Come to the CNA General Meeting
Tues, Oct 7th
7 PM - 9 PM
Kennedy School Community Room
We will discuss the current conflict between Skinny House construction and the "Residential 5000 square foot" (R-5) zoning overlay."

By Ken Forcier

There is an ongoing destructive practice which is devouring our beautiful, long established neighborhoods thanks to a misguided City policy behind new development. Neighborhoods are devalued as our open space is plundered and our sense of place is eroded. It’s seen in too tall and too deep new houses which loom over their neighbor’s homes and backyard gardens shading out the light and displacing all of the nature, space, and the grand trees. In the name of “infill” our inner city space is being traded away to preserve land beyond the Urban Growth Boundary. Who among us honestly believes that the yard next to us of trees, garden, air and sunlight, birds and wildlife is a fair trade off for a new neighbor with a skybox view of birds and wildlife is a fair trade off for the loss of trees, garden, air and sunlight, inner city space is being traded away out the light and displacing all of which loom over their neighbor’s

In too tall and too deep new houses which loom over their neighbor’s

In the eyes of the public, excessive mass does not translate to good architecture.

Our neighborhood is mostly laid out in 25 x 100 foot lots from historic subdivisions established in the early 1900’s. As an example of flawed policy, lots look at how the City regulates development on historically platted lots. State code “ORS 92.017” dictates that the subdivision rights bestowed in that historic period remain “inviolate” through time. That means that the invisible lot lines under our homes remain, and that the platting, generally 25 x 100 foot lots, is the legacy. Now, if at the time of platting, an original buyer had the right to build on one of those historic lots, then that carries forward though time as a “grandfather” right to build. For the most part that wasn’t the case though, these were upscale developments. Where I live was called the Irvington Park subdivision and it stretches from Killingsworth North to Rosa Parks and from 33rd West to beyond Alberta Park. It derived a certain opulence from an association with the name and success of the Irvington neighborhood. One lot was not enough to allow the right to build and there would have been language accompanying the original subdivision plat which called out for a minimum of two and a maximum of four lots, leading to the open style of neighborhood which we have inherited.

This City is currently ignoring the verbiage and bestowing building rights on all historically platted lots despite their being no “grandfather” right to build on a single lot. This leads to a “new” (not “grandfather”) development that is “non-conforming” to the zoning. Portland cannot legally condone let alone authorize any “new” development that is non-conforming with respect to the zoning overlays of the Code. There is a solution to this problem and it is simple. An applicant for a building permit on a single 25 x 100 lot must be required to provide indisputable evidence of a “grandfather” right to build. Since there is no such evidence, because the practice was never allowed, this new, non-conforming construction will cease and R-5 neighborhoods will no longer suffer the ravages of skinny house construction.

You can help by writing to the Bureau of Development Services and demand that they stop granting building permits to historically platted lots which cannot be conclusively demonstrated to also have “grandfather” building rights. Ask them to adopt clear language such as “grandfather lot” to use when describing an historically platted lot which does have “grandfather” building rights so as to distinguish it from the ubiquitous “historically platted lot”, “historic lot” or just “lot” which does not have building rights associated it. We cannot condone this City continuing to bestow building rights where none historically has existed. This practice is trampling on all of our individual rights to live free of skinny construction replacing our neighborhood side yards and trees.

The Planning and Sustainability Commission is looking for comments from the community on the Comprehensive Plan Proposed Draft. The commission will hold four public hearings, two of which will be out in the community to offer more convenient times and locations for Portlanders to testify about the new plan.

“Other cities throughout the nation and the world come to see how Portland does comprehensive, long-range planning,” Mayor Charlie Hales said. “This is an exciting process, but it won’t work without public input. Portlanders own Portland’s Comp. Plan.”

Comprising new goals, policies and a land use map, the proposed draft of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan has been available for public review since July 21. An online Map App allows the public to view their property and/ or neighborhood and comment on the proposed land use changes.

All feedback on the proposed draft is now being considered by the Planning and Sustainability Commission, which will eventually make a recommendation to the Portland City Council for adoption.

Portlanders are welcome to share their comments in person at the upcoming public hearings hosted by the PSC.

The Planning and Sustainability Commission Public Hearings
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 5-9 p.m. Parkrose High School 12003 N.E. Shaver St.

The Planning and Sustainability Commission will listen to what the public has to say about the proposal at the public hearings. After discussion and deliberation, they will make a recommendation to the Portland City Council for adoption.

The new Comprehensive Plan Map will be the basis for future updates to the City’s Zoning Map and Zoning Code.
Chair’s Corner

Rise Up for Fall!

