



CONCORDIA NEWS

A free publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association

January 2010



Be a part of what's happening
in the neighborhood.

Meetings held in the
Community Room
at McMenamins
Kennedy School

General Membership

January 5 at Concordia University
1st Tuesday of each month at 7 P.M.

Land Use & Livability Meeting

January 7
1st Thursday of each month at 7 P.M.

Board Meeting

January 12
2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 P.M.

Green Team

January 26
4th Tuesday of each month at 7 P.M.

Media Committee

January 13 at New Seasons
2nd Wednesday of each month
at 6:30 P.M.

CNA January 5th General Meeting at the Kennedy School to Concentrate on Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Safety Concerns

By Robin Johnson, CNA Board Member (E2)

Celeste Carey, Crime Prevention Coordinator from the Crime Prevention Program of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement; Melanie Paine, Training and Development Officer with the Bureau of Emergency Communications; and Officer Wayne Scholl with the Portland Police Bureau's North Precinct will present information and answer your questions about crime prevention and neighborhood safety concerns at the January 5 CNA general meeting at the Kennedy School at 7 p.m.

Celeste Carey will discuss the importance of neighborhood watch groups and crime trends in the neighborhood. Melanie Payne will talk about the when and how's of using the 911 emergency services number. Officer Wayne Scholl will be available for questions and will provide the group information about his observations of what has been happening in the neighborhood

over the past several months.

Safe neighborhoods are critical to maintain healthy and vibrant communities. ONI's Crime Prevention Program is an important tool for neighborhood groups that want to foster public safety goals. Their mission is to "organize and support community partnerships to prevent crime and the fear of crime." According to their web site, the services offered "are designed to reduce crime, increase livability, and get neighbors involved in community policing efforts." The services provided to the community by the City of Portland Crime Prevention Program Coordinators (CPPCs) fall into three main areas that include: problem-solving, community organizing, and education.

Another extremely valuable resource provided to City of Portland residents are the series of reports available through www.portlandonline.com.

These three data sources make it possible for anyone with online access to do analysis of crime activity by neighborhood. These sources include:

1. CrimeStats (Neighborhood Crime Statistics): These reports can sort and compare crime data by neighborhood and crime for specific time periods. A brief look at these statistics for the period October 2008 to October 2009 revealed that, in the Concordia neighborhood, for Part 1 Crimes, theft from a vehicle accounted for 37% of crime activity for this period.

2. CrimeMapper: This report will map crimes reported to the Portland Police Bureau. It contains a full year of data and is updated regularly. Users can search by street address or intersection and can select from 28 crime categories and more.

3. CrimeReports: This is a separate service, which is not a part of the City of Portland Police Bureau and is available by searching for 'Portland' on CrimeReports.com. This service allows you to view 911 calls in Portland on a map. The map is updated daily to show the block location of calls that came into the 911 dispatch center for the Portland Police Bureau.

Please take time to join us at this important neighborhood event at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Kennedy School on January 5 to answer neighborhood concerns about public safety and crime prevention.

Vernon School

By Jennifer Kerns

About two years ago, when I was thinking about enrolling my daughter in Kindergarten, I began asking neighbors about Vernon, which is our neighborhood school. We had all really enjoyed living in this neighborhood with all of its parks, shops and young children running around, and we wanted to continue to foster the community spirit that we had been experiencing. After a few casual conversations, we decided to form a very informal group of "future families of Vernon" and reached out to Vernon's PTA, staff and administration. They responded with great enthusiasm to our requests for information. We met for a few gatherings at the Kennedy School and Milagros, and they shared with us what was happening at Vernon.

We learned about the exciting things that have been happening at our one hundred year-old neighborhood school. Most of us at those meetings and many more members of the Concordia, Vernon and Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhoods have enrolled their children at Vernon and are having a really great experience.

One of the great things that we have seen at Vernon is its committed faculty, staff and administration. We have a newer principal, Mrs. Tina Acker, who is very dedicated to creating an environment in which children meet and exceed the state's educational standards. To further that goal, the school is very excited about becoming certified as an International Baccalaureate K-8 school. The certification process is



underway and the faculty and staff are working diligently to integrate IB principles in to the classroom and earn IB certification. The IB program is one that emphasizes helping children develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. One of the key goals that the IB program emphasizes is to stimulate curiosity and inquiry in order to

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concordiapdx.org

Chair's Corner

By Belinda Clark, Vice Chair

With the New Year approaching, it's time to reflect on events of last year and look forward. Our holiday party was a well-attended success, and thank you to those who donated their time to put it together and entertain us.

