ADUs offer homes to homeless

By Vanessa Miali
CNA Media Team

How far are you willing to go to help your community deal with the homelessness crisis? Would you put a 200-square-foot accessory dwelling unit (ADU) on your property and house a homeless family for five years? What if the construction was free, and you could purchase the ADU at the end of your contract for fair market value?

“This program seemed like a good fit for us, plus it’s mutually beneficial for people who need housing.”

- John LaMar

five years? What if the construction was free, and you could purchase the ADU at the end of your contract for fair market value?

This is the strategy behind an innovative housing project called A Place for You, created by the Multnomah Idea Lab, part of the Multnomah County Department of Human Services. The lab tests new policies and innovations to help people and communities thrive.

“The first and greatest benefit of this program is it directly creates housing for families,” said Tim Miller, Enhabit CEO, the nonprofit that administers the pilot project.

“Secondly, it’s bringing public partners and nonprofits together in a move toward creating a scalable housing solution for those who need it.”

Last spring, four homeowners were selected from 1,100 applicants to test the concept.

Concordian John LaMar had decided building an ADU was not within his means. Instead, he applied to take part in the project.

“This program seemed like a good fit for us, plus it’s mutually beneficial for people who need housing,” John said.

In late July, the preassembled ADU was installed in his back yard, and the new family moved in.

He sees his connection with the ADU occupants as more than just the landlord. “We have a neighborly relationship, and they are a very nice family.”

The four project locations were chosen based on proximity to key services like transit, public schools, grocery stores and daycares.

“Part of the magic is figuring out how housing can be integrated into the community because housing is what ends homelessness,” said Denis Theriault, county Joint Office of Homeless Services communications coordinator.

During the project, the four families will receive social service support from the county, such as help if a car breaks down, medical bills or job placement assistance. They will also be expected to contribute a small amount to their rent for maintenance and upkeep.

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the vast majority of homeless who transition into supportive housing situations are able to remain housed in the community. They are also less likely to be incarcerated or use costly emergency health care systems.

If the pilot project is successful, the county’s aim is to eventually build 300 tiny homes and promote the program across the country.
This room can offer more

As a Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) board member, social committee chair and coordinator of McMenamins Kennedy School Community room…I’m loving my involvement in CNA.

I especially enjoy the synergies we’re identifying between the very active social committee and the community room that McMenamins allows us to use, and to rent out for various uses.

Both fulfill the CNA mission to connect Concordia residents and businesses:
- Community room rentals raise dollars that we give back to the neighborhood in community-building and fun activities – the holiday party, spring egg hunt, Fernhill Park Concert Series, workshops, community grants and more.
- The social committee creates many of those community-building events.

I want to see the community room become more than a money maker – to become a community builder. Many hours the room sits empty when we could book free activities that fill our mission to connect people by engaging residents and/or businesses.

So I’m reaching out to people willing to give one-time classes, or series of classes.

So are craft and other creative sessions to strengthen intergenerational relations.

Some of our current, regular renters may want to open their activities to the public. Sacred Harp is one. It’s a group of people who love to sing – using a shape note system – with no auditions, no performing. This form of music-making traces its origins to New England in the late 1700s.

A monthly game night begins Oct. 19 – for children ages 8-12, accompanied by parents or guardians – to play board games. (Electronics are banned!) CNA has already begun conversational Spanish classes there on Thursday evenings. All levels are welcomed.

We are not allowed to give the room free for political and religious events; otherwise, the opportunities are endless.

If something pops into your mind that you – or someone you know – could offer in the community room, please email me at CNARoomKenny@gmail.com.

I encourage you to check out our Community Room Calendar column on Page 8.

Sonia Fornoni, born in Bariloche, Argentina, moved to Florida in 1920. From a very young age Sonia longed to return to the neighborhood in community-building events.

Need a place for your event?
The Community Room at McMenamins Kennedy School is a great place for your book club, birthday or baby shower. Pricing: $25/hr ($15/hr. for nonprofit). Contact Heather Pashley, CNA@ConcordiaPDX.org for community-room rental.

Want to work as a beat reporter?
As a reporter for CNews, experience the thrill of bringing relevant info to Concordia readers! Choose the subjects you want to cover — from events to new businesses, schools to community issues and so much more.
Sara Wittenberg, Alberta Main Street executive director, passed away Aug. 25 at age 48, following her courageous battle with cancer.

