (Saturday, February 14). You'll also get a reminder message before December 13 in case you want to top up your green bag.

Hunger is a serious challenge for many children, seniors and families. Please consider joining The Portland Food Project as a Green Bagger or a Neighborhood Coordinator.

To receive your Green Bag or to receive more information please join your Overlook neighbors by emailing or calling us today!  
info@portlandfoodproject.org 503-775-2110.

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors!!**

by Tamara Maher  
OKNA Board Member & Daybreak Resident

On a beautiful, sunny fall Sunday afternoon in October, Daybreak Cohousing celebrated five amazing and adventure-filled years since occupancy was granted in October 2009. All 30 homes at Daybreak are occupied and the buildings are full of activity, conversation, fun and happy noise! The many children five and under at Daybreak fill the courtyard, gardens and grassy yard with a veritable herd of busy little bodies, from the sandbox to the swing to the new deluxe playhouse, recently built by the Kids Team.

The residents at Daybreak have come to North Portland from all over the country, and from other parts of Portland. They participate in community, neighborhood, city, state and national organizations and pour their energies into our wonderful City. They are thrilled to be part of the Overlook Neighborhood and look forward to many, many happy years here.



Wave hello the next time you are walking by our colorful buildings on N Killingsworth and Delaware!

## Neighbor Needs Our Help

Overlook neighbor Ted Meyer, who owns and operates the long-standing Hobbies, Unlimited store at 4503 N. Interstate Avenue, was involved in a horrific motorcycle crash on I-5 on October 4, 2014. You are probably familiar with the little red barn-like building (reported to have been a carriage repair shop originally) even if you've never been in. Well, now is a great time to stop in; friends from the hobby and modeling communities have stepped in to keep the store open, as it's Ted's only source of income. Ted does not have medical insurance and his auto insurance will not cover any of his medical expenses.

If you needed a little pot of paint or some tiny brushes, or if this is the time to try out R/C modeling or just satisfy your curiosity about Ted's Hobbies, Unlimited, please stop in and see what you can find. There is also a gofundme account: [www.gofundme.com/fka3ww](http://www.gofundme.com/fka3ww) accepting contributions for his care.



## Overlook House Holiday Bazaar Saturday & Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

Shop Local! A great opportunity to begin your holiday shopping in the neighborhood! All three floors of the Overlook House will be bursting with stocking stuffers as well as that perfect gift for someone special.

Several new vendors will be participating as well as some of your "old favorites." Items include scarves, quilts, tea towels, table covers, aprons, clothing, bath & body products, jewelry (beaded, resin, button, upcycled), purses, reflective accessories, felt animals, cards, journals, photo prints, drawings & paintings, dolls, doll clothes, fairies, and more!

## Spooky Fun at Kids' Halloween Party

The party spilled out onto the lawn as little dinosaurs, witches, princesses, super-heroes and cowboys enjoyed the weather and the not-too-scary fun at the annual Overlook House Halloween Party on October 31st. A pyramid of hay bales added photo ops and climbing fun, while the disco ball



sparkled to light up dancing ninjas, robots and turtles. Yummy snacks were consumed and cool crafts were created!

Sincere thanks to our Overlook House Coordinator, Michelle Hylland, and to volunteers Mary Ellen Baldauff, Greg DuFour, Jane Finch-Howell, Celina Fuller, Brooke O'Shaughnessy, and Marsha Parks for sourcing, setup, crafts help, snacks and cleanup. We couldn't do it without you!

## What Would You Like To Do at the OH?

Do you have ideas for classes or events? Please let Michelle know; she would love to hear from you! Contact information: [coordinator@historicoverlookhouse.org](mailto:coordinator@historicoverlookhouse.org) and also check [www.facebook.com/historicoverlookhouse](http://www.facebook.com/historicoverlookhouse) or for general information [www.historicoverlookhouse.org](http://www.historicoverlookhouse.org). Find us at 3839 N Melrose Drive.

## Santa Is Coming to Overlook House

Overlook House will host a visit from the Jolly Old Elf himself on Sunday, December 7th, 2014 from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm.

Come tell Santa what you want for Christmas and have your picture taken with him. Write a letter to the North Pole, get your face painted, play games, and enjoy the special holiday fun with us. Santa's looking forward to seeing you there!



## YOGA at Overlook House

Hatha yoga classes are offered at the Overlook House on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 -6:30 pm. Ruth Oclander and Maneena Douglas teach with a commitment to safe form and classic traditions to learn the poses. Class is ongoing level one, cost is \$5 per class and newcomers are welcome. For more information contact Ruth at [ruth.oclander@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.oclander@gmail.com)

## Overlook House Neighbor Discount!

Overlook House is a great location for celebrating that special birthday, family reunion, memorial gathering, anniversary, or other lifetime event! Are you getting ready to celebrate a graduation, business or social meeting? Did you know... neighborhood residents receive discounts on Overlook House rentals! There are a few limitations: One application per household per year and proof of your Overlook residency. Not available May-October weekends and other limitations may apply. If you are interested in renting Overlook House for any upcoming event, please contact Michelle at 503-208-7312 or [coordinator@historicoverlookhouse.org](mailto:coordinator@historicoverlookhouse.org) to set up a tour appointment, or for additional details and available dates.



# Two Years of Connecting at Overlook Business Speakeasy — Join Us!

by Brent Young  
Overlook Speakeasy Coordinator

October’s Speakeasy marks two years since we held our first meeting. It has been a forum to get local businesspeople together to discuss opportunities, to share knowledge, and to market ourselves. During this time a network has developed that provides resources and new connections and revenue for the businesses involved. We’ve enjoyed learning about other industries and finding ways to support each other.

This month the Speakeasy was hosted by Bellmoore Realty and Young Design Studio in Bellmoore’s new office in the Killingsworth Station Building on N. Interstate. The space was designed by Young Design Studio and was a bright, fun place for the event. Our group included a diverse mix of professionals from fields such as architecture, mortgages, real estate, massage therapy, law, marketing, and technology consulting. We had updates from returning organizations and learned about new ones. The Speakeasy is a fun social opportunity to market neighborhood businesses, to network, and to share common experiences.

Mark your calendar now and join us for our next meeting on **Wednesday, January 14th** at 6pm, (location TBD) and promote your business to Overlook neighbors and more. If you’d like to be on the reminder list for the next meeting, just email me at [youngdesignstudio@gmail.com](mailto:youngdesignstudio@gmail.com). The events are open to Overlook neighbors and businesspeople who want to promote their business in the neighborhood and beyond.