It's been an eventful year, with job losses and economic hardships for many people. I'm on several email lists, and over the past few months we have had several businesses burglarized on Alberta Street. In addition, car prowls and theft have recently occurred on NE 30th Avenue. In our next general meeting (January 5) we will discuss how to respond to these public safety issues. We will have several speakers from crime prevention, Portland police, and 911, who will answer questions and provide information on recent events in our neighborhood. We hope to see you there!

Our hope with our general meeting topics is that we provide information and resources for our neighborhood. If you have a topic or suggestion you'd like to see us present, please let me or any of our board members know.

We on the board hope you all have a happy holiday season, and look forward to a more prosperous new year!

Board Members

Concordia Neighborhood Association Board Members and Elected Officials

Chair	Anne Rothert	493-1938	arothert@gmail.com
Co-Chair	Belinda Clark	680-2075	clarkbbc@yahoo.com
(E1)	Bob Pallesen	432-8355	bob@section314.com
(E2)	Robin Johnson	477-6807	rbettyj@aol.com
(SW1)	Kelly Welch	481-1920	fydx3@yahoo.com
(SW2)	Jennifer Warberg	971-506-9958	jwarberg@comcast.net
(NW1)	Isham "Ike" Harris	282-1543	ishamharris@msn.com
(NW2)	Gretchen Volker		
At Large Board Members	Robert Bowles	490-5153	rbowles01@yahoo.com
	Ken Forcier	522-7660	ken@gracewooddesign.com
	Kunal Mehra	310-2892	prst.rim@gmail.com
	Bob Sasser	288-2880	bob_esmesasser@q.com
	Matt Steadman	806-5010	mrsteadman@gmail.com
	Joel Schultheisz	282-4640	jschultheisz@cu-portland.edu
	Katie Ugolini	449-9690	kugolini@earthlink.net
	Michael John Westerman		michaeljohnwesterman@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Joel/Mary Schultheisz	282-4640	mschultheisz@cu-portland.edu jschultheisz@cu-portland.edu
Crime Prevention Specialist	Celeste Carey	823-4764	celeste.carey@ci.portland.or.us
NE Precinct Neighborhood Response Officer	Brian Sims	823-5833	bsims@portlandpolice.org
Land Use Chair	George Bruender	287-4787	gbruender@comcast.net
Land Use Co-Chair	Julia Baumann Sarver		Julia2403@yahoo.com
Transportation Chair	VACANT		
Economic Development Chair	Matt Steadman	806-5010	mrsteadman@gmail.com
CNA Treasurer	Matt Steadman	806-5010	mrsteadman@gmail.com
CNA Bookkeeper	Jeanette Eggert	331-1884	jeggert@cu-portland.edu
Social Community/Committee Chair	Katie Ugolini	449-9690	kugolini@earthlink.net
Wellness Committee Chair	Jason Lindekugel, DC		pdxchiroguy@hotmail.com
Media Chair	Rebecca Wetherby	975-3198	rebecca@happypredicament.com
Concordia News Manager Co-Editors	Jessica Dunham		
	Kunal Mehra		
	Rebecca Wetherby	975-3198	rebecca@happypredicament.com
Concordia News Business Manager	Matt Redhead	341-0130	cnabusinessmanager@gmail.com
Webmaster	Bob Pallesen		bob@section314.com
Community Room Scheduler	Anne Rothert	493-1938	arothert@gmail.com
Neighborhood Clean Up	VACANT		
Yard Sale	Donna Carrier (Paul)	288-9826	dmc@teleport.com
Tree Team	Dove Hotz		missdove@alumni.reed.edu
Chair, Concordia Foot Patrol	VACANT		
Green Team Chair	VACANT		

CONCORDIA NEWS

Concordia News is a free monthly publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA). 5,693 newspapers are mailed to its members and surrounding neighbors. 1,000 are delivered to community locations.

The deadline for articles and advertisements is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue.

Please send advertising inquiries and artwork to:
cnabusinessmanager@gmail.com

Submit articles, letters to the editor and calendar events to:
concordianews@yahoo.com

Please note, Concordia News may reject or edit for form and length any material, including letters to the editor, submitted for publication.

If you would like to participate in the Concordia News, please contact:
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or
**PO Box 11194
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MISSION STATEMENT

To connect Concordia residents and businesses — inform, educate, and report on activities, issues, and opportunities of the neighborhood.

