Concordia News

is a free monthly publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association. Newspapers are delivered to all residences and many community locations in the Concordia Neighborhood.

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

Website
www.ConcordiaPDX.org

Concordia Neighborhood Association
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2nd annual spring alley Clean Up and revitalization in the ‘bag’

Concordia’s alleys are an underutilized community asset according to Garlynn Woodsong, Chair, CNA Land Use & Transportation Committee (LUTC), and cleaning them up is the first step toward their revitalization. To that end, 30 volunteers, mostly Concordia University students, fanned out over the 120 alleys in the Concordia neighborhood and picked up trash and other debris on Saturday, April 16.

What they found wasn’t surprising. The alleys were littered with cardboard, paper, plastics and the occasional tire. Some of the alleys were blocked with mud, blackberry vines and laurel bushes making passage impossible.

"Once we pick up these alleys people will see this sort of neglected space where they can walk their dog, or go for a walk with their kids, or maybe imagine planting some flowers and improving the muddy surface with permeable pavers or just new load of gravel," said Woodsong.

Alleys are a public right-of-way, but, like sidewalks, their maintenance is the responsibility of adjacent private-property owners. Many were once used for car access to the garages in back of homes, but have since been abandoned. Woodsong said, "What we are really trying to do is inspire the adjacent private property owners to band together and start maintaining or improving this neglected public right-of-way."

Concordia residents interested in alleys or any land use and transportation issue are invited to attend the Concordia Neighborhood Association Land Use and Transportation Committee (CNA LUTC) meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, in the Community Room at McMenamins Kennedy School.

Carl Jameson is a writer/director/ videographer at Craftmaster Productions, a full service creative production company. He’s lived and worked in the Concordia neighborhood since 2001. Reach him by emailing carlj@craftmas terpro.com.

TRIBUTE & FUNDRAISER
For Melody Winn, key figure in Ferhill Park playground project, on May 22
See page 5

MISSING MIDDLE HOUSING
Portland is lacking in this important infill development solution.
See page 6

FORGE OPENS ON ALBERTA
Former Halibut’s location sports new restaurant from Enzo’s owner.
See page 7

CNA spring Clean Up May 14
8 AM - 12:30 PM
See page 5 for details
Greetings Neighbor -

Thanks for checking back in with me. As you may have already noticed, the Concordia newspaper has been transformed visually to rival any other Portland newsletter now in publication. As CNA Chair, it has been a priority to help us connect with one another, and Concordia News is by far the best mechanism to do so.

Fortunately my goals have been supported by like-minded believers in the First Amendment. CNEWS has always been available to readers who wish to dig deeper into community issues. But like so many books on library shelves that don’t get read unless the cover is attractive, CNEWS was in need of a makeover.

We believe the improvement in the paper’s readability will make it more enjoyable for everyone. It is not our intention, however, to make the publication just a pretty face — we also aspire to produce a publication with more muscle and content.

In our push for journalistic quality, we did create a bit of a monster. Over the last four months CNEWS has risen to a high level of professionalism guided by volunteers. These folks did so with the hopes that other volunteers would step in to continue these efforts. But in the process we realized that a professional paper was going to need a professional staff, so the CNA board is carefully considering pay for several key positions.

The decision to do this is based on the realization that if we do not, CNEWS will go back to being at best a newsletter – with limited opportunity for growth and improvement. We will keep you up to speed on the paper’s progress. We welcome your feedback and input, and also invite you to take pen in hand and write about that which you are most passionate.

We are also fortunate to have Sean Duffy join the board. He will be representing the Northwest 2 district of CNA. More about Sean in the next issue of Concordia News but for now, let me just say it was great to see a person under 30 who stood up to join with us in making our community one in which we can be proud. Our board now has an amazing level of diversity regarding age and interests; and it’s critical that we recognize the importance of diversity to our future.

Parenting as grandparents

From time-to-time, I have heard comments about grandparents and others who have taken on the role of parent. They are often overwhelmed by the enormous task in front of them when close to retirement and looking forward to the “Golden Years.” I am the grandparent of a 4-year-old and understand and sympathize with them occasionally. I have to tell you, it is one tough job, even when part-time. I can’t imagine going alone on this.

Ironically, I was asked to attend a grandparents support group (Ties That Bind) by Betty Harris to see if CNA might assist in getting the word out and/or to provide ideas for grandparents or others who find themselves desperate for help in figuring out how to raise a child in today’s environment. This situation is cause for alarm, as some children are truly at risk. We can, and should, help as we are one of the resources that can bring a personal touch of support to neighbors. I have asked Ties That Bind representatives to submit a regular column in the Concordia News, so watch for upcoming articles to see if you might help, and certainly to see if there is information that can help you with your grandkids.

