Phones offer social service, art

By Riley O’Boyle
CNA Media Team

Nestled in the alley between 27th and 28th avenues, between Killingsworth and Jarrett streets, stands a former pay phone. There’s just one difference. You can leave your coins at home and call nearly anywhere in North America for free.

Futel, a Portland nonprofit telephone company, announced the installation in January. The first was installed on southeast Clinton Street in 2014, and Concordia’s is one of four additional local phones, the second in northeast Portland. One was installed in 2016 on Ainsworth Street at 8th Avenue.

There’s another on southeast Taylor Street and — thanks to a partnership with Village Coalition and Freewire — there’s a phone in homeless encampment Right 2 Village Coalition and Freewire — there’s a phone in homeless encampment Right 2 Village Coalition and Freewire. The nonprofit’s costs are relatively low. Futel repurposes salvaged payphones, thrift store landlines, obsolete IT hardware and can be reached at RSBoyle13@gmail.com

“Then we buy phone service and we leave your coins at home and call nearly anywhere in North America for free.” Karl explained at a May gathering of hardware aficionados hosted by Crowd Supply.

“If you are at the land mayor’s office and an “apology line” was always be there.”

From a social services standpoint, the phones offer more than free outgoing calls: incoming phone service, voice mail accounts and speed dialing to social services resources, TriMet Transit Tracker, weather forecasts, the Portland mayor’s office and an “apology line” patterned after one in New York City for people to unburden themselves to a recording.

Dial “0” and you’ll talk with Karl, fellow Futel founder Elijah St. Clair or another volunteer. “You can call us to answer what questions you might have or talk about whatever you want,” Karl offered.

The nonprofit’s costs are relatively low. Futel repurposes salvaged payphones, thrift store landlines, obsolete IT hardware and can be reached at RSBoyle13@gmail.com.

“It’s a way of getting art in the community,” Karl explained at a May gathering of hardware aficionados hosted by Crowd Supply.

“It’s a part of the urban landscape that I never saw as disappearing,” he added. “I thought that they [pay phones] would always be there.”

“Then we buy phone service and we leave your coins at home and call nearly anywhere in North America for free.” Karl explained at a May gathering of hardware aficionados hosted by Crowd Supply.
Co-op gears up for future

The Alberta Co-op Grocery just celebrated its 17th year! Located at the corner of Alberta Street and 15th Avenue, the co-op grew out of a buyer’s club formed by a group of neighbors in 1997 to make it easier and more affordable to get healthy, organic products by ordering in bulk from distributors.

The group’s ultimate vision was to open a neighborhood-serving grocery store. That became a reality when the Alberta Co-op opened its doors in July 2001.

Open to everyone, the co-op is owned by the community and run by its buyers. Its buying guidelines keep the staff of collective managers focused on providing the best possible products for shoppers, while the co-op’s mission reflects its values: affordability, community, education, diversity and cooperation.

To ensure the co-op stays on the right track, the board of directors and the collective managers strive to meet a set of principles – or “Ends” – which are achievable yet aspirational outcomes of the co-op’s work.

For example, the Global End states: “Alberta Cooperative Grocery connects stakeholders so they can participate in a sustainable food system and cultivate healthy north/northeast Portland neighborhoods.”

Right now is an exciting time to get involved with the Alberta Co-op, as it just kicked off an effort to update these Ends with a robust community engagement process.

We started with getting input whether the current Ends still resonate with folks who attended this year’s annual meeting and party. The effort will focus on asking questions about how the Alberta Co-op currently serves its members and the community, and what they want and need from the co-op.

This yearlong process will culminate in updated Ends shared at the co-op’s 2019 annual meeting and party. You can learn more by signing up for the co-op’s newsletter, attending an Alberta Co-op Community Engagement Committee meeting or board meeting, and keeping an eye out for a community event this winter.

Additional outreach and input opportunities will include surveys in the store and by email to members, neighborhood-based gatherings and presentations to community groups. Visit Alberta.coop to:

• Find meeting dates
• Sign up for the newsletter
• View the co-op’s buying guidelines, mission and Ends
• Learn more how the co-op meets its mission

Susan Millhauser has lived with her family in Concordia since 1999, is a founding member of the Alberta Co-op and serves as its board administrator. She works in community planning and nonprofit administration, including supporting the Alberta Co-op and serves as its board administrator. She works in community planning and nonprofit administration, including supporting the CNA Board of Directors and Land Use & Transportation Committee as contract recording secretary.