Managing Editors

Jessica Dunham
Kunal Mehra
Rebecca Wetherby

Copy Editor

Joe Clinkenbeard

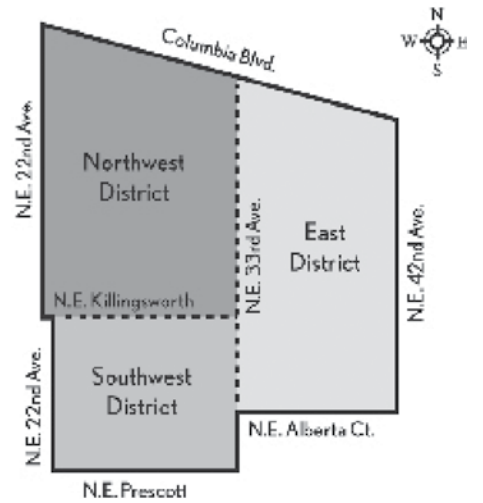
Layout Editor

Rene Choy

Journalists

George Bruender
Rebecca Wetherby, Calendar

The Concordia News is printed on 40% post-consumer or better paper, manufactured at a local mill.



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Concordia LUBA Case

By Ken Forcier, CNA Land Use Committee
Chief Petitioner – LUBA Case 2009-105

Too-tall houses are springing up in Concordia, courtesy of a Lake Oswego developer, Andre Koshuba, who has recently targeted our area for “skinny house” development. We asked him to speak in front of the CNA land use committee before he began his first project at a house on NE 32nd Ave. He showed up with a picture of the house he would build but without plans to review as requested. At the time, we took him at his word that the house would not exceed the Title 33 code height limit of 22.5 feet. Upon completion and at my prompting, the Bureau of Development Services measured and found the home to exceed the height limit. BDS personnel conducted three failed height measurements before suggesting that a raised planter be built in front of the house. Jeff Eldridge, a senior inspector, blessed the measurement from the top of that planter and issued the home its final permit. This summary judgment by BDS circumvented the code requirement that the builder ask the neighbors for an “adjustment” to allow for the excess height.

The CNA board voted to pursue a remedy against this “approved” code violation. We challenged BDS’s decision to not require an “adjustment” by appealing the decision to LUBA (Land Use Board of Appeals at state level). The purpose of the challenge is to reign in questionable decisions by staff at the Bureau of Development Services such that they once again abide by code guidelines which protect the public from development that exceeds Title 33 standards. This was done to prevent a precedent

for continued breaches and further excess. The case is pending and will go before LUBA early next year.

Despite the pending LUBA case, Andre purchased another lot at 6036 NE 30th Ave., two blocks away, and has begun to construct the same too-tall structure, again with BDS’ approval. It will likely be completed and sold before the LUBA case is heard. The Bureau once again refuses to acknowledge that they have permitted construction of a building that is taller than code permits. Pending the outcome of the LUBA case they feel that they can rubber stamp another of these homes despite the fact that the plans show a house that is 24.5 feet tall when measured from the level of the first floor. Perhaps, if need be, they will again build a two foot tall planter in front and measure from that?

This series of events leads the CNA to consider another LUBA case challenging the second home. These cases require thousands of dollars from our neighborhood budget and probably as much as ten thousand dollars from the city coffers. This is on the heels of BDS having just laid off much of their staff due to budget cuts. We should expect better management and oversight of our city bureaus. Rather than applying the protections of the code as intended, Randy Leonard’s Bureau of Development Services is squandering tax dollars, potentially leading to lost jobs and promoting sub-standard development in neighborhoods throughout the city.

For more detailed information, see LUBA Appeal 2009-105.

Vernon School... continued from page 1

foster a spirit of discovery and enjoyment of learning. It strives to equip students with the skills to learn and acquire knowledge individually and collaboratively.

Another thing that we are very excited about is an active PTA. The PTA is working to do a variety of things, one of which is sponsoring events that bring the school and community together. For example, last year they planned and executed a very successful “Multicultural Night.” This event brought Vernon’s families together at the school where they had a great time learning about the cultures, cuisine, and arts of different parts of the world, and saw some wonderful performances. Another popular event has been Recess Night. Families come to play games, have dinner, socialize and just have fun on the playground.

The PTA is also working on fundraising and creating partnerships with members of the community to help provide Vernon with opportunities that will enhance the students’ educational experiences. As we all know, the state budget cuts have been dramatic and there is very little money for the many things we still want to do for our kids. For example, as opposed to some of the other schools in the PPS district, Vernon does not have an outdoor shelter or any other structural facilities that would enable students to exercise regularly outside when it is raining. We are also interested in utilizing the outdoors for learning opportunities that will specifically develop environmental literacy, a key goal that we have for the

students. Thus, the PTA is working very hard to secure grants and work with members of the community to help “beautify” the school grounds, build an outdoor shelter and an outdoor classroom and, in general, to enhance the educational and physical possibilities that our outdoor space could provide our kids.