She served Alberta Main Street from its 2010 inception, after nearly 20 years serving in other public service and community development roles.

Immediately prior to joining Alberta Main Street, she was the AmeriCorps VISTA project leader for Main Street projects in Oregon.

Concordia Neighborhood Association – along with the entire community – mourns the loss of Sara’s passion, her energy and her sparkling sense of humor. In lieu of flowers, her family suggests donations to Alberta Main Street at AlbertaMainSt.org/get-involved/give/ or the local humane society at OregonHumane.org/donate/.

“I admired Sara’s deep concern for the community and her desire to share her vision for Alberta and the Main Street program with everyone she met. Sara was invested in this community in every way. I speak for all of us at Prosper Portland in saying we will miss her energy, passion and spirit.”

Kimberly Branam
Prosper Portland executive director

“Sara always worked toward an inclusive, community-serving Alberta Street. So much about what’s right on Alberta is dotted with her fingerprints. She was one of my favorite thought-partners, always lending her compass to friends navigating difficult circumstances. The gap created by her absence is exceeded by the legacy she leaves.”

Michael DeMarco
Our 42nd Avenue executive director

“Over the six years that I have worked with Sara at Alberta Main Street, I’ve never seen anyone put more time and passion into their work. Her efforts to build relationships and develop a community on Alberta Street were integral in maintaining the unique vibrant nature of the street.”

James Armstrong
Alberta Main Street board member & former chair

“Sara was a compassionate and dedicated leader in our neighborhood. She was a driving factor in the changes on Alberta with business coordination and communications.”

Belinda Clark
Former CNA Board of Directors co-chair

Alberta Main Street has lost a member of our immediate family. Sara Wittenberg, our one and only executive director since the formation of our organization in 2010, passed peacefully in August.

Her presence will be missed, but the legacy of her work lives on.

Sara was dedicated to and believed in the power of community. She worked tirelessly, aiding and assisting the scores of residents, business owners and property owners who sought assistance at her door.

She was giving of self, and we are all better for it.

Running a Main Street program is no easy task, one needs to consider the past, be present today and maintain a vision for the future – Sara did this all with aplomb. She embraced Alberta Street – understood its rhythm and rhyme – was able and willing to rise to the challenge of the work and offered a seat at the table for all who were concerned.

Her dedication to our organization’s mission was real, tangible and lasting.

The National Main Street Center recently announced Alberta Main Street is a semifinalist for the 2019 Great American Award. The full list of winners will be announced at the National Main Street Council in March. We are thankful to share with you that Sara was all smiles when she learned of the news last month.

As founding board members of Alberta Main Street, that is how we will choose to remember her – being passionate about the community she served. All of us are better off for her time, efforts and dedication.

Thank you Sara, from the bottoms of our hearts.

Robert W. Cross and Larry Holmes
Founding board members of Alberta Main Street
Neighborhoods, city retool for 21st century

By Steve Elder
CNA Media Team

The name change from Office of Neighborhood Involvement to Office of Community and Civic Life (OC&CL) reflects the Portland bureau's mission. It's to involve all Portlanders to shape their individual communities and affect the policies of the city to reflect their community and neighborhood needs and concerns.

That’s what OC&CL director Suk Rhee told Concordians at the neighborhood association's quarterly general membership meeting last month.

OC&CL is involved in programs ranging from cannabis and crime prevention to noise and alternative shelter. The neighborhood association system, the neighborhood association software and hardware for online conferencing wasn’t prohibited by city guidelines.

Suk Rhee, Office of Community & Civic Life

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“The defeat of the Mount Hood Freeway was a high point,” she said. “A low point might have been the construction of the Interstate MAX line that bifurcated a neighborhood.”

The issue was raised whether neighborhood associations are actually homeowner associations and whether the interests of nonhomeowners are represented.

“That’s not unique to Portland,” Suk pointed out. “Homeowner” is not a dirty word but, when homeowner interests are all that’s represented, that’s a problem.”

Garlynn Woodsong, Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) board member, reported all but one of the current board members are homeowners. Until recently CNews was delivered only to houses, not to multi-family dwellings.

“We weren’t getting the word out.”

