

Spring 2023

# OVERLOOK VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, PORTLAND OREGON



## HOWDY NEIGHBOR!

Hey there, long time, no publish! My name's Michelle & I coordinated Overlook Views for many years. I've enjoyed guest coordinating this issue and marvel at the volunteerism and community intent evident in the Overlook news here!

Civic engagement doesn't have to be a complicated thing; it's as easy as greeting people on the street or picking up trash outdoors. Everything nice we have in Overlook is thanks to the work of hundreds of volunteers over the years, building on what's been done in previously. Your participation makes Overlook a better place today, and for the future. Please read the following excerpt from "3 Obstacles You'll Face In Civic Participation (and Why They're Worth Facing)" and ask: **What's holding you back from participating?**

### Learning To Care In A Time Of Comfort

By Tiffany Owens Reed

Several years ago, I spent a year on the road visiting different cities that were trying to rebuild their local economies. At one point, I spent six weeks living and volunteering in Brightmoor, a neighborhood formerly considered the "murder capital of Detroit." This was shortly after Detroit had declared bankruptcy and the neighborhood, like many in the city, was in decline.

While city officials worked at a macro level to stage a comeback, the folks in this neighborhood worked around the clock to stabilize their community, taking small, uncelebrated actions to keep away copper scrapers, criminals, and squatters. They poured hours into public meetings, beautification projects, mentoring, and even gardening to try and turn their neighborhood (and their city) around. Just about all of the people I met were taking a gamble. There was no promise that for all their hard work, they would see a worthwhile improvement.

This is the third challenge for those of us who care: rebuilding civic habits means getting involved even when the results might be hard to measure or not present at

all. It means choosing to care even if you don't own property. It means greeting neighbors even if you may only stay in the neighborhood for one year.

We live in a time of comfort, where advertising and mass media encourage us to make decisions that advance our preferences and comfort. In such a world, choosing to care for cities will feel extremely uphill. It's not always comfortable and it won't always be easy to see the payoff... We may not even receive a grand epiphany at the end of our journey.

Yet, like the hero, we must find a way to look past our present comforts and recognize the worthwhile call to adventure. Ultimately, that's what civic engagement is. It's an invitation to rediscover what it means to steward the public sphere. It's an opportunity to put our values to work in the real world. It's a chance to allow ourselves to be transformed into (hopefully) better, wiser people.

The entire article is here:  
[www.strongtowns.org/journal/2023/2/7/3-obstacles-civic-participation-why-theyre-worth-facing](http://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2023/2/7/3-obstacles-civic-participation-why-theyre-worth-facing)

Spring Cleaning!



## Join Your Neighbors to Litter Pick In Overlook!

April is Earth Month and better weather makes this a great time to spruce up the neighborhood, meet your neighbors and improve your community. Bring the family or make a friend when we pick up litter in Overlook at this OKNA & SOLVE-sponsored event.

### Overlook Spring Cleanup

**Saturday April 29, 10 AM – 12 PM**

**Start & finish: 2100 N Killingsworth St**

Check in for the event at 2100 N Killingsworth, the lot next to Spitz and The Old Gold. The landlord is donating the space for our central meeting location. Bring your own gloves and grabbers (loaners also on site), SOLVE provides sturdy collection bags and OKNA has arranged donated disposal at local schools and businesses.

Light morning snacks, water, and coffee are provided thanks to OKNA board members and business neighbors. The Old Gold is offering a free beer, wine or non-alcoholic beverage to anyone who participates, so come on out and help make a difference!

Register via Solve: [bit.ly/3UAWYDq](https://bit.ly/3UAWYDq)

### Catch Up On Overlook News With This Letter From The Board Chair

By Ana Helena De Castro  
OKNA Board Chair

Hello Overlook Neighbors and Residents, and Happy Spring! The tulips are finally starting to change color and the daffodils are blooming. One thing I find inspiring are the beautiful flowers we grow and the gardens we create here in Overlook. People on the Facebook Overlook PDX Chat are sharing starts and plant cuttings; someone on the Buy Nothing Group on Facebook has started a Seed Swap. This is a beautiful neighborhood, inside and out.



I am very surprised to find myself writing this Overlook Neighborhood Association Chair's letter for The Views. I am what I like to call "an Accidental Chair." Please let me explain.

I was brought into OKNA by Stacey Nuissl, our former OKNA Chair, as the Houseless Liaison Committee Chair in July of last year. I attended one meeting in September as the Houseless Chair and then, in October of 2022, we found out through another North Portland neighborhood association chair that all of the neighborhood associations and organizations under the umbrella of North Portland Neighborhood Services had lost their Directors' and Officers' Insurance.

The Office of Civic and Community Life had not renewed our policy; they had delegated the job of finding a new insurance provider to a wonderful community member and volunteer who was having difficulty finding \$2M insurance coverage for the 28 organizations under NPNS' domain and the insurance lapsed. Within two days of this announcement, Stacey and two other Board Members either resigned from their positions or took a leave of absence until D&O insurance could be reinstated. We lost three Board Members out of nine.

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### Recreate The OKNA Email List

Hi there Overlook neighbors! We've lost access to the OKNA email list, so any neighbors who signed up to receive emails from us before 2/1/2023 will need to sign up again.

OKNA sends out regular email updates about things happening in the neighborhood that will affect you or interest you.

The good news is that we'll be asking you a few more questions, which will help us get in touch with you later about the neighborhood events you're interested in.

The signup form is here:  
[www.tinyurl.com/5n6rvx9c](http://www.tinyurl.com/5n6rvx9c)

- or scan the QR code with your phone's camera to jump to the sign up page.

Thanks, and sorry for the hassle.  
- Nick Reddel, Communications Chair







The Overlook House was built in 1928 by Herman Case and Elvira Scritsmeyer Raven. The beautiful brick and stucco Tudor home sits on over an acre of gardens extensively cultivated by Mrs. Raven while she was in residence. This block of N Melrose holds many important original Overlook homes.

The Ravens owned the Raven Creamery, originally located downtown at SW 4th Avenue and Yamhill Street. The Ravens were civic-minded and encouraged the use of their home by neighborhood groups, most notably, a charitable group, Overlook Women's Club. When Mr. Raven passed away in 1931, Mrs. Raven sold the house to the City of Portland for the sum of \$1.00 to provide a community center for her beloved neighborhood. The City officially designated the building a community center and placed it under Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) care.

The Friends of the Overlook House strive to preserve, advance, and manage the Historic Overlook House as a community center for the benefit of the neighborhood. As a part of this mission, the Friends organize cultural, educational, and social activities and offer space to honor life's significant moments. Located conveniently in the heart of the city, the venue is easily accessible and ADA compliant. The Historic

Overlook House provides affordability and versatility to transform it into any kind of event space, whether it be a wedding, retirement party, holiday party, or even a company picnic. With ample indoor and outdoor space, it offers the perfect setting to create unforgettable memories with your loved ones. So whether you're planning a small gathering or a large celebration, make your next event an unforgettable experience at the Historic Overlook House. Don't forget to recommend us to your friends and family, so they too can experience the exceptional service and unique setting of the Historic Overlook House.