One of our upcoming fundraising activities is recycling Christmas trees on January 2. So for those members of the Concordia and Vernon neighborhoods, please bring your Christmas trees to Vernon, and for a small donation, we will recycle your tree. If you are unable to bring the tree to the school, for \$10 we will pick up your tree for you.

And of course, we are always looking for members of the community— young and old—to invest in their neighborhood school. Anyone can become a member of the PTA, even if they do not have children enrolled at the school. Also, if you are interested in volunteering for our reading program, helping with our new community garden, or donating your time, resources and expertise to help us transform the outdoor space into one which will help Vernon shine even more than it does, we welcome you with open arms. This is our neighborhood, our school, and we want to do everything we can to continue to make Vernon a great school. You can call the school’s office anytime for more information or to contact the staff or PTA at: (503) 916-6415. Or, come by for a visit at 2044 NE Killingsworth St.

Measures 66 and 67

Opinion of Anne Rothert

Oregon voters will soon be receiving ballots in their mail. You may have seen signs and commercials regarding measures 66 and 67. These bills are in response to HB2649 (measure 66) and HB3405 (measure 67) that were passed during a recent legislative session. What will they do? Measure 66 will raise taxes on individuals making over \$125,000 per year and households making over \$250,000 per year. That is estimated to affect less than 2% of Oregon taxpayers. It will also reduce the tax on unemployment benefits received in 2009. Measure 67 will raise the minimum corporate tax from \$10 to \$150 and filing fees will be increased. If these two measures do not pass, we will be looking at a shortfall of \$733-773 million in state funds. In addition to the loss of Oregon funds, we will be ineligible for many federal matching dollars.

Ironically, I was on my way to Salem for a One Voice for Child Care Coalition meeting to discuss these very measures when I spotted my first roadside sign about stop job killing taxes. “What the heck?!” I said out loud to myself. Not too long later, I received a lovely letter from Carol Marie Leuthold of Leuthold Dairy Farm. Her letter seemed a personal plea, stating it was difficult to keep her business afloat. I was puzzled: how in the world she could afford

to send a mass mailing? I know what it costs to get the Concordia News out to just our area. Of course, at the bottom of the letter in small print was the answer. Maybe you received the same letter. In the December 6th edition of the Oregonian, David Sarasohn addressed the points in the letter and who is behind the financing.

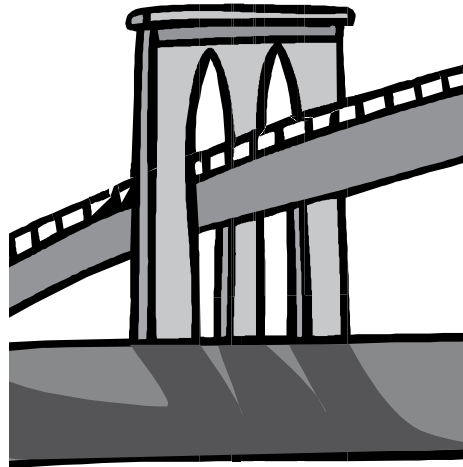
There is much to be said/argued about the truth of the opposition’s claims about the effects of these two ballot measures. But I urge you to look closely at who will be hurt if they are not passed. Legislators will be faced with making deep cuts to education, healthcare and public safety. Some of the projected cuts include 15,000 seniors with disabilities losing Oregon Health Plan coverage; 3,000 families with two unemployed parents losing monthly payments; a reduction in aid to public schools and universities, resulting in cuts to faculty and staff; possibly closing three prisons and layoffs of state troopers and court workers.

In this great internet age you can simply enter “Measures 66 67” into your search engine and you’ll be led to many sites. Do your research. I urge you to VOTE YES ON 66 & 67. But, most importantly, do VOTE.

The Columbia River Crossing (CRC) The Mega-Bridge and some of its possible effects on Concordia and Northeast Portland

By George Bruender

Everyone admits that the traffic on the I-5 freeway, the West Coast's major north-south route, too frequently jams up for hours as cars and trucks try to get back and forth between Portland and Vancouver. The solution promoted by the various government agencies is a mega-bridge of 10-12 lanes, costing billions, and some say already costing \$85 million just in planning. But it's not a done deal. A lot of local government offices and other agencies have to sign off and funds have to be allocated before construction can start. And cracks are starting to appear in the formerly wide support for the project.



