There’s no slowing this tortoise

By Tamara Anne Fowler
CNA Media Team

When Rita and Ross Davis first met Bump, Bump was sick, blowing bubbles out of his nose and lying all by himself in a cold and wet backyard. He was an African spurred tortoise in need of rescue. Bump only weighed 3.5 pounds and was still a baby. Rita had to spoon feed Bump medi-

Rita started walking him when he was very young. Then, if he ever got out of the backyard, the neighbors would know where he belonged.

cine mixed with small tortoise food (small kibbles) for two weeks.

That was nine years ago and he has been healthy ever since, weighing in now at 60 pounds.

Bump lives in the Davis house and has his own bedroom, although he loves to sleep under Ross’ lazy boy chair and next to Rita’s night stand.

Because Bump does not drink water, once a week he is treated to a spa day and is soaked in the bath tub. This helps him absorb water. He will splash water onto his back by flipping his front legs toward his back.

Bump’s favorite foods are lettuce, green beans, raspberries, apples and watermelon, as well as his tortoise kibble.

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Their walks take about two hours, but Bump can often walk about a mile in that time if it is warm enough.

On walks they have to watch their time because, after two hours, Bump will get as stubborn as a toddler. They will try to go one way – toward home – but he wants to go the other way. The Davises always have a wagon – custom built by Ross and adorned with Bump’s name – with them. If Bump gets tired or stubborn, he can take a Tortoise Time Out in the wagon and they head home.

Bump loves the attention he gets from everyone. Although he will not stop and pose for pictures, he is really good when people want to touch him.

Dogs seem to like him as well, although they are not certain what he is. The dogs and kids will circle around him, but he keeps moving. One dog even brought him a stick to play with, but Bump just kept moving.

A few years ago, the Naked Bike Ride started at Fernhill Park and Bump was in attendance.

When the parade started to move out of the park, Bump was determined to go with the bicyclists. He made it as far as he corner of 42nd & Killingsworth and just crashed.

He crawled to a bush and passed out.

BUMP leads the frequent walks through his neighborhood, with Rita and Ross Davis following behind. They tow a wagon that – with the tortoise at 60 pounds – is getting difficult for even Ross to lift him into. So far, BUMP has resisted using the ramp built into his customized wagon. Photo by Nancy Varekamp

Editor’s note: Tamara has more to share about Bump than space allows. For the rest of the story, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/2019-Bump.

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 Spicy/D – are also her cats. Visit her at EditKitten.com or contact her at Tamara@EditKitten.com.
Love, activism & city code

L
ove and activism are frequent topics in these pages, whether quoting Muhammad Ali (August) or demonstrated through master recycling (June), the Office of Community & Civic Life, and Portlanders, proudly share this heritage.

We love working together, and in many different ways. This is seen in Civic Life’s programs, from neighborhood associations, to the city/county youth commission, to the Cannabis Policy Oversight Team. We love learning from change with an open heart, open mind and willing hands to better serve multiple generations.

We also love our city and recognize it is growing and shifting. Civic Life has been directed by the city auditor and council to change the part of city code that is our bureau’s job description. This means updating our current code (PortlandOregon.gov/civic/78539) to engage our city’s dynamic future.

To inform this change, we engaged with a diverse cross section of Portlanders – including those served and not served by Civic Life – about their values and how civic engagement can help us achieve greater things. This is important because government’s responsibility is to reflect all its members. This year-long process (PortlandOregon.gov/civic/77951) included online surveys, community journalism programs, meeting with groups familiar with those in whom government has invested, or not.

After a year of listening to Portlanders, the proposed code (PortlandOregon.gov/civic/article/749022) builds on our current language, builds on our current position that is our bureau’s job description. This means maintaining big issues so that working families, communities of color and rent-burdened tenants can keep calling Portland home.

Portlanders want government to recognize their realities and ways of organizing. Some work the late shift, are caregivers, want to participate digitally, combine social and volunteer activities or organize through important cultural traditions.

We also heard differences. Notably, communities’ relationship with government is starkly unequal. The accountability – and the moral and legal obligation – to address this rests with government, not with those in whom government has invested, or not.

We heard things in common. Portlanders demand more equitable outcomes as we grow from a city of 653,000 to 880,000 by 2033. This means tackling big issues so that working families, communities of color and rent-burdened tenants can keep calling Portland home.