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Need a place for your event?
The Community Room at McNamara Kennedy School is a great place for your book club, birthday or baby shower.

Pricing: $25/hr ($15/hr. for nonprofits
Info: ConcordiaPDX.org/community-room-rental

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‘Still We Rise’ mural is history and art

By Karen Wells
CNA Media Team

The last link of chain, broken, dangles from the arm of central male figure as he cradles a brown child. Arm and index finger point to Pan-African flag embellished with “Still We Rise.”

This is the title of Arvie Smith’s 2018 mural facing Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Boulevard at Alberta Commons Natural Grocers, 5055 N.E. MLK Blvd. The 10-by-17-foot porcelain enamel panel is a permanent installation of the Alberta Commons building.

The mural is one of two murals to be installed. The other mural, “Until We Get There” by artist Mehran Heard, will be of the same dimensions and will face Alberta Street.

“Still We Rise” is a nod to Maya Angelou’s 1978, 240-word poem “Still I Rise.” Arvie’s multi-paneled mural is a narrative of Portland African-American history from last century to the present.

Icons embedded in the mural’s field provide clues to the forces and elements that shaped, negatively or positively, the Portland black experience.

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The central figure stands on a roadway posted as “I-5.” Scenes of flood waters and home destruction morph to a nightclub band scene. The flute guy in the band, clad in yellow, is Arvie Smith.

The 11 o’clock position, offers scenes of occupations and police brutality. The 1 o’clock area tells the story of the impact the Emanuel Hospital expansion on the community’s viability. A broad red line dominates the 5 o’clock space.

Arvie is a long-time northeast neighbor and, in 1984, became the first African-American graduate of Pacific Northwest College of Art, where he earned a bachelor’s of fine art. He received his master’s in fine art from Maryland Institute of Art in 1992.

His work has been featured in numerous Baltimore and Portland galleries, including the Portland Art Museum.

Editor’s note: If you’d like to know more about Arvie Smith and Maya Angelou, their lives and their art, Karen shares her resources online. Visit ConcordiaPDX.org/still-we-rise.

Neighborhoods director addresses Concordia Sept. 5

Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) opens its Wednesday, Sept. 5, general membership meeting with a presentation by Suk Rhee, Portland Office of Civic & Community Life director.

The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room, preceded by the monthly board of directors meeting at 7 p.m.

Suk was hired as director for the city department – previously called Office of Neighborhood Involvement – in August 2017. She had served for 12 years at the Northwest Health Foundation as strategy & community partnership president.

In addition to working with 95 neighborhood associations, the director’s organization oversees: information & referral services, crime prevention, noise control, graffiti, liquor and cannabis licensing; and programs that support public involvement, disabilities, youth and civic leadership.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who hired Suk, told employees in an email the director “has a proven track record when it comes to engaging the community in developing ways to better the lives of all Portlanders.”

The commissioner added, “She is also a big-picture thinker who will help lead our efforts to improve the ways we connect with and support people across our entire community, especially when it comes to diverse populations and underserved communities.”

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Thursday, Oct. 4, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Vernon School will celebrate its 111th anniversary with an open house. All are welcome.

The school’s motto “I Believe. I Belong. I Become,” is as true today as it was in 1931 when Gordon Hood entered the school among the first students in the newly rebuilt school.

The old Vernon School had been an impressive all-wood structure that was built in 1907. It was destroyed by arson in 1932. At that time, there were about 500 students enrolled. There are currently 526 students at the new Vernon School, which was built in 1931 for $259,198.

Medina Keita, 12 years old, is a bright, charming and creative 7th grader at Vernon School today. She visited recently with Gordon, a 92-year-old Vernon School alumnus who has fond memories and a sharp wit.

One would expect vast differences in school experiences. However, the opposite was true.

Although Gordon was not able to speak as specifically as Medina, there were many similarities in their Vernon experiences. Both have/had favorite teachers and classes, a fondness for their school and classmates, and a dislike of the cafeteria food.