If you have ideas for classes or events, please contact our coordinator!

[coordinator@historicoverlookhouse.org](mailto:coordinator@historicoverlookhouse.org)

<http://www.historicoverlookhouse.org> for current event details.

[www.facebook.com/historicoverlookhouse](http://www.facebook.com/historicoverlookhouse)

Think about the Historic Overlook House for your next gathering or neighborhood group meeting; special rates for Overlook neighbors!

## SAVE THE DATE! SUMMER MOVIE IN THE PARK

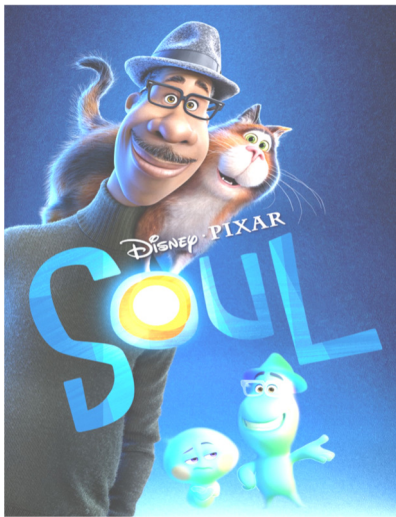
Mark your calendars!

Overlook Park will again host a Movie in the Park, Sunday August 20th, 2023!

Like our previous OKNA in the Park events, things get started at 6:00 PM. OKNA has selected "Soul" from Disney/Pixar for our movie this year. You're invited to pack a picnic, bring a blanket and come enjoy the end of the summer with family, friends and neighbors.

We could use your help planning; please reach out to Stacey at [events@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:events@OverlookNeighborhood.org)

Part of Portland Parks & Recreation's Summer Free for All. Summer Free For All builds community through free, inclusive, and family-friendly activities that celebrate Portland's diverse cultures and local artists.



## PORCHFEST: MAKING ART & MUSIC IN OVERLOOK

Porchfest is an Overlook-specific creation, dreamed up and manifested by OKNA's own John Carter in 2022. Active in the art and music scene, John saw an opportunity for a safe, neighborhood-specific performance event that everyone can enjoy.

The first Porchfest had over 10 artists performing from a wide variety of porches spread across Overlook. Some artists play multiple porches and you can host a musician even if you won't be playing

Hopes are high for an even bigger event in 2023, with the opportunity for neighbors to bike or walk from porch to porch to watch bands, DJs, and solo artists perform live.



Porchfest is tentatively set for June, with a date being finalized soon. If you're interested in performing or participating, please reach out to John Carter at [jcartera88@gmail.com](mailto:jcartera88@gmail.com)

## Tattoo Legend Lived in Overlook

Cast your minds back to a time in Portland when tattoos were not only not popular, they meant a pretty rough reputation. Portlanders of my age and ilk knew that IF someone wanted to get a tattoo, that shop on SE Grand with the neon sign was where to go: Sea Tramp Tattoo. Oregon's longest running tattoo shop has been helmed by Overlook neighbor Don Deaton for nearly forty years, starting when he moved to Portland to help out at the Bert Grimm tattoo parlor. We're sorry to report that Don passed away this month, at home with his wife Rosie.

Thanks to a huge fan club, it's clear that Dan's influence on the industry will live on as legend. The shop is carrying on

with Skot Ramsey at the helm, keeping the old school traditional vibe. Don Deaton's Sea Tramp gal and other original artwork are still displayed throughout the tattoo shop, as well as other hand-painted flash from Sea Tramp tattooists. In the classic Pike style of tattoo shops, Sea Tramp Tattoo continues to be open 363 days of

Ahoy, Captain! Fair Winds and Following Seas.

-Michelle Thompson



SEA TRAMP  
TATTOO  
PORTLAND'S OLDEST



TAKE A NEWS-  
LETTER ROUTE!

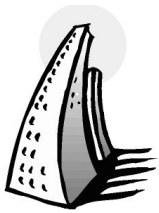
See the far corners of Overlook or walk around a nearby block when you join the ranks of our Volunteer Newsletter Delivery Team!

Have you always meant to volunteer? Here's an easy way to help your neighbors and maybe meet new people. The commitment is to deliver the newsletter to your neighbors' door within a given timeline. Routes take about an hour to complete on foot.

Send your name, address, phone and email to Delivery Coordinator Alan Cranna, 70+ year resident of Overlook, to help once or every few months.

ViewsDelivery  
[@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:@OverlookNeighborhood.org)





## On the Grow!

Here is a quick summary of some of the larger developments underway in Overlook. If you've got questions about other projects, please email Josh at the address below.

- ◆ 5020 N Interstate will be an affordable, family-focused 6-story building of 64 apartments between N Alberta and N Webster.
- ◆ Up the street at the corner of N Interstate and N Killingsworth, the Kōz on N Killingsworth 2 will be a new 6-story, 154 unit apartment building with ground floor retail.
- ◆ Down at the south end of the neighborhood, near Overlook Park, a good deal of development is expected in the coming months and years. The Kaiser Permanente Interstate Campus is going to be renovating its oncology building.
- ◆ Kaiser is also selling its land at the NE corner of Overlook Park, so that Northwest Housing Alternatives and the Urban League of Portland can develop it into Carter Commons, a new 5-story building with 62 units of affordable senior housing.
- ◆ Just north of that site, the Palms Motel is going to be transformed into a 7-story apartment building, providing 155 units while meeting inclusionary zoning and preserving the historic neon sign that is a cultural touchstone of N Interstate Avenue.

If you're interested in learning more about the City's land use process, and how much (or little) we can influence the process as a neighborhood association, please reach out to Josh Cabot via [landuse@overlookneighborhood.org](mailto:landuse@overlookneighborhood.org).

## Overlook Terrace Oregon White Oak Update

By Friends of Overlook Bluff

In 1899, when E. Henry Wemme, who developed the Overlook neighborhood in the early 20th century, bought the first automobile in Oregon, an Oregon white oak tree was well established in the area now the 3000 block of N. Overlook Terrace. That beloved and iconic tree, estimated to be 170+ years old, could live to be more than 500 years old if it is protected and taken care of properly. As it has grown undisturbed for all these years It has seen a lot – and should see much more.

Generations of Overlook residents have admired, bonded with, and loved that tree and in 2004, at the request of the former owner, it was registered as Heritage Tree 259. Now that development close to it has been approved, what is its future? Founded in 2012, Friends of Overlook Bluff (FOOB) has been a defender of the tree and advocate for its protection by challenging proposed development scenarios (in 2018 and 2021-22) that threatened its future well-being.

The 2018 development application was denied based on FOOB's opposition. In 2021 the landowner submitted a new plan and FOOB once again provided evidence from noted tree experts, who said the root zone of the white oak needed more protection than the bare minimum required by the city.