Here’s who participated in the October Speakeasy meeting:

**Bellmoore Realty** – Sandy Moore’s residential real estate company represents owners and sellers in the single family home and condominium markets. The headquarters in the Killingsworth Station building is a welcoming space that hosts local events such as self-defense classes, Pound classes, and meetings. Sandy has been tied to the Overlook Neighborhood his whole life, knowing the market intimately and giving back. Bellmoore Realty sponsors a Little League team and a baseball field in the Arbor Lodge neighborhood. [sandy@portlandhomeguy.com](mailto:sandy@portlandhomeguy.com) 503-805-9997

**Young Design Studio LLC, Architecture and Interiors** –With a background in both architecture and interior design, Brent Young's firm is passionate about excellent design and customer service. Designing everything from residential additions to new commercial buildings, they can help you plan, visualize and realize your project. After working in some of the region’s most highly regarded architecture firms, Brent Young founded Young Design Studio to work directly with clients to seize the potential of their projects. A local example of their work is the office for Bellmoore Realty on N Interstate Ave, near Killingsworth. [youngdesignstudio@gmail.com](mailto:youngdesignstudio@gmail.com) 971-222-5629 [www.youngdesignstudio.com](http://www.youngdesignstudio.com)

## Tamara Maher, Attorney at Law

Tamara Maher’s law practice specializes in estate planning, probate, and elder law in North Portland. Besides being a volunteer with the Senior Law Project, Elders in Action, the Overlook Neighborhood Association, and several citizens' budget advisory groups, she thoroughly enjoys her North Portland clients. And, she has an office dog who greets all visitors with a wagging tail. [tamara@tamaramaherlaw.com](mailto:tamara@tamaramaherlaw.com) 503-285-1294

**Metropolitan Design Studio+Architecture, LLC** - Jeremy Miller's firm offers design services for both remodels and new buildings. If you are considering creating an accessory dwelling unit (ADU), Jeremy is a great resource having been active this market recently. He has practiced on the East and West coasts and has a long history of happy clients. Currently he is working on multifamily housing and designing an exterior remodel for senior family housing in Woodburn. [jeremy@mds-architecture.com](mailto:jeremy@mds-architecture.com) 503-867-5615

**Chris Lazarus Associates, LLC** – Chris’ mission is to make your business look good. With 20 years of experience, she can help you with all your marketing needs. By partnering with a web designer, her company can provide full promotional services. She provides everything from text editing to graphic design and understands what target audiences need to hear. Chris looks at her role as providing a bridge between the expertise of her clients and the public. In addition to writing and editing assistance, she can help to make connections with TV, newspapers, and editors to get books and articles published. [chris@chrislazarus.com](mailto:chris@chrislazarus.com) 503-867-1370

**Blue Fire Healing Arts: Massage and Bodywork** - Carly Samish, LMT has over 10 years of experience as a massage therapist and is happy to be serving the North Portland community. She provides cost-effective relief for chronic and acute pain including injuries, stress-related tension, jaw pain, low back pain, frozen shoulder and tension headaches. She also offers individualized massage therapy sessions for restoration and wellness, with specialization in therapeutic massage and traditional East-Asian techniques such as gua sha and cupping. Blue Fire Healing Arts is open Sunday, Monday & Thursday from 10:00-6:00. [BlueFireHealingArts.com](http://BlueFireHealingArts.com) 503-284-4227

**MakeITsimplePDX** - Karl Nordin is an independent Apple consultant providing services and advice to businesses and individuals for their Apple devices. With six years of experience, Karl knows the Apple systems thoroughly and can help you with everything from initial set up to on-going coaching through problems. He can help make your system to be more efficient and user friendly and can help with common issues such as cloud back-ups, Wi-Fi, and communications. [KarlNordin10@gmail.com](mailto:KarlNordin10@gmail.com) 503-707-0177

**Value Mortgage** - It is still a great time to refinance. Lauren Green is a well-versed mortgage broker with Value Mortgage and has insightful information about the current market. In addition to setting you up with a mortgage, she can offer pertinent advice for your planning. Lauren also worked with the Energy Trust of Oregon for years assessing homes, providing home energy audits and fiscal incentives for green remodel projects. [lauren@valuemortgageinc.com](mailto:lauren@valuemortgageinc.com) 503-887-7333



## Real Estate Recap

Here is a round-up of recent real estate sales completed in the past few months in the Overlook neighborhood. Thanks to neighbor **Emily Ordas** of M Realty (503-267-4946) for sourcing this information for you!



### Market Action Summary for Overlook and the Greater Portland Metro Area

Hello Overlook neighbors! Real estate in the Overlook neighborhood had a strong quarter once again. With very little inventory, and high demand, this neighborhood has been commanding bidding wars on many a home. Twelve of the eighteen sold detached home listings sold in less than 7 days. Average days on the market for detached homes was 20. Average sold price for detached homes came in at \$389,688. Average sold price for condos came in at \$224,961 and with an average of 16.8 days on the market.

Here is some broader market data as far as the greater Portland Metro area is concerned. The average price for the first nine months of the year was \$333,000. This shows 7.4% appreciation from the same time frame in 2013 when the average was \$310,000. Activity in the Portland metro area has now surpassed numbers from last year. New listings are up 4.2%, pending sales are up 1.7%, and closed sales are up 0.5% compared to the first nine months of 2013.

Address	SF	Bed/ Bath	List Price	Sold Price	Days on Market
5557 N Burrage Ave	3075	4/2	\$475,000	\$497,000	1
2417 N Humboldt St	1566	4/2.1	\$382,000	\$382,000	1
1554 N Wygant St	2040	3/2	\$369,500	\$392,000	3
2627 N Jessup St	2108	3/1	\$324,900	\$380,000	4
4236 N Castle Ave	2213	3/1.1	\$429,900	\$430,000	4
2032 N Emerson St	1920	3/2	\$459,000	\$451,000	4
2136 N Blandena St	1290	4/1	\$329,000	\$329,000	4
1725 N Emerson St	1500	4/2.1	\$375,000	\$391,500	5
5805 N Delaware Ave	1730	3/1	\$339,900	\$367,000	5
1530 N Church St	1498	3/2	\$349,900	\$355,600	5
5915 N Boston Ave	2272	3/2.1	\$302,000	\$333,000	6
4074 N Court Ave	2593	3/2	\$479,500	\$482,000	7
1320 N Sumner St	1225	2/1	\$212,900	\$207,000	26
1827 N Willamette Blvd	3097	3/2	\$425,000	\$432,775	34
3808 N Massachusetts Ave	3536	5/3	\$519,900	\$510,000	37
2820 N Emerson Ct	2767	4/1	\$330,000	\$323,500	55
1564 N Prescott St	1842	3/2	\$379,900	\$375,000	73
2135 N Skidmore Ter	1906	3/2	\$375,000	\$376,000	98

## Neighbors Support Interstate Avenue Safety Improvements

by Michelle Thompson and Blake Goud  
Overlook Neighbors

The share of people who bike from Kenton and North Portland is lower than many other places in Portland because one of the most direct routes to Southeast Portland and parts of Downtown Portland is Interstate Avenue which has a 'pinch point' between Tillamook and the Broadway Bridge.