That’s what OC&CL director Suk Rhee told Concordians at the neighborhood association’s quarterly general membership meeting last month.

OC&CL is involved in programs ranging from cannabis and crime prevention to noise and alternative shelter. The neighborhood association system, the neighborhood association software and hardware for online conferencing wasn’t prohibited by city guidelines.

The need to engage in electronic communications – and the need to update city guidelines to allow them – was also discussed by meeting participants and the director.

For instance, when board member Truls Neal is out of town on business, he could attend board meetings if video conferencing wasn’t prohibited by city guidelines.

The director agreed. “We need to change those rules.”

Another matter which requires updating to 21st century standards is cannabis. According to Suk, it’s not just an Oregon Liquor Control issue. Cannabis has become a social issue.

It took generations to decriminalize marijuana and set a new reality. “Now it is an industry where entrepreneurs can get a piece of the action,” she said.

That’s just some of the new issues that face a 44-year-old institution of neighborhoods.

And that, she said, is expressed in her bureau’s mission: “Promoting a culture of civic engagement by connecting and supporting all Portlanders working together and with government to build inclusive, safe and livable neighborhoods and communities.”

“Homeowner” is not a dirty word but, when homeowner interests are all that’s represented, that’s a problem.”

– Suk Rhee

You have the power to change your story

By Penny Hill
Licensed massage therapist

It all comes around to your thoughts. Everything begins as a thought.

Buildings, cars, clothes – all began as blueprints and patterns that some one thought of. The Peace Corps, The Salvation Army, the internet all began as thoughts that had never been thought before.

The story of you has been being written in your nervous system and body your whole life – your inclinations, strengths and foibles, the thoughts that stream continuously in your mind.

When you were old enough to start having your own independent experiences, even more “story” pathways were established.

How does your story affect your life?

Let’s take an example of going out on stage. For most people it’s nerve wracking. Let’s say you had an embarrassing incident. Depending on the inclinations of your nervous system, you could respond very differently. You could be very embarrassed and decide that you’re never going to put yourself out there like that again. Or you could enjoy that you made people laugh and you’d choose to do more of that.

Both of those paths are perfectly fine choices. But any choice we make without any consciousness that we actually made a choice becomes a pattern, then a habit and then just who we think we are.

But it may not be a pattern that in the end serves us well. It may never occur to us that we can change our story, that we have that power.

You are still writing your story. What are your thoughts becoming? There is no line between reactive and creative thought. There are no idle thoughts. There is only creative thought. You are a creator, of the shape of your body, life, and relationships.

As Mike Dooly said, “Thoughts become things, pick the good ones!”

Penny Hill is owner at Rising Sun Massage and CalmHealthEase.com, EFT Tapping for Stress Relief. She is also a cofounder of Concordia Area Massage and Bodywork Professionals.

Fridays, 10:30 – noon
SUBUD Center, 3185 NE Regents Drive
All voices welcome. No auditions ever. Flexible payment options.

FeastCommunityChoir.com

Find us (and LIKE US!) on Facebook for updates and other timely information.

www.Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX

Singing for the pure joy of creating harmony in community
Concordia News

Find this home, Airbnb by mural on a post

By Nancy Varekamp
CNews Editor

It isn’t always easy to see the addresses on houses. But visitors — and now Airbnb guests — no longer have difficulty finding the home of Roger Fitzsimon on northeast 31st Avenue.

Last summer he installed a post in his front yard, complete with the house address and scenes he had painted on the four sides of a 45-inch-tall bed post.

“I’ve painted all my life,” he explained. “When I emigrated from England 10 years ago, I removed a canvas from its frame for easier transport. Then I learned how expensive framing can be.”

So he began buying used windows and redepolying them as frames. Then his efforts evolved to painting directly on the glass. “That stemmed from wanting to add some color and life to my back yard,” he said.

Roger noticed painted fence posts in a few local yards, and decided to give it a try with a bedpost.

“I’m always looking for a new challenge,” he said. “Painting scenes that continued around the corners was quite a challenge.”

The Portland skyline, for instance, flows across three sides of the post.

Other scenes include Portland’s food carts, Multnomah Falls and Cannon Beach. “There are so many great things in this state to paint,” he pointed out.