NECN (Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, which represents 12 neighborhoods surrounding Concordia), but unfortunately, CNA had little representation, perhaps because the new bridge is outside of our immediate neighborhood.

As co-chair of both Concordia NA's Land Use Committee and NECN's Land Use and Transportation Committee, I would like to make the case for Concordia residents to be concerned. Something has to be done about traffic congestion, but I believe that this public works project, the most expensive one this area has ever faced, needs much more careful scrutiny before it goes ahead.

A December 4 public meeting arranged by the Port of Portland to discuss tweaks to lower the costs of the project led to a packed session with many citizens objecting to both the changes and the whole project. In late November about 75 people from the northeast neighborhoods around the freeway and others who realized that the spill-over from the both the bridge and its construction would potentially affect their neighborhoods met at Redeemer Lutheran Church. The session was sponsored by the

What's the potential effect(s) on Concordia?

1. We lie between the two freeway bridges. What impacts one affects the other. A traffic jam on one sends traffic going through our neighborhood on major streets like Columbia, Lombard, Ainsworth, Killingsworth, Alberta, Prescott, 42nd, and 33rd to the other one. With 35,000 cars daily using Killingsworth, as one example, what will happen when construction closes down I-5? There have been no studies on this. All studies are restricted to 500 feet maximum on either side of I-5.

2. Increased traffic automatically results in increased pollution. The only pollutant studied has been carbon monoxide, which dissipates rapidly in the open air and poses no danger. Other pollutants are not evaluated. The EPA says, for example, that particulate matter (that black stuff you see on your car or decks) is unsafe for human health above 1 part per million, yet independent measurements (by PSU and others) in Concordia along Columbia Blvd and Lombard already read at 789 parts per million. And there are no federal standards for diesel emissions; a point to consider given the 10-15,000 trucks that now use I-5 daily.

3. Noise levels do not need to be measured under current federal law.

4. The proposed bridge will have 2 to 3 times the number of on-off

ramps (in the 5 mile-long space) than federal regulations. Once again, traffic impacts could move back into our neighborhoods.

Currently, we don't have any factual idea as to how we'll be affected by this project. At one point the public was asked to weigh in on a variety of solutions and over 17,000 people replied. But the leaders of the project had already decided which option they would go with. The other options had been dismissed without studies being done; the study money went only to a 12 lane bridge (with bike and light rail included). Now the suggestion is a 10 lane bridge (basically the same width with the lines just repainted) sitting on the ground on Hayden Island instead of going above it.

Nothing is being built yet, so this may be the time to ask for a serious reconsideration of all the alternatives. It's a lot of money to be spent on a bridge that the experts' own estimates say will ease traffic for at most 15 years.

If you would like to get your voice heard on the issue, a good start would be to contact The Coalition for a Livable Future (info@clfuture.org or www.clfuture.org; (503) 294-2889). And if you'd like to get a Concordia group together on the issue, come to our Land Use/Livability/Transportation committee meeting the first Thursday of the month, January 7, at 7 p.m. in our community meeting room at the Kennedy School.

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Shared Housing

By MariRuth Petzing

If you are struggling in these difficult financial times you are not alone. In the Portland area, nearly one in fifty households is facing foreclosure. The Concordia neighborhood has been hit especially hard. Concordia ranks fifth out of Portland's 95 neighborhoods in calls regarding foreclosure prevention. While you might not be able to solve the global financial crisis, there are things you can do to improve your financial situation and protect your home.

Renting out a spare room in your home is a great way to turn your extra space into income. Finding a good renter can be difficult – don't do it alone! The Shared Housing program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon matches people looking for housing with those who have a room for rent in their homes. Unlike online postings or flyers around the neighborhood, with Shared Housing you speak only with pre-screened potential renters who have had a criminal background check and meet the criteria that you provide.



Walter & Tina



Betsy and Lisa

Shared Housing offers a way to help one another through difficult times. Peggy, a homeowner, found her housemate Connie through Shared Housing. "I was helping Connie get on her feet, and the added rent that she paid me helped me, so I felt it was a real two way street," Peggy said of the arrangement. After two and a half years, Connie moved out and Peggy found another renter through Shared Housing, a former Marine with a great sense of humor named Jimmy.

Many seniors find that Shared Housing provides not only financial advantages, but improves personal safety as well. Bill, a senior home owner, rented a room to a couple who had fallen on hard times due to a medical crisis. The rent they pay helps supplement Bill's social security and he says, "as a senior, I feel safer knowing someone is nearby." Now Bill doesn't worry about his electric bill, or about needing help and not being able to get to the phone. For those who could use some help around the house or in the yard, it is possible to exchange mowing the lawn, vacuuming, or other household duties for a reduction in rent.