This topic has long been discussed among cyclists but neighbors Blake Goud and Ted Buehler are taking more direct action now. They have sent a letter to Commissioner Novick, Portland Bureau of Transportation Director Leah Treat and Mayor Charlie Hales asking for simple changes to improve safety and for further study into longer-term solutions for this key connection for people who live in North Portland.



photo ©Jonathan Maux/BikePortland

It’s not just the pinch point that is a problem; Blake and Ted have identified several safety deficits, some that can be remedied at little cost. What would help now is to make many voices heard. And if you walk to downtown, you’ll appreciate the ideas for pedestrian improvements as well. See the proposed changes in detail at [interstateavenue.weebly.com](http://interstateavenue.weebly.com) or email Blake at [blake.goud@gmail.com](mailto:blake.goud@gmail.com).

When you see a specific change you support and would like to request, call PBOT at 503-823-SAFE or email [safe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:safe@portlandoregon.gov).

# Why Sustainable Overlook?

by Leslee Lewis  
Sustainable Overlook Chair

“Why Sustainable Overlook?” was the title of the article I wanted to write for this issue of the *Views*, and I had no idea how to begin it. How to describe why I wanted to get together with neighbors, talk and work on projects, and watch films and talk some more about how to make changes that can help us live a bit more lightly on the planet, save money and resources, and have a great time learning and doing it with each other? And my deadline was coming up fast.

Then, as I was procrastinating (again), I read Thomas Friedman’s piece in the Sunday, Oct. 26 *New York Times* - and got to the last paragraph of this last article in the last section of the paper:

***“The only source of lasting security is not walls, rockets, U.N. votes or European demonstrations. It’s relationships of trust between neighbors that create healthy interdependencies – ecological and political. They are the hardest things to build, but also the hardest things to break once in place.”***

Friedman was writing about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the relationships are surely harder to build there than between neighbors in Overlook. But I would say that his words are true about building any kind of security - and certainly security in the face of challenges that cannot be precisely defined, such as the challenges of a changing climate and those of an enormous or cataclysmic earthquake that is expected to hit our community in the not-too-distant future. Our neighbors will be our ‘first responders’, and building those relationships will be key to getting through these challenges. And I would argue that those relationships are key to a thriving neighborhood in the short term as well as the long.

The community we live in has so many people who are actively

changing accepted American paradigms - how we get to and from work, the kinds of work and how much work we do, what we eat and drink and where it all comes from, how little energy we can use to power and heat our homes and where that energy comes from, how we build and how we use the land we have access to. I had a terrific time years ago exploring household conservation efforts with a group of neighbors on an Eco Team. I imagined it would be even more rewarding to engage the neighborhood on a broader scale, and on broader issues with a sustainability team. *That* is ‘why’ Sustainable Overlook.

For 4 years we’ve gotten together, watched films, eaten meals, planned events, planned and held yard sales and garden tours and cooking classes and neighborhood cleanups. And let me tell you, the wonderful neighbors I have met through our events will be there for each other when the real challenges arrive.

Will you join us? It doesn’t necessarily mean coming to meetings, though ours are pretty great. It can be as simple as inviting the people on your block to your house and trading phone numbers. It can mean taking the NET training and joining the Overlook Livability Team. It can mean growing an abundant garden and giving your excess veggies to a neighbor. It can mean letting us know you’d like to teach a canning class or that you have a film you want us to see. Anything that increases the connectedness of our neighborhood makes you a contributing member of Sustainable Overlook.

Why not begin? The opportunity is, well, right next door.



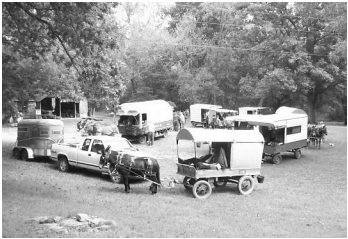
e: Sustainable@  
OverlookNeighborhood.org  
www: sustainableoverlook.org  
social: facebook.com/  
SustainableOverlook

## Overlook to Host Its First Sustainability Summit

by Josh Cabot  
Sustainable Overlook

The Overlook Neighborhood has a built-in fabric of amazing individuals that always seem busy with activities aimed at bettering our community’s health, livability and resilience. The folks that volunteer for Sustainable Overlook have met some of these individuals over the past few years and would like to “circle the wagons” with these inspiring people and the neighborhood at large to learn more about the efforts of each group and how we can all coordinate our efforts to continue improving this place we call home.

With this idea in mind, we would like to announce the first Overlook Sustainability Summit to be held on **Saturday February 21st, 2015** (location is still being determined). The event will be organized into three chapters of presentations and whole-room discussions that focus on the three primary dimensions of sustainability: ecology, economy and equity. Topics such as going pesticide-free, building even greater support for our local small businesses and supporting social justice at this micro level will all be woven into the conversation. Taken as a whole, this event will help us all better understand and appreciate the landscape of community activism happening in our neighborhood and help to grow an even stronger community network. Watch the OKNA Weekly Email for more details, or get in touch with Sustainable Overlook.



*‘Circling the Wagons’ thanks to the West Plains Wagon Club and Champion News.*

The total running time will be about 4 hours and will include lunch. This event is open to anyone: whether you’re a local neighbor interested in bettering our little piece of Portland or perhaps a farther-flung citizen who would like to learn more and/or provide insights about your own neighborhood’s quest for more sustainable living.