The weather and the leaves aren’t the only things that change in Concordia each autumn. The shifting winds will also blow fresh air into the ranks of Concordia Neighborhood Association as we prepare for our annual elections in November. As you can read in this issue of Concordia News, on November 18th every resident in Concordia (that’s you) will have a chance to vote (or run!) to fill several board seats as well as selecting a board chair.

In addition, there are a range of committee positions available that will impact every aspect of life in our neighborhood. From skinny houses to gentrification to alley inventories, the range of pressing and interesting issues swirling around our neighborhood certainly offers something for everybody. Whether you’re mildly concerned or wildly passionate about any of the things affecting quality of life in Concordia the land use committee grants approval for neighborhood projects. To hear about and try to solve issues you can attend meetings and participate in discussions or even volunteer. These committees have direct results on the livability of our neighborhood— with your participation.

The land use committee grants approval for neighborhood projects. To hear about and try to solve issues affecting quality of life in Concordia brought to us by community members.

Tree Team Meeting
First Thursday of Every Month
October 22nd at 6 pm
Dining Area at New Seasons
www.concordiatreeteam.wordpress.com

Rise Up for Fall!

Whether you’re mildly concerned or wildly passionate about any of the things that seem to impact you and your neighbors, here’s your chance to help move those issues forward. CNA is inviting and accepting nominations (yes, you can nominate yourself) and volunteers to help us to have the capacity to serve the needs of our community into 2015 and beyond.

It’s your neighborhood so why not grab hold of the tools that help shape it? Together we can cultivate a better Concordia that can be harvested for generations to come.

Daniel Greenstadt
Chair
Concordia Neighborhood Association

2014 CNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Contact the CNA Board
ContactCNABoard@yahoo.com

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Concordia News may edit for form and length.

Advertising/Business Manager
Please send ad inquiries to:
Mary Wiley (advertising)
CNABusinessManager@gmail.com

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Please send article submissions to:
Mary Wiley (newspaper)
ConcordiaNews@yahoo.com

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

www.Concordiapdx.org
Visit the website of the Concordia Neighborhood Association for:
Community Events & Newsletter Information & Blog
www.Concordiapdx.org

Rise Up for Fall!
Beau Reports Needed

Do you have an interest in writing? Maybe you are a journalist at heart. The Concordia Newspaper is looking for “Beat Reporters” to gather interesting content to share with our community.

Beat Reporters would need to either write or coordinate with others to write articles for the paper. Articles would be due on the 15th for the following month. Articles should be 500-500 words in length.

Topics/Sections include:

- Home & Community
- Health & Wellness
- Pets & Nature
- Kids & Parenting
- Adults & Seniors
- Community & Business

Contact: Mary Wiley, Concordia News Editor, concordianews@yahoo.com

Letters to the Editor

I am a Concordia neighborhood resident living in a small house on a 100 X 100 lot. I love having lots of trees and I love living in the neighborhood, as I have for the past 32 years. However, I am also concerned with the sustainability and livability of our city and our working housing houses and increased density improves the sustainability of our community, allows us to share our neighborhood with more good people and provides more resources for the city, I support that too.

I grew up in inner city Chicago living in a “three flat” apartment in a close knit working class community. It had plinthes and minuses but we had a good life with everything we needed within walking distance. We also had a large park with ball fields, playground, field house with a woodshop and swimming pools right nearby. I am less concerned about density than I am about the lack of public investment, gentrification and the sight of nice little family houses (with yards and trees) being torn down to build huge McMansions occupied, not by families with kids, but by wealthy couples.

And kudos to Luke Griffin for his insightful piece on growing up in Northeast Portland.

Louen Berman
As of September 17, 2014 there have been 92 gang-related violence incidents in the City of Portland, the majority of which have involved firearms. The number of incidents thus far in 2014 is a dramatic increase from previous years. Tragically Ervaeva Herring, a 21-year-old pregnant woman, was fatally shot in a gang-related attack in her apartment; she was the city’s 15th homicide. Last year there were 16 homicides by the end of the year.

The City’s Office of Youth Violence Prevention, with the assistance of other local government agencies, is currently encouraging community members to step forward and support victims of violence, while encouraging witnesses to speak to case investigators, through a community led campaign entitled “Enough is Enough.” The goal of this campaign or call to action is to stop violence within our community.

During a recent “Enough is Enough” meeting the CEO of the Urban League of Portland, in a heavy voice said, “Standing up is hard. But it’s easier than watching loved ones die. Enough is enough.”

The community-generated “Enough is Enough” campaign is working on an ubiquitous message: The community will not tolerate gang related violence. In addition, the Office of Youth Violence Prevention manages and is involved in a number of programs all of which offer assistance to at risk youth and their families. See web page http://www.portlandonline.com/safelyouth for information.

If you wish to become involved in the “Enough is Enough” campaign please call (503) 823-3584, Office of Youth Violence Prevention, Director Antoinette Edwards.