The Shared Housing program is working in partnership with other non-profits and the City of Portland to prevent foreclosures and keep people in their homes. Shared Housing can refer people to partner agencies for credit and foreclosure counseling, financial planning, homebuyer classes, information about reverse mortgages and home repair help. Since 1982 the Shared Housing program has helped arrange thousands of homeshares – and each one is unique. Whatever your situation, don't get caught by a predatory company trying to profit from hard times; make sure you talk with a respected agency that has your best interests at heart.

Call Shared Housing at 503-225-9924 or go to their website: www.emoregon.org/shared_housing.php



Friends of Trees

By Toshio Suzuki

Even though many chop down a tree in December, it's really one of the better months in which to plant a tree. Although cold, the continued soil saturation during the Pacific Northwest winter guarantees growth opportunity for freshly planted tree roots.

Twenty-year-old Friends of Trees turns these opportunities into realities, and has done so about 375,000 times in the metro area. After only three plantings this season, Friends of Trees' Neighborhood Trees program has already planted 386 street and yard trees. These are large stock native trees—usually eight to 10-feet—purchased from several Willamette Valley nurseries.

The community planting season extends through March of next year, including the Concordia planting, which is March 27. Friends of Trees plants on Saturdays and these are all open to anyone who wants to be a volunteer for a day.

Home owners who desire a discounted tree (\$15-75) – prepared, delivered and planted by Friends of Trees – must sign up prior to their neighborhood deadline, ensuring an adequate amount of time to research what type of tree is permitted by the city for the area.

The deadline to order for the Concordia neighborhood is Jan. 25.

Check in with Friends of Trees at www.FriendsofTrees.org, or read our blog, Growth Rings, www.FriendsofTrees.org/blog, to find out about volunteer opportunities (like our new plantings along I-205) and read interesting tree news.

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Meet the Board



Michael John Westerman came upon Portland in happenstance fashion this August and now resides upon NE 34th avenue. As an at-large member of the board Michael will pursue the construction of culture

in the community through the organization of events revolving predominantly around food, music, art, and all that merges people together in the happiness of community. As chair of economic development Michael will apply his professional experience helming Americanime Corporation and degree in business from Northeastern University towards the improvement of the business landscape of the neighborhood. Working to attract and produce value, the effective utilization of available space alongside the cultural initiatives will not only bring people together, but also pull additional commerce and capital into the area. Michael John Westerman is interested in contributing, and should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions to assist in this, contact him at michael@americanimeproductions.com.

☆☆☆



MywifeGwenJonesand I moved to Concordia from San Francisco in 2007. Our small business, Gracewood Design, specializes in historic, custom made canvas rugs know as "floorcloths." The

move was primarily to be closer to family, who are long time Portland residents, but also to enjoy the Arts and Crafts environment afforded by the many period homes and neighborhoods that make up Portland. I am a member of the Architectural Heritage Center and a proponent of historic preservation and of quality new construction that adds value and livability to the neighborhood. Land Use concerns brought me into the Neighborhood Association. I feel that if we allow for the destruction of historic buildings, open space and canopy trees, we are moving in a negative

The Little Red School House: 2010

By Don Gire, Faubian PTA President

2010: that was the name of a movie thirty-some years ago. It was the sequel to 2001: A Space Odyssey and "Hal" the talking computer. Not much of that futuristic stuff came true (except for cell phones and e-mail) and no monkeys or monoliths have been seen on the moon. There is, we now understand, some moon water to go with that cheese.



It is nice to know that some of the basics remain: that having a warm, safe place to go to school remains a priority; that public schools continue to survive and thrive, that teachers are just as committed, and students still count the days between school breaks. And there is a plan, if not the committed money yet, to start replacing our 1930's and 1950's school buildings.

Happy New Year. 2010. A hundred and ten years since the start of the last century, about 110 years after the first Benz automobile and Ford's rollout of some less expensive ideas. Gillette has five blades in their latest shaver but there are fewer handlebar mustaches to go around. From horse-and-buggy to pleasure rides with Richard Branson in the new civilian space ship. From Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders to our first African-American President. From "Stumptown" to a major city of 575,930. From one-room schoolhouses (and tight education budgets) to many-roomed schools (with even tighter budgets).