Roger painted the post while awaiting final licensing on the Airbnb. Both were in place by August. The post not only catches the attention of out of towners in search of his Ye Olde Tiny House. It also offers them part of a fun challenge.

Guests post selfies on Instagram — YeOldeTinyHouse2018 — at scenes and/or with things depicted on the post to win drinks and food at Roger’s favorite local pub, T.C. O’Leary’s.

“Guests love the idea.”

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Migration summit on tap Nov. 1

Concordia venues host the Thursday, Nov. 1, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon summit on migration.

This 2018 Collins Summit is from 1 to 9:15 p.m. at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church and Concordia University. The topic is “Human Migration: Claiming roots in an uprooted world.”

The event includes an afternoon seminar with a plenary and workshop sessions on the causes of migration, what the journeys entail, challenges faced upon arrival, and the intersectionality of community concerns such as racism, profiling and criminal justice. The afternoon events begin at 1 p.m. at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, 6700 N.E. 29th Ave.

The evening session begins at 7 p.m. in the Concordia University gymnasium, 6430 N.E. 27th Ave. Featured are Rev. David Vásquez-Levy, Pacific School of Religion president, and Ellen Rosenblum, Oregon attorney general.

**Measures could impact Concordia**

By Galyne Woodbang

Chair, CNA IUTC

This election isn’t a national presidential election, so some folks may be tempted to tune out. I would like to encourage you instead to engage, pay attention and make your voice count.

Here’s a run-down of ballot measures that may impact Concordia neighbors.

**Measure 26-200** imposes campaign finance contributions and expenditures, and requires campaign communications to identify funder, within the city.

**Measure 26-201** imposes a percent surcharge on Portland retailers with more than $1 billion in total annual revenue and Portland annual revenue more than $500,000. It would create the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund for Clean Energy Projects (renewable energy, building efficiency upgrades, green building design, tree canopy expansion); clean energy job training efforts for traditionally under-employed/disadvantaged workers; and future innovation efforts.

**Measure 26-199** issues bonds to fund affordable housing in the region. If Measure 102 is also approved, these bonds could be used to enter into public-private partnerships to deliver more housing units than what otherwise be possible using the same amount of bond proceeds.

**Measure 102** allows cities and counties to issue bonds to fund privately-owned affordable housing. This is a companion to Measure 26-199, which would issue those bonds within the metro region. This is Metro’s effort to “do something” about housing affordability in the Portland region.

**Measure 103** permanently exempts a wide range of transactions from any taxes and fees. It was devised as a way to prevent the city, or any other local Oregon jurisdiction, from enacting a tax on soda pop to help to pay for the additional medical expenses imposed on public healthcare by regular soda pop consumption. It has since broadened in scope, however, and now also proposes to block taxes or fees on a broad range of transactions, including Oregon’s bottle deposit fee, the fuel tax and restaurant meals. While it is described as banning a grocery tax, it is broadly written and does much more than that.

**Measure 104** expands the Legislature’s three-fifths supermajority requirement from taxes to fees or tax loophole-removal efforts. This would make it much more difficult to do the business of government, which includes setting taxes and fees, and make it possible for the minority party to expand its veto power and thus its influence in the state capitol.

**Measure 105** repeals Oregon’s sanctuary state laws, which currently limit the ability of local law enforcement to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement. Oregon’s 31-year-old sanctuary state laws were enacted originally to ensure that citizens and non-citizens alike would feel free to report crimes and testify in court to assist law enforcement in arresting and prosecuting crimes more serious than immigration violations.

**Measure 106** prohibits cities from being spent on abortions.

No matter how you vote, please vote Nov. 6!

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**Comms gear is based at Alberta Park**

By Tom Phillips

Concordia/ Vernon/Woodlawn NET

What is that actually mean? Allow me to quote from the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM): “A BEECN is a place to go in Portland after a major earthquake to ask for emergency assistance if phone service is down, or report severe damage or injury.”

Further, “BEECNs rely on the amateur radio system (HAM), a relatively durable communications system, to help neighbors and local governments reach each other.”

The closest BEECN site for the Concordia neighborhood will be located at Alberta Park, near Fire Station 14 at the corner of Killingsworth Street and 39th Avenue.

In the aftermath of an earthquake, Concordia/ Vernon/ Woodlawn Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) and BEECN volunteers will proceed to that BEECN site.