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Welcome to the 8th annual Thrill the World Portland. We’re excited to be bringing Thriller back, with you…. shamon!

We’re getting this autumn’s practices underway on Friday, Sept 26th. We’ll spend the first couple of practices breaking down the dance so that folks become familiar with it, then in future weeks we’ll spend time making sure that everyone is comfortable performing the full dance.

We’ll have practices every Friday 6-8 and Sunday from 2-4 until the date of the dance – all practices are free to the public. We have three different instructors this year, so you’re able to experience a few different styles of learning the dance.

Folks are free to come to as many or as few practices as you wish; you can even learn it at home in full, with instructional videos online. Feel free to set up your own classes, if you like. Let us know if you have questions.

Practices are at 2620 NE Fremont.

We dance on October 25th, at 3 pm, location to be announced. We’re Portland largest, awesome-ist Thriller dance (and we hold the record for Portland’s largest synchronized dance event!). As always, we are honored to serve as a fundraiser for Portland’s SMYRC (smyrc.org).

Invite your friends (and even your frenemies) – there’s no limit on the number of people who can participate. Folks of all ages and all abilities are welcome to dance with us. There will also be other opportunities to dance Thriller at some public events; we’ll let you know what they are as the events approach.

We’re looking forward to seeing you! Let’s Thrill Portland together. Learn more at https://www.facebook.com/thrilltheworld.portland
The Concordia Backpack Lunch Program provides a bag of nonperishable food to children from Faubion Elementary School who come from families in need. At Faubion Elementary School 80% of the children participate in a state-funded program that provides them meals for free or reduced prices. This information led us to discover that many of these children were going with little to no food on days they were not in school. This need is what has driven the focus of the Backpack Program, which provides food bags that contain two weekend meals for children to take home and enjoy when school food programs are not available.

The bags are packed and delivered by volunteers and program coordinators. They are delivered on Friday afternoon to each participating child’s classroom and distributed by the teacher to individual students at the end of the day. Each bag contains two lunches which includes: macaroni and cheese, soup, fruit cups, two snacks, and two juices. The goal of these bags is to sustain a child with one lunch for Saturday and one for Sunday.

The Concordia Backpack Lunch Program is sustained by the generous support of community members, churches, and business. Through the contribution of our donors The Concordia Backpack Lunch Program has been able to provide weekend meals to ten children per week during the 2013-2014 school year. Our goal for this coming school year is to increase the number of children we service to fifteen. This goal will only be attainable with the support of community partners like you. A simple $5.00 donation provides one child with two lunches for the weekend. Both monetary donations and food donations are accepted. We eagerly anticipate the generous support that the program will receive over this next year to help serve these children and their physical needs.

For more information on the Concordia Backpack Lunch Program, please visit www.cu-portland.edu and search Concordia Backpack Program. Monetary donations can be sent to Concordia University with checks made payable to Concordia University with #1-24855/Backpack Lunch Program on the description line. Food donations can also be dropped off at St. Nils’s Lutheran Church. We can also be contacted at concordia.backpack@gmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration. Your donation to the Concordia Backpack Lunch Program will go a long way to enhancing their lives through nutrition!

Alberta Trick-or-Treat

Trick-or-Treat Alberta Street will take place on Halloween, October 31, 2014, giving costumed kids a chance to trick-or-treat their local businesses for a fun, safe Halloween experience.

The third annual Trick-or-Treat Alberta Street, presented by the Wax Skin Spa, will take place rain or shine on Friday, October 31st, 2014 from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Local businesses with Trick-or-Treat Alberta Street posters on display will provide treats to costumed children as they trick-or-treat up and down NE Alberta Street from MLK Boulevard to NE 31st Avenue. The first 200 kids who trick-or-treat Umpqua Bank in costume will get a limited edition trick-or-treat bag.

With over 45 businesses and restaurants on Alberta Street taking part, Trick-or-Treat Alberta Street involves the whole community. Many businesses go beyond candy for the kids to provide coupons and treats for adults as well. Angie Heiney, owner of Frock, participated last year and is excited to do it again, "It’s a great event. I loved all the adorable costumes and enjoyed handing out candy to the kids and coupons to the adults. It was great exposure for our business and made the neighborhood feel really festive." A map showing participating businesses is available at: http://albertamainst.org/whats-happening/trick-treat-alberta-street/

Friday, October 31st, 2014 – 3:30pm to 6:00pm
NE Alberta Street from MLK Blvd. to NE 31st
Hosted by Alberta Main Street, the free community event began as a way to provide a safe Halloween experience while helping promote local businesses and create a sense of community. The event is supported by local business sponsorship and the participation of Alberta Street businesses.