In 2022, FOOB appealed the city's decision to allow subdivision/development of the property. FOOB's po-

*Continues on Page 8*



## Real Estate Recap

Here is a round-up of real estate sales completed in the Overlook neighborhood in 1Q2023.

Thanks to our Overlook neighbors for sourcing this information for you!

**Shannon Sansoterra & Charity Chesnek**  
BROKER & PRINCIPAL BROKER

Licensed in Oregon  
Shannon (503)260-9383 Charity (503)997-1372  
[portlandporch@gmail.com](mailto:portlandporch@gmail.com)



2601 NE Glisan Street, Portland OR 97232  
[think-portland.com](http://think-portland.com)  
@THINKPORTLAND

We've added the zoning information to the chart. This important factor in land value can not be overstated! Here's where you can learn more about Portland zoning & what each code allows.

[www.portlandmaps.com/bps/zoning/#/map/zoning/#/map/](http://www.portlandmaps.com/bps/zoning/#/map/zoning/#/map/)

## New to Overlook? Welcome to the neighborhood!

Get yourself over to the OKNA website [OverlookNeighborhood.org](http://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.

		Days on Zon-					
Address	SF	Bed/Bath	List Price	Sold Price	Market	ing	
4216 N Longview Ave	1387	4/1	295,000	336,000	3	R2.5	
2336 N Killingsworth St	1456	2/1	399,000	399,087	3	RM2	
3962 N Montana Ave	2073	3/2	500,000	500,000	4	RM2	
1827 N Jessup St	2358	4/3	725,000	810,000	5	R5	
1522 N Humboldt St	1873	2/1	499,000	465,000	8	CM3	
5025 N Minnesota #201	913	2/1	345,000	347,800	9	RM3	
2054 N Wygant St	2327	4/2	558,000	540,000	18	R5	
2621 N Sumner St	2040	3/2	725,000	725,000	21	R2.5	
5905 N Omaha Ave	1855	2/1	519,000	519,000	23	R5	
1601 N Jarrett St	2094	2/2	525,000	517,000	61	RM1	
4037 N Overlook Blvd	2220	3/2	719,900	719,900	68	R5	
4142 N Overlook Blvd	2560	4/2	699,900	625,000	80	R5	
4718 N Colonial Ave	1440	3/2	599,950	565,000	91	RM1	
1455 N Killingsworth #210	608	1/1	279,950	232,500	93	CM3	
5835 N Minnesota	1456	4/2	584,500	529,000	100	RM3	
4073 N Montana Ave	3180	4/2.1	699,000	499,000	104	RM2	
4703 N Colonial Ave	1800	2/1	435,000	399,900	128	RM1	
1455 N Killingsworth #212	676	1/1	303,000	289,000	146	CM3	
2631 N Sumner St	2415	3/1.1	569,000	455,000	179	R5	
5235 N Maryland	2847	3/2	625,000	544,000	179	CM3	

## New Life Ahead for Palms Motel Neon

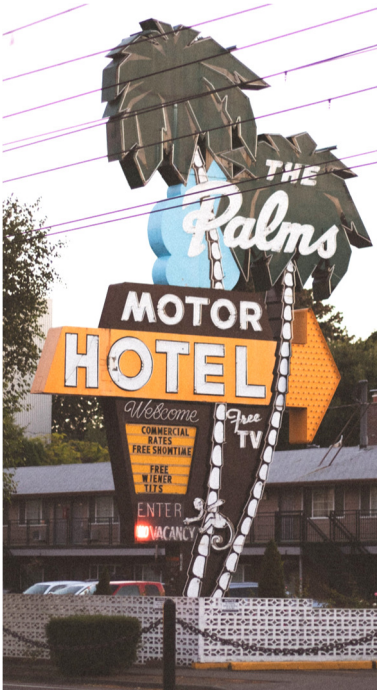
By Michelle Thompson  
Overlook Neighbor

Neighbor-owned and run Palms Motel and its midcentury neon sign are Overlook icons, and internationally famous thanks to multiple film appearances and fan visits. You may have heard that the motel is set for redevelopment, and there's great news to share: The towering sign is being preserved and restored and will have a new place of honor at the center of the new building's design.

Backing up a few decades - the Palms Motel was built in 1958, and the sign created and installed at the same time. Before I-5 freeway construction, Interstate Avenue was literally the main road through Oregon, and the brightly lit motels of North Portland were popular places to stop and stay or for locals to go out for a meal and music. In 1994, when the freeway traffic had left Interstate Ave behind, the Palms Motel was purchased by Dirges Patel's parents and they settled in to run the business and raise their young family. The Patels still own the motel, and are developing the new apartment building, grateful to be offering new homes for rent. "My dad did an interview many years ago and Willamette Weekly asked what his dream was and he said, 'I want another monkey on that sign.' So I hope you will see that when you see the design." Dirges told OKNA at the January meeting.

Sticking to the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area plans, the new building's relationship to the intersection and its MAX station are part of the city's housing and transportation plans. The new building will be a 7 story mass timber build with 155 units (studio, 1, 2 & 3 BR) and 60 auto parking spaces.

Construction is slated for November 2023 to June of 2025, depending on permitting, so go get your OG Palms Motel sign selfies soon! In fact, do you see the breeze blocks that surrounded the swimming pool in the image here - they're already gone BUT will be returning as a design element in the new building! The Patel family plans to rent an apartment in the building to stay in the neighborhood they've lived in so long.



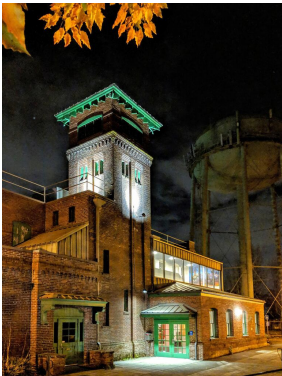
## FREE FRIDGE: HELP YOURSELF

The closest Free Fridge to Overlook is in Arbor Lodge at 7042 N. Albina Avenue. It has both a fridge and a pantry.

Cool Map for PDX Free Fridges is here:  
<https://sites.google.com/view/pdx-free-fridge/maps>



# The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center IFCC Can Be A Home for Black Arts & Culture



## IFCC History

If you're new to the Overlook neighborhood you may not be familiar with the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC), the vintage brick building next to Patton Square Park on Interstate Avenue. Built in 1910, this structure was originally the neighborhood fire station, shuttered when the current fire station on Going Street was constructed in 1959. Charles Jordan, Portland's first Black commissioner and parks director, saw the building's potential as an art center. Due to his efforts, the city renovated the building and reopened it in 1982. Ever since, IFCC has served as the cultural home for the Black community in Portland.

Although it's a city building, IFCC had been operated by two different non-profits over the years, IFCC Inc. and Ethos. Management of the building was turned back to Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) in 2014. Since then, lacking a specific budget, IFCC was used only intermittently.