Today Vernon school is involved in an International Baccalaureate (IB) program which teaches world awareness and social issues that are detrimental to humanity. That’s a heavy burden for a preteen old, but one that teaches students to be more open minded.

“The principle of the IB school is to challenge yourself as a learner,” Medina said.

Gordon moved to Concordia and attended Vernon from 1931 to 1937. As the result of the 1929 stock market crash, his father had lost their home and business. The Great Depression lasted until the late 1930s, and was the most widespread depression of the 20th century.

Gordon said his family moved to an apartment in Concordia that cost $12.50 per month. He left Concordia when his family purchased a home near Broadway for $2,800.

In spite of his family’s hardships while Gordon attended Vernon, he remarked that it was a great school with great teachers.

With a twinkle in his eye he said he was a bit of a friendly troublemaker but “Gordy Hood never had it so good.”

Both Medina and Gordon face social challenges with dignity. One could say the more things change the more they stay the same.

After living east, south, north and west, Marsha Sandman is home at last. And she wants to hear your story. Contact her at Marsha.Sandman@gmail.com.

Editor's note: Gordon Hood isn’t alone in having Vernon School’s history on his mind. Historian Doug Decker writes about the school – old and new – on Page 11 and details about the Oct. 4 open house are below.

Calling all Vernon alumni

Your alma mater will celebrate its 111th anniversary at an open house Thursday, Oct. 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the school, 2044 N.E. Killingsworth St. All Vernon alumni, their families and the entire Vernon community are invited.

The school is updating its list of alumni. If you attended Vernon School, add yourself to the database at Goo.gl/forms/wNUAxO2W3J6Z58aB2 or email CSchwend@pps.net. If you know people who attended, please share this information with them.

The school is also collecting pieces of its history. If you have memorabilia to donate, call 503.916.6415.

And mark your calendar for Oct. 30 through Nov. 25, when Concordia University will host an exhibit of Vernon Voices, a photo/historical display connecting current Vernon students with alumni.

Have you checked out CNA’s Facebook page?

Keep informed of CNA activities and your neighbors’ comments. Check out the page for:

- CNA Board meeting invites & meeting minutes
- Neighborhood events
- CNews story highlights
- Community discussions

Visit Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX/
PCC workforce center due redevelopment

By Tamara Anne Fowler
CNA Media Team

There's about to be a lot more activity at the corner of Killingsworth Street and 42nd Avenue.

Thanks to the ongoing support of Portland voters, a $185 million bond measure was passed last year to provide Portland Community College (PCC) the opportunity to demolish the Metro Workforce Center's two outdated buildings on that three-acre site and combine the programs into one multi-story facility.

PCC is currently staffing up its Planning and Capital Construction Office and beginning the initial planning and coordination meetings with the team at Metro Center.

PCC purchased the existing facility in 1998 and opened the Metro Workforce Center with minimal improvements. The two buildings are among the older buildings in the PCC district and no longer serve the workforce programs well, according to Rebecca Ocken, PCC planning manager.

Completing this project will reduce ongoing maintenance costs by $2 million, she added. And it will enable the community college to continue partnerships more effectively with the Oregon Department of Human Services and other regional and community workforce development entities.

Additionally, PCC is assessing the feasibility of providing affordable housing for students at the site. Student housing is very new to the college and will take some time to evaluate, Rebecca pointed out.

However, it is of great interest to PCC administrators, given the pressure on Portland's housing market and the growing number of PCC students who experience housing insecurity.

PCC will ask community members for input during the planning phase, but isn't prepared yet to name the timeframe. "I would anticipate a very broad and inclusive community engagement process," Rebecca said.

PCC wants to honor the community in regard to the Metro Workforce Center site with more lengthy, more across-the-board discussions over the next three to five years. That's a new approach for the community college.

"PCC values Metro Center as both a college and a community asset," Rebecca said.

"Over the coming year we're looking forward to hearing from community members in a variety of venues to better understand needs and expectations. This may add some time to the overall project schedule, but we feel it is well worth it."