Sustainable Overlook will sponsor the event, however a donation of \$10 is suggested for anyone who might want to attend so that we can defray some of the event costs. If you would like to participate, either as an attendee, event assistant or panel presenter, please e-mail Josh Cabot at sustainable@overlookneighborhood.org. Hope to see you there!

ecology, economy  
and equity

## Overlook Terrace’s Oak Savanna is a Field of Dreams

by Ruth Oclander  
Friends of Overlook Bluff (FOOB)

Saving the oak savanna on Overlook Terrace has become a crusade since receiving a Metro Nature in Neighborhood grant for \$288,000 in June. With this one-third of the purchase price as a lightening rod, Friends of Overlook Bluff are diligently working to secure the remaining \$575,000 to prevent the field from being sold for development. The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District is considering whether to contribute funds to conserve this irreplaceable parcel. We have been given invaluable support by Audubon executive director Bob Sallinger in approaching the District. Another key funding source is Portland Parks, the entity that will hold title to the land as a natural area. Both the North Portland Parks Committee and the North Portland Neighborhood Chairs Association voted unanimously to support allocation of funds from Parks for this acquisition. We are pleased to be at a point of inviting Daimler, Adidas, Kaiser and other local corporations to make philanthropic donations, as they have with other community-based efforts. Additionally, our neighborhood fund drive is underway. Please include Friends of Overlook Bluff in your holiday giving to help us achieve our goal. Our website [overlookbluff.org](http://overlookbluff.org) has an easy-to-use pledge page. You can also contact us at [friendsoflookbluff@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflookbluff@gmail.com). *All donations are 100% tax*



*October’s work party was productive! photo: Troy Unverdruss*

*deductible; Friends of Overlook Bluff is a fiscally sponsored project of the Kenton Action Plan, a 501(c)3 federal tax exempt organization, EIN 93-1156762 .*

In addition to fundraising, our ongoing work parties in the field continue to inspire us. On October 18<sup>th</sup>, 31 volunteers donated 140 hours of time to spread donations of bark chip, compost and native grass and wildflower seed to restore the health of the oak savanna. Next spring we will either have a fledgling meadow being cultivated by hand with cooperative efforts from the city or a for sale sign for private developers. This space will give our community a place to appreciate nature in the area and is the first step toward developing paths that connect into the woods along Overlook Bluff. Imagine using the oak meadow as an access point to paths

along the bluff.

Natural areas in urban environments improve public health and safety. North Portland is dense with the rise of apartment buildings and business expansion in Swan Island. Looking to our future, we will balance development by caring for our natural surroundings. These ideas have been part of the heritage of Portland since 1903 when the Olmsted developed a comprehensive park plan for the city. Protecting remnant oak habitat has become a citywide effort; from Oaks Bottom Park to Overlook to St Johns, groups are establishing oak savannas to protect the health of remnant oak habitat. Former Park Restoration Ecologist Mark Griswold Wilson led a workshop this October demonstrating how to create an oak savanna in your parking strip. Last spring a project called Oakquest led by Ted Labbe conducted an inventory of Oregon white oak trees throughout the city. Acre by acre we can create biodiversity and preserve opportunities to experience nature.



Join us!

Friends of Patton Square Park

We’re dedicated to taking care of Overlook’s little gem of a park. Find the park at 5300 N Interstate Avenue (which was originally called N Patton Avenue, named for the pioneer owner.) Help us care for this newly remodeled treasure. [greenacres@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:greenacres@OverlookNeighborhood.org).



Changes Coming to IFCC

by Cynthia Sulaski  
OKNA Parks & Greenspaces Chair

On October 15, Ethos announced their intention to return general management responsibilities for the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center to Portland Parks & Recreation at the end of this year. For four years Ethos partnered with other local multi-cultural arts organizations to operate IFCC. However, their board and staff decided to redirect all their resources to fulfill their primary mission - to provide arts education to low-income kids living in underserved communities throughout Oregon.

Phil Lewis, Peninsula Park Community Center Director, will be the interim IFCC manager during this transition period. In response to my email, he stated that PP&R is in the beginning phase of planning IFCC operations and would like input from the community. Phil would like to attend an OKNA meeting and Friends of Patton Square Park meeting to hear from us. Through our Facebook page and weekly Friday email, I will let you know the date of those meetings.

In the meantime, feel free to share your ideas with him directly at [Phil.Lewis@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Phil.Lewis@portlandoregon.gov).

The Pesticide Free Overlook Project

Make sure your yard is safe for people, pets and wildlife by avoiding pesticide use. Join over 400 Overlook residents in quitting or reducing garden chemicals by taking Metro’s Healthy Lawn and Garden Pledge at [www.sustainableoverlook.org](http://www.sustainableoverlook.org) and receive a free ladybug yard sign!

Would you like to help advance this project to create a healthier neighborhood for our kids, the first of its kind in Oregon? Contribute on our website or email us to volunteer!



Invasive Plants in Overlook

by Mulysa Melco  
Sustainable Overlook

Have you ever noticed ivy smothering a tree or Himalayan blackberry engulfing an alley or fence line? These are common examples of invasive species in our neighborhood. Many plant species have been brought to Portland since settlers arrived, some intentionally introduced and others that have hitchhiked by various means. While many of these new species have been ornamental or useful, some have escaped cultivation and done too well here – outcompeting the native vegetation and causing a range of ecological and economic problems.

Overlook Neighborhood was once a patchwork of oak woodland, mixed conifer forest and wetland that was home to many species of birds, pollinators and other wildlife. Our neighborhood is on the Pacific flyway, a major migratory route, so it is also in the position to provide critical sustenance to bird species passing through. As a volunteer with Friends of Overlook Bluff, a group that is working to create a nature trail around a heritage oak and restore historic oak meadow habitat, and as a landscaper designer who gets a lot of questions about dealing with invasive plants, I wanted to know more about their impact in our area. I spoke with Overlook neighbor Mitch Bixby, the Early Detection/ Rapid Response (EDRR) field technician with the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services.

