Post 134 opens doors to the cold

A dry-erase sandwich board stood defiantly in the cold during this winter’s storms, inviting people into American Legion Post 134 to find warmth.

Several friends of the post, alongside community members, gave time and resources during two weeks to ensure the post stayed open and warm for people with nowhere else to go.

Kelly Davis, wife of Post 134 commander Sean Davis, said, "He came home late one night and told me he was opening up the post as a warming shelter. People were dying in the streets.”

Within the span of eight hours Sean – alongside key players Seth Grant and Al Artero – organized the bar into a proper warming shelter with food, beds and donated clothes for the cold and hungry.

Clothing donations and food items were served to the people inside seeking warmth. Mattresses were laid out at night for people to sleep across available floor space. Kelly and Sean took volunteers into their Concordia home for rest between shifts.

All the while, Post 134 mostly remained open for normal business. Karaoke night and regular patrons intermingled with the homeless, the cold, the weary, bringing a unique sense of dignity and neighborliness to the bar, Kelly recalled.

“What was really beautiful about it was that when you give veterans a mission – a sense of urgency and purpose in life or death – they positively bloom. I've never seen anything quite like it,” Kelly added. “There’s a certain fantastic potential in a crisis that people forget about veterans in an everyday context.”

Kelly is the social program peer supervisor for FolkTime, a leading nonprofit in Portland which addresses mental illness by establishing common ground and relationships between people experiencing similar hardship.

She said a lot of her work shows up in the culture in Post 134, which offers community to people who would otherwise be alone.

Clayborn Collins, 19 and a regular member of the Post 134 community, said one afternoon he came in to find coats, mattresses and food all over the floor. Undeterred, Clayborn helped sort the clothes for donation and return the establishment to regular order by moving tables and packing beds away as the snow melted.

"The whole experience was very dark, very real,” Kelly explained. "But that’s what made it all the more wonderful that the post was able to step up and shine a warm and bright light in a cold time.”

Riley, certified engineer in training, is new to Portland. He pursues a career in stormwater management while he continues the practice of written and visual media production. Contact him at RSOBoyle13@gmail.com.

‘There’s a certain fantastic potential in a crisis that people forget about veterans in an everyday context.’

— Kelly Davis

You can help make the CNA Annual Egg Hunt happen. Volunteers – lots of volunteers – are needed Friday and Saturday, April 14 and 15. See Page 2 for details.

Help welcome spring

You can help make the CNA Annual Egg Hunt happen. Volunteers – lots of volunteers – are needed Friday and Saturday, April 14 and 15. See Page 2 for details.

Photo by Carl Jameson

WHAT’S ALL THAT NOISE?
Get answers to questions about the noise generated by PDX.

See Page 7

SHE PUSHES RELATIONSHIPS
Donna Maxey uses the ‘R’ word. Attend RACE TALKS to learn why.

See Page 8

HE PUTS THE IRISH IN ‘PUB’
Tom O’Leary & wife Siobhan open authentic pub on Alberta.

See Page 9

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
ConcordiaPDX.org

Concordia Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 11194
Portland, OR 97211

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

March 2017
Spring’s in the air, and on our social slate

It’s been a tough winter, but spring is on its way. That means your CNA Social Committee is gearing up for a handful of events we think will appeal to you and your family.

Saturday, April 15, is the annual CNA Spring Egg Hunt in Fernhill Park. It doesn’t happen without a host of volunteers to stuff candy into 6,000 eggs (no eggcateration!) at American Legion Post 134 Friday evening, April 14. Then volunteers head to the park early Saturday morning to hide those eggs. If you’re available for either or both volunteer activities, we’d welcome your help and promise you’ll have a blast! And don’t forget to bring your favorite young sters to the park Saturday morning at 10 a.m. to find and claim the eggs. They get scopped up in a blink of the eye, so don’t be late! Look at the ad below for specifics.

The annual CNA Spring Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, May 20. We need our fellow Concordians to volunteer at the event, to contribute your cast offs, and to buy the reusable bargain-priced treasures your neighbors donate. CNA will take them to Fernhill Park. It doesn’t happen without a host of volunteers to stuff candy into 6,000 eggs (no eggcateration!) at American Legion Post 134 Friday evening, April 14. Then volunteers head to the park early Saturday morning to hide those eggs. If you’re available for either or both volunteer activities, we’d welcome your help and promise you’ll have a blast! And don’t forget to bring your favorite young

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East 2 | East2@ConcordiaPDX.org Steve Elder
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At Large 6 | AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org Heather Pashley

Need a place for your party?
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.