Parents continue to contribute to their children's education, too: paying taxes, going to their kids' teacher conferences, supporting local efforts to keep the neighborhood school strong and helping ensure better grades by being personally involved with the homework. Whether pulling weeds during the school's annual community clean-up day, volunteering at Faubion, joining or supporting PTA, The Garden Club or Site Council, it is all appreciated. We encourage your help. Our students and your children take your parental involvement right to their bottom line. Keep up the good work and have a fantastic new year.

direction. If you have any concerns about new construction or other land use issues I would like to hear from you. Among other things, a strong neighborhood association can control the direction of development within its borders. Please come to meetings and become involved. - Ken Forcier

☆☆☆

I have lived in the same small house in the neighborhood on 29th near Alberta for over 25 years with my husband Pete. During that time, there have been a lot of changes in my neighbors, and surrounding businesses. It has been interesting to watch, and I've finally found time to get involved and participate in some of these changes. I like crafts, and spend my free time making greeting cards, walking our 2 dogs, and reading. I look forward to my role as a board member, and have an interest in land use in our area. -Kelly Welch

☆☆☆



Julia Baumann Sarver has lived in Concordia for 3 years and loves the vibe of the neighborhood. Julia has been involved with the Land Use/Livability/Transportation Group for the past year and

has focused on working with Parks and Rec to make sure Park usage is compatible with the neighborhood. She works from her home as a health and wellness counselor.

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Northeast Portland Tool Library Expands



The Northeast Portland Tool Library (NEPTL) has expanded to better support its rapidly growing membership and tool collection. The 16-month-old tool library recently moved its operations from a small garage on the property of its long-time host, Redeemer Lutheran Church, to a larger space in the church's basement. This larger (and warmer!) space will better serve Northeast Portland do-it-yourselfers.

The move more than quadruples the square footage available to the tool library for storing

and repairing tools and lending them out to members, from 150 square feet to 684. Since opening its doors in August of 2008, NEPTL has acquired over 1,100 hand and power tools – over 90% of which are donated – and signed up almost 800 Northeast Portlanders as members.

“We’re ecstatic about the move,” said Robert Bowles, NEPTL’s treasurer. “We were bursting at the seams, and our volunteers had to work outside in bad weather. The new space gives us a warm and secure place to store our tools, work with members, and hold workshops.”

NEPTL operates similar to a book library. The organization lends out, free of charge, an ever-growing inventory of home-repair and gardening tools to Northeast residents and community groups. You can sign up to borrow tools from NEPTL if you are 18 or older and reside in Northeast Portland west of 82nd Avenue. To sign up, one must fill out a simple application, provide ID, and show proof of NE residency. Proof of residency can come from any piece of mail that has your name on it (e.g., rental agreement, bank statement, car insurance, etc.). Tools can be checked out on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and are due back the following Saturday by 10 a.m.

NEPTL is run solely by volunteers and new volunteers are greatly appreciated and needed. Contact Katie (425-299-5104, katiesteinhauer@hotmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

To learn more about NEPTL visit the website at <http://www.neptl.org> or stop by the tool library during our Saturday open hours.

Location: Redeemer Lutheran Church at NE 20th Avenue and Killingsworth Street.

Hours: Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

American Lung Association of Oregon Sponsors Radon Information Presentations in NE Portland

January is Portland Radon Action Month. Considering nearly half Northeast Portland homes have indoor radon levels above the Environmental Protection Agency recommended action level, the American Lung Association of Oregon and radon expert Don Francis of EcoTech are offering free presentations about radon. The presentation will include the following: what is radon; where radon comes from; how to test for radon, and how to fix a home with a radon problem.

Learn about radon at:

- Public Presentation: Tuesday, January 19 at the East Portland Neighborhood Office from 7-8 PM. 1017 NE 117th Ave. (On the corner of 117th Avenue and Holliday Street).
- Public Presentation: Wednesday February 3. 7-8 P.M. McMenamens Kennedy School Community Room, 5736 NE 33rd Ave.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers in the U.S., responsible for an estimated 22,000 lung cancer deaths every year. Therefore, the American Lung Association and the EPA recommend that every home be tested for radon, and previously tested homes should be re-tested if they have been remodeled or weatherized. Testing for radon is easy and inexpensive. Test your home yourself with a \$14.00 EPA approved kit from the American Lung Association. www.lungoregon.org/air/Radon.html. Learn more about EcoTech and radon mitigation at www.oregonradon.com.

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concordia CULTURE

January 2nd

LightSpell

WHAT: Onda shows the works of Angelina Marino and Joel Heidel. Marino's paintings and oil pastels celebrate dance, mysticism, flamenco and love and will be shown with her sculptural work in collaboration with Joel Heidel.