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News from the NET

Fire station advises: prepare in advance

By Tom Phillips
Concordia/Vernon/Woodlawn NET

In July, your local Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) met with the four members of Shift B at Fire Station 14 in Alberta Park to share a BBQ and get-together.

I don’t know about you, but I’m always a little in awe of police and firefighters. I tend to give them a wide berth out of respect, admiration and the feeling that they are just different than me.

Nope! Turns out they are a great group, ready to talk about the neighborhood, ready to talk about how to respond to emergencies, ready to joke and definitely ready to eat.

Company officer Damon Simmons welcomed us and welcomed our contributions to the welfare of our neighborhood. He reiterated that NET volunteers have been helpful in many situations and, as a “known entity,” they appreciate our continuing work where and when needed.

Damon talked about what neighbors need to do in the event of an emergency, large or small. First thing: think critically. Think about what you are doing and the possible implications.

When I asked what he would like to tell our neighbors when considering the possibility of a large scale emergency, he narrowed it down to one word: prepare.

To prepare means taking care of each other, gathering stocks of food and water, communicating with family (especially kids) and making a plan.


We appreciated our time with the firefighters at Fire Station 14. We were also happy to have battalion chief Andy Ponce join us. We thank them for their hospitality, their knowledge and advice, and all they do for our community.

To follow up on Damon’s suggestion about family planning for an emergency situation, please check out the “Make a Plan” section at the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management website at portlandoregon.gov/bmem/.

Editor’s note: If you have questions about emergency preparation — individually or related to the Concordia neighborhood — send them to CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org

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What's Selling in Concordia?

182 Homes sold in RMLS in last 12 months as of August 6th

4.9% Increase in Average Sale Price since 2017

Avg. Sale Price in 2017: ............. $503,593
Avg. Sale Price in 2016: ............. $482,298
Avg. Days on market: ............. 42

This information provided by
Mark Charlesworth, Concordia resident & Broker
Keller Williams, Portland Central.
davecharlesworth@gmail.com · 503.897.9911

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Tamara Anne Fowler is a copy/content editor, fiction editor and accountability coach. Visit her at EditKitten.com, email her at Tamara@editkitten.com or call 310.359.6038. She would love to hear from you.
Boutique offers palette of talent

Palette 42, 5126 N.E. 42nd Ave., opened in May and offers an eclectic and multicultural blend of items by local entrepreneurs and consignors.

Bobbie Stewart’s shop is a unique business model that offers local designers, makers, artists and authors a place to showcase and build their businesses, and offers customers a place to shop for local artisan items from clothing to books to beauty products to coffee.

Bobbie created Palette 42 to help multicultural brands grow from start-up to mainstream. “This is a teaching store in which a lot of people are given the opportunity to work as a collective to build their individual brands,” she pointed out.

Bobbie has lived in northeast Portland since age 2, and her commitment to community stands out – especially during her difficulty finding a retail space to lease, initially as a boutique combined with a natural hair salon.

She would call about spaces for lease and say she was an African-American business serving African-American women. Frequently she would not receive a call back.

So she created her current business model of a boutique that recruits entrepreneurs to lease space, requires a modest rent and labels each product with its maker’s information so customers can find the product again.

Each retailer has a business license, insurance and the social media necessary to drive people to the shop.

“My mission is about who I serve more than anything else,” Bobbie said. “I can’t do business and make it about myself – I want to be a true support person.”

With the opportunity for a three-month lease to try out selling at the retail level to a one-year lease with retirement investment, her unique model is one that gives new businesses a chance to grow.

The bright modern space showcases many unique, colorful items. Just a few pieces from the 45 makers are:

- Essence, a line of organic vegan face and body products
- How Sweet It Is, a local confection with caramel corn and peanut brittle
- Soapbox Theory, dishware and lunch boxes for boys and girls printed with images of children in many shades of brown.
- Essence of African Style and Pieces by Sherele
- Designs by Le’yon

The space is one in which customers can touch, smell, and try things on with price points from $5 to $40.

Interested in selling there? Visit the shop Mondays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., or apply at Palette42.com.

Palette 42 is giving the neighborhood opportunities at many levels and owner Bobbie invites neighbors, “Come and play in the store.”