Jody Thurston NW Center for Children’s Literature presents

Children’s Story Time

We invite all interested children and parents to join us for Children’s StoryTime 2014-2015.

Join us each week for all the laughs of StoryTime and all the fun of discovering something new! All StoryTimes are drop-in; no registration is required (parents and children are welcome to join at any point). We hope you will attend every session and start building a foundation for success in future reading for your children. This new program will be held on Saturday mornings at 10:00am in the Jody Thurston NW Center for Children’s Literature. The first meeting will be held on September 20, 2014.

Nina Kramer, Youth Librarian at Albina Library and Concordia staff will share some of our favorite books, sing songs, and tell interesting stories. Each StoryTime will last about 30 minutes. Special events will be announced throughout the year.

Thanks to a partnership with Multnomah County Library!!

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY – PORTLAND
1720 NE 21st Ave
Portland, OR 97212
For additional information: Linda Church 503-493-62703/1 or lchurch@cuportland.edu
http://www.cu-portland.edu/academic/library/storytime/events

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OCTOBER 2014
Friends of Trees Turns 25

To commemorate its 25th anniversary, Friends of Trees is offering residents a wide variety of street trees for just $25 to residents in Portland, Vancouver, Salem, and Eugene!

The price includes inspection, permits, delivery of a healthy young tree, and planting the tree in the strip between the sidewalk and the street. Street trees are regularly priced at $35-87.

“Our goal is to bring the benefits of trees to even more neighbors,” said Scott Fogarty, Friends of Trees’ Executive Director. “Trees not only beautify our neighborhoods, they help lower power bills, raise home values, and clean our city’s air and water.”

Residents may sign up for trees at FriendsOfTrees.org/plant or call 503-595-0212.

Once signed up, a city inspector will visit the resident’s home to assess planting space and conditions. Residents then order trees from a list of approved species and may show up to help on their neighborhood’s planting day, when Friends of Trees organizes volunteers to plant. A video of the entire process can be found here: http://bit.ly/1tMnIhk

Friends of Trees invites residents to match their tree purchase by sponsoring additional $25 trees for residents who can’t afford them.

“Cost should never be a barrier to getting a tree for your home,” Fogarty said. “Thanks to generous supporters, we can offer planting scholarships to a neighbors in need.”

During the Love-a-thon, viewers can give back a little of that love so we can care for pets who need our help.

The Love-a-thon television broadcast aims to raise $375,000 for animals—enough to feed every pet at the OHS shelter for six months, spay and neuter 2,000 pets, bring 900 “Second Chance” pets to OHS from other shelters, and keep the OHS “Animal Cops” team working for six months. The Love-a-thon will feature real-life heroes, behind-the-scenes tours of the OHS shelter and animal hospital, and more adorable pets than you can wag at tail at. A phone bank staffed by 32 volunteers will be on hand to accept donations.

How can animal lovers help? The public can make a donation in a pet’s name, post their pet’s picture on the OHS Facebook page (and join the live conversation during the broadcast), and ask friends to join them as they watch the show.


What: OHS Love-a-thon to End Petlessness

When: Oct. 12, 1-5 pm

Where: Broadcast live on KATU Ch. 2. Also streaming live online, visit www.OregonHumane.org/telethon

Fall into Fitness

Fall is a great time to start a fitness program because you can create good habits for the holiday season and the upcoming winter months. With the change of seasons comes a renewed time to rethink and restart.

Take advantage of the weather. Fall can be a treat for the senses: the crisp air, apple picking, pumpkin carving, a gorgeous canopy of fall foliage, and the crunch of leaves underfoot. These months are a great time to exercise outdoors and enjoy cooler temperatures.

Walk, hike and cycling are all awesome in the fall. October is a great time to start a fitness program because you can create good habits for the holiday season and the upcoming winter months. With the change of seasons comes a renewed time to rethink and restart.

Think outside the box. Always wanted to learn to tap dance? Attempt to box? Master the jump rope? Fall is a great time to learn something new. Many classes at gyms and community centers get started in the fall, so look around and see if something intrigues you.

Rejuvenate yourself. Fall is the time to rejuvenate body, mind and spirit. Learn to meditate. Take an art class. Think outside the box. Always wanted to learn to tap dance? Attempt to box? Master the jump rope? Fall is a great time to learn something new. Many classes at gyms and community centers get started in the fall, so look around and see if something intrigues you.

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Find your motivation. It is important to first discover what your individual goals are: whether it’s losing weight, strengthening and toning, or preparing for a race. But goals aren’t enough to get you there; you have to be motivated by the day-to-day workouts. So choose something you’ll enjoy doing and will be likely to keep up, whether it’s walking or hiking with a friend, working with a trainer, or taking part in a “boot camp” class.