Pricing: $25/hr (nonprofit rates available)
Email: CNARoomKennedy@gmail.com

By Katie Ugolini
CNA Social Committee Chair
Concordia Neighborhood Association

Sponsored by Concordia Neighborhood Association & American Legion Post 134

Concordia Neighborhood Association

MEETINGS
Board Meeting
2nd Tuesday of the month
Tuesday, March 14, 5:30-7 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room

General Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 7-9 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room

Social Committee
If you’d like to volunteer for the April 15 Spring Egg Hunt or join the CNA Social Committee to help plan other fun, community-building events, contact Katie Ugolini, 503.449.9690, KUgolini@gmail.com.

Media Team
1st Tuesday of the month, Tuesday, March 7, 6 p.m.
McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room
Contact MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org

Land Use & Transportation Committee
2nd Wednesday of the month
Wednesday, March 15, 7 p.m.
McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room
Contact LandUse@ConcordiaPDX.org Board Meeting

CONTACTS
CNA Chair
Chris Lopez, Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.290.6871

CNA Vice Chair
Daniel Greenstadt
ViceChair@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNA Secretary
Steve Elder, Secretary@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNA Treasurer
Heather Pashley, Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org

Crime Prevention Coordinator
Mary Tompkins, Mary.Tompkins@PortlandOregon.gov, 503.823.4764

Neighborhood Response Team Officer
Anthony Zoeller, Anthony.Zoeller@PortlandOregon.gov, 503.823.0743

SUBMISSIONS & ADVERTISING
Submit nonprofit news and events to MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org
Advertising: CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.891.7178

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Sponsored by Concordia Neighborhood Association & American Legion Post 134

CNA VOICES

SPRING EGG HUNT
SATURDAY, APRIL 15
FERNHILL PARK
(Playground along NE 37th Avenue)

The hunt begins at 10 am SHARP.
Don’t be late – it ends in a flash!

Volunteers needed to:
• stuff 6,000 plastic eggs with candy on Friday, April 14
• hide 6,000 candy-filled eggs on Saturday, April 15

Contact Katie Ugolini at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org or 503.449.9690.
Concordia Murals

‘Psychedelic Owl’ perches on bus bench

By Karen Wells
CNA Media Team

Bus benches provide mini mural space? Yes!


Location: “Psychedelic Owl” graces the bus bench at Alberta Street and 18th Avenue. It’s a mini mural by Concordia muralist Matt Schlosky.

Artist: Matt arrived to Portland nine years ago. His hometown is Rochester, New York, and he holds a bachelor’s degree of fine arts in industrial design from Columbus College of Art and Design. Matt has completed more than 100 murals. Currently, he is working on an 8-by-8-foot panel on the Black United Fund building that depicts the vibrancy of “Last Thursday on Alberta,” the monthly cultural and arts celebration.

What the mural represents: The owl is one of several spirit animal guides that appear in Matt’s work. This one is a composite of different elements that express how everyone is interconnected. All are on the same team in life – animals, trees and people are all intertwined in the ecosystems of the earth. Vibrant blues dominate the piece, and huge piercing eyes at the center draw you into the work.

Installation: 2015

Fun facts: The “Psychedelic Owl” has made an installation appearance in Tigard. Matt leads Alberta Art Work’s “Mural 101” class. You can see more of his work on his Facebook page.

Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) general meeting is Tuesday, March 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room.

“Everyone in Concordia – residents, property owners and business people – are welcome at all monthly CNA Board meetings, and to speak during the public comment period,” said Chris Lopez, CNA president. “But this one is special. The agenda is all about the people who attend,” he added. “After a few brief committee reports, you take the lead. So bring your questions, suggestions, comments and concerns and speak up.”

Board bullet points: news from your neighborhood association board

Highlights from the Feb. 14 Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) Board meeting include:

• Board members agreed to sponsor five concerts and a movie on five consecutive Friday evenings in July and August for the Fernhill Park Series. See Pages 2 and 4 for details about fundraising.
• They also agreed to support May 20 prom plans at Alliance High School at Meek.
• Beaumont Middle School art students received the board’s support for their application for a grant from Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN). The grant would fund supplies to paint a mural on the restroom in Fernhill Park.
• Faubion Elementary School PTA also received board support for its grant application to NECN. As part of the reconstruction at Faubion, the PTA plans to build and maintain a community garden.
• The board agreed to serve as fiscal sponsor for a group headed by David Greenberg to install a dog water fountain in Fernhill Park. CNA will receive the donations the group collects, provide tax deduction receipts to donors and forward the funds to the city. For details, contact David at SillyDG@gmail.com.