Rachel Richards is a 16-year Concordia resident who loves her community. She has a background in counseling/education and uses her passion for helping others in her work as a real estate broker. Contact Rachel or learn more about her at RachelRichardsRealtor.com.
Barbara Kelso describes herself as a sleep-deprived mom, writer and amateur paparazzo of her neurodiverse autism spectrum disorder family. She started her blog, Kelso Kids, 7 1/2 years ago as a journal for her daughter Leonora, now 7, in case something happened during Barbara’s pregnancy with the girl. Barbara had gestational diabetes, and the medical professionals were scaring her about being pregnant. At only 34 years old, they labeled her pregnancy geriatric. If anything happened, she wanted Leonora to know who she was, and what her hopes and dreams were.

Kelso Kids began to help her feel less alone in her experience as a mom. As time went on, her blog evolved. Barbara included personal observations, her experiences with post partum depression and anxiety. She wanted to piece together why moms can struggle — and come together in a sense of community.

Barbara went through the grieving process. Now, she is able to see things more from Owen’s and Leonora’s points of view. She can accept these Kelso Kids are unique.

“The beauty of autism is there is no filter, no hidden agenda, no malice,” Barbara observed.

As Barbara neared 40, she wanted to have a book under her belt. She published “Chimera Lines” in 2015. It’s a darkly humorous fiction about what life might look like if an earthquake was to hit Portland, and how an entire neighborhood of friends and family would react. “Chimera Lines” is available on Smashwords.com and Amazon.com.

She was breast feeding at the time, so a good chunk of her book was written one-handed, using her phone.

Now Barbara has no fewer than four new books she is working on. The one she really wants to finish soon is “Merit Badge,” a wry fiction about a family that is neurodiverse and the wife is leading a double life as an assassin. The protagonist’s autistic husband is clueless.
Kargi Gogo offers the tastes of Georgia

By Steve Elder

Walk into Kargi Gogo and you’ll experience the warmth and charm of a Georgian home. That’s the country, not the state.

Kargi Gogo opened July 18 in the former home of Big Egg at 3036 N.E. Alberta St. It’s the cherry yellow brick-and-mortar iteration of a downtown food cart, which owners Sean Fredericks and McKinze Cook closed three years ago.

Kargi Gogo literally translates to “good girl,” a term of endearment in Georgian, and the business’ cheerful girl logo embodies that. She tops the menu that offers items designed to please meat eaters, vegetarians, vegans and gluten-free diners.

At its base, Kargi Gogo serves khacha puri – breads stuffed with cheese and other fillings, including one with an overly easy egg and butter – plus the pillowy, filled dumplings called khinkali.

Also on the menu is another favorite of Sean’s, Georgian wine. “Much of it is made in large clay vessels buried underground, the same way it has been for 8,000 years.”

“We’re bringing wines to Portland that have never been here before and we’re always adding to our selection.”

To see a sample menu for other Georgian treats, visit KargiGogo.com.

Sean and McKinze know their Georgian food and wine. They served in the Peace Corps in Georgia from 2010 to 2012.

“We fell in love with the food, but also the Georgian culture of hospitality and generosity,” Sean explained. “We knew we couldn’t get that food back in the states, so we came back and opened the food cart in 2013.

Since closing the cart at the end of 2015, the couple sold Georgian spices online and cooked for a few events. They also traveled – including spending most of summer 2016 in Georgia – and pursued other interests.

McKinze got a full-time job that she continues to enjoy, and Sean spent 2017 as a marketing consultant until he decided at the end of the year to open Kargi Gogo.

“We’re trying to create the warmth of a typical Georgian home and, as soon as I saw the character and charm of this space, I knew it was perfect,” he said.

He’s as pleased about the space. “It has a large kitchen, which is helpful when making so much dough.

“Alberta Street is such a busy and lively area with a great sense of community, and the neighborhood has been wonderful about welcoming us in.”

To see a sample menu for other Georgian treats, visit KargiGogo.com.

Steve Elder, East2@ConcordiaPDX.org, is an inactive lawyer, a developer, activist and old grouch.

Increase your odds of healthy travel

By Kim Magraw

Picture yourself on a long-anticipated vacation. After months and months of continuous work, you finally escape to a faraway place with none of the trappings and distractions at home . . . and you get sick.