Mitch explains, “Invasive plants, by the definition we use, are species that change ecosystems. They’re not just “plants in the wrong place,” but species that cause ecosystems to fail in some objective, measurable ways. For example, overwhelmed ecosystems tend to have just a few kinds (or just one kind) of plant, all flowering at the same time, and then setting seed at the same time. These monocultures prevent insects and animals that depend on diversity (most of our native wildlife) from getting what they need. That’s one

Invasives Resources

**BES invasive species information:** [www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/invasives](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/invasives)  
**Environmental Services City Green blog:** [www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/citygreenblog](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/citygreenblog)  
**East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (EMSWCD)** has fantastic gardening classes and workshops: [www.emswcd.org](http://www.emswcd.org)  
**The 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area** has many resources: [www.4countycwma.org](http://www.4countycwma.org)  
**Read it!** “Bringing Nature Home: How You can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants” by Douglas Tallamy

Party at Patton Square Park Rocked!

by Cynthia Sulaski  
OKNA Parks & Greenspaces Chair

The Friends of Patton Square Park want to thank Ethos for taking the lead in organizing an absolutely fabulous event at the park on September 13. Our heartfelt thanks go especially to Mike Burnett, Resource and Systems Manager at Ethos, for securing a grant from Multnomah County Cultural Coalition and doing the lion’s share of the detail work with good humor and aplomb.

The afternoon’s lineup was diverse and talented. Dan Haneckow, Overlook resident and renowned local historian, started by giving an excellent summary of the history of Patton Square Park, IFCC, Interstate Avenue, the Overlook neighborhood and North Portland. Students from The Aspire Project, as well as Sue Darrow (its founder)



Sue Darrow leads a ballet tutorial. Photo: Cynthia Sulaski

performed several ballet and tap dances. Fairytale Stereotypes, an Ethos band, then got us moving to some good rock music, as did the band Rio Grands. Dressed in colorful Mexican costumes, adults and youth from St. Johns Ballet Folklorico performed a selection of traditional dances. Vega Black delivered her own songs with style and pizzazz. The Portland Island Serenaders closed the event; the two Tongan musicians played music that made us listeners sit back, relax and imagine sandy beaches and ocean waves.

During the event, Stacey Alonso, owner of Aprende con Amigos, tirelessly painted flowers and ladybugs on lots of small cheeks. Portland Parks & Recreation’s climbing wall provided kids a safe and fun way to feel a sense of accomplishment and a Peninsula Park Community Center staff person taught many children a new craft project. Another hit with the little ones was a visit from the firefighters from our local Station 24.

Besides acknowledging all the Ethos staff, dancers and musicians, special thanks go out to Kieran Connolly from Trillium Charter School for setting up tables and chairs and Stacey for her face painting artistry. You’re the best!

If you want to lend your time and energy to the Friends of Patton Square Park, write me at [greenacres@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:greenacres@OverlookNeighborhood.org).

reason why plant diversity is so important.”

Another issue is stormwater, “We also have concerns about monoculture and infiltration. Diversity of plants leads to a variety of root systems, allowing water to soak into the ground. Having only one or two species means water is more likely to run off into the city’s sewer system, and that increases costs for Portland’s sewer ratepayers.”

Mitch’s role is to help catch new problem species before they become as established as ivy or blackberry. While it can be frustrating to see those species taking over areas while he addresses emerging invasive plant issues, “I think it’s an opportunity for folks to empower themselves on their own property.” I asked Mitch which invasive species have the biggest impact. “On a citywide basis, species like blackberry and ivy continue to do the most damage, though non-native clematis is now a faster-moving menace. Lesser celandine and Italian arum fill spaces quickly and are difficult to remove, though not (yet) as widespread as the first group.” Tree of heaven, pokeweed, Japanese knotweed and butterfly bush are other problem species commonly found in yards.

How should a homeowner go about tackling an invasive plant problem? Mitch says to “just keep chipping away. It’s what I do at my house. Start by clearing one area, continue keeping that area clear, and slowly expand your “territory.” Doing everything all at once can be exhausting; you have permission to let some stuff go for now!” There are many non-toxic ways to get ahead of invasives such as hand digging, sheet mulching and goats. For more management options check out the resources to the left.

While eradicating ivy or blackberry in Overlook may not be practical, homeowners can learn to identify invasives and do their part to control them on their property (and consider volunteering with efforts to improve the health of our green spaces.) Our efforts to create diverse habitat in our yards can be a big benefit to wildlife that have lost habitat to invasive plants.



Mitch Bixby poses with a Giant Hogweed — don’t let this happen to your home! Photo: Mitch Bixby (yes, he lived)

# SUN Community School Program Up and Running!



by Cinda Jackson  
Beach SUN Site Manager

The fall term of the Beach K-8 SUN Community School Program began Monday, November 3rd and runs through Thursday December 18th. We have been fortunate to collaborate with various community partners that will help facilitate our fall after-school enrichment classes which include: Violin, Soccer, Simple Snacks, Ceramics, AKA Science, Spanish Dance, Drumming, Cheer, Organized Recreation, Art, Drama, Dodgeball, Lego Robotics, Hip-Hop Dance and Chess. We also have tutors available to provide age-appropriate academic support for students. For middle school students there is an opportunity to participate in community services activities as well as engage in our newly formed Leadership class. This Leadership Program runs Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5:30pm. SUN will also offer classes and workshops for parents, resources and referrals for families who need assistance, and community and family activities.

We need volunteers! If you are interested in getting involved in the SUN Community School Program, if you need assistance, or if you have questions suggestions or ideas, please contact the Beach SUN Site Manager Cinda Jackson at 503.916.6562 or cindaj@selfenhancement.org.

## About the SUN Community Schools Program

Neighbors, you may be like your erstwhile Editrix here, who was unfamiliar with the SUN Community Schools. Cinda Jackson, manager of the new Beach SUN site, spoke at the OKNA meeting in October and generated lots of interest as she explained the wide variety of services the SUN program brings, all designed to make our schools the center of our communities. Support is there for students’ families too; something as simple as temporary rent or transportation assistance can make or break a student’s success.

Since Multnomah County organizes SUN, let’s let them explain:  
SUN Community Schools in Multnomah County are full-service neighborhood hubs where the school and partners from across the community come together to make sure kids and families have what they need to be successful - in school and in life.

SUN Community Schools mobilize and strategically organize community resources to provide:

- Strong core instructional program
- Educational support and skill development for youth and adults
- Enrichment and recreation activities
- Family involvement and support
- Social, health and mental health resources
- Family and community events

## Dance Group Awarded Nike Grant



by Erin Fried  
The Aspire Project

Thank you Nike, for keeping our kids dancing!  
This fall 2014, The Aspire Project was granted as a recipient of the Nike Employee Grant Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. On behalf of The Aspire Project board, staff and families, we graciously want to thank Nike and OCF for their contribution.

"Thanks to this support, we will be able to grow our dance program from 14 to 20 classes by next spring, reaching an additional 38 students a term while maintaining the current, accessible cost," said Susan Darrow, Executive Director and President of The Aspire Project.