You set the agenda for March 14 CNA meeting

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It isn’t too early to sponsor Fernhill Concerts

There’s no better way to spend a warm and breezy summer evening than gathering with friends and neighbors in Fernhill Park for picnic dinners, music, dancing and family fun.

“This is lucky year 13 for the Fernhill Concert Series,” said Katie Ugolini, CNA Social Committee chair. “We expect another smashing success with the finest musical talents Portland has to offer – admission free. There will be four crowd-pleasing concerts in July with the series ending in early August with a big shebang – including a movie in the park – for the CNA National Night Out.”

The CNA Fernhill Concert Committee needs your help to raise enough money to fund all five concerts. You are asked to donate anything you can to help make the concerts happen.

“It doesn’t matter if you are a business owner, a family or a lover of music, because every donation – large and small – will help produce another memorable concert season in Fernhill Park,” Katie said.

If you are a family or individual and would like to contribute to this spectacular summer series, visit PortlandPF.org and click “donate” in the upper left menu.

• Select “SFFA Summer Concerts in Parks” from the “I would like to give to” menu
• Type “Fernhill Park” in the next field
• Complete the remaining fields “Any contribution – even $5 or $10 – is greatly appreciated,” Katie said. “Please help support the power of live music to bring our community together.”

Tony Starlight performed “Singing in the Rain” at last year’s Fernhill Concert Series. Look for him again this year, and hopefully the weather will change its tune.

Needed: concert sponsors

All businesses and organizations that want to be a Fernhill Concert Series sponsor by contributing $300 or more, will receive these benefits of sponsorship:

• An opportunity to host a promotional table at all five concerts to display, give or sell items
• The chance to give to your neighborhood
• A tax-deductible contribution that stays close to home
• Recognition for your business name

“The more you give, the more name recognition for your business,” Katie explained. “CNA strives to create a benefits package that meets your philanthropic and marketing needs. Please join us at the concert sponsorship level that is comfortable for you!”

Sponsorship levels are:

• Good Neighbor Sponsor: $300 and more
• Contributing Sponsor: $600 and more
• Major Sponsor: $1,250 and more
• Champion Sponsor: $3,000

Sponsorship commitments are needed ASAP, but payment is not due until June 1 to be included in promotional material. Contact Chariti Montez, concert production manager, at Concerts@PortlandOregon.gov or 503.823.5059.

Credit cards are accepted, and checks should be payable to Portland Parks & Recreation/Fernhill Concerts and mailed to: Portland Parks & Recreation, Attn: Concerts, 6437 S.E. Division St., Portland, OR 97206.

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Save the Date
CNA SPRING CLEAN UP
Saturday, May 20, 8 am – 12:30 pm
PCC Workforce Training Center at NE 42nd Ave & Killingsworth
Tired of seeing all the clutter & junk in your closet, basement & garage? Drop it all off at the PCC Workforce Training Center on May 20 for

CNA’s BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!

Find more news on our website
ConcordiaPDX.org
City launches inclusionary housing rules

It is unclear whether this new program will have a chilling effect on the production of new overall housing units in Portland.

These requirements will be phased-in outside of the central city and Gateway Action Plan districts, where the inclusion rates will start at 15 percent of units at 80 percent AMI or 8 percent of units at 60 percent AMI. These rates will increase to the full levels Jan. 1, 2019.

These requirements may be met by providing either the threshold number of units, or the threshold number of bedrooms, at the requisite affordability rate. This is meant to encourage more family housing (units with two or more bedrooms) in multi-unit developments.

An exemption from minimum parking standards will be provided for all housing units in projects where the affordable units are provided on-site.

This new program was made possible by the adoption of Senate Bill 1533 in the 2016 legislative session, which lifted the state pre-emption on inclusionary housing requirements.

It is unclear whether this new program will have a chilling effect on the production of new overall housing units in Portland. It may instead be successful at encouraging the production of new affordable units by the private sector.
Diesel pollution hot topic here, Salem

By Nancy Varekamp
CNews Editor

Mary Pereto, self-described “accidental activist,” has worked eight years with volunteers and government officials to reduce toxic air pollution, including diesel particulate air emissions like those in Concordia.