As a result of community members asking for greater activation of the space, the city appointed a Black-led Community Advisory Committee (CAC) in 2018 to develop a vision and recommend a sustainable operating model for IFCC. Five years later, the CAC continues to work with PP&R on the long-term realization of that vision and the short-term activation of the building.

## Feasibility Study Team Selected

Concordia LLC was selected by PP&R and the CAC in a competitive application process to lead a feasibility study for the vision of expanding IFCC into a Center for Black Arts and Culture. Concordia is a firm specializing in architecture, planning, and community engagement to create places that can help communities become more equitable, resilient, prosperous, and connected. One of Concordia's most notable projects is the design of the renovated Ashé Cultural Arts Center in New Orleans.



The feasibility study will include market, financial, development and operational analyses and recommendations that will help determine a sustainable operating plan for IFCC that aligns with the CAC's vision. This effort is funded in part by the 2020 Parks Local Option Levy. Concordia began their work in January and will submit their final study report by November of this year. You can read about the feasibility study updates at [portland.gov/parks/construction/interstate-firehouse-cultural-center-feasibility-study](https://portland.gov/parks/construction/interstate-firehouse-cultural-center-feasibility-study).

## Feasibility Study - Community Engagement

Built into the study's framework is a community engagement process. In partnership with PP&R and the CAC, Concordia staff will reach out, inform and gather feedback from the public about the redevelopment of IFCC. They will hold three community meetings in the summer and fall at a location near IFCC. Please take advantage of the opportunity to learn about the possibilities for the development of a Center for Black Arts and Culture in your neighborhood. I hope to see you at one of those meetings!

## IFCC Grant and Residency Program

In July 2021, Portland City Council approved \$500,000 of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a grant and residency program at IFCC to support relief and recovery for artists who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. These residencies are meant to give recipients the time, space and compensation to create their art. A special place to go, and freedom to be an artist. In return, the artists enliven IFCC with their presence, energy and creativity. During their residency, grant recipients are asked to activate IFCC with at least one event, such as a performance, exhibit, or artist talk.



This first year's residencies have been organized into four 9-week periods from October 2022 to September 2023. The following individuals were selected as resident artists: Domo Branch, James Bullock, Breana DePriest, Future Prairie/Onry, Kwik Jones, Machado Mijiga, Lauren Modica, Brian Parham, Aaron Spriggs and Studio Abioto & Black Art/ists Gathering. Applications for the next two cycles of the program will open in July 2023 and July 2024.

Events held by the artists during the first period included playwriting classes, play readings, music performances, poetry readings and dance performances.

Check Portland Parks & Recreation's webpage for IFCC to learn of upcoming events: <https://www.portland.gov/parks/ifcc-grant>.

*Cynthia Sulaski lived in the Overlook neighborhood for 25 years and happily served on the OKNA board as Parks Chair for 20+ years. She has represented Overlook on the IFCC CAC since its inception five years ago.*



## Block Parties are Free & You Should Have One This Year!

The annual block party on my street has been running for over 30 years! Block Parties are a fun and easy way to build community and stay in touch with your neighbors. Block the traffic and turn the street over to the kids for play, invite the fire truck, put up a shade tent. With a free permit, you can host your neighborhood street and low-key get to know each other.

The 15 minute application must be submitted 7 business days before your event. Get your free permit here: <https://www.portland.gov/transportation/permitting/apply-block-party-permit>

# North PDX Neighbors Link Arms to Clean Out Hazardous Materials & Recyclables

By Stacey Nuisl  
OKNA Events Chair

North Portland neighbors really cleaned up this past October when the Overlook Neighborhood Association joined forces with the Kenton and Arbor Lodge neighborhood associations for mutual Waste Collection Day. This was our first opportunity in over 2 years to hold such an event due to Covid 19 restrictions and the day was an enormous success resulting in tons, literally tons, of recyclable material and hazardous materials being diverted from the landfill.

It was also a wonderful community building event! Forty volunteers worked in shifts (some of them multiple shifts) to enable the smooth operation of a drive-through drop off with stations for various sorts of waste. This setup allowed folks to remain in their vehicles and keep the line flowing efficiently. Nearly 200 cars, about a dozen bikers and even old tires in a wheelbarrow rolled through.

The numbers were astonishing!

- 600 gallons of paint
- 4.5 tons of garbage
- 200 lbs of batteries
- 2 full Ridwell vans of plastic bags & clam shell containers
- 80 lbs of recycled metals
- 300 light bulbs
- 2 dumpsters of e-waste
- 1 U-Haul box truck of Styrofoam



The Fall Waste Collection Event takes place September 30, 2023. Please help us plan it!

**Junkluggers** sent home electronics and e-waste to recyclers such as Free Geek & Universal Recycling Technologies.

Paint collected was turned into **Metro Paint** on Swan Island to be processed into usable paint.

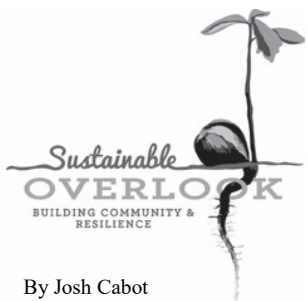
Styrofoam (polystyrene) was turned over to **Agilyx**, where they turn post-use plastics into reusable plastics.

Community partners **Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Metro, Ridwell, Junkluggers, Agilyx and Les Schwab** generously contributed to the event, which was funded with a Metro Regional Refresh Fund grant. Drop off fees collected support ongoing programming in our neighborhood.

Thank you to the neighborhood businesses who graciously donated refreshments: **Burrito Azteca, Fino Bistro & Pizzeria, Grindhouse Coffee, Pinky's Pizza, New Seasons and Safeway.**

Much appreciation to co-organizers Terrance Moses of the Kenton Neighborhood Association and Ginger Edwards from the Arbor Lodge Neighborhood Association.





# Sustainable Overlook Economy, Ecology & Equity

By Josh Cabot  
Sustainable Overlook Chair

We live in a stunning place, with portions of Overlook perched atop the wooded bluff's edge while Swan Island holds the eastern edge of Willamette River down below. We host the historic vestiges of a mid-century motorway (Interstate Ave) coupled with a modern light rail system while bordering the fickle and frenetic I-5 to our east. It's a complex part of our city that is home to large logistics companies, heavy industry, global leaders in sportswear innovation, novel and inviting small businesses, urbanized wildlife, heritage trees, and meticulously kept gardens. It's a complex place!

Despite the complexity, it's inspiring to think about how these pieces of our neighborhood are connected and how we can come together to sustain what we have now and to move toward an even richer future. How can we protect and enrich our ecology, support our local economy of businesses, and create an equitable place where all feel welcome? These are questions we explore and solve in Sustainable Overlook, which has worked closely with OKNA to deliver neighborhood events such as garden tours, seed swaps, film nights, and even summits focused on sustainability and resilience. Sustainable Overlook's Mulysa Melco started the Pesticide Free Overlook Initiative 2012 with the goal of Overlook becoming the first pesticide-free neighborhood in the country, an effort you can still join. You might know Sustainable Overlook through the annual Yard Sale/Free Share (this year on July 15-16).