CNA respects the views and beliefs of all cultures and faiths. The views expressed by this writer do not necessarily reflect the views of CNA.

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Learn more about the code change at PortlandOregon.gov/civic/77951.

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When Laurie Lava-Books, Clary Sage owner, wanted a mural on the wall leading to her herbarium tucked behind 2827 N.E. Alberta St. in 2013, she commissioned the shop’s intern, Kerstin Millnamow, to pay tribute to all things natural.

Her shop has moved one block east to 2901 N.E. Alberta St., but nature is still what it’s all about.

Kerstin, who has also moved, explained from Berlin in an email that she painted the mural to also pay tribute to Laurie. “Clary Sage Herbarium is Laurie and Laurie is Clary Sage.”

“I chose to show all those elements sharing the same space by collaging them together with the transition between the realms of night and day,” Kerstin said.

“I attempted to create an atmosphere that I consider to be an homage to the strengths and visions of Laurie.”

The mural’s elements are animals – the mountain lion and horses – plus the owl, their forest habitat, the Pacific Ocean and the four phases of the moon.

“When I look at it, I get lost in the activeness of the owl, and the mountain lion’s roar pushes the day vision into the nebulousness of the abstract intentions of the spirit,” Kerstin added.

The artist also selected a color palate that features the subtleties of nature. “I believe this is always possible, and nothing needs to be jarring for the sake of shock value.

“The harmony between elements may not always be immediately discernible because they need to come to together for the harmony to arise from the sharing,” Kerstin pointed out.

To Laurie, “The mural expresses how we are all connected – all animals, all nature. When you look at it, you just kind of feel like you can be transported from this urban setting and go to somewhere else.”
You will never be bored again after a visit to collage on Alberta Street.

A sea of color greets customers at the door. Enter to find myriad supplies for the painter, print maker, rubber Stamper, journaler, textile artist, book maker, etc. There is a wide array of how-to-books, children’s arts and craft supplies, stationery, greeting cards, rubber stamps, decorative paper and so much more.

It is an inspirational, fun, exciting, vibrant, and a totally happy place — much like its owner, Maria Raleigh, a warm and delightful curator of everything creative.

Fifteen years ago collage opened on Alberta Street with one store. That store has doubled in size and collage now has two additional locations in southeast Portland. A gift store a few doors west on Alberta Street, known as the collage annex, has curated collectibles, handcrafted items, games and unique treasures.

Maria had a long history in retail sales and management experience when the idea for collage started brewing while she was home raising her two young sons.

She recognized a need, found a space and started filling it with everything for the crafter, artist and young crafter. She now employs 35 people in her four stores, and they are warm, friendly, accommodating and knowledgeable.

collage stocks more than 60,000 items from 400 vendors. The inventory is customer driven and the staff tries to fulfill customers’ special requests. Maria’s goal is to supply as much as possible to her diverse clientele while still being organized.

Maria explained the store’s name. “A collage is taking a little bit of everything and making it work.”

Her stores host free crafts nights at nearby Atlas Pizza locations in their neighborhoods. In addition, Maria uses crafting for team building. Among the clientele she has worked with are Nike and Intel, and collage has provided craft tables at Concordia Neighborhood Association events.

“With three supply store locations and one gift shop, collage is so much more than just a local art and craft supply store,” Maria pointed out. She is a joyful presence in the neighborhood, and she is committed to building community.

Her website at collagepdx.com is jam-packed with stimulating crafting details on varied subjects. It includes a calendar of events, store locations and hours.

Maria is currently in the process of creating an online store. But she still welcomes your visits to collage at 1639 N.E. Alberta St. and your calls to 503.249.2190.
Surely we can make our streets safer

By Garlynn Woodsong
CNA Board Member, SW1
CNA LUTC Chair

This response is hard to reconcile with PBOT’s focus on Vision Zero, and the “20 is Plenty” campaign that apparently does not apply to our section of Killingsworth.

T here are several ways to make streets safer. One is lowering speed limits. Last year, like Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) did recently on several Concordia roadways. Killingsworth Street is one that Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) has asked PBOT to reduce the speed limit. After all, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is costing a lot of money moving the large volumes of traffic through this area. Therefore, no changes were recommended.”