Reaching out to Concordia University on land use issues

Recently I had the opportunity to meet with Concordia University Administration to discuss working together to develop a strategy for influencing design for new student housing construction while being sensitive to neighborhood character. The meeting was initiated as a result of some neighbors’ concerns about preliminary plans and a desire to have input into final design. The meeting was initiated as a result of some neighbors’ concerns about preliminary design plans and a desire to have input into final design.

University administration and I were in agreement on the necessity of early communication of planned activities so that we are part of the process and not at the end critiquing something that could have been avoided up front.

The University, like any one individual or business in our community, is a vital part of the fabric that binds us together and I believe it is important for all of us to promote each other’s progress and well-being.

It is for that reason I am going to encourage each institution and business to provide a liaison to CNA Board meetings, as we are all integrally connected and dependent for mutual successes. More next month on CNA and Concordia News progress.

Isaac Quintero
Chair/Concordia Neighborhood Association

CNA continues efforts to connect community, help those in need

The Community Room at McMenamin’s Kennedy School is available for your next gathering, book club, birthday, baby shower or special occasion. CNA manages the rental space & benefits from the proceeds. $35/hour for nonprofit organizations. All others just $25/hour. Email: CommunityRoom@ConcordiaPDX.org.

Board Meetings
May 10 @ 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  Second Tuesday of the Month
McMenamin’s Kennedy School Community Room

General Membership Meeting
May 10 @ 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly
McMenamin’s Kennedy School Community Room

Social Committee
If you would like to volunteer to help organize the CNA Neighborhood Clean-Up &/or unload vehicles and direct traffic the day of the event, or volunteer to help with the Fernhill Concerts in the Park, please email Katie Ugolini at knoglins@gmail.com or call (503) 449-9690.

Finance Committee
Policies/Procedures visit our website or email: Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org

Media Team
May 17 @ 6:00 PM
3rd Tuesday of the Month. Location changes monthly. Join the Media Team to volunteer on the newspaper, Website or Social Media. For more info & meeting location contact Susan Trabucco at susan@trabucco.biz or call (503) 440-7732

Land Use & Transportation Committee
May 18 at 7:00 PM
Third Wednesday of the Month
McMenamin’s Kennedy School Community Room
LandUse@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNA Chair
Ike Quintero (503) 352-4588 | Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNA Vice Chair
Chris Lopez | ViceChair@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNA Secretary
Ali Novak | Secretary@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNA Treasurer
Robert Bowles (503)490-5153 | Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org

Concordia Community Room
Rental | CommunityRoom@ConcordiaPDX.org

Crime Prevention Officer
Mary Tompkins (503)823-4764, mary.tompkins@portlandoregon.gov

Neighborhood Response Team Officer
Anthony Zoeller (503)823-0743, Anthony.Zoeller@portlandoregon.gov

Submissions
The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to Monthly publication.

Advertising
Please send ad inquiries to CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org

Editor
Please send article submissions to the Editor CNaWebEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNA Media Team
CNA Board Advisors: Daniel Greenstadt & Steve Elder

CNEWS Production: Susan Trabucco, Carl Jameson, & Sean Davis

CNA Website: Michael French, Tami Fung & Gordon Riggs

CNA Facebook: Eric Hoyer
Save your home: CNA May 10 general membership meeting to include earthquake preparedness info

The information isn’t new – the experts have been telling us this for years: mega-quakes (8.7–9.2) occur regularly in the Pacific Northwest. The last mega-quake that shook Portland occurred in the year 1700. For the past 10,000 years, the average time between mega-quakes has been 300 years. The next one could happen tomorrow. According to a press release issued by Portland-based EcoTech, the next mega-quake may shake foundations from Vancouver, BC to northern California. It will be the largest natural disaster in U.S. history, dwarfing Hurricane Katrina in damage, suffering and costs. Frightened? There may be some ways to mitigate the damage, say some area experts.

These experts are Don Francis of EcoTech and City of Portland Neighborhood Emergency Team coordinator Jeremy Van Keuren, who will speak at the Concordia Neighborhood Association’s general membership meeting to be held Tues., May 10. They’ll share information on how to prepare for the inevitable “big one,” and how to get involved with a Neighborhood Emergency Team.

Francis said that in Portland, thousands of people will die and tens of thousands will be injured. Many Portlanders will be homeless, as homes built before 1980 will likely slip off their foundations, crumble and collapse.

“These houses are most vulnerable because they are not attached to their foundation, and will potentially shift off the foundation during a quake and sustain much more damage than would have occurred had they been retrofitted,” said Francis.