These ballet and tap classes are offered at sliding scale tuition rates in the historic Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center to North Portland economically diverse youth, creating dance experiences that are equally accessible for all children.

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www.OverlookNeighborhood.org

At SUN Community Schools, the collective efforts of youth, parents, businesses, faith communities, libraries, and community organizations create a network of supports that ensure academic success, family self-sufficiency, and economic prosperity.

SUN Community Schools are open to all ages, preschool to seniors, with a focus on students in the immediate school community.

SUN Community Schools are the school-based service delivery sites for the SUN Service System, a broader system of community-based care and support for children and their families.

Learn more here: <https://multco.us/sun>

## SUN is Schools Uniting Neighborhoods

## You’re Invited!

The Overlook Neighborhood community is invited to attend our FREE fall studio recital, 'The Spirit of the Season!'

When: December 16th, 6:00pm  
Where: Roosevelt High School, 6941 N. Central Street, Portland 97203

Why: Celebrate and empower our community's youth and adults in their dancing achievements & enjoy complementary desserts and refreshments.

And creating these opportunities are the very roots of the organization, said Sue Darrow, stating that, "when our community's under-served youth are able to access our dance programs, we motivate these young people to believe they can become whatever they aspire to become."

The Aspire Project recognizes how pivotal these quality after-school enrichment programs are for our North Portland under-served children, especially in the face of Portland public schools' diminishing arts and physical education classes. With this support, Nike and The Aspire Project can reduce these barriers, immersing children in physical activity and artistic development through the graceful athleticism of dance.

"We want to express our elation on receiving such funding. We are deeply grateful to Nike for helping strengthen our organization and community."



# Live Safe

## Public Safety & Crime Prevention



## Overlook NET Revival — Make Your Neighborhood Resilient

Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) are Portland residents trained by PBEM and Portland Fire & Rescue to provide emergency disaster assistance within their own neighborhoods. NET members are trained to save lives and property until professional responders can arrive. These volunteers are specially trained to help others without putting themselves in harm’s way. NET members are:

- Prepared to be self-sufficient for one week during any emergency.
- Able to provide emergency assistance to their family and immediate neighbors.
- Able to work within an emergency response team to save lives and property in their neighborhood.
- Able to guide untrained volunteers who want to help others during a disaster.

by Mitch Bixby  
Overlook NET Assistant Team Lead

Overlook’s NET has been around for many years, but recent changes at Portland’s Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM)



NET program have sparked a resurgence in Overlook. The State of Oregon’s 2012 report on the chances of a large earthquake in Oregon has caused many to take a hard look at existing plans and supplies. More importantly, recent disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy highlight the notion that areas where neighbors knew and trusted each other were more resilient. The chances that someone nearby has a tool or skill you needed go way up with neighborhood-based responses, and recovery times go down. The more-talked-about fortress mentality might not get folks as far as they think it will.

But NET isn’t, and shouldn’t be, ONLY about post-apocalyptic zombie nightmares. Connected, supportive neighborhoods are their own reward. You could find a new catsitter, or someone to help with gardening. You might have a neighbor to share tools with who also likes board games. It will be great to know all these things in an emergency, but they’re equally great to know right now.

In general, folks are encouraged to take either a NET training through PBEM, or a CERT training at PCC, University of Portland, or Lewis & Clark. These trainings are all equivalent and quite popular. While training is encouraged, it is not essential to join the discussion about how to plan and prepare in Overlook.

Quite a bit has already begun in the Overlook NET revival: early drafts of a disaster plan are circulating, discussions are ongoing with schools and businesses, and links between Overlook and neighbors in Arbor Lodge, Kenton, St. Johns are growing. It’s an exciting time to be part of the NET, but there is much to do and only so many hands.

Please come and meet the team at their next meeting on **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM at the Overlook Family Restaurant, 1332 N Skidmore Street.** You can get on the reminder list by sending an email to Team Leaders Alice Busch and Mitch Bixby at [overlookprepares@gmail.com](mailto:overlookprepares@gmail.com).

## CALLING ALL RADIO ENTHUSIASTS!

Your Overlook NET is especially seeking ham radio operators and other communications wizards to supplement our efforts. You trained for it, let’s put it into practice!



# Look Sharp — Catalytic Converter Thefts On the Rise

From August 25 to October 15, 2014, there have been seven reported thefts of catalytic converters in the Overlook neighborhood. Although thieves mostly target items left in our cars, we do hear about the theft of vehicle parts, which consists of less than 10% of all reported car prowls. Per Nationwide Insurance, catalytic converters may be sold to scrap yards or second hand markets for around \$100-150. Converters on trucks and SUVs are targeted because they sit higher off of the ground making it easier to access this car part. When it is stolen, the driver will notice that his or her vehicle sounds and runs differently.

To prevent catalytic converter theft, and consider the following tips:

- Park in your garage at night if possible.
- Park in well-lit areas and off of the street. Motion detector lighting is a good option and can be a psychological deterrent.
- Choose to park in areas where there are a lot of observers and traffic during the day. Avoid parking for extended periods of time in unattended lots.
- Install locks on your catalytic converters. There are a number of products available.
- Engrave your license plate or VIN number on the converter. This way if it is recovered, the police are able to determine that the part belongs to you.
- Look out of your front window if you hear dogs barking or strange noises. There are times when victims heard something, but dismissed what was happening.
- Call in suspicious activity to the police. For immediate threats to life or property, or crimes in progress, call 9-1-1. Otherwise, you can contact the non-emergency number at 503-823-3333.
- If you are a victim of theft, report the incident by calling the police non-emergency number at 503-823-3333 or file online at [www.portlandoregon.gov/police/cor](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/cor) (read the criteria before completing an online report).

There are other options that mechanics may suggest such as welding the head of the screws which makes it more challenging to remove the converter. Theft of car parts can be challenging to prevent. Individuals have to weigh the benefit of employing certain prevention strategies versus the cost and inconvenience of doing so. Being aware and making a few changes can make a difference.

## Neighbor Actions You Can Take

**P S A C**

**The North Portland Public Safety Action Committee**

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month to solve your crime problems.  
Meet at the Historic Kenton Firehouse, 2209 N Schofield from 7:00 pm—9:00 pm. Free Pizza!