Coughing, sneezing, dripping, maybe worse. You have no energy and no desire to enjoy your time away. You know you’ve been there. I was there this summer.

There’s no way to eliminate the possibility of getting sick while traveling. But, there are ways to reduce the chances and severity, such as:

• Get plenty of rest. Try to plan ahead so you don’t spend the whole night before your trip madly packing and getting the house ready. If you are flying, sleep during your flights if possible. If you are driving, take turns driving and resting.

• Stay hydrated. Be sure some of what you are drinking is plain water – by definition the most hydrating substance. If you’re flying, take an empty bottle through security then fill it up at a fountain and take it on the plane.

• Eat a varied and healthy diet. When traveling it can be difficult to control your diet or even keep track of your meals. If you skip a meal or have a snack in place of a meal, be sure to make your next meal substantive and healthy.

• Wash your hands often and thoroughly. Take soap and/or hand sanitizer with you.

• Be aware. When traveling in areas with questionable water and food quality, take the appropriate precautions to avoid ingesting nasty bugs with your delicious foods and beverages.

• Pay attention. If you notice that you feel off or start having symptoms, take care of it right away. Up the ante on rest, liquids, food quality and cleanliness.

Kim Magraw practices massage at Concordia Wellness – ConcordiaWellness.com – and is a founding member of Concordia Area Massage and Bodywork Professionals.
Kennedy grads revel at Kennedy


Twenty alumni with family members attended the gathering to meet classmates – many of whom they had not seen for 50 years. That included teacher Tom Pickett, who returned from Vancouver to the school where his teaching career began.

Although most alumni who attended have left the neighborhood for other parts of Portland, some drove from Eugene and Bend. Others sent messages from out of state.

The Pop-up History exhibit attracted old photos, report cards, safety patrol certificates and student-created notebooks. Nancy Redfern Kikes brought her annotated copy of the 1968 class play.

After taking a group photo in front of Kennedy School, some alumni regrouped outside a school window that was the scene of a notorious 1960s incident.

According to Julie Watkins Bourgeois, who was among the students who were busted so long ago, it was Daniel Gray’s idea to jump out of the classroom window. “We thought it brilliant,” Julie reported. “We jumped. But the lookout turned us in, and a trip to principal’s office followed.”

Everyone agreed it’s pretty cool to celebrate in the building where we attended classes half a century ago, and see photos of familiar faces on display in the building’s halls.

Members of the class of ’68 turned 64 this year, so the theme “When we’re 64” was adapted from the 1967 Beatles song.

We were so busy visiting that we forgot to play it. But, I can answer the song’s question, “Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I’m 64?” It’s definitely yes! And we enjoyed our pizza, beer, wine and our birthday cake too!
From the pens of kids
Faubion School 6th grade students ended last school year writing poetry. Here are the efforts of two. Look for two Vernon School poems in the October CNews.

Think About It!
By Samiyah Willis

Think about life and what it means
It’s about faith and following your dreams
Happiness comes in every kiss
of life and love,
And sweet, pure bliss
Giving us something to think of
Remember those days when you were a child
The world was a better place and it never changed
There was love in every smile.
And plans were never rearranged
So you’re a kid and one day you’re an adult
That doesn’t mean there’s nothing beautiful left to see
The facts of life isn’t your fault.
And life can be anything you want it to be
In the circle of life there are some hard choices
Just remember your dreams
And remember loving voices
Maybe then you’ll see that life isn’t what it seems
But mostly remember there is a war out there so come prepared to fight
No matter what a wrong don’t prove a right
It’s not the torture of sorrow
That comes with everyday
It’s the joy of the new tomorrow
And the happiness that will come to stay
Think about life and all it means
It’s about faith and following your dreams

Waiting for Summer
By Shardanae Jarrell

Grey clouds, rain and dew on the grass,
the coldness surrounds me like an enemy,
coughing and sneezing, daddy makes me drink terrible medicine!

