

OVERLOOK VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, PORTLAND OREGON



Hi, Neighbor!
We'll see *you* at the
Overlook
Neighborhood Meeting

Come meet your neighbors & find ways
to make your neighborhood better for all!

- 2nd Monday of the Month -
November 13, 2023
6:30-7:30 pm
@ Beach Elementary School
1710 N Humboldt St
in the center of Overlook



WHY HAVE A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ANYWAY?

OKNA: WHY WE'RE HERE & WHAT WE CAN DO

By Josh Cabot
OKNA Co-Chair

Hi Neighbors, with the change in seasons and the renewal of our Overlook Neighborhood Association Board, we thought it would be a good time to update you on how we're doing, why we're here, and what we can and can't do...

The Purpose of OKNA, as stated in our bylaws, is to provide a "facility" for education, research, and exchange of information for the residents and businesses of Overlook. It is also to enhance the livability of the area by establishing and maintaining communication between our neighborhood, government agencies, and other groups and associations. And finally its purpose is to provide an open forum by which all residents, business licensees, landowners and non-profit organizations of the neighborhood may involve themselves in the affairs of the neighborhood.

We are not an organization with immense political power. In fact we are just one more "voice" acting as a non-profit organization alongside the voices of you, our neighbors. That said, we can act as a collector to help to amplify voices when concerns are raised. Sometimes the perception of our political power can help us to influence actions being taken in the community, but we cannot compel anyone within city leadership to do anything.

Some may think we have a direct line to the City. Well, we do and we don't. We do not have a "bat phone" connected to the Mayor's office, or to any of the other four elected Commissioners. However, we do have an ardent supporter in Mary Jaron Kelley, who represents North Portland Neighborhood Services (NPNS), which is organized to connect all of North Portland's neighborhood associations with City departments and resources. If you are in need of something, and if we can't help you directly, then Mary is likely who we will call next!

As you might know, neighborhood associations (NA's) in Portland have been nationally-recognized as a laudable system for connecting its residents with its government. In fact, NA's grew in importance and gained much greater political recognition in the mid 1970's in response to protests against urban renewal projects that were wiping out portions of historic neighborhoods across Portland in the 1950's and 60's. The ability of NA's to help influence the direction of this City has waxed and waned over the years, and is in and of itself a

Continued on Page 8

Neighbors Take Charge of Wildfire Risks

By Deborah Kalapsa, Kim Kosmas and Saima Hashimi

The Overlook neighborhood in North Portland is a unique blend of urban location interfacing with natural areas. This area is special, with diverse wildlife as well as views of the Willamette River and Forest Park. The natural landscape is also a 'massive vegetation fuel load' in need of management. With dense vegetation (fuel), hotter, dryer seasons due to ongoing drought conditions, and dense population comes a greater potential for urban wildfires to occur. For example, the Willamette Bluff Fire of 2001 (Willamette Escarpment - Wikipedia) was contained before there was a loss of homes; but with the right weather conditions and a strong wind event, it could have become a catastrophic fire.



August 8, 2001, a brush fire started near Union Pacific railroad tracks at the foot of the escarpment. Photo: Portland Fire & Rescue

vegetation (fuel) growing in natural areas along the bluff can help prevent wildfires. This includes removal of dead trees, Himalayan blackberries, clematis and ivy growing on trunks of trees, along with weedy trees like holly, and planting fire-resistant native plants.

As neighbors concerned about preventing wildfires and protecting our property and homes, we reached out to the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Urban Forestry and Fire Bureau for guidance. Portland Fire and Rescue is endorsing and promoting a national program, **Firewise USA**. Firewise is a way for neighbors to come together to become vigilant and proactive in order to mitigate the risks and learn to live with the potential of urban wildfires occurring within the WHZ. (<https://www.portland.gov/fire/your-safety/firewise-community-program>)

Kim Kosmas, Senior Public Education Officer with Portland Fire and Rescue, explains the main benefits to a neighborhood becoming a Firewise Community as these:

- Raises awareness about the potential of wildfires occurring within the community.
- Educates home and property owners about what they can do to protect their property.
- The neighborhood receives a Firewise assessment by Portland Fire and Rescue and Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Brings the community together to work collaboratively - it takes a village - to reduce wildfire risk.
- Increases eligibility for fuel mitigation grants/funding.
- Gives our community a strong, collective voice to bring attention to our concerns.

To become a Firewise Community:

- A minimum of 8 households within the WHZ are needed to participate in the Community Firewise Assessment.
- A community fire assessment will be performed by Portland Fire and Rescue and the Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Portland Fire and Rescue will submit a report to the national Firewise board for consideration. If accepted, the neighborhood will be recognized as a Firewise Community.
- A committee, which has been formed. Neighbors are welcome to join the Overlook Firewise committee at any time.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS NEW BOARD TERM BEGINS

September 2023's OKNA meeting was a great success: a new location (Beach School auditorium), new audio/visual set ups for broadcasting our meetings online, a nice big space with room for everyone and thanks to the sensible folk, snacks including coffee from The Stacks Coffee-house! With 20+ people attending, many for their first time, the comfortable setting made it feel like a real neighborhood gathering.

Eight people put themselves up for election to the OKNA Board of Directors; George Spaulding, Jen Lee, John Carter, Josh Cabot, Katrina Wilson, Michelle Thompson, Nic Cota and Stacey Nuissl. Since we still had vacant space on the board, we held the election by slate; electing everyone who applied. As a group, we discussed distribution of community funds from the dissolution of Terrance Moses' Neighbors Helping Neighbors and voted to send our share to the new non-profit Terrance formed to provide the same services: cleaning of outdoor campsites and support to neighbors living near them.

At the October meeting, Kim Kosmas from Portland Fire & Rescue spoke about the Firewise program and talked about preparation for urban wildfires year 'round. As a group we discussed different ways neighbors can gather this year; planning a spring clean up/litter pick etc. We've heard of some neighbors wanting to start a Trashy Hour; OKNA would love to help support and amplify your neighbor efforts so let us know! Maybe our resources can be useful. We learned about the Albina Rotary Club and the bingo fundraiser they had at Double Mountain Brewery in October.

In the board meeting following, we divided up our positions and responsibilities. We look forward to a connected Overlook in 2024!



LET'S MAP THE POETRY POSTS!

Neighbors in Overlook and Arbor Lodge Are Working Together – You're Invited to Help!

By Amy Carlson
Overlook Neighbor

Poetry posts are scattered throughout Portland where neighbors offer us little gifts through poetry: a moment to pause, breathe, and receive a little inspiration, peace, delight, a new perspective, a sense of connection. I believe poetry posts strengthen our neighborhoods and build community.

I have connected with Arbor Lodge neighbor and fellow poetry post host, Peggy Shannon, and we plan to identify all the poetry posts in Overlook and Arbor Lodge neighborhoods, create a map to make it easy to find them, and highlight and celebrate what our neighbors are sharing! We've got other fun ideas to build on this, but we are starting simple.