News from the NET
Bring the plan home to your own block

By Amy Gard, Team Leader
Concordia/Vernon Woodsong NET

This response is hard to reconcile with PBOT’s focus on Vision Zero, and the “20 is Plenty” campaign that apparently does not apply to our section of Killingsworth.

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This month our days continue to grow shorter as nights become longer. The October average high/low temperatures are 60/48 degrees with an average nine days of rainfall. Our average first frost in Portland arrives anytime between Oct. 15 and Dec. 1.

Warm-season summer crops like basil, beans, cucumbers, eggplants, melons, peppers, pumpkins, squash and tomatoes need to be harvested this month.

After harvesting completely, remove all plant material from your vegetable garden. If plant material is pest- and disease-free, add it to your home compost bin. When pests and disease are present on plants, dispose of them in your trash or curbside yard debris bin.

October is the ideal month for planting garlic and shallots available at your local nursery. To plant, select a full sun location with good drainage and that’s free of weeds.

Remove cloves from the bulb – do not remove the papery skin – and plant cloves flat-side down pointy-side up 1-2 inches deep and 6-8 inches apart. Garlic and shallots will overwinter and be harvestable late next spring.

Autumn-planted cover crops are an excellent way to block weeds, prevent erosion and provide large quantities of lush “green manure” when turned under in the spring.

Some cover crops – like crimson clover, fava bean and Austrian peas – are hosts to nitrogen-fixing bacteria in the soil. These cover crops are not edible. They are crops to build your garden soil during the winter “resting” season.

Cover crops can be planted in both raised beds and in-ground gardens. You can plant cover crops around your autumn and winter harvest vegetables like kale and Brussels sprouts, or in empty garden soil after you’ve harvested your summer crops.

To get all the dirt on October gardening projects visit jolieanndonohue.com.

Jolie Ann Donohue is a garden educator, consultant and designer. She is the author of The Gardening Goddess’s Guide to Edible Gardening in Portland. Reach her at her website, JolieAnnDonohue.com.
They save history from the wrecking balls

By Dan Werle
CNA Media Team

Mike and Brian McMenamin grew up in neighboring Alameda, attended The Madeleine School in Irvington and Jesuit High School in Beaverton before graduating from Oregon State University with degrees in political science.

Since then, they have helped establish or re-invigorate more than 55 pubs, restaurants, hotels and concert venues throughout Oregon and Washington – including the iconic Kennedy School in Concordia.

During their Alameda days, their mom, Pat, stayed home taking care of them and sisters Maureen and Nancy. Their dad, Robert, was an attorney, and he wrote a column for The Oregonian. As kids, their parents and grandparents exposed them to a variety of music, art and history.

Mike, the elder of the two, won a football scholarship but, in his second year, left the football program and began working at Togo’s sandwich shop. There he enjoyed the work better than football.

In 1974, Mike purchased Produce Row Café on southeast Oak Street and their dad purchased the building. Brian later worked at Produce Row before 1978 when they sold it to the employees.

In 1983, The Barley Mill on Southeast Hawthorne Street opened its doors and became the brothers’ first joint venture. Since then, the business has expanded to include such popular venues as the Crystal Ballroom downtown, Edgefield in Troutdale and, of course, Kennedy School.

Students had begun attending classes there in a one-room building in 1913. Two years later the full school opened and, in 1975, the building was shuttered due to decreasing student enrollment and a crumbling infrastructure.

Thanks to former students, local community members and the Portland Development Commission (now Prosper Portland), the building was spared the wrecking ball.

In 1980 Portland Public Schools abandoned the building, and it remained vacant until 1995 when Mike and Brian proposed renovation. The original bell of the school principal rang Oct. 22, 1997, at 7 a.m. to mark McMenamins Kennedy School’s first day “in session.”

Four of the brothers’ children are involved in McMenamins Inc., and Mike’s 12-year-old granddaughter is already providing advice for potential future pursuits.

Brian admits he and Mike began buying and restoring old taverns because, “They were cheap to start out with.” Both confess a penchant for older, high-quality structures, and they enjoy sharing information with the communities in which their businesses operate.

“We like to leave the property in better shape than we found it,” Mike explained.

Brian agreed, “We like to try to do the right thing and hopefully become a positive force in the community.”

Dan Werle lives in Concordia with his wife, Anna, and their dogs.