She cofounded Neighbors for Clean Air (NCA) in 2000. Now she has high hopes for the 2017 Oregon Legislature.

Mary lives in northwest Portland, where she learned in 2008 her daughters’ school was among the 2 percent worst nationwide for industrial pollution.

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) hosted a workshop in nearby Humboldt neighborhood recently for Mary to educate residents from north-east and north Portland, and to recruit volunteers to lobby the Legislature.

Although much was made of high industrial metals pollution last year, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) determined diesel particulates is a far greater risk to more people.

“This pollution doesn’t come from just one source, but from road traffic – long-haul trucks, delivery trucks and construction equipment – all powered by diesel engines,” she said.

That’s the case in Concordia, especially along Humboldt between 33rd and 44th avenues. According to a NECN report, about 178 unfettered diesel trucks are owned and operated within or near Concordia.

Visit NECoalition.org/report/.

“Reducing diesel engine pollution is a lymphcin to achieving clean air in Oregon,” Mary said. “California and Washington have taken steps to reduce diesel pollution by requiring cleaner engines.

“Unfortunately that means Oregon is inheriting their old diesel engines.”

One in five diesel trucks that receive new licenses in Oregon is coming from California, where filters are now required on diesel engines, she said.

Last April, the state launched the Cleaner Air Oregon program and assigned the Oregon Health Authority and DEQ to establish health-based standards and regulations to control range of industries, and to address a variety of pollutants. Find details at CleanerAir.Oregon.gov.

The city of Portland plans to install roadway sensors and, at press time, was building its own priority list to influence legislative lobbying.

Sixteen air-related bills are expected to be considered by this year’s Legislature, some of them related to diesel emissions. NCA’s own priority list includes: cutting diesel emissions, transitioning to health-based standards for industrial air regulations and funding DEQ adequately.

Mary pointed out funding for diesel-related air quality improvements will come from Oregon’s $84 million of the Volkswagen (VV) diesel settlements.

“Industry so often opposes increased regulations because of cost,” she noted.

“That’s why the incoming VW funds are the key to pass strong health protection standards for engines this year.”

Diesel particulate air pollution stats from Neighbors for Clean Air

• Oregon has the 6th highest diesel emissions in the country.
• Multnomah County has the 4th highest diesel emissions in the country.
• Portland area levels of diesel particulate emissions exceed EPA’s acceptable risk standard by 100.
• 2011 Environmental Justice analysis by the Oregon DEQ found low-income populations and communities of color in Portland area are disproportionately exposed to diesel emissions.
• Concordia, according to a DEQ map, has among the highest concentrations of diesel particulates in the Portland metro area.

Visit WhatsInOurAir.org for details.
PDX is part of Concordia soundscape

Living near airport has its pluses, but neighbors want to know — can you quiet it down a bit?

By Steve Dodge

In some cases the planes are so low, the plane’s belly rivets can be plainly seen. To be fair, some residents said they actually like the National Guard jet noise, finding it comforting in these uneasy times. Others figure they moved in knowing full well they’d be near an airport.

When the planes or jets roar over, people may pause their conversations, try to comfort their kids and pets, and later straighten the pictures on the wall.

CNews sent questions to the city of Portland, FedEx, the Air National Guard and the port. Only the port responded. Kama Simonds, aviation media relations manager, said cargo feeder approaches are designed by the Federal Aviation Administration for safety, and that a Concordia resident living a mile away should see aircraft “at or very near 300 feet.” She said pilot discretion or an order from air traffic control could explain some aircraft flying under 300 feet.

As for noise, she said, 24/7 moni-
toring at Concordia University for arriving small planes averages 73 deci-
bels, which she compared to standing next to a vacuum cleaner or a truck passing outside.

Asked why propeller planes were allowed to rev their engines on the tarmac, sometimes in the wee hours of the night, she said, the small cargo planes are required to test engines at full throttle — but are not required to use sound insulating hangars.

Concordians’ opinions about being neighbors to an airport are mixed. But most agree their neighbor generates noticeable noise.

Socrates’ advice is still effective for your health

Are you easily overwhelmed? Is it difficult to be fully present in the moment? Are you having trouble connecting with your creative side?

If you answered yes to any of these it might be time to invest in a little self-care. It isn’t some new age concept. Self-care is as old as Western civiliza-
tions, and even the ancient philosopher Socrates spoke of “care of the soul.”