If you think this sounds like fun, we welcome you to get involved! To begin, please share the address of your poetry post or any post you know of or come across. There are plenty of other ways to help too, such as sharing ideas and information, developing the map and other online tools, creating artwork, keeping the list updated, expanding to additional neighborhoods, and more. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please reach out!

For the Overlook Neighborhood contact: Amy Carlson at amycarlson@comcast.net or 971-319-3319.

For the Arbor Lodge Neighborhood contact: Peggy Shannon at peggyshannon@outlook.com or 503-984-5016.

If you are not sure which neighborhood you or a poetry post is in, no worries, just notify either of us. We look forward to hearing from you!

A note of gratitude: Years ago, Overlook neighbors Ruth Lewellen-Dix and Christine Truszkowski, created an Overlook Poetry Post Promenade, a 5-mile walking tour of seven poetry posts. They are excited to know that we are going to build on their work. Thank you Ruth and Christine!



Building Community

the portland food project

SHARING FOOD - BUILDING COMMUNITY

By Karen Jones Jackley
Overlook Coordinator The Portland Food Project

The Portland Food Project is an incredibly easy way to help fight hunger in our community.

Every other month on a Saturday morning, you set out a bag with food you've collected. As your Neighborhood Coordinator, I pick up the bag, leave you a new empty one, and that's it! You don't need to do anything except add a few items to your regular grocery list and drop them in your provided green bag. I'll remind you when collection day is coming up, and you don't even need to be home when I come by. Donations are tax deductible, and any amount of nonperishable food is welcome – there is no minimum or requirement to donate every time.

Along with coordinators from all over Portland, I deliver your filled bags to a central drop-off point, where more volunteers are waiting to unload and distribute the food to trucks and vans ready to take it to food pantries throughout the city. Groceries are distributed that same day.

I've volunteered with The Portland Food Project since 2015, first as a donor and then as our Neighborhood Coordinator for the past five years. Every collection day as my car fills up with green bags bursting with food, I am blown away by the generosity of my neighbors! It's such a simple way to make a big impact.

Join us! Learn more and sign up at portlandfoodproject.org.



ADOPT-A-NEIGHBOR—AN OVERLOOK HOLIDAY TRADITION

By Amy Yates
Overlook Neighbor

Hey Overlook neighbors! Have you heard of the Adopt-a-Neighbor Program at Patton Park Apartments? Every holiday season (yes, it's almost that time again), residents of the affordable housing complex make wish lists of gifts, and you can help support them by dropping off presents. They also take food/toiletry donations. It's a great way to get into the spirit and to keep your impact local. You can contact Abdul Mohamed (AMohamed@reachedc.org) for more information. He is the Resident Services Coordinator for REACH Community Development. We've loved supporting a resident or two over the years!

Abdul adds:
The Adopt-a-Neighbor Program is yearly winter program that was created to support low-income housing families during the busy winter season. A time and opportunity of giving for those that can and want to support local families in making wishes comes true. Families at REACH's Patton Square Park Apartments turn in a wish-list and are adopted. With the ongoing support of neighbors, we have been successfully running this program for a little over 7 years.



Please Notice This



Join the
OVERLOOK EMAIL LIST
A WEEKLY REPORT OF NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION



THE HISTORIC OVERLOOK HOUSE

Discover One Of North Portland's Timeless Treasures

OVERLOOKS' OWN COMMUNITY CENTER!

Join us in preserving and enhancing the Historical Overlook House, the beating heart of our community. We're your go-to destination for an affordable event space for your every need, from weddings and retirement parties to holiday festivities and company picnics. Plus, remember to take advantage of our exclusive neighborhood discount!

For those who want to immerse themselves in our vibrant community, don't miss out on our exciting calendar of free events, including the recent Halloween event and Santa's eagerly awaited visit. Have event ideas? Contact our coordinator!

coordinator@
historicoverlookhouse.org
www.historicoverlookhouse.org
for current event details
www.facebook.com/historicoverlookhouse



The raven in the intersection repair artwork on Overlook Blvd is a nod to Elvira Raven and her contributions to Overlook.

Overlook Views Page 2

www.OverlookNeighborhood.org

2023 KIDS SANTA PARTY

An annual Overlook tradition is coming, and you'll want your kids to make their mark in the cherished children's activities of the Overlook House.

Santa arrives via firetruck to take pictures and hear holiday wishes, the event includes children's entertainment.

December 3, 2023
First Sunday in December
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Photo: Josh Cabot

The Overlook House was built in 1928 by Herman Case and Elvira Scritsmeyr Raven. The land was purchased from the Overlook Land Company with the stipulation that the owners shall not "erect any building on said premises for less than \$2,000." The beautiful brick and stucco Tudor home sits on over an acre of gardens extensively cultivated by Mrs. Raven while she was in residence.

The Raven's owned the Raven Creamery, originally located downtown at SW 4th Avenue and Yamhill Street. Their milk, cream, and butter were a staple in many Portland homes of the period. 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.

In the ensuing 50 plus years, Overlook House, as it came to be known, has been used as a neighborhood child care center, community classroom site, voter precinct site, a regular meeting place for the Overlook Neighborhood Association and other community-related groups, as well as a prized location for affordable weddings, and other important celebrations.

In April 2003, Overlook neighbors were informed the Overlook House was to be closed and possibly sold. A group of concerned Overlook neighbors reached out to PP&R hoping to convince them to continue their competent stewardship of this community asset. The result was the creation of a subcommittee of the Overlook Neighborhood Association, known as Friends of Overlook House, that was created to reinvigorate Elvira Raven's original vision of her home as a magnet for community building.

More information on their website: www.historicoverlookhouse.org/about





OKNA NEWS TO NOTE
& ways To Help Your Neighborhood

Make a Note: There is no OKNA General Meeting in December. We’ve often had a social gathering—would you come if we do again? Watch the Weekly Email and our socials for information & contact us now if you want to attend.

The OKNA Board needs a Secretary. This position is not difficult; take meeting minutes and distribute them. If you are a good listener and typer, won’t you consider attending one meeting per month to help keep us legal?

For decades, OKNA has been self funded by a legal settlement. A significant long term grant has recently expired. Expenses, however, keep going up! OKNA needs to fundraise and you can help so easily!
Fred Meyer Community Rewards lets you elect a community organization (us!) for them to donate to. OKNA collects a surprising little sum from these donations; won’t you help? Link your Rewards Card at <https://www.fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards>

Donate From Our Website:
www.OverlookNeighborhood.org
Keep this newsletter & our events going with a little cash.

Support OKNA



At the September 2023 OKNA meeting (**the first one held at our new location in the Beach School auditorium**), we invited input from the 20 or so attendees about things in Overlook that they’d like us to know about or to help them address.
Ben is not the first to ask, but the most recent: a trash can at the Dog Bowl (roughly 3100 N Willamette Blvd), where citizens have put picnic tables in an unmaintained city space.