Not all damage will be physical. The equity in a person’s home is where wealth is stored for most middle class Americans. According to a press release provided by EcoTech, for unprepared homeowners, an earthquake may not only destroy their homes – if they survive – it can also leave them with nothing but the mortgage payment for a house that no longer exists.

“Bankruptcy may be the final after-shock. We cannot prevent earthquakes. We can, however, be prepared,” said Francis.

The CNA general membership meeting will take place in the Community Room of McMenamin’s Kennedy School from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Check out our fantastic NW All-Star lineup!

FRI, JULY 8
TONY STARLIGHT SHOW!

FRI, JULY 22
LARHONDA STEELE!

FRI, JULY 15
THE QUICK & EASY BOYS!

MARIACHI VIVA
MEXICO!

And for the season finale and to celebrate National Night Out 2016

TUES, AUGUST 2
WANDERLUST ORKESTRA

We need the support of ALL CORONDIANS to make this Concert Series happen! And - the Kristan Knapp Fund will match up to $500!

If you are a family or individual and would like to contribute:

• Go to www.parklandia.org/give-concerts
• Choose SFFA Summer Concerts in the Park
• From the Pull Down Menu under “I would like to give to”
• Type in Fernhill Park when asked “Is there a specific park you’d prefer to support”
• Donate Now & Get an Immediate Tax Receipt!

To become a business sponsor contact: Lynn Shisler; Coordinator, Neighborhood Concerts in Portland Parks. (503)317-2062 or email lynn.shisler@portlandoregon.gov.

Please help support the power of live music to bring communities together!

CORRECTIONS

Mistakes get made in the news business. But in all fairness to the people who were affected by our errors, we think it is best to own up to them.

• April Issue Editor - S.T.

In the April issue of CNEWS, Raven Pearce was the author of the article titled Trinity Tigers go undefeated, earn two championships. CNEWS incorrectly attributed the author.

Also in the April issue, on the front page, CNEWS incorrectly identified the man in a photo. The correct name is Chris Lopez, CNA Board member. CNEWS sincerely regrets the errors. The errors have been corrected in online version of the April CNEWS
The new Faubion PK-8/Concordia University building breaks ground under sunny skies

More than 400 students, educators, elected officials, and community members gathered on the warm, sunny morning of April 7 to break ground and celebrate the development of a signature new facility for education in Portland.

“This is how we turn hope into opportunity,” said City of Portland Mayor Charlie Hales.

The new building will combine Portland Public Schools’ Faubion School and the Concordia University College of Education. In addition, Trillium Family Services joins them in collaborating to create 3 to PhD® - a new model for education that aims to create safer, healthier and more educated communities.

Prior to the Groundbreaking Ceremony much construction has happened at the Faubion site. In February demolition crews took down the old building to make way for the new, and within a couple of weeks the buildings were gone. All scrap metals were recycled, thousands of bricks will be reused and all the asphalt and concrete are being recycled and reused on site. At the end of February construction began with foundations for the new building being poured. As March came to an end more foundations were prepared for pouring and seismic shear walls began to rise from the ground.

Faubion’s choir and Concordia’s Christi Crux Ensemble singing together at the ground breaking event.

Faubion’s principal LaShawn Lee speaking at the ceremony.

Over 400 attended the ceremonial ground breaking.
We don’t have a 1-way know who to thank for the things that make our community what it is. Some fit in so seamlessly or are so vital that it’s hard to imagine ever having been without them. Yet the playground at Fernhill Park is just such a place. Beautiful, functional, fun. But there was a time when it didn’t exist. Making it what it is today was an uphill battle, championed primarily by two women; one of them was Melody Winn, the former owner and lead teacher of Our Place Preschool.

Opened in 1999, Our Place was home to over six hundred children in the 30+ years it was in operation. In childcare, the days can be long and exhausting, no matter how full of joy. It’s impossible to overstate how impressed I am that Melody found the time to undertake the Fernhill Playground project. Talking with her about the multi-year challenge to raise money for the hill Playground project. Melody looked for another 20 hours in the evenings to be something of how she managed.

“I have always been a very positive person and have given 200% all of my life…I worked 60 hours a week with the children and it wouldn’t be unusual...to work another 20 hours in the evenings and weekends,” Melody said.

All of the work she and fellow community member Anne Rothert did paid off eight years later as their efforts, (combined with a contribution from the Parks Bureau) raised over $900,000 for the structure. The voices of Melody and Anne in the community attracted helping hands for all the various hurdles, such as design, and meeting city requirements. Heartbreakingly, Melody has since been forced to change gears. On April 6th last year, she was diagnosed with terminal cancer and given a year to live. Her decision to close Our Place was a devastating one, but necessary. “I wasn’t able to offer the children all...they deserved and I didn’t want to be around them if I was going to die quick,” Melody said.