Modern medicine recognizes the power of self-care to improve health and wellness in individuals and their families while saving healthcare costs. For every $1 spent on encouraging self-care, $2 are saved on health care.

Self-care is defined as the actions one takes on a regular basis to reduce stress and maintain and improve well-being. They focus on finding balance in mind, body, spirit, emotions, work and relation-
ships.

Each person has to identify what self-care means individually, and what actions are needed to find balance and enhance wellbeing. Here are some exam-
ple of simple self-care actions that you can take to start improving your well-
ness.

Physical health: Eat regularly, eat healthy, exercise, get enough sleep, engage in preventative healthcare.

Psychological health: Take a break from electronics, take time for yourself, write in a journal, be creative.

Emotional health: Spend time with friends, love yourself, do things you enjoy, cry, get angry, laugh.

Spiritual health: Be hopeful, meditate, pray, experience awe, engage in causes in which you believe.

Relationships: Spend time with family, friends and pets. Allow others to do things for you and ask for help.

Work: Take a break during the workday, chat with coworkers, make time to complete tasks, say “no” sometimes, celebrate the completion of projects.

Self-care isn’t selfish. There is truth to the old adage that you can’t take care of someone else if you aren’t taking care of yourself first.

Contributed by Concordia University College of Health & Human Services

Steve is a veteran journalist, writer, editor and former Concordia Neighbor-
hood Association board member. He has lived 17 years in the neighborhood. Contact him at CyStev33@yahoo.com.

Editor’s note: Visit ConcordiaPDX.org/ port-q-a for the full list of questions asked and responses from the port, along with comments from neighbors published on Nextdoor.com.

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Self-care is as old as Western civiliza-
tions. It isn’t some new age concept.
Discussions evolve from race to activism

Talk to Donna Maxey — founder of RACE TALKS held monthly in Concordia neighborhood — and you’ll hear what she calls “the R word.”

A lot, “People need to develop relationships. They need to know each other, and they need a safe place to do that,” she explained. McMenamins Kennedy School contributes the venue and Donna provides the programs and speakers.

McMenamins offers a gym menu for participants to purchase food and drink. “I like for people to meet over food, otherwise they can get indigestion if they get contentious while eating,” she said with a smile.

The goal — people of different races getting to know each other — is the same each month, as is the format. The second Tuesday of each month, doors open at 6 p.m. so participants can socialize preceding the 7 p.m. speaker. From 8 to 9, the crowd breaks into groups of 10 to discuss the topic addressed by the speaker’s presentation and small group discussions after.

RACE TALKS small groups give voice to all participants to share their different perspectives on the same issue.

Last month was RACE TALKS’ sixth anniversary, and it has grown in participants and evolved in topics. “The first year we just talked about race, starting with where the concept comes from,” Donna said. “In Europe, there’s no country called Whitehelm. They have nationalities there, not races.”

This year the discussions are incorporating activism. February’s topic was “Joining the Social Justice Movement: Pink Power, Politics and Race.” The March 14 topic is “Kin Killin’ Kin: Resolving Gun Violence in America.”

Donna encourages participants to get involved in social justice by signing pledges to volunteer. “There are organizations that need your volunteer hours — the Women’s Movement, the NAACP, Planned Parenthood and plenty more. RACE TALKS is a gateway activity for learning about race and getting involved in the social justice movement,” she added. “RACE TALKS is an evolving activity. I plan it, and there are new things I learn every month about diverse people and situations.”

Editor’s note: Donna Maxey is no newcomer to building interracial relationships and activism. To read more about her and the origins of RACE TALKS, visit ConcordiaPix.org/race-talks.

NextDoor.com hot topic round up

Caution! Wild, wet and windy weather can topple trees and loose limbs. Call 503.823.3280 for downed trees, branches and other tree-related emergencies.

Not by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin: Is CenturyLink still soliciting service at your front door? Diane from Sabin suggests putting yourself on the Do Not Knock list by messaging to Facebook.com/centurylink.

“missing turtle” for pics and contact info should you stumble upon Susie. Wurd-inch: Vintage homes. Contact her at Wurd-inch.com.

Mindfulness at pedestrian crosswalks: Nearly 200 neighbors thanked poster “Scrutch” for his gentle, graceful reminder to drivers to be alert and considerate of any and all pedestrians attempting to cross at corners and marked crosswalks. Be colorblind, shift into a state of awareness, stop for everyone. A simple gesture, deeply felt.