Through Portland’s new public trash can program, we put in a request. We got a ‘no’ but want you to know we’re following through. It looks like keeping the Dog Bowl picnic area clean is going to be a mission of mercy by concerned neighbors.
Re: Trash Can Request
Hello, thanks for reaching out!
Unfortunately this appears to be outside of the scope of our program.
The sidewalks here look too narrow and we typically don’t install cans in front of residential homes. Our cans also need concrete to bolt into so we can’t install them on dirt.
Jeremy Basurto | Program Coordinator - Solid Waste and Recycling Team



Welcome to Overlook!

Hello, we’re glad you’re here! The Overlook Neighborhood Association (OKNA) is here to connect you with problem-solving resources, neighbor projects and community building. Find all the ways to connect on page 8.

Address	SF	Bed/Bath	List Price	Sold Price	Days on Market	Zoning
1531 N Church St	2225	4/2	\$719,900	\$720,000	1	R5
5925 N Burrage Ave	1141	2/1	\$429,000	\$465,000	5	R5
2947 N Willamette Blvd	3106	3/2.1	\$475,000	\$540,000	5	R5
3969 N Overlook Blvd Unit A	1792	3/2.1	\$735,000	\$720,000	10	R5
4001 N Overlook Blvd	2542	3/2	\$724,900	\$724,900	11	R5
1632 N Wygant St	1511	3/1	\$539,000	\$523,000	12	R5
5213 N Maryland Ave #5	880	2/1.1	\$314,900	\$300,000	14	CM3
1927 N Willamette Blvd	1768	2/1	\$515,000	\$535,000	18	R5
2012 N Alberta St	1836	3/2.1	\$699,900	\$693,200	27	R5
1624 N Ainsworth St	2228	3/2	\$565,000	\$567,000	31	R5
2027 N Skidmore Ct	2772	3/2	\$724,900	\$734,900	33	R5
3824 N Colonial Ave	2955	5/2.1	\$829,000	\$815,000	69	R5
1918 N Prescott St	2164	3/1	\$539,900	\$510,000	71	R5
1455 N Killingsworth #318	654	1/1	\$309,900	\$295,000	72	CM3
5209 N Maryland Ave #7	880	2/1.1	\$389,900	\$320,000	86	CM3
4525 N Colonial Ave	1170	3/2.1	\$489,950	\$459,000	98	RM1
5215 N Maryland Ave #4	880	2/1.1	\$369,900	\$290,000	100	CM3
5217 N Maryland Ave #3	880	2/1.1	\$359,900	\$319,000	100	CM3
5219 N Maryland Ave #2	848	2/1.1	\$379,900	\$310,000	144	CM3

“Yeah, we have our problems, but find a community that doesn’t,” he says. “The people of Portland are amazing, and they still do what’s right. They still volunteer, and we’re still doing what we can for each other. I like Portland for that. We’re hearing voices we never heard before. I love it. I’m learning every single day.”

Ted Smith, aka “The Baby Boomer,” hosts “Soulful Strut,” which airs from 4 to 6 p.m. Fridays on KMHD-FM (89.1), and streams at KMHD.org, a partnership between Mt. Hood Community College and OPB.

OKNA MEETING
START TIME CHANGE
now
6:30 PM

2nd Monday of the month
6:30—7:30 General Meeting
7:30—8:30 Board Meeting

Beach School Auditorium
1710 N Humboldt St
in the center of Overlook

Sorry about the changes; we are sharing the building with the SUN after school program!



Overlook businesses aren’t just brick & mortar stores—neighbors have amazing side hustles and full time specialties to offer.
We’re bringing back the neighborhood business listings—Send your 50 word description and we’ll include it in the next issue. Brick & Mortars welcome too! I asked in a Facebook group if anyone had a business to share and got these replies to get us started!

Email your Business in Overlook listing text to Views @OverlookNeighborhood.org

Do you need help learning how to nourish yourself? So many of us struggle to eat consistently, fuel our bodies and minds, and escape the hamster wheel of modern-day diet culture. Gemma at Nutrition & Wellness Co. is a registered dietitian specializing in helping people heal from disordered eating. Take back your space in the world! Find her at nutritionandwellnessco.com to schedule a virtual appointment.

Custom Pet Portraits
Handmade keepsakes for self or loved ones by longtime local artist and animal lover.
Digital portrait can be printed on canvas, mug, print etc. \$100 each
Email photos to mel@melissarachelblack.com

Having trouble with school? Paulette Selman Advocacy provides support to parents involved with K-12 special education and school behavior issues. Neurodiversity affirming school psychologist, now helping folks navigate the system. www.pauletteselman.com or text 503-272-1175

Gotcha Covered - custom window treatments, including blinds, shades, shutters, draperies and more! Serving Overlook and the whole Portland metro- Custom window treatments inspired by you!
971-925-1519 juliannesixel@gotchacovered.com
gotchacovered.com/west-Portland



Should we know?
Email Michelle with your neighborhood info and Overlook curiosities:
views@OverlookNeighborhood.org

What’s happening in your Overlook business? Drop us an email to let us know and share your news on our Facebook page!

views@OverlookNeighborhood.org
facebook.com/OKNAinPDX



Real Estate Recap

Here is a round-up of real estate sales completed In the Overlook neighborhood in 2Q2023.

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

2601 NE Glisan Street, Portland OR 97232
think-portland.com
f @THINKPORTLAND

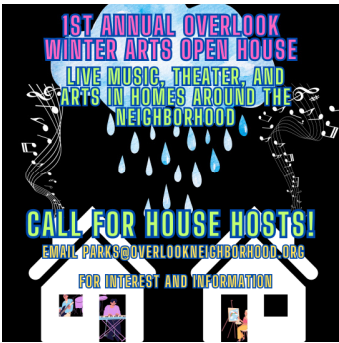
The report now includes zoning designation. Pay attention to this important property information. Here’s where you can learn more about Portland zoning & what each code allows.

www.portlandmaps.com/bps/zoning/#/map/zoning/#/map/

PUT SOME SPARK IN THE DARK: A WINTER ARTS OPEN HOUSE

By John Carter
Sustainable Overlook

Portland winters can feel longer than they are - the blur of gray, rainy days can make the sun of summer feel like a distant memory. The slower pace of social activity closely follows these seasonal cycles - and while the winding down can be a relief after the frenzy of the warmer months, once the winter doldrums set in, the void of beautiful art and social connection can lead to seasonal depression. A remedy, as I see it, is to get together as a community to creatively inspire, and find the color in the monochrome.



After seeing such success and support with Overlook Porchfest, we thought it would be wonderful to try out a winter version! The idea of the **Overlook Winter Arts Open House** takes the concept of Porchfest - residents opening up their private homes into the public realm for a day of community revelry - but do it indoors!

When you volunteer to be a host, we will connect you with musicians, live painters, theater performers, and more. Similar to Porchfest, you would be included on a map as one of the hosts and supporters of the event. We are gathering interest for the event. Currently we are thinking the timing of the event would be a weekend in January or February. We will work with people who are interested in hosting to determine the day.