Despite the sudden change of pace, she hasn’t been bored. As we turned the corner into spring, Melody looked forward to a group of former students coming over to make pizza. There, she told her visitors of finishing her volunteer training at Doernbecher Children’s hospital. “I have to say that my love for children has paid off...I have so many children who come to visit me... they tell me over and over how much I meant to them...I feel good that I was able to touch other people’s lives and it makes me feel like I did right with my time here.”

When I look back, I can’t think of a more beautiful legacy than a community of happy children and a place we can all watch them play. Come thank Melody Winn in person at a fundraiser and community party at The Spare Room on Sunday, May 22nd from 6pm-9pm. Proceeds will help Melody with travel expenses for treatment.

Rachel Ivey is a mother, owner and operator of Room To Grow Childcare and researcher of all things home and child. She is proud to have her nest and business in the heart of Concordia. For tips, tricks, and advice on thriving with children, please feel free to contact roomtogrowportland@gmail.com.
Well, that sure is a hot April for Portland – and for your CNA Land Use & Transportation Committee (LUTC) too!

LUTC membership
Tyler Bullen was approved to fill our open 9th Member spot. A Portland native, Tyler moved to Concordia this past year from the LA area, where he worked on the NW District Neighborhood Association’s Transportation, Traffic & Parking Committee. We also appreciatively accepted local land use lawyer Spencer Parsons’ offer to become the Committee’s pro bono legal consultant.

Concordia design standards
Now that the Bighouse Redesign Team has completed its work (see sidebar), the LUTC has charged this able group – LUTC Member Jeff Hildebrant, Spencer Parsons, and architects Jason Buerkle, Jay Fesler, and Brian Symes – with compiling a most-needed set of viable design standards for indoor and residential developments that are truly compatible with the unique character of our neighborhood. BPS will incorporate these recommendations into its final report in early July.

Residential demolitions
With Board approval, the LUTC has began sending a standard “Letter to The Developer” in response to any demolished residential property that are compatible with the unique character of the neighborhood.

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“Big House” Building Update
The Bighouse Design Team has developed an exhaustively researched set of design improvements for the 4-story apartment building planned for the former “Bighouse on Auto Repair & U-Haul” site at NE 30th and Killingsworth. These recommendations were submitted to the developer Brian Spencer in response to his agreement at the February LUTC Meeting to consider the neighborhood’s suggestions.

Mixed-use zoning projects
While the City Council wraps up work on the Comp Plan goals, policies, and land use map recommendations, there are also four “early implementation” Zoning Projects (ZIP) still in process which will update the City’s zoning code to accommodate the most urgent needs in managing the scale and design of mixed use development along corridors and neighborhood hubs. Slated for implementation before the final Plan approval expected sometime in 2018, they address Employment, Campus Institutional, Residential and Open Space, and Mixed Use zoning.

Residential Infill Project
The RIP SAC (Stakeholders Advisory Committee) is working with BPS staff through June to develop “term sheets” detailing their proposed residential zoning code updates to improve how the scale of houses, narrow lot development, and alternative housing options are integrated into our neighborhoods. BPS will hold public outreach meetings throughout the city over the summer. Feedback will be compiled for review by RIP SAC who will recommend adjustments as needed and a final report will be sent to City Council. BPS will then incorporate Council’s revisions into the code for final review and approval by the newly elected Council in order to become law, hopefully in early 2017.

Transportation
In response to the tragic death of a bicyclist hit by a car in December, we continue to encourage concerned neighbors to “Ask ODOT” for “safe passage for all bicyclists and pedestrians using NE Portland Blvd. (aka N Portland Highway), especially at the 33rd Ave. and 42nd St. crossings” by calling 888-275-6368 or at www.oregon.gov/ODOT.

Concordia residents are always welcome at CNA LUTC Meetings, 7pm every third Wednesday at the Community Room at McNamara Kennedy School. For more info visit http://concordiapdx.org/category/land-use-real-estate/; send your questions to landscape@concordiapdx.org or email lutc.secretary@concordiapdx.org to get on the LUTC notification list.

Missing Middle Housing
There’s a pretty hot topic being discussed now in Portland and in other cities across the nation. It’s Missing Middle Housing, a term coined only a few years ago, in 2012, by architect and urban planner Don Parolek of Opticos Design in Berkeley, CA. The term refers to types of housing that are compatible with single-family homes in scale, but tend to provide more than one dwelling unit per lot, including:

- Townhomes
- Duplexes
- Triplexes
- Fourplexes
- Bungalow Courts
- Carriage Houses (Accessory Dwelling Units)
- Single-room Occupancies
- Townhome Courts
- Courtyard Apartments
- Small Multiplexes
- Live/work units
- Stacked Townhomes

These housing types can fill a much-needed market gap, not just for young Millenials, but also for empty-nesters who are downsizing; elders wishing to age in communities; teachers, fire fighters, and the middle class; immigrants and others needing multi-generational housing; and families with children. The types all work regardless of tenure to meet the various ownership options as well as rental housing in smaller-format structures than the larger apartment buildings found on our main streets.