*Art Exhibits  *“Time Together” Tuesdays: a weekly open house
*Creative Path Walk: a restorative & unique indoor labyrinth

Find us at the corner of NE 23rd Ave. & Summer St.

Want to get involved locally?

Join us at the next Concordia Neighborhood Association Board Meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 7-9 p.m. in the McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room.

All are welcome!

Want to get to know your neighbors?
To your wellness

Trade in auto pilot and just enjoy the present

By Kim Magraw, LMT

What is this we keep hearing about “being present in the moment”? On first glance it just seems silly. Of course I’m present! How could I function in the world without being here? Do you ever feel like you’re on auto-pilot, or like your life is so crammed that there’s no space to breathe or rest? For many of us there’s a sense of disconnection with ourselves and others, a numbness. We find ourselves ceaselessly dwelling in the past or anticipating the future. If this feels familiar – or as WebMD says, “If you have any of these symptoms” – consider how you might expand your awareness of this moment for its richness – joy, love, and yes, also negative and painful things.

Welcome to the present!

Take several deep and even breaths.

Ask for a message or guidance from your true voice.

Ask yourself, “What is my authentic voice saying?”

Ask yourself, “What is my thinking or intellectual brain occupied with right now?”

Ask yourself, “What is my voice unencumbered by expectation, prejudice and conditioning?”

Ask for a message or guidance from your true voice.

Take several deep and even breaths. Welcome to the present!

Kim Magraw, practices massage at Concordia Wellness, concordiawellness.com.

The Concordia Neighborhood Holiday Party is coming!

Before your calendar fills up, mark Wednesday, Dec. 11, for the Concordia Neighborhood Association Holiday Party, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Cerimon House, 5131 N.E. 23rd Ave.

All residents and business owners of the Concordia neighborhood are invited to the free holiday festivities.

The holiday party is a great way to meet new neighbors and mix and mingle with friends – old and new – in a festive and family-friendly atmosphere.

If you would like to help organize the annual event, contact Sonia at SoniaGF419@gmail.com or 305.812.5280.

Come for scrumptious desserts and savory treats, with plenty of nonalcoholic beverages. Holiday music and festivities for the kids top off the event.

Look for details next month in CNews and on Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX/

Community Room Calendar

Concordia Neighborhood Association hosts these events in McMenamin’s Kennedy School Community Room. If you’re interested in sponsoring community-building events in this 49-person-capacity venue, contact Sonia Fornoni, SoniaGF419@gmail.com. Unless noted otherwise, events are admission free.

Thursday, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24- 6-7:30pm SPANISH CONVERSATION CNA sponsors these free classes. Brush up on your Spanish skills to reach out to the Hispanic community more effectively. All levels are welcome.
Details: soniaGF419@gmail.com

Friday, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, 10am-12pm REFRAME COLLECTIVE The Reframe Collective Toddler Series classes are opportunities for parents & kids to learn & explore together.
Details: thereframecollective.com, refraamemr@gmail.com

Friday, Oct. 4, 7-9pm SPIRITUAL ABUSE FORUM This informal, open group meets monthly to explore issues of abuse that occur in churches & other religious organizations.
Details: betsyfreeman16@gmail.com.

Sunday Oct. 6, 9am-1pm VISION BOARD PARTY Take time to create your best life with like-minded people. All materials provided & 100% of the proceeds go to Camp to Belong which reunites siblings separated in foster care.
Details/free: emily.berchier@gmail.com

Monday, Oct. 7, 21, 10-11am EFT TAPPING STRESS RELIEF EFT combines cognitive elements with tapping certain acupuncture points. This allows for quick release of current stress & the release of old, stuck energy that may be affecting your health & well-being.
Details: Penny Hill, pheft22@gmail.com, 503.493.5654, calmhealthese.com

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29, 7-9pm CREATRIX SPARK BOX CLUB Workshop/class, includes art/creative activities.
Details: Bernadette Mineo, 480.246.5295

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 23, 7-9pm TALLERES & FANDANGO “Fandango” is a family-friendly celebration of traditional music & folk dancing from Veracruz, Mexico. Beginners are welcome at these intergenerational workshops.
Details: Chariti Montez, 360.280.3868

Saturday, Oct. 19, 1:30-4pm PANEL DISCUSSION FOR ADHD This high-middle & high school panel discussion on ADHD/ADD with peer-to-peer coaches available.
Details: jule@jidesign.com, 703.608.3490