If you would like to host or request for more information, please email John Carter at parks@overlookneighborhood.org

Deliver the Overlook Views!



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

Do You Live in an Apartment Building? Help Us By Hosting the Overlook Views!



Help your neighbors and your community! Be the designated newsletter receiver for your building and leave a stack in the lobby. We are always looking for new contacts to help us distribute our print newsletter to build community and keep everyone informed.

If you live in a multi-family building and can commit to receiving and distributing newsletters for your building, please write attn: Carol to Views@OverlookNeighborhood.org

Opportunities for one-time host/helpers or become a regular!

OVERLOOK NATURE PATCH WORKDAY



Overlook Park Nature Patch Workday Wednesday November 15, 10am-12pm

Meet one of your city's expert horticulture staff for a fun-filled gardening event at the Overlook Nature Patch. Pulling weeds is very satisfying; work alone or chat with neighbors. Johnny from Portland Parks tells us we'll get another 1000 plants in the coming season so get ready for a planting day, too!

Learn More: www.portland.gov/parks/volunteers#toc-volunteer-at-a-nature-patch
Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/5pskiggw79veou6H7>



Block Styrofoam was one of the popular drops at the Kenton/Arbor Lodge/Overlook Waste Event. Photo: Dusty McCord

HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE COLLECTION WAS STRANGELY SATISFYING

By Stacey Nuissl
OKNA Events Chair

The second annual Waste Collection Event with the Kenton, Arbor Lodge and Overlook neighborhood associations was a great success. Our organizing team included Ginger Edwards and Dusty McCord from Arbor Lodge, Terrance Moses from Kenton and myself.

With the help of 40 volunteers we were able to fill

- ⇒ 3 large dumpsters of household waste
- ⇒ 1 U-Haul box truck full of block Styrofoam
- ⇒ 1 dumpster full of e-waste
- ⇒ 12 55 gallon size bags of plastic bags and clamshell food containers
- ⇒ 1 truck bed + trailer full of scrap metal

Thank you to all the neighbors who cleared out their sheds, basements and garages, and to all who volunteered!

Special thanks to the following local businesses who donated food for our volunteers. Posies Cafe, Fino Bistro and Pizzeria, Double Mountain Taproom, Grand Central Bakery, El Burrito Azteca and Grindhouse Coffee.

This popular event could be an ongoing annual event. Keep saving your hard-to-recycle items for the next one!

Top Tip!

Plastic bags and clamshell containers were two of the most-collected items at the Waste Event. There's no need to hoard these items for the year!

Recycle plastic tubs and film locally at New Seasons Market:

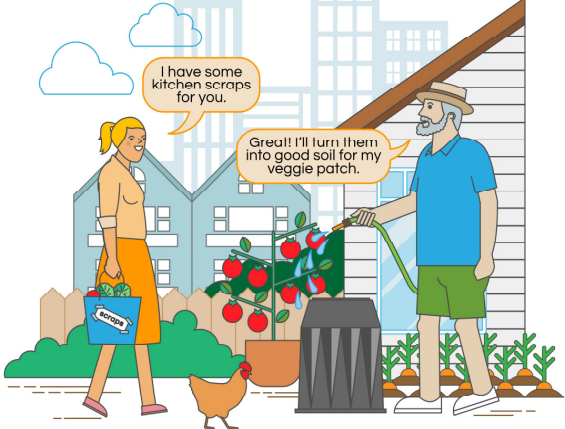
Clear #1 Clamshells, Tubs & Lids. Clear Plastic Film, Grocery bags, Produce bags, Ice bags, Ziploc bags, Dry cleaning bags, Newspaper bags, Cereal bags, Case overwraps, Plastic shipping sleeves (including Amazon envelopes), Bubble wrap. www.newseasonsmarket.com/community-table-blog/support-your-community/recycling-program

Divert organic material from the landfill while getting to know the people around you!

Do you live in an apartment unit and don't have space for a composter? Do you want to recycle your organic waste while traveling? ShareWaste will help you find a neighbor who will recycle your kitchen scraps.

A tip o' the hat to neighbor Tara Knierim for reminding us of this great, free service!

DON'T THROW IT. GROW IT!



JOIN
SHAREWASTE.COM
FOR FREE!

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS
RECYCLE YOUR ORGANIC WASTE
GROW PLANTS AND VEGGIES

sharewaste.com
facebook.com/sharewaste instagram.com/sharewaste



A drive-through dumping system made collection go smoothly at the Kenton/Arbor Lodge/Overlook Waste Event. Photo: Dusty McCord

Overlook Community Bike Rides

We have monthly coffee meetups and easy bike rides! Join us every 2nd Sunday of the month, 9:30am at Stacks Coffeehouse on N Killingsworth.

Upcoming
Transportation Coffee Meetups and Bike Rides:

November 12th, 2023
December 10th, 2023
January 14th, 2024



The October Overlook Community Bike Ride took a tour of our Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) Staging Areas—4 designated meeting spots where neighbors can gather after an earthquake or other emergency. We talked about preparing by knowing our neighbors and the value of using bikes to go between Staging Areas. We'll bring this tour back in the Spring!



A Neighborhood Emergency Team volunteer shows the post-emergency Staging Area at Patton Square Park.

ATTN LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION NERDS: THERE’S A MEETING FOR THAT

Architects, designers, landscape architects, urban planners, history buffs and community members interested in development and livability in North Portland are just some of the folks you’ll meet at the NPLUG+T meetings. That’s North Portland Land Use Group + Transportation.

Meetings are to exchange and share land use and transportation focused information. Staff from City offices such as PBOT (Portland Bureau of Transportation), BPS (Bureau of Planning & Sustainability), and BDS (Bureau of Development Services) are invited to provide updates, trainings and presentations on projects impacting North Portland. Community members are encouraged to share announcements, and ask questions.

Participants learn more about how the development process works in Portland, how density calculations are made and how they can influence Portland’s future.

The meeting generally occurs on the 4th Wednesday of the month and all community members are welcome to attend.

Join the email list for meeting notifications and Zoom links by messaging Mary Jaron Kelley, MLA at North Portland Neighborhood Services. Mary.Kelley@PortlandOregon.gov

CLIMATE ACTION + RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Have you heard of the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF)? Did you know that it releases mini-grants quarterly to organizations with goals shared by PCEF to promote climate action while advancing racial and social justice? It’s all true!



PCEF is now in its 5th year, and is built on revenue generated by the Clean Energy Surcharge, which is a voter-approved initiative that applies a 1% surcharge on large retailers with \$1 billion in national revenue and \$500,000 in revenue in Portland. PCEF is doing some exciting things at scale, including the recent announcement of the Climate Investment Plan (CIP), which will invest \$750 million toward efforts that advance climate justice and support the City of Portland’s goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. That funding is set to be released over the next 5 years.