Some of the sculptures were created from Marino's drawings and translated into three dimensions by Heidel who welded two-dimensional shapes into three dimensional images. Other sculptures were "found" in left over pieces and took life in the collaborative process.

Because of the angles that are made possible by using thin gauged metal, elements of the sculptures appear suspended. Working under the stars on Sauvie's Island, the artists were struck by the serendipitous effect the light had on their work. The physicality of the sculpture, though striking and solidly engaging, had an evocative counterpart - the incredible lucidity of a cast shadow. Pictures and more info at <http://www.ondagallery.com>

WHEN: Artists' reception, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

WHERE: Onda Gallery, 2215 NE Alberta St.

Vernon PTA Xmas Tree Recycling

WHAT: A benefit for Vernon's garden and more spearheaded by the very involved parents and volunteers in our neighborhood. Drop off your tree or have it picked up for a small donation. See article this issue for more details.

WHEN: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Vernon Elementary, 2044 NE Killingsworth St.

January 19th

Complete your Degree

WHAT: Concordia University's information session for their Adult Degree Completion in Business. Meet current students and learn how you can earn your degree while still fulfilling work and family commitments.

WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHERE: George R. White Library & Learning Center, Room 108

January 28th

Open House

WHAT: Stop by during January's very mellow Last Thursday to enjoy refreshments and check out Exhale Studio. Meet the teachers and find out what classes they are offering and what makes Exhale a green yoga studio. More details at www.exhalepdx.com.

WHEN: 7 - 9 p.m.

WHERE: 4940 NE 16th Ave.

January 30

Fix-it Fair

WHAT: Fix-It Fair is a free event designed to save you money and connect you to resources. Join your neighbors and talk to experts about how to spend less and stay healthy. Day long exhibits and hourly workshops provide information and resources for: water and energy savings, home and personal health, food and nutrition, community resources, recycling and yard care and lead testing

Free lunch and childcare provided. More info at www.portlandonline.com/bps/fif.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

WHERE: Parkrose High School, 12003 NE Shaver St.

Help Increase the Canopy



Join the Concordia Tree Team and help in the advocacy and stewardship of trees in our neighborhood. Find out how you can make a difference—join us.

The first Thursday of each month, at 6:00 PM, in the New Seasons dining area.

Or contact us at: concordiatreeteam@yahoo.com

flummox (flum'əks)
vt. [Old Slang]
to confuse; perplex



Save the Date!

So, you think you know how to spell? The Concordia Neighborhood Association, Englewood Christian Church and Trinity Lutheran School will be sponsoring a Spelling Bee for adults, ages 18 and above! This event will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 from 7-8 p.m. at Englewood Christian Church (3515 NE Killingsworth St.), and it's FREE! Start studying the dictionary, play Scramble on Facebook, do the daily spelling on the Scripps National Spelling Bee website, challenge a friend to play Scrabble, dust off that thesaurus and watch for the February issue of the Concordia Neighborhood News for more details! Spectators of all ages will be welcome!

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Thursday, January 7
FAMILY FROLIC featuring
PETTY CASH
Whimsical urban bluegrass
6 p.m. · Free · All ages welcome

Wednesday, January 13
WINTER SCOTCH TASTING
Enjoy a selection of fine scotches along with a menu of hearty appetizers.
7 p.m. · \$50; reservations required
21 & over

Thursday, January 14
Benefit Concert for
Portland Cellist Skip vonKuske
featuring
SNEAKIN' OUT STOLEN SWEETS
with other special guests
7 p.m. · Free · All ages welcome
Donations accepted

Saturday, January 16
J.R.R. TOLKIEN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
With live music by the Freak Mountain Ramblers, a performance by Willamette Radio Workshop, the entire LOTR trilogy and more! Come in costume to compete for prizes.
11 a.m. 'til close; music at 7 p.m.
3:30 p.m. costume contest
Free · All ages welcome

Thursday, January 21
THE BREAKFAST CLUB
'80s cover tunes
7 p.m. · Free · All ages welcome

Thursday, January 28
McMenamins & opbmusic.org
GREAT NORTHWEST MUSIC TOUR
Head for the Hills
Colorado bluegrass
7 p.m. · Free · All ages welcome

Sunday, January 31
"YOU WHO"
A monthly children's variety rock show
featuring
Explode into Colors
12:30 p.m. doors, 1 p.m. show
Adults with kids: \$10 advance · Adults without kids: \$15
Ages 2-12: \$5, 2 & under: free
All ages welcome
Tickets available at Ticketmaster