The demographics of Portlanders are changing. With the current average household size of 2.43 people per home in the Metro Region (as of 2010), the relatively small expected drop to 2.38 by 2050, combined with the projected population growth profile, results in a household average forecast to be as low as 1.89. This means increasing demand for smaller and more flexible housing, including these Missing Middle housing types.

This means increasing demand for smaller and more flexible housing, including these Missing Middle housing types.

For more information, see www.portlandoregon.gov or contact me by emailing landscape@ConcordiaPDX.org.

Garlynn Woodsong is a Concordia resident and the Chair of the Concordia Neighborhood Association’s Land Use & Transportation Committee.

GOT NEWS?
email: CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org

Land Use Update - lots of ‘hot’ activity

Well, that sure is a hot April for Portland – and for your CNA Land Use & Transportation Committee (LUTC) too!

LUTC membership
Tyler Bullen was approved to fill our open 9th Member spot. A Portland native, Tyler moved to Concordia this past year from the LA area, where he worked on the NW District Neighborhood Association’s Transportation, Traffic & Parking Committee. We also appreciatively accepted local land use lawyer Spencer Parsons’ offer to become the Committee’s pro bono legal consultant.

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Now that the Bighouse Redesign Team has completed its work (see sidebar), the LUTC has charged this able group – LUTC Member Jeff Hildebrant, Spencer Parsons, and architects Jason Buerkle, Jay Fesler, and Brian Symes – with compiling a most-needed set of viable design standards for indoor and residential developments that are carefully crafted to improve the presence of this substantial new building to be as compatible as possible with the long-standing character of this unique intersection at the heart of Concordia, while retaining the project’s cost and schedule parameters. Included are calls for the entire first floor to be dedicated to retail; the building base be visually delineated from the upper floors; integration of sunshades, awnings, and public art, and adding cornices to all facades.

In conjunction with reviving the dormant Good Neighbor Agreement between CNA and Concordia University, CU’s CFO Denny Stoecklin has agreed to facilitate a meeting between CNA Chair Isaac Quintero and Brian Spencer to discuss the redesign recommendations. For a meeting report, and future project updates, see the “Bighouse sidebar” on the CNA website (http://concordiapdx.org/tag/bighouse-project).
Everyone in Concordia has had the opportunity to watch a house be torn down to make way for new houses, duplexes, and “skinnies,” for better or for worse. This is the continued chronicle of my personal experience.

The project next door has been going on now for over a year and a half. Very little of it could be described as “good” for our street. Between the profit hunger, rude developers who threaten neighbors, to the out of place monstrosity now looming over the quaint surrounding houses, to the heartless city government with its intentional ineptness—aiding and abetting the project while sacrificing Concordia’s character so as to rake in more revenue—the process has been utterly depressing for this native of NE Portland. Such projects are not simply about demolitions and new construction but instead reflect who we are as a city and sadly, many of the Portland values that lead us to love this place are being destroyed as quickly as the old homes.

Positive change

The only good part of this entry is that a new foreman now controls the job site. In an apparent “180” from all past experiences, he seems to actually care about the people impacted by this project. His first day on the job he apologetically came to my door to talk with me. It wasn’t a canned, corporate spiel but a real conversation. He said he was brought on to do the finishing work but would make sure to talk to us about anything from fences to tree lines. He seemed to truly be open to talk to us about anything from fences to tree lines. He seemed to truly be open to suggestions and indeed worked with me on the shared fence. He also made sure the job site was cleaned up, the out-house was taken off my property, and the crews polite.

As much as I loathe the cheap monolith next door, he did not design the post modern, San Diego bread box nor did he decide to plant it smack dab in the middle of our quiet block. So how could I dislike him?

And it is exactly this sort of deference, along with an open dialogue with the neighborhood, that is needed to have progressive change in our town while protecting livability, history, and culture.

The finisher says he is like this because he lives in a similar neighborhood in SE and tries to imagine if this was happening next door to his family. Unfortunately, his attitude is rare and there are no regulations from the city to ensure those who care only about ballooning profits without connection to the community will be so thoughtful.