The BEECN has an equipment cache which the volunteers will deploy. Knowing that the BEECN site will be available should provide some assurance to us and our neighbors during this time of crisis as well as providing valuable information and assistance.

However, you will still need to prepare yourselves and your homes for a major earthquake event since the BEECN will not be able to provide things like water, food or emergency supplies to take away from the site.

The BEECN program relies on the help of volunteers to succeed. Volunteers and community partners keep the BEECN caches secure, periodically test the equipment, offer program feedback to PBEM, and will be the neighbors you’ll rely on to help facilitate effective communications following an earthquake.

For more information about BEECNs and volunteer opportunities, visit PortlandOregon.gov/pbem.
The Concordia neighborhood loves Halloween. There are treats and tricks all over the place.

Concordia University (CU) invites families with children 12 years old and younger to its Halloween festival at the George R. White Library and Learning Center Wednesday, Oct. 31.

About 140 student volunteers will transform the library into a Halloween carnival with games, booths, crafts, book readings, a coloring corner, treats, toys and prizes.

Faculty and local businesses are generous with their donations to make sure there is plenty for everyone. Moms and dads have not been forgotten. There will be a coffee corner in the library so you can get a little rest from your more independent kids.

From 5 to 8 p.m. assigned groups will be escorted with their parent(s) to the Halloween-decorated eastside dorms where enthusiastic costumed students will dole out the goodies.

Upon request, there will be alternative treats for those with allergies. There's nothing scary at this party – all is fun and funny.

Dani Deputy-Grobbel is the CU residence life and community standards division director.

She talked about this event that is more than just free candy. Twelve years ago CU wanted to engage the community with an open campus while it prepares future leaders. Besides the Halloween event, students are involved in outreach with the newly rebuilt Faubion School and after school programs throughout the community.

“A community event like our Halloween-in-the-Halls is just one way the university engages with neighbors and can promote early awareness about the options of education,” Dani said. “And it provides a fun holiday experience.”

Last year between 1,300 and 1,500 people enjoyed the safe, dry, welcoming Halloween celebration.

According to Dani, CU students are aware their school is mission centered and they understand that, when children come to the college campus, they see what's possible in their future.

Twelve years ago CU wanted to engage the community with an open campus while it prepares future leaders.

Even more Halloween treats on tap

Concordia neighborhood hosts two more Halloween events on Wednesday, Oct. 31:

Alberta Main Street businesses displaying “Trick or Treat Alberta Street” posters provide treats to costumed children 3:30-6 p.m.

McMenamins Kennedy School sponsors Halloween events in the afternoon and evening that offer fun for parents and children. See ad on Page 10.

After living east, south, north and west, Marsha Sandman is home at last. And she wants to hear your story. Contact her at MarshaJSandman@gmail.com.
From the pens of kids
The Vernon School student body includes several musicians. Here are the lyrics to songs two 8th graders have written.

**Isolation**
By Rhett Lapour

Have you ever been locked away for years, Left with nothing but your thoughts and your tears, It’s everything you’ve ever feared, Suddenly nothing is even remotely clear.

Sorrow’s creation, Isolation. Broken nation’s, Isolation.

You’ll never know if it’s day or if it’s night There’s no window no source of light Nobody to talk to, nobody to fight No sense of what’s wrong than what’s right.

Sorrow’s creation, Isolation. Broken nation’s, Isolation.

**Time Goes On**
By Luke Hendrickson

Have you ever wondered if the moon was made of cheese The world keeps on turning so it’s hard to see I wake up at night and I can see it with ease But the world keeps on turn-unin’

The world keeps on turnin’ And my heart is burnin’ The world keeps on turn-i-in’ And it keeps me learnin’

Have you ever heard that sound in the middle of night It wakes you up and makes you ready to fight You open your eyes and there is nothing in sight And the world keeps on turn-unin’

Have you ever slammed your face right into a door Been thrown on the ground and just can’t get up from the floor You want to get up and you are ready for more But the world keeps on turn-unin’

The world keeps on turnin’ And my heart is burnin’ The world keeps on turn-i-in’ And it keeps me learnin’

Time goes on

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**Community Room Calendar**

Concordia Neighborhood Association hosts these events in McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room. If you’re interested in sponsoring community-building events in this 49-person-capacity venue, contact Sonia Fornoni at Social@Concordiapdx.org.