Friday, Oct. 25, 6-8pm SINGLE MOTHERS BY CHOICE HALLOWEEN PARTY A Halloween party for women who have pursued motherhood on their own, their families & for those considering this option.
Details: betsyfreeman16@gmail.com

Sunday Oct. 27, 10-1pm SACRED HARP SINGING This is not a choir, & there are no auditions & no performances. Each session is composed of whomsoever attends, including all ages & genders & allows participants to share stories, craft & create meaning together.
Details/RSVP: reframenw@gmail.com

Sunday Oct. 27, 23, 7-6pm & Thursday 31, 7-9pm THE INTENTIONALS This semi-regular gathering was created with the goal of strengthening intergenerational community. Everyone has the opportunity to live intentionally & create traditions. Meetings are open to all ages & genders & allow participants to share stories, craft & create meaning together.
Details: julie@jhidesign.com, 703.608.3490

For events scheduled after CNews press time, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/community-room-calendar

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Local artist fuses glass into jewelry, more

Twelve bars of soap turned Susan Hathaway into an artist at age 6, although now her medium is glass. “My grandparents worked with their hands,” she recalled. “They influenced me to want to work with mine.”

Her grandmother had planned to put the bars of soap to traditional use. However, when the grandmother returned home one day, Susan and the grandfather had put a carving knife to use. The result? Twelve animals.

In high school, her medium became paper and ink. Calligraphy launched Susan’s early career in an Old Town shop, where she penned wedding and shower invitations, framed pieces, and more.

A young man on a bicycle delivered sandwiches to the shop one day and now he – David – and Susan have been married 45 years.

When Susan was 26, she found her permanent artistic calling during a stained glass class, a gift from her mother. Cutting and applying lead and solder to colored glass wasn’t sufficient. “From then on it was all about fusing glass,” Susan said. With the gift of a kiln from her uncle, she became a self-taught glass maker.

During the 10 years she managed a daycare center in the Concordia home the Hathaways bought in 1978, glass-making time was limited. When Susan was able to hire part-time help – fellow Vernon School parent Teri Knesal – she was afforded time to work with glass.

“Tori and David became my marketers,” she explained. And they continue to help out at street fairs and craft shows in northeast and southeast Portland, and previously for 20 years at Saturday Market.

You can also look for Concordia Glass earrings, necklaces, hair clips, garden stakes, angel ornaments and five-character nativity sets on sale nearby at:

• Sharon’s Hair and Nails, 4216 N.E. Mason St.
• Hollywood Senior Center’s Golden Treasures shop
• McMenamins Edgefield’s Gorge Glashaus

Although Susan stopped selling to Made in Oregon after a few years and left Saturday Market two years ago, she can still be found at local craft fairs with David and Teri.

“Tori chauffered and sometimes her ‘show-er,’” David rhymed. He retired three years ago from Cloud Burst Recycling.

Selling wholesale to stores helps pay the bills, but the shows offer them contact with the customers, Susan pointed out. “It’s nice just to have people appreciate what you’re doing, and I enjoy talking to the other vendors.”

David agreed and added, “The entry fees you pay to be in many of them – like the Hollywood Senior Center and All Saints School – go to a good cause.”

Editor’s note: Find Susan – and most likely David and Teri – Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Hollywood Senior Center Holiday Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1820 N.E, 40th Ave. In addition to shopping at the Concordia Glass table, you’ll find other local crafters with their wares, plus soup and pie for lunch.

Charming Beaumont Bungalow

4637 NE 38th Ave Portland OR 97211
MOTIVATED SELLER - PRICED AT $450,500

Beautiful Beaumont-Wilshire Bungalow built in 1925 with 2 bed/1 bath and an unfinished basement. From the simultaneously closing pocket doors to the tankless hot water heater to the Fisher/Pakel drawer style dishwasher, this little house packs a punch. The custom douglas fir cabinetry will not disappoint while the original single pane windows bring vintage charm. Don’t forget the updated bath and 2 CAR DETACHED GARAGE ... WOW! Fir floors under carpet. 600 sq ft main level and 600 sq ft basement.