Graveling over paradise path

Like many blocks in Concordia, ours has an alley. It was a green corridor with some unkept places, but pretty with flowers, trees, and grass making it a little nature trail. But not anymore. The City decided the duplex must have off-street parking accessed from the alley, therefore, the entire length had to be leveled, gravelled, and at the entry points, paved. The developers did not want to pay for it and even ironically argued the neighbors wouldn’t like it. The City inspector said he didn’t care. The alley was City property and they could do with it what they wanted. To the chagrin and detriment of just about everyone, the alley way is no longer green and in the summer the rocks will be piping hot. Because it is still a narrow, hard-to-access alley, we all expect the new owners to park on the street anyway.

Outraged? Here’s what to do

Contact Portland City Council, get involved with the neighborhood association, start a petition. The question is not if we change but how we change.

Luke Griffin is a native of Northeast Portland. A committed social and environmental activist, he has written for numerous publications, dedicated time fighting for civil rights in housing, served on the CNA board, and utilized world-bridging communication and management skills for the positive betterment of society. He is currently a freelance writer and is completing his Masters of Teaching at Concordia University. Reach Luke by emailing lukeg003@gmail.com.

“Journalism will kill you, but it will keep you alive while you’re at it.”

—Horace Greeley

Feel Alive -
Write for Us!

CONCORDIA NEWS
Volunteer writers email: CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org
The Original Halibut’s hits the road, Forge moves in

By Carl Jameson
CNA Media Team

The Original Halibut’s fish and chips shop at 2529 NE Alberta Street closed last summer and moved down the road to the Piedmont Station Food carts at 645 NE Killingsworth Street. They still serve the same menu of fried chips, fish and chowders, but from a bright blue food truck.

Their next door neighbor, Enzo Lanzadorno of Enzo’s Caffe Italiano, has moved into their former space and created a new restaurant in its place: Forge.

At a soft opening in mid-April, the large fireplace was the center of attention with Forge chefs cooking with its crackling wood fire. Forge also features concrete floors and counters and a bar that seems to be a long stack of bricks. There are rough-hewn wood tables and iron work throughout.

Forge is a counter-service only restaurant that seeks to be both casual and friendly. It will be open from breakfast through dinner. By late-May Forge will have a full menu of wood fire-cooked meats and vegetables.

“The idea is to have an open fire – nothing gets cooked on a stove. Imagine yourself camping in the morning you’re going to have eggs and bacon cooked over the fire – with the smell and everything,” said Lanzadorno.

The rest of the day’s menu will feature steaks seared on hot coals of either alder or oak, a variety of fish, yard-long sausages on hardwood planks and slow-cooked rotisserie chicken. There will also be a lot of vegetables, not just meat. Mushrooms, eggplants, zucchini, cauliflower, and broccoli will all be available roasted over the fire and with sauces.

Forge has a full bar with a limited beer and wine selection. There’s outside seating in the front and sides of the restaurant. An on warm days, the windows will be thrown open to let in the breeze.

Carl Jameson is a writer/director/videographer at Craftmaster Productions, a full service creative production company. He’s lived and worked in the Concordia neighborhood since 2001. Reach him by emailing carlj@craftmasterpro.com

Customers enjoy the outdoor seating at Forge. Photo by Carl Jameson

Chicken hind quarter with garlic cilantro mojo served at Forge, one of Alberta Street’s newest restaurants. Photo by Carl Jameson
It is no mistake that as our days get longer, and spring gifts us with more time and energy, our lives get busier, especially if you are a Mother. Some days I feel like I just don’t get time to breathe. I am a mother of three, domestic goddess and homemaker, wife, teacher, and human being – which is like having a few full-time jobs. I know I am not alone in that story. It’s the way we do life. It’s the way we survive. It’s installed into our genetics; Master Multi-Tasker! This is also why I am a big supporter of self-care and rest. I actually find time to make space for ME because I know that if I am not grounded, centered, and nourished, I have nothing to offer others in my life. That might require that I go for a walk by myself after dinner instead of sitting around – or that I get up an hour earlier than my children to journal and drink my tea in silence. But I have learned the value of this time and space. It gives me my happiness and my sanity.

Here are some simple ways, that I hope you find helpful, to begin a new habit and give yourself a gift:

Get out of Your House! Leave the place that you constantly clean, but it doesn’t ever seem to stay that way. Changing up the venue – taking a walk, going for a hike, moving your body in a yoga or dance class – or just going outside to take a few deep breaths while leaving the mess behind can do wonders to make you feel peaceful again.

Connect with a Friend. My best friend and I love to go soak at a local spa and sauna. It is so relaxing. I also enjoy visiting with friends while sipping a warm beverage at a local café and just getting real about the life we are living. Relationships are essential to living a life fulfilled.

Make a Gratitude List. Nothing shifts the bad story I have playing in my head about how I did not do enough, or make the right decision, or whatever the judgement is that is keeping me grouchy. I will just write it down wherever I am if my journal is not within reach, and let my life regain a sense of perspective.