- **Thursday, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 6:30-8pm**
  **SPANISH CONVERSATION CLASSES**
  Free admission
  CNA sponsors these free classes. Brush up on your Spanish skills to reach out to the Hispanic community more effectively. All levels are welcome. For details email social@concordiapdx.org.

- **Friday, Oct. 5, 6:30-9:30pm**
  **SPIRITUAL ABUSE FORUM**
  Free admission
  This informal, open group meets quarterly to explore issues of abuse that occurs in churches and other religious organizations. Each meeting offers a topic. In October that topic is narcissistic spiritual leaders. For details, email sharongarrettis@gmail.com.

- **Friday, Oct. 19, 6-8:30pm**
  **TWEEN MONTHLY POTLUCK/GAME NIGHT**
  Free admission
  A Concordia family is organizing this game night for children ages 8-12. Throw your favorite card or board games (no electronics please!) in a bag and bring a potluck finger food in any category. Registration is required, due to room capacity limit, and a parent or guardian must accompany his or her children. Email Johanna at virtualjohanna@gmail.com with: number of attendees, children’s ages, type of potluck dish, & indicate if you are able to help with room set up &/or break down.

- **Thursday, Oct. 25, 7-9pm & Sunday, Oct. 28, 3-6pm**
  **SACRED HARP SINGING**
  Free admission
  This is not a choir, there are no auditions & no performances. Each session is composed of whomever attends, including every possible level of musical experience and ability – even those who were asked not to sing in their church choir. Songs selected come most often from “The Sacred Harp,” the most enduring of a series of books that employ the shape note system. For details, visit portlandsacredharp.org.

- **Sunday, Oct. 28, 10am-1pm**
  **PORTLAND CHAPTER OF SINGLE MOTHER’S BY CHOICE**
  Free admission
  This meeting is open to all moms who have pursued motherhood unperturbed, their children and those women considering this path. For details, visit bettyfreeman16@gmail.com.

For events scheduled after CNews press time, visit Concordiapdx.org/community-room-calendar.
“Bike polo looks hard. It is way harder than it looks.”

– Pete

Jordan started in Eugene. Tim competes in cyclo-cross. He has raced casually for the last couple of years.

Pete has been playing since 2009 and started in Columbia, Missouri.

Brandon, Pete’s roommate, is from Tallahassee, Florida, and has been playing since 2016. His friends got him into bike polo when he worked at a bike shop.

Stu has been playing for seven years. “Back in the day, when bike polo was just starting out, we used to play with ski poles or gas piping,” he said. “It was definitely DIY. Now bike polo companies are making fancier equipment.”

Black Star Bags, in southeast Portland, makes custom backpacks to hold bike polo gear. It is owned and operated by Dave Stoops, bike camper, bike polo enthusiast, ex-bike messenger and Concordia resident.

Drinking is no longer a requirement, so the current bike polo rules are:

• Don’t be a jerk.
• Only “shots” count (hit like hammer, don’t sweep like a broom).
• Corresponding contact – mallet to mallet, bike to bike, body to body – is the only contact allowed. “A lot of people’s teeth have been knocked out in bike polo,” Maria explained.

“Bike polo looks hard. It is way harder than it looks,” Pete admitted.

Games are typically 12 minutes long with teams of three taking on each other. There is no real set goalie position. Each player just takes up the spot as needed.

If Bike Polo Happy Hour is too tame, the more hardcore games are Sunday mornings. Just check out the calendar at PortlandBikePolo.org and see how you can keep the sport going.
It’s all in a day’s work for lobbyist

By Tamara Anne Fowler
CNA Media Team

A lobbyist’s day at work can be long, and it can be varied, according to Courtney Westling, Portland Public Schools government relations director. In just one day, she:

• Worked on the logistics of an upcoming visit to the school district by the Oregon Joint Legislative Committee on Student Success
• Met with city officials to talk about ways to strengthen the district’s relationship with the Portland Parks & Recreation
• Conferred with a colleague from another school district to discuss ways to collaborate during the upcoming legislative session

A lobbyist in Salem hired to move education policies, Courtney works with legislators and representatives of other school districts, school boards and education-focused associations. Their goal is to improve current policy to better serve students and to find solutions to impediments.