Everyone at school cold and ready to go home
but of course Ms. Chee says
No. When I do go home, I lay on the couch like a cow taking up ALL the space trying to get warm
As soon as I hop in bed at 9 p.m.
When the darkness comes, I hear leaves being flown on to my window
and crouching onto the ground like chips,
that soon turn into soggy cereal after the rain hits them.
It’s so cold!!! No more sun?
No more summer?
All I can do is wait.
Warmness is still not here so
I fall onto the grass upset cereal leaves sprinkle onto the grass
like sprinkles on a cake.
I see kids laughing and playing
Like nothing in the world the world
That can harm them or there won’t ever be.
I guess the kids like fall.
Later into the month the kids are surprised
the grown ups are too!
They are so pleased with fall when
Summer comes they can’t wait
For fall when summer comes again

Like your neighborhood?
Opportunities abound – volunteer and sometimes paid – to help support your community through Concordia Neighborhood Association programs. From executive leadership to social activities to land use to digital and print media, CNA needs you.

Ready to help?
Email: Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org

Crowds were strong last month at the Alberta Street Fair. Photo by Rob Rogers

NE ALBERTA SIDEWALK SALE
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albertamainst.org
Vernon, old and new, shaped Concordia

By Doug Decker

Next month, as we celebrate Vernon School, it’s worth exploring how both of Vernon’s schools (the old and the new) have shaped the neighborhood over the years.

Readers of this column may recall that there once was a giant wooden building known as Vernon School that occupied the entire block bounded by 23rd and NE 22nd avenues and Going and Wygant streets.

Built in 1907-1908 old Vernon (as we like to call it) was both cornerstone and hearth for the Vernon and Concordia community. By day it teemed with more than 700 children from throughout the block.

By afternoon and evening it was where the community met: sports clubs, drama groups, women’s sewing circles, evening classes, scout gatherings, local business groups. Located as it was in the heart of the community, literally surrounded on all sides by homes and residential streets, its presence came to define the area.

As the neighborhood aged, sensibilities about public buildings shifted away from wood, and the availability of buildable residential lots became tight.

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The original Vernon School, built in 1907-1908, was located on the block bounded by 23rd and 22nd avenues and Going and Wygant streets. This view of the school’s south side is looking north-northwest about 1912. The main entrance was on the north side in the center.

The modern brick building came to define that part of the neighborhood, and hosted activities, clubs and gatherings. Memories of the big old wooden structure faded, and have now slipped below the surface of living memory.

Which is why it’s important to look back now and then to remember where we’ve been.

Read more about old Vernon, new Vernon and the practice houses that taught students about domestic vocational arts at AlamedaHistory.org/tag/vernon-school.

Editor’s note: See Page 4 for memories of new Vernon from one of its alumni.

Need a place for your book club to meet?

The Community Room at McMenamins Kennedy School is available for your next gathering, book club, birthday, baby shower or special occasion.

- Free Wi-Fi
- Capacity for 49 people
- Private off street parking
- $25/hour ($15/hr. for nonprofits)

Learn more at: ConcordiaPDX.org/community-room-rental

McMenamins Kennedy School is Portland’s Top Agents with a proven marketing plan is the right move. Call Mark today for a free market overview. It’s your move.

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Concordia community events calendar

**Tuesdays, Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, 6:30-9pm**
**TEXTILE TUESDAYS**
**Location:** Cerimion House, 5131 NE 23rd Ave.
**Join other neighbors for camaraderie & craftsmanship. Bring a textile project you are working on or observe others – as the group stitches, knits, quilts & crafts. It’s a simple gathering of artful citizens.**
**Details:** cerimionhouse.org
**Wednesdays-Sundays, through Sept 16, 1-4pm**
**WINING LUNGE MUSEUM EXHIBIT OF ART OF JIMMY TSUTOMU MIRIKITANI**
**Location:** Emerson Street House, 1006 NE Emerson St
**Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani was a fiercely independent Japanese American artist who lost his family & friends to the US internment camps during World War II & the Hiroshima bombing. This remarkable exhibition about his art & life is a poignant exploration of the lasting impacts of war & discrimination, & the healing power of creativity.**
**Details:** emersonstreethouse.com/currentexhibit/