The mini-grants we mentioned above, though, are something else entirely. Do you have even just an acorn of an idea? Are you part of a non-profit or can you have one act as your fiscal sponsor? If so, apply for a mini-grant, which issues ten \$5,000 awards to applicants each quarter. Examples of things you might apply for include buying plants for a community garden project, paying a contractor to conduct an energy audit of your building, or paying for staff or materials to organize a climate-related outreach event.

To learn more, visit <https://www.portland.gov/bps/cleanenergy/pcef-mini-grants>



Spotted in the wild!
Love shrub N Overlook Terrace
Photo: Tim Knight, Hidden Portland for the Curious



N Portland in Motion Brings New Neighborhood Greenway to N Delaware Ave

Connection to Portland Village School is Appreciated by Overlook Parents

The Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) will create the N Delaware Greenway (N Summer St to N Terry streets) to establish low-stress neighborhood streets that are great places to walk, bike, roll, and play. PBOT crews will be building new accessible curb ramps, speed bumps on higher-speed streets, marked crosswalks, linking North Portlanders to schools and parks.

- What can we expect?
- ⇒ Installing 18 speed bumps and wayfinding signage
 - ⇒ Painting sharrows
 - ⇒ Improving visibility as needed at intersections by pulling on-street parking back from corners
 - ⇒ Signage and striping improvements at intersections @ N Rosa Parks Way & N Killingsworth Street

Note about N Lombard at N Delaware Ave: The crossing of Lombard at Delaware will continue to utilize the ODOT-built pedestrian crossing in the near term. PBOT will not have enough funding to make substantial changes to the N Delaware and N Lombard intersection at this time.

Construction planned for Fall 2023



Bike safety improvements have come to N Ainsworth at N Interstate next to Ockley Green School. Cars should not stop in the green painted boxes.

HUMOR HELPS MAKE A POINT. OR SEVERAL OF THEM CITATIONS SEND NEIGHBORS SCURRYING TO SOLVE THE CODES

It started out with good intentions, and in all seriousness we’re sure. A maybe unknown person installed a sign at N Greeley & N Jessup to remind drivers that this intersection (like all intersections in Portland) is a crosswalk.

In classic Portland style, the sign declaration posting escalated, creating a community conversation captured on the Hidden Portland For The Curious group on Facebook.

The first sign states: **THIS IS A CROSSWALK ORS 801.220(1)**
The rebuttal sign went for an official green color and **THIS IS A SIGN 32.22.020 30**
The next sign went full color and includes an illustration: **THIS IS A POLE TRN-10.44**
Finally, an argument was put forth: **NO THIS IS PATRICK**



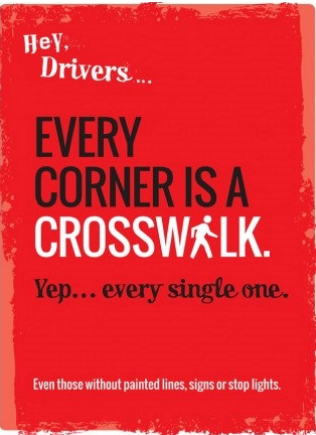
Photo: Rebecca Flaum, Hidden Portland for the Curious



Photo: Trish Lockhart, Hidden Portland for the Curious



Photo: Matt McWaite, Hidden Portland for the Curious



H/T Vivek Jeevan

Did we say ‘finally’? Thing took an unexpectedly meta turn when a sticker appeared, with a photo of the conversation and its own declaration: **THIS IS A STICKER (1 OF 2)**. No sticker (2 OF 2) has appeared (yet) and most traces of the fun are gone today.

Those codes? They’re all real! ORS 801.220 “Crosswalk.” Where no marked crosswalk exists, a crosswalk is. ... 32.22.020 “Definitions” X. Freestanding sign TRN-10.44 - Vertical Infrastructure in the Public Right of Way As for Patrick, a quick search might help.

Thanks for keeping Portland weird in the best way, neighbors!



Photo: Brian Borrello, Hidden Portland for the Curious



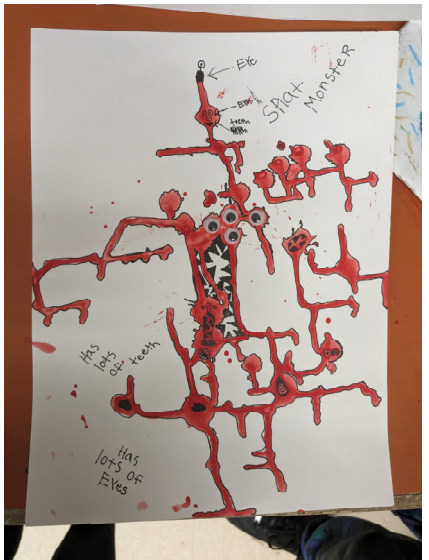
By Stacey Nuissl
OKNA Events Chair

Last month I had the pleasure of meeting with Beach Elementary School Art Teacher Carlos Baca, or Mr. B as he is affectionately known.

Mr. B has been teaching art at Beach Elementary for 6 years. He previously taught at Sitton Elementary in St Johns, but when his position there was reduced to part time, he jumped at the opportunity when the full time position opened up at Beach.

Mr. B is originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico where he attended the University of New Mexico (UNM) and earned a Bachelor's degree in Art Education. He was inspired to become an art teacher after working in a day care while attending UNM and stumbling upon an art education class. It was then that he knew that teaching art was his calling.

While following the required district standards for art, Mr B also focuses on encouraging students to be creative and to challenge themselves. In his eyes, he feels that he has accomplished his job when a fifth grader who is moving on can not only make art but also talk about it in terms of elements and principles of art. He expressed to me that everyday his students surprise him with the art that they make. "They are brilliant. They are the future leaders of our city" said Mr. B. I had the sense that the teaching was happening in both directions in the art room.



Mr. B was beaming with pride describing how it pleases him so much to run into former students in the community who are happy to see him.

One of the recent projects that his students were working on was a work of controlled chaos. Students started with a somewhat random splattering and placement of watercolor paint. Once dried, students returned to the piece and built form with black Sharpies, added googly eyes and more structured sketches and patterns in a way that the art expanded into an idea instead of starting with an idea. Using the principles that they've learned they pulled together some incredible work that started with some chaotic splattered paint.

Mr. B maintains an ongoing display of art from his students on his Instagram account @artwithmrb. Outside of the classroom, Mr. B is known as Pop Carte PDX, a mobile pop up DJ booth that he tows with his e-bike. He's become very popular at Summer outdoor events and can frequently be spotted at Pedalpalooza bike rides.

Thank you Mr. B and Beach Elementary art students for allowing me into your classroom!

Do you have 1 hour a week to bring the joy of reading to local students?



Become a SMART Reading volunteer in North Portland!

Reading opens the door to a lifetime of opportunity. By reading one-on-one with PreK to third-graders, you can help kids develop confidence, reading skills, and a love of books!