Courtney also connects with the federal government to keep elected leaders updated about the work happening around the school district.

with legislators and representatives of other school districts, school boards and education-focused associations. Their goal is to improve current policy to better serve students and to find solutions to impediments.

Courtney also connects with the federal government to keep elected leaders updated about the work happening around the school district. She coordinates logistics if an elected leader wants to tour a program, a school or host a school event.

In 2007 Courtney was a grad student in Washington, D.C. She returned home to Oregon and began to work on Jeff Merkley’s successful 2008 campaign. The senator called her back to Washington, D.C. – to Capitol Hill – from 2009 to 2011. Courtney then moved to Michigan and lived in Ann Arbor until 2013. She worked for the Center for Michigan, a nonprofit “think-and-do” tank.

“I led an outreach project to engage communities across the state in a conversation about what they saw as the biggest challenges in public education,” she explained. “From that work, we created a strategy to engage lawmakers in ways to address some of the common concerns that came up during our outreach.”

When Courtney and husband Mike moved back to Portland in 2013, they definitely wanted to live in northeast. In October 2014, they bought their house just off of Holman Street at 28th Avenue when Courtney was pregnant with their first child, and they needed room to grow.

Courtney and her family enjoy the neighborhood being so walkable. They like to walk or ride bikes to Tamale Boy on Dekum Street or to Handsome Pizza on Killingsworth. They love being close to parks – for sons Evan, 3½, and Graham, 1½, and for French pointer Seger (as in Bob).

Portland Public Schools are all in the family. Courtney’s mom attended Faubion School. Soon Courtney’s sons will attend Faubion as well.

Courtney Westling and husband Mike returned to Oregon for her to begin her job as Portland Public Schools lobbyist. They chose Concordia for their home to begin a family. Photo courtesy of Yasmin Khajavi Photography

Tamara Anne Fowler is Edit Kitten, a writer with 20-plus years of experience offering a softer, gentler approach to editing and coaching. Her personal editors -- Armani, Max Factor and Spicey D -- are also her cats. Visit her at EditKitten.com or contact her at Tamara@EditKitten.com.

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By Doug Decker
Historian

Last month, we reported on Vernon School in anticipation of its 111th anniversary. Speaking of Vernon, doesn’t Vernon Avenue sound like a street that you should know its location – especially since Portland has an entire neighborhood named Vernon?

That street name is just an echo today because the actual Vernon Avenue was silenced Sept. 2, 1931. That’s when city council passed Ordinance 61325 readressing all of Portland’s streets and calling for multiple street name changes.

Before the renumbering ordinance, there was no predictable and systematic addressing system, which left everyone confused, including police, fire and the U.S. Postal Service. The great readressing of Portland’s streets in 1931 was long overdue and helpful. But losing the name of your street, that one really stung.

One of the 1931 rules aimed at orderliness required that streets between any consecutively numbered street – in our case between 14th and 15th avenues, which is where Vernon Avenue existed – had to be renamed with a number and given the designation “Place.”

As a result, the six-block Vernon Avenue went extinct and became today’s 14th Place, running between Prescott and Killingsworth streets.

In January 1933, neighbors along Vernon Avenue went on a protest against the switch. But city council denied the petition, saying an exception could not be made.

We haven’t yet come across anything on the record about how neighbors responded to that denial. Eventually the passage of time dulled the loss as Vernon Avenue families grew old, grew up and moved on. But it’s worth noting that stories in The Oregonian, well into the 1940s, referred to addresses on Vernon Avenue when reporting births, marriages, deaths and social occasions. Long live Vernon Avenue!

That street name is just an echo today because the actual Vernon Avenue was silenced Sept. 2, 1931.

Vernon Avenue? When? Where? Why? Ask the historian

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**Concordia community events calendar**

Monday, Oct. 1, 6-6pm

**THE SPACE BETWEEN US IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES & OREGON**

Location: George R. White Library & Learning Center lobby

The Library Multicultural Arts & Events Program, in partnership with the university foundation, presents this Oregon Humanities Conversation Project. Facilitator Manuel Padilla has worked with refugees in Haiti, Chad, and Washington, D.C., & asks participants to consider questions of uprootedness, hospitality, identity, perception & integration, & how to build more informed, responsive, resilient & vibrant communities.