Read a Few Pages and Reflect. I tend to be an all-or-nothing type person; it’s either chocolate or vanilla, read a whole book or don’t bother, but this kind of thinking is what stresses me out. I give myself permission to read a page (or paragraph) or two of something inspiring, and then I will contemplate it, meditate on it, or write about it. It’s a great practice to cultivate positivity.

This Mother’s Day, I hope you find time to give yourself what you deserve, and if you are the partner to a wonderful Mama, then give her the best gift of all; some space to rejuvenate.

Jennifer Allison is a parent-child teacher and early childhood educator at Gnome’s Home. Please go to http://gnomeshome.org/ for more information on classes for children and adults.
Organic tomato growing made simple

You can grow healthy food in Portland

Spring has sprung full force in Portland. In May, we are itching to fill up the edible garden for our summer harvest. Tomatoes are a favorite of gardeners everywhere.

One of my all time favorite garden quotes comes from public radio host Mike McGrath, “Everybody wants to grow tomatoes. Tomatoes are the gateway drug to all of gardening.” Lest we get too eager to start planting tomatoes, here are some tips for successful growing in Portland:

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Plant your tomatoes into the garden by transplants/starts. Portland does not have a long enough or hot enough summer to facilitate direct seeding tomatoes. If you want to start tomatoes by seed start seeds indoors in mid-February.

Tomatoes prone to Blossom End Rot

To prevent the disease Blossom End Rot, add a calcium source into the planting hole, such as a spoonful each of rock phosphate or bone meal and lime.

Tomatoes need space

Tomatoes have very long root systems (3-4 feet) and they need plenty of room to grow. Make sure your planting bed is deep enough for the tomato’s roots.

Tomatoes are “heavy feeders”

Tomatoes appreciate being planted with an organic granular fertilizer, which will slow release to your plants through out the season.

Tomatoes need time to grow

Tomato plants take several months to produce in Portland. Expect your harvest to begin in late August and end in October when cold temperatures have set in.

Tomatoes need support

Tomatoes have dense branches laden with heavy fruit. Install a tomato cage or other support system at planting time to prevent later damage to your plant.

Tomatoes don’t need a lot of water

Be consistent with a deep watering a few times per week throughout the growing season. Inconsistent watering contributes to fruit splitting and Blossom End Rot.

Rotate your crops

Do not grow your tomatoes in the same place every year. This will create disease and pest problems. Use a 4-year rotation for all edible crops.

Jolie Donohue can be reached by going to www.jolieanddonohue.com

GOT NEWS? email: CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org

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“Everybody wants to grow tomatoes. Tomatoes are the gateway drug to all of gardening.”

—Jolie Donohue
The Gardening Goddess

“Everybody wants to grow tomatoes. Tomatoes are the gateway drug to all of gardening.”

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Part 3: The Alberta District and its bungalow grocery

The life and times of a neighborhood store and its people

This is the third of a four-part series about the early days of the Alberta business district, written by Northeast Portland neighborhood historian Doug Decker. To read more of Doug’s research and writing—or to read the full text of the early news stories mentioned here—visit his blog: www.alamedahistory.org

Picking up where we left off, one of our favorite mom-and-pop grocery stores, at the northeast corner of NE 27th and Going, had risen from a vacant lot in the midst of the Alberta District’s 1909 muddy streets, to a men’s clothing store in 1911, to a vibrant neighborhood grocery run by a local family from 1921 to 1943. The photo featured in the April edition of Concordia News showed proprietor Agnes Coulter out front of the store—Alameda Park Grocery—in its prime.

But during the war years, like so many things, shopping patterns were changing. In 1943, Isabelle Coulter sold her pride and joy to Charles and Vera Fiebke who held it for just a year before selling it to Henry and Ruth Rieckers, who owned the business until 1953. During this decade, the business was referred to as “Rieckers” and as “Rieckers Grocery.” A classified advertisement in The Oregonian on March 3, 1953 indicated the Rieckers were retiring and putting the business up for sale, asking $6,500.

On June 24, 1953, the property was purchased from the Rieckers by John Henry Moad and his wife Lucy Jane Moad. They operated the store—as Moad’s Grocery—from 1953 to 1961 when it was sold to Robert A. and Louise M. Klatke, who changed the name to Bob’s Quik Stop Market. But the Klatkes didn’t hang on for long.

An article in The Oregonian on June 29, 1962 reports a robbery at Bob’s Quick Stop. Klatke, age 56, was robbed with a knife to his throat. A few months later, he and Louise put the store back on the market, selling it to Agnes Martin on November 2, 1962. Then, sometime during the mid-1960s, the building ceased functioning as a store.