Apply today! www.SMARTReading.org | 971-634-1634

Our mission: To spark joy and opportunity through the magic of a shared book.



Neighbor Melissa Delzio alerts us that the SMART Reading program is looking for a Volunteer Site Coordinator for their Beach School location. She says "From my experience as a volunteer reader, the Site Coordinator collaborates with the school to set up a space for students to read in, organizes provided books, sets up volunteers with kids based on teacher recommendations. It would be a great opportunity for a retired teacher, or anyone with extra time who wants to make a difference in our local schools. The kids LOVE the SMART program, so it is very rewarding!"

Is this a way you can contribute to our neighborhood school? Melissa reports that if no program coordinator is found, the reading program at Beach will close.

Can You Help?

VARIED GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

By Erica Vaughn
Overlook Neighbor

When our oldest son graduated from high school during Covid, he knew that he didn't want his first exposure to college to be online. This was great for my husband and me because we didn't want to pay full tuition for him to attend college online in his bedroom! Taking "a semester or year of experiential learning, typically after high school and prior to career or post-secondary education, in order to deepen one's practical, professional, and personal awareness" is called a gap year and they are becoming more popular and structured.

We researched gap year opportunities and found our son a program in South Africa where he would volunteer coach youth rugby. As a student athlete (rugby), he was thrilled. Putting him on that plane at PDX, and waving him off to Johannesburg was not easy, but at some point, as parents we need to hand the reins over. Within a week of his arrival, we got an excited call from him telling us what an amazing time he was having, how happy he was, and how "ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE" should take a gap year.

It was at this point that I thought, "That's true, but why don't more students take gap years?" I soon discovered, through many conversations, that it wasn't that school counselors and college counselors didn't want to talk about gap years; they didn't know how to talk about gap years. Hence, the birth of The Intentional Gap, my organization with a mission to share the world of gap years with students, and make sure that even if it wasn't a path they took, it was something they knew was a possibility.

I was absolutely gobsmacked to discover the wealth of knowledge, experience, and support for gap years in

Portland... especially North Portland... especially OVERLOOK! Carpe Diem Education was started in North Portland in 2007. It is still headquartered on North Killingsworth just west of Interstate Avenue, a site that now also houses its foundation arm, Carpe Mundi which funds gap year experiences and mentorship to first-generation college students in the Portland area. Pacific Discovery, founded in 2001, moved their headquarters to New Zealand from Portland in 2005, but both organizations have robust offerings of curated, supported gap year programs throughout the world. Tivnu, a Portland-based gap year program that focuses on addressing social justice issues, was founded in 2012.

Through the tireless efforts of Carpe Diem's founder, Ethan Knight (a Kenton resident), we now have the Gap Year Association, and an incredible partnership between Portland State and many gap year programs.

In the United States; approximately 4% of students graduating from high school in 2022 took a gap year.

For families and students considering gap years, I would encourage starting first with the Gap Year Association's website: gapyearassociation.org. I suggest attending the Gap Year Fair (free of charge) on Tuesday, February 13, 2023 at Cleveland High School in Portland. (<https://www.gooverseas.com/gap-year/usa-fairs>), and even having a conversation with a gap year consultant. But more than anything else, I would encourage families and students to explore, ponder, and dream about the possibility of a gap year. It can be the most-exciting



This photo shows my son on his gap year in South Africa.

Common Misunderstandings

Myth: Taking a gap year interrupts the momentum, and students are less-likely to go to college after taking a gap year.

Fact: According to a 2020 study by the Gap Year Association, 84% of gap year participants reported an increase in academic motivation after their gap year. And a study by Middlebury College showed that students opting to take a gap year significantly outperform their peers in college with positive effects lasting throughout their four years at school.

Myth: Gap years are expensive, and only for affluent families.

Fact: 33% of gap year participants report spending less than \$5000 on their gap year; many gap year programs offer scholarships, and there are even gap year opportunities that are 100% FREE! In some cases, families who have contributed to college savings plans can use that money to fund a gap year, and some gap year programs offer college credit.

Myth: I'll be "behind" if I take a gap year.

Fact: What does "behind" even mean? We need to embrace the fact that folks are on different paths, especially students graduating from high school. In the same 2020 study, students who took a gap year reported an increased ability to interact with people from backgrounds and cultures different from their own, increased maturity, and improved self-confidence. How can those skills possibly leave you "behind?"



Live Safe

Resources to Make Your Home & Neighborhood Safer



OVERLOOK ON THE GROW

NEW WAYS TO CONNECT TO PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCES IN PORTLAND

311: THE ONE STOP REPORTING SITE

Getting Help From the City is Easier Than Ever

PDX 311 improves access to local government within Multnomah County by providing a single point of contact – in person, online or over the phone to find information, report issues, or request services. You no longer need to be an expert to know who to call for help!

Start with 311:

Email 311@portlandoregon.gov

Phone at 3-1-1 within Multnomah County or (503) 823-4000

In-person at the Portland Building's Customer Service Desk at 1120 Southwest Fifth Avenue.

PDX 311 staff can be reached Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., excluding federal holidays, by phone or email.

Staff are fluent in English, Spanish, Romanian, and Tagalog and have resources to assist community members in additional languages.

311 is here to help with any question or service (except emergencies - call 911!) for local government within Multnomah County:

- **Questions** about anything from how to get involved in your neighborhood to when leaf pickup is happening
- **Requests** about anything from planning a summer block party to getting ADA access to a government service
- **Reports** about anything from potholes to broken street light.

If the operator doesn't know the answer, they'll connect you to someone who does.

Reasons to call 311

- Reporting camping and abandoned automobiles, graffiti, trash, and other concerns or issues.
- Finding general information about the City, including the hours, location, and amenities of parks and facilities; contact information for elected officials, government programs and staff; City Council agendas, and parking rules.
- Finding property or neighborhood information, such as utility providers; leaf, garbage, recycling, and compost pick-up schedules; online zoning and permit information; Neighborhood Association and Coalition contacts; and land use notices.
- Finding City employment and contract opportunities.
- Making an ADA or language access request or complaint.
- Reporting neighborhood livability concerns, including noise, traffic safety issues, right of way obstructions, code violations, and construction site nuisances.

Operating on the weekends means community members can call 3-1-1 rather than the Public Safety Non-Emergency for non-emergency needs, helping 911 call-takers focus on emergency needs.

P S A C The North/NE Portland Public Safety Action Committee

MISSION: To maintain partnerships between the Portland Police Bureau and resident and business communities in North Portland to identify the current issues impacting neighborhood public safety and to support the development and implementation of strategies to manage these livability concerns.

Online/virtual meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:00pm - 8:30pm.