I'm Josh Cabot, your OKNA board member focused on Sustainability (and Land Use). You might already know me from the 12 years I've lived Overlook with my family, or as an active volunteer with Sustainable Overlook. Although it's an often overused term, sustainability as a concept still offers a positive framework for improving conditions at each level of society. I typically think of sustainability through the lens of the Triple Bottom Line of Economy, Ecology, and Equity. While many of us think of sustainability primarily through the Ecology lens, there is more there, particularly as the Equity portion of sustainability has picked up steam recently with many in our society looking more closely at how diversity and inclusion intersect with power and justice.

Sustainable Overlook gives us a place to learn together and build deeper connections that will make our micro community stronger and more resilient. Events like our Spring Cleanup and Yard Sale/Free Share make a difference while also giving us a good reason to come together socially and share skills and experience. What events would you like to bring back to life? Film Nights, Seed Swaps, or Garden Tours? More earthquake and disaster planning with our Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET)?

Is any of this interesting to you? If so, please reach out! What are you willing to work on? A short e-mail at [sustainable@overlookneighborhood.org](mailto:sustainable@overlookneighborhood.org) gets us connected. Let me know the ways we can improve sustainability here in Overlook. This effort should really be bigger than one person, and I hope that we can use our collective energy to help stem climate change, welcome diversity and improve inclusion in our community, give our local businesses the opportunity to thrive, and to enjoy this special place called Overlook along the way.

Who's with me?

## Spring Cleaning!

## Start Your Overlook Yard Sale/Free Share Pile!

Make your plans for the annual Overlook Yard Sale & Free Share, a popular neighborhood event! Held the 3rd weekend of July (July 15 & 16, 2023), this is a weekend when we all Yard Sale together. Sign up to have your address included on a public digital map or just put things out and join in! This is meant to be the easiest yard sale ever. We will do the advertising and hundreds of neighbors and visitors take to the streets in bikes, carts and on foot to find out what you have that they can use.

Traditionally, any leftovers are left out for a Free Share the next day, weather depending ... although the end of the day Saturday will find a lot of freebies being shared. Put a FREE sign on it! This helps us give items a second, or more life and to keep items out of the landfill. You're welcome to put items out for Free Share any time during the weekend, but remind you to pick everything up by Monday morning. If you have significant leftovers, posting to Nextdoor or Overlook Buy Nothing is one way to clear them out, or consider donating to Community Warehouse or other mutual support organizations. In reality, faithful pickers usually clear up everything from our well-known event.

Are you ready to sign up? Head here to learn more and add your location to the event: <http://sustainableoverlook.org/events/sale-and-share/>

The most important part of the Overlook Yard Sale & Free Share is keeping items in use vs in storage and to build community by meeting our neighbors. Please plan to join in as a browser or seller! Brought to you by Sustainable Overlook, a group of folks interested in anything that fits under that umbrella. What ideas do you have for Sustainable Overlook? Message us! [sustainable@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:sustainable@OverlookNeighborhood.org)



## Retail Reuse: It's Easy To Be Green at New Seasons Market

By Tara Knierim  
Overlook Neighbor

An exciting new glass jar reuse program is underway in Portland! New Seasons Market, in collaboration with Bold Reuse, Waste-Free Advocates, and Hannah Kullberg of PNW Packaged Food & Beverage Group, and with funding from Metro, has launched a pilot program to assess the feasibility of a glass container reuse program.

To begin, five local producers will participate in the program, with the possibility of more joining as the program gains momentum.

If you have or buy jars from Ground Up, Sauvie Shrubs, Mickelberry Gardens or Hot Mama Salsa, rinse them and return them to a **Bold Reuse bin** at any New Seasons Market from April 14th through early 2024. From there, the jars will be cleaned and refilled.

Keep an eye out for yellow stickers on local products on New Seasons Market shelves indicating they are part of the **Retail Reuse** program. Please help make this pilot program a success so that it may continue and expand!



## Join The Pesticide Free Overlook Project!

Make sure your yard is safe for people, pets and wildlife by avoiding pesticide use. Join over 500 Overlook residents in quitting or reducing garden chemicals by taking Metro's Healthy Lawn and Garden Pledge. You can receive a free metal ladybug yard sign to display in your yard too. Now you know what those ladybug signs are all about!



<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/yard-and->

## EXPLORE OVERLOOK: THE PITTMAN ADDITION SCULPTURE PARK

by Marci Macfarlane  
Friends of Pittman Addition Hydropark

Did you know there is a HydroPark in Overlook? The small piece of Water Bureau land on Going Court was turned into a HydroPark in 2009 and is the only HydroPark in North Portland. The Water Bureau's one-of-a-kind program has converted public land to useable space for community members to visit and relax.

At Overlook's Pittman Addition HydroPark, land once covered with invasive plants has been tamed; community members have planted native plants to create an urban wildlife habitat and the Water Bureau put in paths and maintains the space. Pittman Addition is also the only sculpture park in Portland!

It started out with five sculptures that were juried in by a committee of volunteers from Overlook. The idea was that the sculptures would rotate in the park so there would be new work every year. Alas, the committee was only able to get the original five pieces in the park. In the last three years, two of the sculptures sold and one was taken back by the maker. That's left two pieces in the park; "Stride" (Ryan Beard) and "Sphere" (Ivan McLean).

After the apple tree fell down in 2021 the park was looking a little bare at the east end, so neighbor Chris Radcliffe contacted a local sculptor and asked if he had any pieces he wanted to donate. Ivan McLean came through again with the donation of a large piece for the east end of the park. Ivan's piece "Sphere" is in the park already so it was great to see another piece that was dramatically different. The new piece remains untitled.



The park is open from dawn to dusk and has picnic tables and benches made from recycled materials for you to sit and have lunch. The park has been planted with plants local to the area, and has a couple of fruit trees still producing fruit. The pears are delicious in the late summer and make some wonderful juice. In the past neighbors have had block parties, and movies in the park. Next time you are out on a walk, stop by the park and explore what it has to offer. It's located on the north side of the Going Pedestrian Bridge on N Concord at N Going.



BREWS, BITES & BIDS:

BEACH SCHOOL AUCTION BENEFITS COMMUNITY



Student Art

Support our neighborhood elementary school, Beach School, at their upcoming fundraiser auction!



Organized by a big committee of hard working parents and friends of the school, this annual event is the Parent/Teacher Association's main way to raise money for their student support programming. As all things Beach School, their invitation is bilingual.

We're thrilled to invite you to our annual school auction, a special evening dedicated to supporting the Beach School community.

*Estamos encantados de invitarle a nuestra subasta escolar anual, una velada especial dedicada a apoyar a la Comunidad Escuela de Beach.*

Join us for good food and great company while we fundraise for Beach! Early Bird tickets on sale now!