By that time, mom and pop neighborhood grocery stores were having a hard time hanging on. The whole retail grocery business was changing and local grocery stores were quickly becoming convenience rather than primary shopping locations. (To read more about local shops that once served the neighborhood, check out www.alamedahistory.org and click on the story When Mom and Pop Stores Ruled.)

The Martin family owned the property for the next six years and at least one reference to the building shows it as the Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ. The Polk City Directory for 1965 shows the building as vacant, and in 1967, it is listed simply as L.S. Martin. On September 17, 1968, the Martins sold the property to Carl E. Bass (son) and Viola Matheson (mother). Bass, who was a potter, turned the space into an artist’s studio and lived in the property until his death in April 2001 at the age of 73.

The bungalow grocery at NE 27th and Going at low ebb, about 2002. This photograph shows just how far down the building had faded during its later years and why it was a leading candidate for the wrecking ball. Photo courtesy of Chad Crouch.

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Everyday Wine Hosts Evocative Exhibit of Repressed Stories of Women
April 28th – May 31
Every Day Wine
1520 NE Alberta St.

The Story of She: A Place of Belonging
Carolyn Campbell’s intricate photographs in The Story of She: A Place of Belonging blur the line between what is a doll and what is human, what is a photograph and what is a painting. Poetic, melancholic, and at times haunting, The Story of She: A Place of Belonging explores historical, cultural and personal social challenges women face (and have faced) that we don’t want to talk about. The images include Homage to ‘Comfort Women’ Around the World, Reflections on Transitioning, and Begguling Beauty of Life in Distress. The evocative dream-like images create lyrical stories that combine dark humor, wit and psychological tension.

Guardino Gallery

April 28-28 May 24
Main Gallery)
Cathi Newlin creates ceramic animal images that we don’t want to talk about. Like images create lyrical stories that combine dark humor, wit and psychological tension.

Columbia Slough Watershed Council Events:
The Tadpole Series
We begin our four-month Tadpole Tales series this month! Children aged 3-5 with their parents are invited to a short story and guided nature walk. Watch birds fly overhead, search for hidden animal homes, and learn about local trees and flowers. Themes change weekly. Events include:
- screenings of short docs produced as part of Vanport Mosaic participatory oral history program led by story-midwife Laura Lo Forti
- the premiere of Cottonwood In The Flood, a full-length play written by Rich Rubin and directed by Damaris Webb.
- Poetry by Renee Mitchell and youth from Spit/WRITe spoken word program
- Welcome Home To Vanport - on Memorial Day, May 30th, at Portland International Raceway (a part of the Vanport site), a day of self-guided tours, speakers, and music. Curated by Susan Barthel.
- an exhibit of photos and artifacts curated by Kim Moreland/Oregon Black Pioneers and Laura Lo Forti/A Fourth Act.
- a full day educational conference at Concordia University, in collaboration with PCC.
- A reunion/celebration of Vanport former residents.
For updates on the Festival and all Vanport-related initiatives, sign up for the newsletter: http://esuurl.com/bPfSrf or visit vanportmosaic.org

Urban weeds workshop
Come learn how to identify the most common garden and landscape weeds along with some of the other more notorious plant invaders of the region. This workshop is presented by East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and hosted by the Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Tuesday, May 3rd
6:00pm - 8:30pm
Location
Whitaker Ponds Nature Park
7040 NE 47th Ave
Portland, OR 97218
Questions? Contact Karen Carrillo at (503)281-1152 or karen.carrillo@columbiaslough.org www.columbiaslough.org

Vanport Mosaic Festival
May 27-30, 2016
Vanport Flood, from the Portland City Archives
Survivors on N. Denver Avenue, from the Oregon Historical Society.
The Vanport Mosaic Festival is a 4-day multi-disciplinary event that memorializes a unique sociological experiment that forever altered Oregon’s racial history. Conceived and curated by artistic co-directors Laura Lo Forti, S. Renee Mitchell, and Damaris Webb, the Festival, on the 68th anniversary of the Vanport Flood, will unite Portland area residents through historical and artistic tributes.

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Community Cooking @ St. Mike’s
1st Thursday: Celebrate Cinco de Mayo by making some Mexican dishes! We will be making pico de Gallo and guacamole, as well as a couple types of burritos and sweet corn cake. Suggested donation $5 to help cover the cost of ingredients.
3rd Thursday: Get creative with waffles! We will be making some savory and sweet waffles and homemade strawberry jam. Suggested donation $10 to help cover the cost of ingredients.
St. Mike’s Community Kitchen
6700 NE 29th Ave.
(at the corner of 29th and Dekum)
6-8 p.m.
Questions? Contact Rachel Schweitzer at 503-997-2003 or st.mikes@kitchencommons.net with questions or to RSVP.