**Overlook Livability Team**

**O L T**

This neighbor-created team meets monthly for regular graffiti and trash clean up. The diverse group gathers at 9:00 am on the first Sunday of the month (unless it falls on a holiday weekend, when meetings move to the second Sunday). We're always looking for new volunteers to adopt a portion of the neighborhood; keeping the area litter and graffiti-free reduces crime and builds community.  
Email [info@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:info@OverlookNeighborhood.org) or stop by a monthly OKNA meeting for more info.

**Citizen Online Reporting**

**Report car prowls & nonviolent crimes:**  
**[www.portlandonline.com/police/cor/](http://www.portlandonline.com/police/cor/)**

Lost Property, Suspicious Activity, Theft From Vehicle, Vandalism (Excluding Graffiti) & More.  
You may also call the non-emergency number. **503-823-3333**

**Meet Angela Wagnon!**  
**Overlook’s New Crime Prevention Coordinator**

Please welcome Angela to the neighborhood; as our City of Portland/Office of Neighborhood Involvement representative you’ll see her at the monthly North Portland PSAC meetings, where she brings neighbors together to solve problems with key public safety officials and city representatives who can help you get results. She’s also the go-to person for chronic problems or when you don’t know where to get started.

**Your Crime Prevention Contacts**

- If you have issues or concerns about what’s going on in the Overlook neighborhood, please contact Angela Wagnon: [Angela.Wagnon@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Angela.Wagnon@portlandoregon.gov) or 503-823-4094.
- If you want to start or revive your Neighborhood Watch program, contact Brad Taylor: [Brad.a.taylor@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Brad.a.taylor@portlandoregon.gov) or 503-823-2781.
- If you have any questions or concerns related to the Enhanced Safety Properties program, please contact Mike Boyer: [Michael.Boyer@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Michael.Boyer@portlandoregon.gov) or 503-823-4763.



## Medical Marijuana Dispensaries: Your Questions Are Heard—Few Answers Available

There are two new potential dispensaries under application in Overlook, although nothing has been approved yet. Neighbors have expressed concerns about what these new businesses will bring to the area and questioned what the application and approval process entails. The following is excerpted from an article by Lauren Malakowski, Crime Prevention Intern for the City of Portland.

According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), there are currently 89 approved medical marijuana dispensaries in Portland, as of October 13, 2014. As long as the business meets zoning requirements and the criteria listed below, it can operate as a dispensary in a neighborhood.

In 2013, Governor Kitzhaber signed House Bill 3460 which mandates OHA to create and oversee a system to register and regulate medical marijuana facilities for the transfer of marijuana between primary growers, Oregon Medical Marijuana Program card holders and licensed dispensaries. HB 3460 also allowed for cities to enact a moratorium to delay the opening of dispensaries until May 1, 2015; Portland, Oregon did not enact a moratorium.

In order for a dispensary to obtain a license to function, the person responsible for the facility must submit an application to OHA for approval. The application process includes a national background check, finger printing and verification that the proposed location is in an approved area. The facility operator cannot have a conviction for manufacture or distribution of drugs within the past five years, or two such convictions within their lifetime.

According to House Bill 3460, approved dispensaries will comply with the following requirements:

- Must be located in an area zoned for commercial or industrial use, or as agricultural land
- Must not be located within 1,000 feet of another medical marijuana dispensary
- Must not be located within 1,000 feet of a public or private elementary, secondary or career school attended primarily by minors
- Will have a security system that includes video surveillance, outside lighting, a monitored alarm system and a safe
- The facility must have all marijuana tested for mold, mildew and pesticides

The Oregon Health Authority will inspect the dispensary within six months of approving an application to ensure compliance with state regulations. Thereafter, the OHA will conduct at minimum an annual, unannounced inspection of functioning dispensaries to verify that the required security measures are in place; all products are labeled with amount of THC (psychoactive component) and CBDs (medical component) in the product; there is no on-site consumption; and products have been tested for pesticides, mildew and mold. OHA will inspect edibles (edible marijuana products) to ensure that packaging and products are not manufactured in a way that is appealing to children and packages are child-proof. The agency also investigates complaints alleging violations of rules. All dispensaries are subject to an annual renewal of their operating license. If a facility is found to be out of compliance, OHA may impose fines up to \$500 per day and may revoke a license under certain circumstances.

Employees who possess a medical marijuana card may consume the drug on their shift as needed for their medical condition as long as it is in a closed room that is out of sight of the public and other employees.

To ensure that marijuana and marijuana products are accounted for, OHA will review on-site inventory and record keeping of dispensaries. The Oregon Health Authority can and will request security footage and patient records (in compliance with HIPPA laws) from dispensaries to ensure that only verified OMMP cardholders or primary caregivers are entering the dispensary and purchasing medical marijuana.

### Action Item for You

The City is scheduling a community discussion on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries around mid-November and will send out information when the meeting location is known. This discussion is a way to share information about what can and can’t be regulated. It’s also a way for the City to obtain feedback from the public about what regulations should be pursued. If voters pass a law that allows for sale and use of recreational marijuana, the discussion will be expanded to include this topic. The Mayor’s office, City Attorney, Portland Police Bureau, Office of Neighborhood Involvement Crime Prevention program, and other programs will be present for this discussion.

For more information on medical marijuana dispensaries, see the State of Oregon's website [www.oregon.gov/oha/mmj](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/mmj). If there is a dispensary in your neighborhood that you believe is violating state laws, contact the Oregon Health Authority at (855) 244-9580 or [medmj.dispensaries@state.or.us](mailto:medmj.dispensaries@state.or.us)



**New to Overlook?  
Welcome to the  
neighborhood!**

Drive yourself over to the  
OKNA website

[www.OverlookNeighborhood.org](http://www.OverlookNeighborhood.org)  
and find all the resources you need to feel  
right at home!

Join our Weekly Email list and 'like' us on  
Facebook @ OKNAinPDX to stay up-to-  
date with the news.



**Green Streets Need  
Your Attention**

by Emily Hauth  
Sustainable Stormwater Management  
City of Portland, Environmental Services

You likely appreciate and value the natural beauty of the city and the region – rivers, open spaces, forested hills, and tree-lined streets. You know these enhance the place you live. Did you know green street planters (aka Bioswales, see more here: [www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/209685](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/209685)) also add green spaces to our neighborhoods? And they manage stormwater runoff from streets, keep our rivers and streams clean, and make neighborhoods more livable.