*¡Únase a nosotros para disfrutar de buena comida y buena compañía mientras recaudamos fondos para Beach! ¡Boletos Early Bird ya a la venta!*

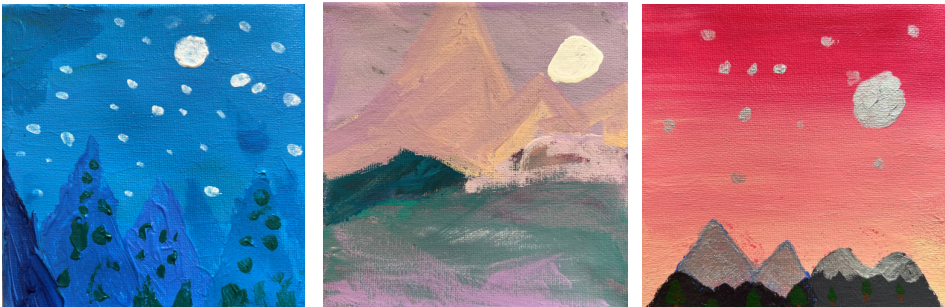
Tickets include food, libations, and music, plus amazing live and silent auctions items to bid on!

*Las entradas incluyen comida, libaciones y música, ¡además de increíbles artículos de subastas en vivo y silenciosas para pujar!*

Can't make it to the in person party? Join our ONLINE AUCTION from April 17th-23rd!

*¿No puedes ir a la fiesta en persona? ¡Únase a nuestra SUBASTA EN LÍNEA del 17 al 23 de Abril!*

Please consider contributing to the auction!  
*Considere contribuir a la subasta!*



From Mr. Almazan's 3rd Grade Class 2023

Portland Food Project  
An Easy Way To Give Food

You're invited! The Portland Food Project makes it easy for you to help your community.

- (1) Each week buy one extra non-perishable food item when you go shopping.
- (2) Store it in the green Food Project bag.
- (3) On the 2nd Saturday of every other month, a neighbor will pick up the bag and bring it to the local food bank.

Donating in this way makes a real difference and ensures local food pantries are stocked with food year-round. Join our active Overlook route now. Learn more online [www.portlandfoodproject.org](http://www.portlandfoodproject.org)

Free Family Fun Event!

May 21st, 2023 in Overlook Park!

Sport Oregon Foundation is hosting their second-annual SHE FLIES Community Festival Sunday, May 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Overlook Park.

This family-friendly event features live fitness activities, interactive sport-related exhibits, and the awarding of multiple grants to deserving organizations already advancing the SHE FLIES mission.



The event is free and open to the public. Stay tuned for more information by following @sportoregon on social media and subscribing to their email newsletter. Additional information about the SHE FLIES Community Festival can be found at [www.sheflies.org/about](http://www.sheflies.org/about)

North Portland Tool Library:  
Borrow, Don't Buy!



by Marci Macfarlane  
OKNA Board Member

The North Portland Tool Library opened in 2004, by four North Portland neighbors who felt there was a need in the community for a tool lending library. Their first grant was for \$25,000 from the Meyer Trust Foundation. Record keeping started with paper and pencil, writing down members' names on sheets of paper when they borrowed a tool. NPTL currently has over 6900 members and over 4000 tools. In 2017 we loaned out over 8,000 tools to North Portland residents.

Weed whackers, hedge trimmers and lawn mowers are the most popular tools at this time of the year. From April through October, the library loans out between 700-1000 tools a month. Winter numbers drop to about 400 tools a month.

A quick comparison on costs to rent tools:

- Hedge trimmers cost \$35 a day or \$25 for 4 hours, \$95 a week
- Gas lawn mowers are \$50 a day or \$35 for 4 hours, \$159 a week
- Air Compressors cost \$25 a day to rent or \$75 a week
- Metal detector is \$24 a day or \$15 for 4 hours
- Post Hole diggers are \$10 a day
- Belt sander \$21 a day or \$16 for 4 hour
- Angle grinder is \$15 a day or \$10 for 4 hours, \$52 a week

All of these items are available to borrow for North Portland Residents for one week at a time...for FREE.

The Tool Library late fine is \$5 a week, so even then....

In a 2014 survey, NPTL members cited “saving money,” “improving my neighborhood”, “avoided tool storage and maintenance”, and “environmental benefits”, respectively, as the most important aspects of the tool library.

Two-thirds of respondents cited that, if it were not for the tool library, they would have purchased a new tool for some projects, which demonstrates the power of providing access as an alternative to ownership. Shared ownership of tools may lead to an absolute reduction in the amount of tools purchased and eventually entering the waste stream. Tool libraries providing garden tools may also help to reduce some of the consumption problems related to food systems, as they allow urban gardeners to grow food locally thereby reducing food packaging.



Stay Connected With OKNA!

To receive The OKNA Email for more time-sensitive items, visit [www.OverlookNeighborhood.org](http://www.OverlookNeighborhood.org) and join our mailing list.

Have news to share? 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**  
2209 N. Schofield Street  
Portland OR 97217  
[info@OverlookNeighborhood.org](mailto:info@OverlookNeighborhood.org)

**2022-2023 OKNA Board Members:**  
Ana Helena, Chair, Houseless Liaison  
John Carter, Secretary  
Jen Lee, Treasurer  
Josh Cabot, Sustainability Chair, Land Use Chair  
Nic Cota, Transportation Chair  
George Spaulding, Safety Committee Chair  
Stacey Nuissl, Events Coordinator  
Alan Cranna, Overlook Views Distribution

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Office of Community & Civic Life contributes communications funding to OKNA annually.



# Live Safe

Public Safety &  
Crime Prevention



## The North Portland Public Safety Action Committee (PSAC)

Take charge of your neighborhood's public safety and problem solve with public safety officials from the City of Portland, Portland Police Bureau, District Attorney's office and more at the monthly PSAC meetings.

This valuable tool has been in the North Portland holster for nearly 10 years, started by neighbors who needed help with various crime problems that affect adjoining neighborhoods.

Meetings are on the third Thursday every month at 7pm via Zoom. We try to keep the meetings to an hour, but can often run over through 8:30pm. For questions, comments, corrections, etc., please let us know at any of these email addresses:

psac.nne.pdx@gmail.com  
JudithAshleyKlef@gmail.com  
AkemiJ@gmail.com

co-facilitators  
Akemi Joy Ishikawa  
Judith Ashley Klefman

Join the mailing list for invitations to meetings, meeting notes, and other North/Northeast Public Action Committee updates.

<https://landing.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/a7i4w7>

## Citizen Online Reporting

Report car prowls and other nonviolent crimes online:

[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 police non-emergency number: **503-823-3333**

# Trucks Rule n' Buses Too! N Greeley Transit/Freight Priority Lane Coming Soon

By Nic Cota  
OKNA Transportation Chair

As you may be aware, taking alternatives for transportation has become our greatest ability to curb our carbon emissions in the Rose City. As we stretch back out to our new routines post-pandemic, one common thread in major cities is making sure that transit is reliable, safe and competitive to drive-alone trips.