What’s driving you crazy? Have something to say about our streets and sidewalks? The Portland Bureau of Transportation wants to hear from you. Take the Neighborhood Streets Program Community Survey at SurveyGizmo.com/s3/3279969 ciudad-of-portland-neighborhood-streets-program-community-survey.

Carrrie is a Concordia resident and lives on 29th Avenue. As a freelance writer with a penchant for poetic prose, she tries to look for the humor in everyday life. She also is a mom and world traveler who, with her partner, owns a company that restores and repurposes vintage homes. Contact her at Ward-Gurl@gmail.com.
Fiddler plays to home crowd

Kevin Burke chose Concordia as home base in 1988, and Irish master fiddler continues to travel the world to perform and teach. Photo courtesy of Kevin Burke

Kevin Burke lives in a walkable neighborhood. From his house he can walk for groceries, pizza, a pint, barbecued ribs and to fill a prescription. He can walk to church or get a manicure. He can walk to a number of restaurants, shops and art galleries.

On St. Patrick’s Day, he can even walk to work. That’s when Kevin performs at Alberta Rose Theatre.

Kevin is an Irish master fiddler, considered one of the finest of the genre. He’s spent nearly 40 years at the forefront of Irish traditional and Celtic music, performing and recording with thelikes of the Bothy Band, Patrick Street and the Celtic Fiddle Festival.

In 2002 he was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts, the highest honor given in the United States for Folk and traditional music. In 2006, he was named Musician of the Year by the Irish TV channel TG4.

Kevin was born in London to parents from Ireland’s County Sligo. He took up the fiddle at the age of eight and by age 13 he was playing with Irish music groups. In 1972 he met the American singer-songwriter Arlo Guthrie in a pub in County Clare. Impressed with Kevin’s fiddling, the singer-songwriter best known for “Alice’s Restaurant” invited him to Los Angeles to play on an album.

Kevin Burke (above) and wife Siobhan recently opened T.C. O’Leary’s, “a little Irish pub,” on Alberta Street. Find authentic Irish food and surroundings at this family-friendly restaurant. Photo by Amanda Barnett

Since then Kevin has played on tour, taught around the world and offers lessons on Skype and by video recording.

KevinBurke.com lists stops on his current tour in the UK and Spain, as well as the east coast of the U.S., plus Washington and California.

One of the first places Kevin played in the U.S. was Portland. The songwriter Hoyt Axton told Kevin he would like Portland. Kevin recorded an album here, named “Portland” and moved here in the early 1980s.

“Almost 40 years after first setting foot in Oregon, I am still living here and often think how right Hoyt had been,” he said.

In 1988 he bought a house in Concordia, which he shares with wife Elfrside, daughter Emma, who attends the University of Oregon, son Michael, and dog Tommy.

The March 17 event is a Kevin solo performance. April 28 he’ll play again at the Alberta Rose. Then it will be with the Celtic Fiddle Festival, a quartet of the world’s premier fiddlers, for a night of Celtic and Scottish traditional music.
AMS continues going strong in 7th year

Tell us about your volunteers.
Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization! About 45 people volunteer on our committees or board, and another 200-plus at events like Earth Day and Alberta Street Fair. Our volunteers are primarily residents, business owners and commercial property owners, and we always welcome new volunteers.

Has AMS’ mission changed?
Not significantly. In 2014 we added “equitable” to our mission statement and created an equity committee. From the start, we’ve been committed to equity; however, we want to be intentional in this area and ensure all the work we do is looked at through an equity lens.

We are continuously adapting how we approach our mission. It’s important we work on what is within our capacity to accomplish. We can’t undo what’s been done in the past, but we can focus on how we move forward. For example, when new businesses open, we help convey the message they are not just starting a business, they are also joining a community, and with that comes a responsibility.

We also want to increase the number of minority-owned businesses and the diversity of employees at existing businesses. If you are a minority small business owner, we want you to open your business here and, to the extent we can, we’ll help you.

Looking back across seven years, how is AMS doing?
Great. It is hard – and very important – work. I think our greatest accomplishments are the relationships we’ve built and the trust we’ve established within our community. Everything becomes easier to accomplish when there is that strong foundation. Our small business owners and community are wonderful – they are engaged, candid and supportive.

Art corner
Thanks to Concordian Jeanette Zeis, the neighborhood is bidding adieu to winter with the artwork below. Jeanette, a functional potter, is setting out to expand her artistic skills from 3D to 2D, and she has agreed to share her efforts with CNews. Look for her future contributions in “Art corner.”