Details: cu.portland.edu/about/events/calendar

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**AN EVENING WITH OREGON HUMANITIES PRESENTS LIVE WIRE RADIO**

FERRON, TRACE BUNDY, TERRY BOZZIO, NIGHT FLIGHT’S 8TH ANNUAL FAKE RADIO PRESENTS THE MYSTERY BOX SHOW DAVID MALLETT, KEOLA BEAMER, TRACY GRAMMER

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Tuesday, Oct. 2, 16, 23, 30, 6-30:30pm

**TEXTILE TUESDAYS**

Location: Cerimon 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: cerimonhouse.org

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Wednesday, Oct. 3, 6-3:0pm

**LEAD POISONING PREVENTION**

Location: Community Energy Project, 2900 SE Stark St

Participants learn how to prevent lead exposure in their homes, especially homes built before 1978 with children, pregnant women & others concerned about lead exposure.

Details/registration: communityenergyproject.org, 503.284.6848

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Thursdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, 7:40-8:40am

**TOASTMASTERS**

Location: George R. White Library & Learning Center Community Room, 2800 NE Liberty St

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

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Thursday, Oct. 4, 5-30-7:30pm

**VERNON SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE**

Location: 3044 NE Kilglinings St

The community celebrates the school’s 111th anniversary. The school is updating its list of alumni. If you attended Vernon School, add yourself to the database at Geo.TIFS/forms/wfNUAC0ZWJL5Z9JBI2 or email CSChwend@pps.net. The school is also collecting pieces of its history. If you have memorabilia to donate, call 503.916.6415.

Details: psps.ne/vernon

Fridays, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, 10:30am-noon

**FEAST COMMUNITY CHOIR**

Location: Subud Portland, 3185 NE Regent St

Forget Everything & Sing Together (FEAST) is a community acapella choir with the goal to build community.

Details: feastcommunitychoir.com

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Saturday, Oct. 6, 9:11:30am

**CREATING AN EDIBLE LANDSCAPE**

Location: Livingscape, 3926 N Vancouver

This workshop will give you insight & tools for thoughtfully incorporating edible plants into your landscape – from annual veggies & herbs to perennial berries & fruit trees.

Details/registration: emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/upcoming-workshops or 503.222.7645

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Sunday, Oct. 7, 10am-1pm

**BIKE THE LEVEES**

Location: Blue Lake Park

Bring your bike & your friends for a tour of Portland’s levee system. Multnomah County drainage districts & Columbia Slough Watershed Council lead this 15-mile trip on easy terrain. Learn about functionality & history of Portland’s levee system that protects people & properties from flooding & the work to ensure that the system meets modern standards for public safety. Helmets required; recommended for ages 12+.

Details: columbiaslough.org/events/event/356, susanne.raymond@columbiaslough.org, 503.281.1132

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Tuesday, Oct. 10, 6pm

**RACE TALKS**

Location: McNemar’s Kennedy School

These opportunities for dialogue about race in Oregon – both historically & the current time – are presented by McNemar’s History & Donna Maxey. Doors open: 6pm; discussion: 7pm.

Details: racetalkspdx.com

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Friday, Oct. 19, 7-9pm

**OWL PROWL**

Location: Whittaker Ponds Nature Park

Have some little owls that love owls? Bring them to this family-friendly event to learn more about these nighttime predators. An indoor presentation covers local owls & their adaptations. Then the outdoor night hike lets you look & listen for the great horned Owls (& bats, deer, & beavers). 

Details/suggested donation: columbiastlough.org/events/event/129, susanne.raymond@columbiastlough.org, 503.281.1132

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Sunday, Oct. 21, noon-4pm

**CREATIVE PATH WALK**

Location: Cerimon House

Cerimon House hosts a contemplative walk with a monthly theme. The 30-minute immersive indoor experience of light, sound & walking meditation offers a place for you to focus, unplug, & restore. This is a unique replica of a historic pattern from Reims, France. $10 suggested donation

Details/reservations: cerimonhouse.org

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Wednesday, Oct. 31

**HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES**

Boo! See Page 7 for details about Halloween activities in Concordia. If you know of more activities, please post to Concordia Neighborhood Association Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/concordiapdx/

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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.