Another priority is making sure freight moves through this city effectively and efficiently. Freight caught in traffic dampens commerce and impacts the safety of all users of the road.

One elegant solution the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) has been using to make both transit more reliable and freight more efficient, is to provide transit and freight prioritization lanes that allow these vehicles to bypass traffic during busy hours. An example some folks may be familiar with is NE MLK Ave through the Central Eastside.

Well this summer, the Overlook Neighborhood is about to have its first!

### The Project:

This summer, Portland Bureau of Transportation's (PBOT) will convert the right-most northbound travel lane of N Greeley Avenue to a bus-and-truck-only lane starting on N Greeley Ave partway between Interstate Ave and Going St. Through traffic would merge left., opening the right-lane up to right turns for all vehicles for both traffic signals at Going St. This basically means that any traffic heading north to Adidas or beyond would use the left lane, while all the buses plus traffic going to Swan Island would use the right lane. Far-side of Going St, the current "zipper merge" would be replaced with a short bus-only lane on the right side and a through lane to the left, and buses would merge into that through lane where the street narrows at the start of Adidas campus.

For those concerned about traffic: PBOT has done necessary traffic analysis, and have found the impacts to vehicle traffic would be fairly low, with no significant increase in travel time. This might not sound very intuitive, but the current bottleneck is up at the Adidas campus where queue storage is more limited. The planned change merely shifts any of this congestion further south.

If you have questions, or want more details, feel free to reach out: Zef Wagner PBOT Senior Transportation Planner, [zef.wagner@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:zef.wagner@portlandoregon.gov)  
Nic Cota, OKNA Transportation Chair, [transportation@overlookneighborhood.org](mailto:transportation@overlookneighborhood.org)



## Transportation Nerds, Unite!

Interested in transportation? Or are you a transit geek, or one of those bike-folks? Well if you are: So am I! I'd love to hear from you! One of the best ways to get involved and plugged in as a Portlander is joining your local neighborhood association, and that's us! As Transportation Chair for the last two years, I've been eager to make sure Overlook has been represented and heard for all Transportation-related issues. I'd love to have more folks join in the discussion!

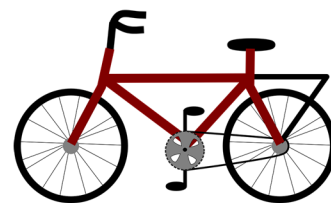
Wanna talk ideas? send me an email? Wanna meet up? Meet me for the monthly coffee and bike ride meetup every 2nd Sunday (usually the day before our general meeting) at Stacks Coffeehouse, 1831 N Killingsworth St at 9:30am. Upcoming bike ride dates:

**Sunday, May 14th**

**Sunday, June 11th**

**Sunday, July 9th**

Hope to see you there! Happy riding! Nic Cota, OKNA Transportation Chair



## Neighbors Are Your Best Disaster Prep - How Can You Help?

By Karlene McCabe  
Overlook NET Co-Team Leader

Snowstorms, ice storms, smoke from forest fires, floods, power outages, heat domes, COVID. The last few years have thrown a number of disasters at the residents of Overlook. Did you know that your neighbors have special training in how to respond to these events and have served the community over the last few years? While we all feel reassured when the big red fire truck shows up it is really your neighbors who will be first ones to show up and provide assistance during disasters.

Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) are organized and trained by the City of Portland Bureau of Emergency Management to provide critical volunteer response during times of disaster. Your Overlook Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) members can help you prepare for and be safe during these events. While COVID impacted our ability to meet and train in person we are reconvening and invite you to join us. Watch for updates in the Overlook News, follow our Facebook page [facebook.com/OverlookNET](https://facebook.com/OverlookNET) or email us for more information at [Overlookprepares@gmail.com](mailto:Overlookprepares@gmail.com).

While NET training is a great way to gain skills in how to respond in times of crisis we can also use the skills and expertise of all community members during times of need. We welcome all neighbors who feel the desire to assist when Overlook neighbors are dealing with natural or man made disasters. Do you have skills in first aid, mental health counseling, construction or otherwise special skills? When disasters strike there is always room for people to help in many ways. NET uses the Incident Command System to integrate volunteers in the field.

If you would like more information on how your Overlook NET functions, have questions on how to get involved or better prepare for emergencies please drop us an email at [overlookprepares@gmail.com](mailto:overlookprepares@gmail.com)

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Overlook NET response group you can sign up here for future trainings offered by the City of Portland Bureau of Emergency Management. It is a fun and useful training to gain more skills in how to respond.

<https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams/volunteer>

## Tool Library, continued from Page 6

ing production and potentially replacing empty calories with nutrient-rich foods. Similarly, tool libraries make it easier for home-owners with limited resources to maintain their homes, which helps to provide for housing security.

There are 3 other tool libraries in the Portland area, Northeast Portland Tool Library on 20th & NE Killingsworth, the Southeast Tool Library on 20th & SE Salmon & the Green Lents Community Library on 92nd & SE Ramona. Each tool library is run by volunteers and serves members of their community. You must live in the community/area that each tool library serves.

To join the North Portland Tool Library you must live in North Portland. Once you sign up you can borrow up to 8 tools for one week. You can renew tools as long as no one else is looking for that specific tool. No gas tools, all tools are manual or electric tools. Most tools are donated by neighbors and area businesses.

During the spring, summer & fall the Tool Library is open on Tuesdays from 5-7pm and Saturdays from 10-2pm. During the winter months hours are Saturdays from 10am-2pm.



# Letter From The Board Chair

Continued from Page 1

Those who remained on the OKNA Board took a pragmatic approach to learning about this loss of insurance. I stepped in as the Interim Chair so that our Neighborhood Association wouldn't fold and we held an emergency meeting to vote on getting our own insurance coverage with funds in our coffers. We obtained a D&O policy on October 28, 2022. Yay! However, the Board members who had taken a leave did not return to their former positions. No one officially resigned until one person sent a resignation email a few minutes before our January Board and General meeting. We didn't receive access to our email list or emailing account and were even locked out of our website for a bit. We were unable to print The Views and didn't have a new Communications Chair until that Board meeting in January. We held elections and I put my name in the hat to become the official Board Chair so that I could install officers. Josh Cabot took over the role of Land Use Chair as well as continuing in his role as the Sustainability Chair. Jen Lee came on as the OKNA Board Treasurer and John Carter remained in his position as the Board Secretary. Nic Cota and George Spaulding stayed on as Transportation Chair and Safety Chair and Stacey eventually took the title of Events Coordinator. Alan Cranna continues in his role as the distributor for The Views. We're running a tight ship! I could not be more proud to be a part of this team or this neighborhood. Through former Board Members including Chris Trejbal, Michelle Thompson, Marci MacFarlane and Cassie Kebler we secured access to our website and have begun rebuilding our email list. We are planning a clean up on April 29th and have our dates for Movie in the Overlook Park and a new event called Porchfest.