Join the email list for monthly notices and meeting minutes: <https://landing.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/a7i4w7>

When You Need Help & Answers WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

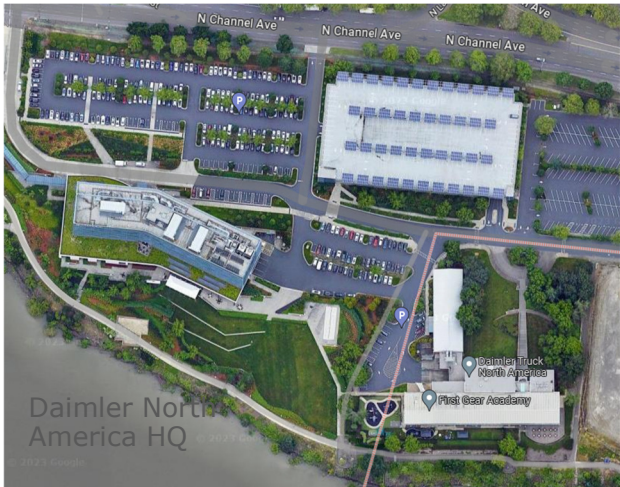
CALL 311 If you need to **ASK** about things happening in your neighborhood, parking, parks, permits and waste collection or

REPORT graffiti, abandoned vehicles, trash, campsites, hazards in parks or streets or

REQUEST street improvements, online police reports & more.

CALL 911 For Fire, Ambulance, Police Emergency and Portland Street Response, Crimes in Progress.

CALL 211 to get help accessing food, employment, housing or childcare.



By Josh Cabot
OKNA Land Use Chair

Development news has been relatively thin in Overlook over the past few months but construction continues apace at the Kōz apartments at N Killingsworth & Interstate, as well as the the Dr. Darrell Millner Building (fka 5020 N. Interstate), between N Alberta and N Webster. And if you have traveled along I-5, lately, you have probably noticed the looming 8 story 72-unit Minnesota Places apartment going up at 1220 N Jessup, which is being constructed with a not-often-used light gauge metal framing system, in lieu of light wood framing. This metal system is likely being used to meet noncombustibility requirements since only 5 stories of light wood framing is allowed by code (hence why you often see wood framing perched on a ground floor concrete podium to achieve the extra stories).

The Palms Motel apartment development has submitted its application for a building permit, and its application package is working its way through each of the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) reviews. Issuance of a building permit could occur there before the end of the year. The development team reported 10/24/23 "construction timing is unknown at this time."

And finally, on Overlook's Swan Island, Daimler Truck North America has received approval from BDS to modify its protected tree canopy along the Willamette Greenway for development of a new 103,912sf shop, warehouse, and office building on its campus. In 2015, Daimler elected to preserve 46% of its tree canopy on the 34-acre site, more than meeting the 35% required to be preserved by zoning requirements. Some of those trees are now making development difficult, so Daimler has proposed removing some trees previously selected for preservation while offering to preserve even more trees than originally proposed in the 2015 land use decision. In total, Daimler is proposing the removal of 13,797sf of tree canopy, while adding 20,024sf to the preserved tree canopy. Urban Forestry has approved and will be monitoring tree health during construction.

If you're interested in learning more about Land Use in Overlook, or if you'd like to get more involved, please reach out to Josh via landuse@overlookneighborhood.org.

NEW OVERLOOK FIREWISE COMMUNITY

Continued from Page 1

A minimal amount of volunteer time is required per year to maintain Firewise status, based on the number of initial households participating in the program. The annual requirements are satisfied by attending committee meetings, Firewise outreach events and fuel mitigation events.

There are 7 Firewise communities in Portland as of now. They include: Linnton, Forest Park Neighborhood (North & South), Thurman Bridge (Willamette Heights), Forest Heights, Collins View and Arlington Heights. There are currently no Firewise Communities on the east side of Portland, Overlook would be the first.



*Wild vegetation mixed with dumped yard debris overlooking the train yards along the Willamette Bluff creates a fire fuel load.
Photo: Deborah Kalapsa*

face home assessments to encourage residents to learn about ways to reduce the risk on their own properties by hardening their homes, establishing defensible space, and creating a more resilient community. Working towards becoming a Firewise Community is a way for everyone to learn not only how to protect themselves and their loved ones, but to protect the natural areas and forests as well.

If you want more information about the Firewise Program or are interested in joining the Overlook Firewise Community, please contact: overlookfirewise@gmail.com.



Overlook Neighborhood Emergency Team

Join the Overlook NET Team email list for training and meeting dates and disaster preparation information.
Overlook NET: www.facebook.com/OverlookNET

OverlookPrepares@gmail.com

HOW CLOSE ARE YOU TO THE BLAST ZONE?

By Ben Platt
350PDX

Throughout our city, thousands of Portlanders live within a mile of dangerous trains carrying highly pressurized oil past our homes, including much of the Overlook neighborhood. Trains such as these can derail and explode, causing dangerous repercussions to our local communities, our health and safety, and our environment, which is why the land within a mile of these tracks is a designated “blastzone,” a federal evacuation zone in the event of a disaster.



From Lac-Mégantic, Quebec in 2013, Mosier, Oregon in 2016, and most recently in East Palestine, Ohio in February 2023 (a non-oil but still dangerous train explosion) — derailments unfortunately have and will continue to occur because transporting explosive, chemical-laden fossil fuels at high speeds is inherently dangerous. Many living near these rail lines are not aware of the potential danger, and should a derailment or collision happen, few local governments even have the equipment or trained personnel to deal with an accident involving large amounts of such volatile materials.

Here in Portland, there’s one main company responsible for these oil trains: Zenith Energy, a Houston-based oil company that operates a terminal in NW Portland in the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI)Hub. In 2013 they transformed the hub from an asphalt facility into a fossil fuel transloading facility capable of holding over 1.5 million barrels of oil. In 2017, Zenith quietly started receiving tar sands and crude oil on mile-long trains from Canada and North Dakota. Most, if not all, of the product Zenith handles is destined for overseas markets—it’s not even used here in Oregon.

For years, community members across the city have been opposing Zenith Energy, including 46 neighborhood associations, Multnomah County, 20 state legislators, 17 environmental and community organizations, and thousands of concerned Portland residents. The Overlook Neighborhood Association has added its endorsement to this effort. In 2021, City Council finally listened to the people of Portland and denied a key land use permit for Zenith Energy, the Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS). But in October of 2022, the City turned its back on our communities and quietly approved Zenith’s third request for the permit, paving the way for Zenith to continue transporting crude oil for 5 more years before supposedly transitioning to “renewable” fuels.

Now, people are outraged and calling on the City to rescind the permit, hold a public hearing, and meet with environmental and community leaders about this issue so we can prevent 5 more years of dangerous and explosive trains in our community.

If you live in the blast zone, your voice in this fight really matters. To see whether your home is within the blast zone and to join the movement against Zenith, head to 350PDX.org/stopzenith. If you’re interested in learning more, would like a yard sign delivered to your house, or would like additional resources, reach out to stopzenith@350pdx.org.