**Wednesday, Sept. 5, 7:30pm**
**CNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
**Location:** Kennedy School Community Room
**The quarterly meeting features Portland Office of Community & Civic Life director Suk Rhee & updates on CNA events, issues & ideas.**
**Details:** Page 3
**Thursdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, 7:40-8:40am**
**TOASTMASTERS**
**Location:** George R. White Library & Learning Center Community Room, 2800 NE Liberty
**Advisors Toastmasters is a small, but active, group that gives members opportunities to try speaking & leadership in a safe, nurturing & supportive environment with feedback that is aimed at helping you improve your speaking, listening & leadership skills.**
**Details:** advisors.toastmastersclubs.org

**Thursdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, 4-7pm**
**CULLY FARMERS MARKET**
**Location:** 5011 NE 22nd Ave—Farmers market is back every Thursday through September. Meet continuing & new vendors, enjoy entertainment, grab dinner with friends, connect with your community, buy fresh veggies, support local farms & artisans, trade/sell your homegrown/handmade items at the Community Table. Special events:
**Sept. 6: Peter Boesen, Jazz Pianist**
**Sept. 27: New Seasons chef demo 6-7pm**
**More events at cullyfarmersmarket.org**

**Saturday, Sept. 7, 8:30am-noon**
**FERNHILL PARK TREE INVENTORY**
**Location:** Fernhill Park
**Volunteers of all ages are needed to help with the inventory. Each new set of hands will be paired with a trained team leader from Portland Parks & Recreation/Urban Forestry & a Fernhill Tree Team member.**
**Details:** portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/485261, tnyurl.com/fernhill1, tnyurl.com/fernhill2

**Tuesday, Sept. 11, 6pm**
**RACE TALKS**
**Location:** McMenamins Kennedy School
**These opportunities for dialogue about race in Oregon – both historically & the current time – are presented by McMenamins History & Donna Maxey. Doors open: 6pm; discussion: 7pm**
**Details:** roaetalkspd.com

**Saturday, Sept. 15, noon-4pm**
**AQUIFER ADVENTURE**
**Location:** Portland Water Bureau Launch, 16660 NE Airport Wy
**Big & little pirates alike are welcome at this family festival all about groundwater. Activities include games, scavenger hunt for groundwater, canoe rides, face painting, hands-on science activities, ice cream, aquifers & more. Pirate costumes encouraged free kids T-shirts to the first 300 children. Co-sponsored by Columbia Gorge Watershed Council & Portland Water Bureau.**
**Details:** No registration, contact susanne.raymond@columbiaclark.org, 503.281.1132

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 9am-1pm**
**RAIN GARDENS 101**
**Location:** Livingscape, 3926 N Vancouver Ave
**Learn how rain gardens add beauty & color to your yard while helping to reduce the health of urban streams at the same time. You will get step-by-step details on how to plan, design & build your own rain garden. Where possible, workshop includes a short tour of a nearby rain garden.**
**Details:** registration@emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/upcoming-workshops/ or 503.222.7645

**Thursday, Sept. 20, 6-7pm**
**SPANISH CONVERSATION CLASSES**
**Location:** Kennedy School Community Room
**Sponsors these free classes. Brush up on your Spanish skills to reach out to the Hispanic community more effectively. All levels are welcome.**
**Details:** social@concordiapdx.org

**Saturday, Sept. 22, 9am-noon**
**URBAN WEEDS**
**Location:** Leaven Community, 5431 NE 20th Ave
**Learn about the most common garden & landscape weeds. You’ll find out how these aggressive plants take over your yard, & get tips that will help you take the upper hand without turning to synthetic herbicides.**
**Details:** emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/upcoming-workshops/or 503.222.7645

**Sunday, Sept. 23, 11am-4pm**
**NORTHEAST SUNDAY PARKWAYS**
**Location:** Visit map at portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/676060
**The annual Sunday Parkways visits north-east Portland again, providing eight miles of walking, biking & rolling amusement. Streets closed to vehicular traffic get you to Fernhill, Woodhavn, Alberta & Kthumakwst parks. At each, you’ll find activities, music & food vendors. At Kthumakwst Park is the Bilingual Bike-Fair.**
**Details:** Page 6

**Community calendar items**
Admission to events is free unless otherwise noted. Priority is afforded to local events sponsored by – or which benefit – local nonprofit organizations. Submit information to CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org by the 10th of the month preceding the event.

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