In the six months since I began working with OKNA, I've learned about the responsibilities and obligations we have as a neighborhood association. Neighbors, developers and others email the Chair asking that we address different issues arising in our community such as camps for the unhoused, illegally dumped trash, new building plans, social events that are coming to Overlook Park as well as environmental issues that impact all of us, like air quality and the CEI Hub. I've read the OKNA bylaws, old issues of The Views (available at OverlookNeighborhood.org) and past meeting Minutes as well as saved emails in the Chair's email account to try to discern our history and what we've done to address these same issues in the past.



### Hi, Neighbor!

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

Enjoy a chai or a coffee on us and find out how  
you can be of service to your community !

**The 2nd Monday of Every Month**  
**May 8, 2023**  
**6:00-7:00 pm General Meeting**  
**7:00-7:30 Board Meeting**

The Stacks Coffeehouse-1831 N Killingsworth  
or attend virtually on Zoom!

This neighborhood has done amazing things over the years! Neighborhood Clean-ups, Emergency Preparedness Training (NET), local business promotion, pesticide eradication, reached out to residents of Hazelnut Grove to encourage them to attend OKNA meetings, garden tours, painting intersections to make them more accessible to people rather than cars, tree plantings, an Adopt-a-Family program to get gifts for kids for Christmas, and an annual Yard Sale and Free Sale that will happen again this year are a few of the things we've done in the past.

But what does an NA officially do? What is their purpose? What is the power they're seen to wield?

The main thing I have found is that OKNA amplifies the voice of the neighborhood. And that may also be why one City Council member tried to gut all of the Neighborhood Associations a few years ago: we are powerful groups that can activate constituents quickly to enact change for both good and bad. Often, the NA's are seen to help those who already wield economic or financial power through home ownership. But, there is a group here in Overlook which has acted over the years to prevent new construction. There is a longtime activist from the neighborhood who still oversees the work she began as an OKNA Board member to ensure that the IFCC remains viable and available to people historically locked out of our neighborhood. There are people who have created parks, who maintain the cleanliness of our streets through Adopt-a-Block, and others who pointing to air quality and transportation impacts in the neighborhood and asking corporations, the city and the state to enforce community safety guidelines.

Through social events like Movie in the Park, the Summer social, the Winter social, holiday events at The Overlook House as well as Block Parties and the Monthly General meetings (which moved to being exclusively virtual through the pandemic times but which we now have in a hybrid format both in person at The Stacks Coffeehouse and online through Zoom), OKNA publicizes events and/ or provides a place and time for connection. Through the newsletter, OKNA informs the community of new construction; educates the neighborhood on different tax codes and land use decisions; and shares information relevant to us as homeowners and renters and business owners.

During pandemic lockdown, when we couldn't meet in person, many people stopped attending neighborhood association meetings. NAs in North Portland all have skeleton crews. It has given us an opportunity to determine what really matters to us as a neighborhood. OKNA bylaws state that one of the main jobs of OKNA is to provide opportunities for neighbors to meet one another and to connect in order to create a vital and healthy neighborhood. We will see more growth. More growth means new neighbors. I would love to see more Block Parties and more models of engagement like Terrace Moses' Neighbors Helping Neighbors which works to improve the environment for those both housed and unhoused. Now is the time for more face to face discussion and connection. We could focus more time on neighborhood emergency preparedness so that we can more easily manage the storms that may come with the changing weather and both natural and man-made disasters.

The connections we have within our communities are of utmost importance. As Michelle says, in disaster preparedness, if you have the choice between building a kit or building a friendship, build a friendship. On the Happiness Index, your relationship to your closest neighbor has a greater effect on you than most other factors! If you don't know your nearest neighbor, I encourage you to reach across the fence and introduce yourself, say hello or even just smile and nod a greeting. We start by meeting each other in the yards and streets. We are a beautiful neighborhood, inside and out, and we can do more to be welcoming and kind to one another and build better bonds of resiliency and satisfaction while doing so.

# White Oak Update

Continued from Page 3

sition was, as it had been in 2018, that a significantly larger root protection zone (RPZ) was necessary to ensure the long-term health and well-being of the tree.

On May 23, 2022, FOOB members and supporters, as well as FOOB's "Tree Defense Team," participated in a public hearing on the appeal.

The City of Portland Tree Code requires only that any tree the size of the Overlook Terrace Oak (55.5 inches in diameter) be afforded this bare-minimum protection. Neither the developed' application nor the City Forester's response considered the city's obligation to provide special protection for designated heritage trees, the preferred status of Oregon white oaks, or specific characteristics of this magnificent tree. FOOB asked for additional protection from disruption by construction activities, foundations, or residential impacts for the roots of the Orgon white oak.

As noted above, in response to a similar proposal made by the same developers in 2018, a hearing officer ruled in FOOB's favor and rejected the bare-minimum standard as insufficient for this tree. The 2021 plan using the same bare-minimum standard for the RPZ, included a small amount of additional space within the Tree Protection Tract because of the orientation of the lots. The 2021 proposal has one less house on the property.

At the Appeal Hearing, the developers' attorney focused not on tree protection or the city's obligation, but on state law relating to zoning standards for building new housing. The developers' arborist argued that the proposed RPZ would be sufficient, and that development would not disrupt the tree's growth, damage it in any way, or kill it.

The Hearings Officer, William Guzman, asked many questions of those testifying, but ultimately denied FOOB's appeal and affirmed the City of Portland's approval of the subdivision plan, setting the stage for development of the property on N. Overlook Terrace. Two residential lots were approved for the south side of the tree and one for the north side.

FOOB is disappointed by the lack of commitment from the City of Portland, particularly the City Forester and Urban Forestry, to the preservation of trees recognized by the city as heritage trees deserving of protection and long-term preservation.

Also disturbing is the developers' apparent lack of sensitivity to the community's concerns about and appreciation of this magnificent and well-loved Oregon white oak, an oak dating from before non-Native settlers arrived.

In 2022, although Mr. Wemme and his automobile are long gone, the iconic and beloved Overlook Terrace White Oak lives on, as it should. Will it be here in 100 years, 200, to shelter wildlife, help cool and purify the air, and shade our descendants? As a community, we must remain vigilant to ensure that all aspects of the development meet the conditions of approval and requirements for future maintenance.

We all must wait to find out whether it can endure the assault of construction and survive for generations to come. One would hope that the developers could be convinced to stand with the community's wishes to honor the priceless, irreplaceable tree and ensure its future.

Friends of Overlook Bluff thanks all those who have supported its efforts to protect the Overlook Terrace Oak over the last decade. Generous gifts from major benefactors, neighbors and others have financed FOOB's work.

For more information on the application for subdivision/development, the appeals, testimony, and the process involved, please see <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/799849>

For more information about FOOB, please contact Glen Brunton at [glsellsit@msn.com](mailto:glsellsit@msn.com) or 503-879-1701.