If You Overlooked Buying Portland Property in 1907
Start the New Year Right and Buy

OVERLOOK

— IN 1908 —

Improvements
Graded, curbed and graveled streets.
Cement walks and curbs.
Bull Run water piped to every lot.
Sewers laid to every lot.
Gas, electric light and telephone.

Car Service
By Russell and Shaver and Mississippi ave. car lines.

Full view of river, five snow-capped mountains, and nearly the entire city.

Restrictions
No building can be erected for less than \$2000, first cost.
No building closer than 30 feet to street line.
One building on each lot.
No building for any other use than residence purposes.

In January, 1907, we platted “Overlook” and have sold during the past year 127 lots in this addition. \$42,500 has been spent for cement walks and curbs, sewer, water mains, gas, grading and graveling streets; \$75,000 has been and is being spent in buildings and we now claim to have the best restricted residence property for sale at reasonable prices in Portland. You owe it to yourself, to your family, to see Overlook before selecting a place for your home

Title Perfect—Abstract With Each Lot

A. F. SWENSSON & CO.

Phones, Main 3055, A 3055. 253½ Washington Street

Overlook
Neighborhood News

Scan to Join Our List

What’s Happening? Stay Informed, Overlook



There are many ways to stay informed and not miss a beat of what’s happening in and around Overlook.

Read The Overlook Views: The Views is one of the last print newsletters in the city; it is delivered door to door by neighbor volunteers, ensuring information equity in Overlook.

Visit Our Website: overlookneighborhood.org
At our website you will find an array of information about Overlook, events, meetings and links to our e-bulletins and digital copies of The Overlook Views.

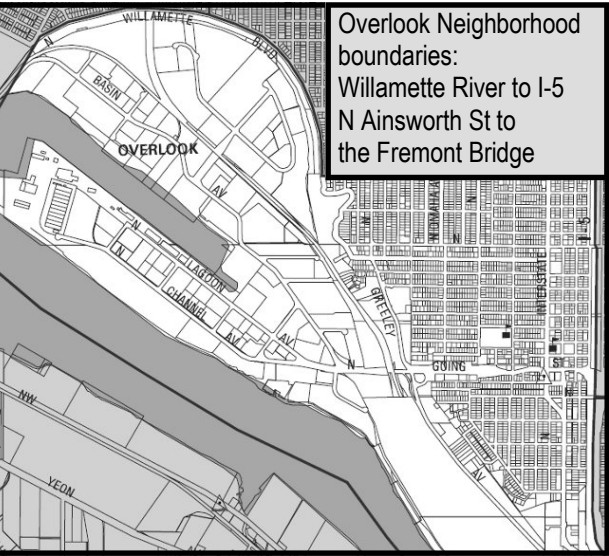
Subscribe to the weekly e-bulletin: Our weekly e-bulletin includes information for things such as neighborhood events, fundraisers, local government meetings and announcements. To sign up, go to our website overlookneighborhood.org and click on the “Sign Up For Updates” tab.

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram
[@oknainpdx](https://www.facebook.com/oknainpdx)

In addition to general information, our Facebook and Instagram accounts have some fun photos and timely neighborhood announcements and also serve as a means to share info from our other North Portland neighborhoods’ social media accounts.

Climb our link tree: <https://linktr.ee/oknapdx>
Our link tree is a repository of links that send you in the right direction quickly and efficiently rather than digging through layers of content.

Attend Our Monthly Meetings: We meet on the second Monday of the month (except for August and December) at 6:30 pm. The Board meets at 7:30 pm; these meetings are open to the public at the Beach Elementary School Auditorium, 1710 N Humboldt St.



Stay Connected!

To receive **The Weekly OKNA Email** for more time-sensitive items, visit www.OverlookNeighborhood.org & click the Sign Up For Updates tab. To include an item in the bulletin, submit your short news item to info@OverlookNeighborhood.org with ‘Post to List’ in the subject line. All submissions subject to review and edit.

Can’t wait? “Like” us on **Facebook & Instagram:** [@OKNAinPDX](https://www.facebook.com/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

Chair@OverlookNeighborhood.org reaches the Board Chair, or you may leave a message at North Portland Neighborhood Services: 503-823-4524

Newsletter: Michelle Thompson
views@OverlookNeighborhood.org

2023-2024 OKNA Board Members:
George Spaulding, Jen Lee, John Carter, Josh Cabot, Katrina Wilson, Michelle Thompson, Nic Cota, Stacey Nuissl

OVERLOOK VIEWS is published 4 times per year by the Overlook Neighborhood Association (OKNA). This paper is 40% post-consumer waste content; please recycle!

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES = OPPORTUNITIES

Continued from Page 1 fascinating history: visit www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/38585 to learn more.

As a City, we are in a time of transition, as the City’s governance transforms into a broader City Council structure with more of a ceremonial Mayor and hired City Administrator. We are also in a post-pandemic period of recovery, where the scars of the past 3+ years are evident across the City. There has been a LOT of discontent across the City due to the rise in homelessness and deadly drug use, the challenges to housing affordability, and an overall perception that public safety is less secure than ever. As neighbors, we’ve seen this alongside you. As a neighborhood association, we have been challenged to gain the attention of the City. Years of past leadership within the City and within neighborhood associations has seemingly eroded the lines of communication that once thrived decades ago. With continued transition within the Office of Civic & Community Life, and the overall change in City governance structure, it is a challenging time, but we are committed to keeping lines of communication open.

While this is not great, all is not lost. We’re excited to have the opportunity to have elected officials more directly connected to our portion of the City. On January 1, 2025, the City will swear in 12 new city council members, and we will have 3 that will be residents of District 2, which encompasses North and part of Northeast Portland. This offers a chance to better bridge concerns of neighbors more directly with City leadership. The way this system gets structured is literally being decided right now, so jump in and get involved if you have the time and interest! <https://www.portland.gov/transition>

In the meantime, we will continue to address your concerns and point you to resources. We will also continue to hold events, like our annual Spring Clean-Up, the Neighborhood-wide Yard Sale & Free Share, and the super popular Porchfest music festival. We will also look for other chances to connect as neighbors, whether it’s with Movie in the Park, finding opportunities to join in planting parties, or supporting the neighborhood’s Friends of Overlook House.

Our ability to positively impact the neighborhood and influence activities happening more broadly across the city is directly proportional to the scale of our volunteer base. This past month, we had 8 volunteers step up to fill 12 board positions, so we could definitely benefit from more support. Of course, we know so many of you are busy...with work, with families, and with other important volunteer efforts. In the coming months, we will be putting out a form to help collect interest for small one-off volunteer opportunities - we’re hoping that in lieu of longterm commitments like sitting on the Board, or helping to organize events, we can receive some interest from neighbors to volunteer on the scale of hours. Every little bit helps, and together, any and all actions we take for Overlook will continue to build the richness of this unique place in Portland. Stay tuned!

So it’s time to look forward and start to think about what’s possible in 2024. If there is something on your mind - whether it’s an idea, a suggestion...or a gripe, please let us know at info@overlookneighborhood.org. Thanks!