A neighbor for four years, she lives with partner Ken and cats Vickie and Kathy. Jeanette said she comes by her artistic inclinations naturally. “My mother is very crafty and artistic, and my grandfather was a painter. Growing up, I was always encouraged to explore art.”

Portland gridlock offers reading opportunities

The excitement of relocation is found in almost daily discoveries. New stores, restaurants, bars and coffee shops to explore. Little boutiques selling everything from crafting items and handmade jewelry to edible marijuana gummies in delightful packages. All right here in Concordia.

The excitement dampens upon leaving the neighborhood. Not because there aren’t other charming areas to discover, but because getting to other areas of Portland is time sensitive and seems to require careful planning.

Back where I’m transplanted from, one could get anywhere one wanted or needed to be in 20 minutes or less. Not so much here.

Being a retired relocator means that one really hasn’t the need to go anywhere in particular. Maybe some sightseeing or visiting the kids since that is why one moved here in the first place.

Then after a while, one has doctor appointments, because travel after rush hour traffic and before evening rush hour is the only sensible way to go. As recently as two years ago, evening rush hour wasn’t a problem unless one was on the road by 4 o’clock. Today serious gridlock could happen at any time.

Lunch hour isn’t safe, and forget getting anywhere quickly after 2 p.m. But there is an upside to traffic slowdowns: bumper stickers.

In Ohio, bumper stickers declared political support, favorite band or pet preference. Military branch support was common, disease ribbons encouraging awareness and donations, too.

Sitting in Portland traffic, I note many fellow travelers have numerous stickers. Some cars even appear wallpapered with the occupants’ manifestos.

At least I have something interesting to read while stuck in traffic.

Kathy is a recent transplant from the Midwest and, as she reports in CNews, things are a lot different here.

AMS Describe AMS.
Founded in 2010, AMS is a nonprofit community and economic development organization advancing efforts to develop Alberta Street as a vibrant, creative, equitable and sustainable commercial district serving residents and visitors. The Main Street approach is rooted in a commitment to broad-based community engagement, a holistic understanding of the factors that impact the quality of life in a community, and a strategic focus on economic development at the neighborhood scale.

How is AMS funded?
We receive grant funds from the Portland Development Commission (PDC) and, for that, we are grateful. We are also thankful to our business and property owners, and successful fundraising events.

Transplanted & thriving

Portland gridlock offers

Editor’s note: Media Team member Jeff Hilber discussed Alberta Main Street (AMS) with founding executive director Sara Wittenberg.

Transplanted & thriving

Portland gridlock offers

Volunteer opportunities

Volunteering with the FEAST Community Choir is a fantastic way to give back and support the neighborhood. Every voice matters.

Every voice matters. Drop in, or join for the term. Every voice matters. Drop in, or join for the term.

Forget Everything and Sing Together! Fridays at noon. SUBUD Center 3158 N.E. Regents Drive. We believe that the joy of singing is a universal birthright, and that together, regardless of musical background, we can help improve the world by joining our voices in song.

Every voice matters. Drop in, or join for the term.

Contact Susan at FEASTCommunityChoir@gmail.com

Looking back across seven years, how is AMS doing?
Great. It is hard – and very important – work. I think our greatest accomplishments are the relationships we’ve built and the trust we’ve established within our community. Everything becomes easier to accomplish when there is that strong foundation. Our small business owners and community are wonderful – they are engaged, candid and supportive.
The question: 

How did our three closest parks – Fernhill, Alberta and Wilshire – come to be?

– Calley Dodero

The historian reports:

This sounds like a three-part question, so let’s start this month with Wilshire Park.

Today’s beloved Wilshire Park nearly became a subdivision/neighborhood, but not before it almost became an automobile campground. Seriously.

The 15-acre wooded parcel that is today’s park was then part of Portland’s wealthiest residents, making his fortunes in steam navigation. He also dabbled in real estate and had purchased parcels downtown as well as southern lands for development as the Spring Valley Addition. The plat shows orderly streets and lots bisecting the area.

But Kamm died before he could close with developers. His $4 million estate took years to sort out, which probably delayed development.

In September 1920, developers floated a plan reported in The Oregonian to create a campground for car campers on the property. Northeast 33rd Avenue was a rough county road and at the outer limits of Portland, and the car was a new toy for travelers. Auto campgrounds were panning up all over. Neighbors didn’t like the idea and protested loudly enough that the city killed it.