You may have a green street near you (see map here [www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/409925](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/409925)). If you do, you can help make sure it works well the year round. Please remove trash and clear openings of leaves and debris so water can flow, especially before or after a rain storm.

Partnerships with community members like you help make Portland an attractive place to live and work. Please consider becoming a Green Street Steward as a rewarding way to care for your community, keep our rivers clean, and preserve the natural beauty that we all enjoy.

Go to [www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/GreenStreetSteward](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/GreenStreetSteward) for more information about the Green Street Steward Program or call 503-823-5623. Like us on Facebook by searching for “BES-Green-Street-Stewards-Program.”

**Stay Connected!**

To receive **The Weekly OKNA Email** for more time-sensitive items, visit **[www.OverlookNeighborhood.org](http://www.OverlookNeighborhood.org)**, enter your email address in the Yahoo! box and join our mailing list.

Submit your short item to [info@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:info@OverlookNeighborhood.org) with ‘Post to List’ in the subject line. All submissions subject to review/edit.

Can't wait? “Like” us on **Facebook**: OKNAinPDX and share your thoughts immediately. Business neighbors: your commercial postings are welcome.

**Overlook Neighborhood Association (OKNA)**  
2209 N. Schofield Street  
Portland OR 97217  
[info@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:info@OverlookNeighborhood.org)

[Chair@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:Chair@OverlookNeighborhood.org) reaches the Board Chair, or you may leave a message at North Portland Neighborhood Services: 503.823.4524

**Newsletter:** [views@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:views@OverlookNeighborhood.org)

**Swan Island-North Portland  
Air Quality Forum Reports**

by Courtney Olive  
Overlook resident, substitute OKNA representative at the Forum

For those that have not been following this issue, a brief background. Since 2011 Oregon DEQ has received a large number of complaints about a paint/solvent type of odor emanating from the Swan Island industrial area. The Swan Island North Portland Air Quality Forum was convened in late 2013 by Oregon Representative Tina Kotek and Metro Councilor Sam Chase to bring together residents and businesses in a collaborative effort to address air quality in the Swan Island and north Portland area. The Forum is a year-long project, ending in December 2014.

The Forum’s fourth meeting (of six) was held August 12th at the Kenton Firehouse. Key attendees included conveners Tina Kotek and Sam Chase; representatives from Neighbors for Clean Air and North Portland Air Quality; a representative of the Swan Island Business Association; an Oregon DEQ representative; and representatives from Vigor Industrial, and Daimler Trucks.

The meeting began with an update from Oregon DEQ on the upcoming North Portland Air Quality Monitoring Project. The meteorological stations (but not the monitoring stations) will be able to provide data in real time. This will help DEQ better understand how atmospheric conditions may be impacting the neighborhood.

Next, the meeting facilitator turned to the primary topic at hand. Today’s meeting would be the time to candidly put concerns on the table. She called for participants to give examples of community and industry collaborating, and to describe what made those collaborations successful.

Participants took her at her word and held a candid exchange that does not reflect much mutual trust. The forum concluded with various “homework” assignments, bringing the group back to its original six goals, particularly “Work on specific issues or projects to bring about tangible outcomes.”

Kotek wants to see the group come up with a work plan that produces tangible outcomes by the by the Forum’s final meeting in December. She committed to reach out to the City of Portland as a possible facilitator/convenor to continue this dialogue, since she sees this as a long-term livability issue. The work plan must be ready to put in place by December 2014, and a team was formed to accomplish that.

Kotek concluded the meeting by asking all participants to think of a convener/facilitator entity (whether from the City, SIBA or a different entity) that they could trust and bring those names to the next meeting. She felt it would be interesting to see if any common names came up.



**As Forum Nears Completion, Work Remains To Be Done**

by David Goodyke  
OKNA representative at the Forum

On October 14, I attended the second to last meeting of the Swan Island North Portland Air Quality Forum. We have covered a lot of ground, studies have been set in motion, and the group is focused on reaching an agreement for next steps.

Our meeting began with an update from the DEQ. The mobile testing site has been installed on the bluff just northeast of Swan Island, and a network of meteorological sites will record data for one year. This will give the DEQ a detailed picture of what is in our air and where it is coming from. To learn more about this, check out the DEQ’s webpage: [www.oregon.gov/deq/AQ/Pages/monitoring/NPqmonitoring.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/deq/AQ/Pages/monitoring/NPqmonitoring.aspx)

Additionally, the DEQ has launched an investigation into nuisance odors surrounding Swan Island. This investigation is the result of many neighbors contacting the DEQ with concerns about odors in North Portland. The DEQ is sending investigators to the neighborhoods 6 times per month, and will continue the investigation for one year. During this time, it is very helpful for the DEQ to receive information about where, when and what is being smelled. They will be able to correlate complaints with the meteorological data to help determine odor sources and work to solve this issue. If you smell something “off” in your neighborhood, take a minute to tell the DEQ where, when and what you smelled using their on-line reporting tool: [www.deq.state.or.us/complaints/dcomplaint.aspx](http://www.deq.state.or.us/complaints/dcomplaint.aspx). Smell it, tell it!

The rest of the meeting was devoted to summarizing thoughts and experiences from a recent trip through the Daimler manufacturing plant, and summarizing an initial proposal for an ongoing work plan. The proposed work plan seeks to achieve goals to 1) establish lines of communication between the community and industry, 2) propose a mechanism to make changes and get results toward improving air quality, and 3) establish a framework for gathering and evaluating data and adapting as necessary. These broad goals are being developed by the work plan team.

December's meeting is the final one, and with no guarantees about a future process, this is the time to speak up. If you have any thoughts about the work plan, please share them with the OKNA Board as soon as possible.

**Where to go? Who to call?**

**OKNA Board Meetings**  
**1st Tuesday Monthly 6:30 — 8:30 PM**  
Overlook House  
3839 N Melrose Drive

**OKNA General Meetings**  
**3rd Tuesday Monthly 6:30 — 8:30 PM**  
Kaiser Town Hall  
Corner of Interstate and Overlook Blvd

Police Non-emergency: Report it!  
503.823.3333

Abandoned Auto 24hr Hotline  
503.823.7309

Crime Prevention Coordinator  
Angela Wagnon 503.823.4094

**2014-2015 OKNA Board Members:**  
Alan Cranna, Ben Meyer, Cynthia Sulaski, Dannielle Herman, George Spaulding, Kent Hoddick, Leslee Lewis, Mary Skarie, Mitch Bixby, Tamara Maher

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