In 1926, the Wilshire Addition Community Club offered a plan to turn the property, referred to as 33rd Street Woods, into a park (because local kids were using the thickly forested and brushy 15 acres anyway). But the city was not interested, nor did it have the money. By 1933, an agreement had been reached that allowed the property to be used as a park – still owned by the Kamm family – as long as the planning and development work was funded and conducted by neighborhood residents and the community club.

By April 1940, Kamm’s estate was settled, and the city found a way to take out a loan for acquisition with a two-year $28,500 loan from First National Bank. That brought an important chapter to a close, and secured the land for the future. But controversy erupted in February 1941 about naming it. Some residents wanted to call it Jacob Kamm Park, and the majority backed a proposal to call it Wilshire Park. After several stormy meetings, city council agreed to the latter.

By 1950, the city had cut and removed much of the underbrush, thinned the Douglas-firs and constructed the ball diamonds still in place. Even a playground was built featuring, among other things, old Fire Engine Number 2, a 1918 model that had been decommissioned from service at the Northwest 3rd Avenue and Glisan Street fire house.

The park keeps many other memories alive: the family home at the far south-east corner of the woods around the turn of the 20th century; Christmas tree cutting in the 1920s and 1930s from the 33rd Street Woods; the jackstrawed piles of trees and branches left from the 1962 Columbus Day Storm; and the generations of baseball and soccer players, runners, and dog walkers who have loved this place.

Have a question for the neighborhood historian? We love solving mysteries. Contact CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org with your question, and we’ll ask Doug Decker to do some digging.

Wilshire Park has offered something for nearly everyone – from playful children, to pedestrians, dog walkers and joggers and baseball teams – for nearly a century.
AN EVENING WITH "THINK BIGGER!" - SURVIVED SCIENCE ON TAP THE COMIC STRIPPERS NRITYA SHUBHA DANCE FESTIVAL to your yard. Included are learning how to gardens can play in urban stream restoration. RAIN GARDENS 101 Conservation District walks you through how of the region. East Multnomah Soil & Water these new neighbors to your yard. Learning about the different kinds of pollinators that might be living in your gar- dens, discover a plant palette to help attract & support pollinators, & go beyond the bloom to consider ways to provide shelter, water, nesting, & overwintering sites. Presented by East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District. Details/registration: “Upcoming Workshops” at emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/ Tuesday, March 14, 11 am ST. MIKE’S KITCHEN Location: St. Michael’s Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 6700 NE 29th Ave. Seniors are invited to enjoy Reuben soup & side dishes. Details/RSV: Rachel Schweitzer, st.mikes@kitchencommons.net, 503.997.2003 Thursday, March 16, 11:45 a.m. - 1 pm ATTRACTING POLLINATORS TO THE URBAN GARDEN Location: Lips Burden Center NW, 17676 SE Foster Rd., Gresham Learn about the different kinds of pollinators that might be living in your garden, discover a plant palette to help attract & support pollinators, & go beyond the bloom to consider ways to provide shelter, water, nesting, & overwintering sites. Presented by East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Details/registration: “Upcoming Workshops” at emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/ Wednesday, March 22, 6:30 - 8 pm NATURESCAPING BASICS Location: Trinity United Methodist Church, 3915 SE Steele St. This workshop is designed to help you create a landscape that is friendly to wildlife. Participants will learn techniques and plant species to create a habitat for native wildlife. A naturalist will be on hand to answer questions. Materials will be provided. Registration fee: $25. Details/RSVP: 503.284.6827 ext. 109. Before any demolition, scraping, sanding, or remodeling in pre-1978 housing, check out this class. Great for people who want to do a small project that may involve exposure to lead paint or a small construction project in an older home. communityenergyproject.org, call 503.284.6827 ext. 109.

MAKING YOUR FOOD GAS- FREE event/149/ Thursday, March 24, 6:30 - 8 pm TUESDAY NIGHT CHIFFONADES Location: Word Play Studio, 1420 SE 72nd Ave. Learn all about the deep history of the black philanthropic tradition in the Portland area. The exhibit illustrates black philanthropic events/ and charities from the early 1900s to the present day. This exhibit is presented by the Portland chapter of the NAACP and is sponsored by an Oregon Humanities Project grant. admission charged, reservations recommended. Details/events/ Reframed & Exhibited through early April.

THINK BIGGER! - SURVIVED SCIENCE ON TAP THE COMIC STRIPPERS NRITYA SHUBHA DANCE FESTIVAL