Are you interested in this charming home? Call Richard Ballew at 503-314-6150
Classes here differ from the norm

By Mischa Webley
Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

The first sign this isn’t your average urban high school is the curriculum. Classes include Manhood, Skateboard Manufacturing, Mindfulness, Leadership, Rocketry and even one on starting a food cart.

There are no crowded classrooms, no shouting, none of the usual chaos of a school environment. There’s a certain ease that’s closer to family than educational facility, a noticeable familiarity between students and teachers.

At the eastern edge of Concordia, in the building that once housed Meek Elementary School, Alliance High School at Meek is an alternative school focused on career technical education. And it’s challenging assumptions about how to educate Portland’s youth. It focuses on boys who have had the hardest time succeeding in the standard public school system.

Most dropped out or were pushed out of other schools. Most come with poor grades and spotty attendance. There is also a higher-than-average rate who experience homelessness, are parents or are impacted by drugs or gangs.

Many suffer from various forms of PTSD or anxiety. All receive free breakfast and lunch. They are what the school system calls “at-risk” youth.

“It’s about learning compassion,” Washington said. “A lot of our students are coming from homes where there’s not a strong male role model, so it’s an important hole that we’re trying to fill.”

In a dimly lit classroom, a small cohort are led by teacher Andre Washington in discussion about the differences between sympathy and empathy.

A video depicts a racially charged incident in a barbershop, and the patrons’ various responses. Will anyone speak up when a stranger acts out in public? What would the students do?

“This is Manhood class, and there is no right answer.”

“It’s about learning compassion,” Washington said. “A lot of our students are coming from homes where there’s not a strong male role model, so it’s an important hole that we’re trying to fill.”

Gaps in attendance and holes in performance are discussed at weekly meetings of the principal and about 20 teachers. They develop plans to ensure struggling students graduate.

“It’s less about the behaviors and more about what’s driving them. Advisers – who help each student rebound after falling behind – develop action plans with the teachers.

“It takes a village to get a child out of the village,” the principal pointed out.

That’s the kind of attention that sets Alliance apart and will pay dividends to the students for years to come.

Care about transportation or land use issues affecting our Concordia neighborhood?

Want to get involved?

It’s easy. The Concordia Land Use & Transportation Committee meets next on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. in the McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room.

(Generally, meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.)

Meetings are open to the public. Just show up or contact LandUse@ConcordiaPDX.org.

Info: ConcordiaPDX.org/lutc

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
They named it Irvington for marketability

By Doug Decker
Historian

The Concordia neighborhood is a quilt of underlying subdivisions, also known as plats filed by developers more than 100 years ago when they first laid out – and then carved out – streets and lots from the fields and forests that occupied these gentle slopes above the Columbia River.

My June column mentioned Foxchase, one of those plats (ConcordiaPDX.org/2019/07/you-can-find-foxchase-but-not-on-a-map). But there are many more, each one with its own history: Kennedy’s Addition, Ina Park, Lester Park, Town of Creighton, Heidelberg, Sunderland Acres, Concordia Green and the largest of all, Irvington Park.

Interesting, isn’t it, that the makers of our neighborhood wanted to name it after another neighborhood that already exists? That’s marketing for you.

The Irvington Park plat occupies the area from 25th to 33rd avenues, between Rosa Parks Way and Killingsworth Street, an area of about 175 acres. That’s big by northeast Portland plat standards.

When the Irvington Park plat was filed back in November 1890, the Irvington neighborhood we know today south of Fremont Street was already a going concern with wide streets, big houses and wealthy business people moving in and building up the area. Today we would say property values there were definitely skyrocketing.

The initial developer of Irvington Park here in Concordia in 1890, Edward Quackenbush, liked the vibe of the original Irvington – which he was not party to, by the way – and wanted to cash in on the coattails of its identity, something that other east Portland developers tried to do as well.

Check out the adjacent advertisement from The Oregonian July 10, 1907, that implies a connection with “Irvington Proper,” but also points out that prices in Irvington Park are way less expensive.

Other eastside developers did the same thing, which was annoying for the Irvington real estate people. But it worked.

With the help of the Alberta Streetcar, homeowners flocked to Irvington Park and the commercial district around Alberta Street boomed. A community club was organized, a club house and dancing venue was built near 30th Avenue and Ainsworth Street.

And something else happened: community spirit. Here’s a paragraph from The Oregonian July 25, 1915: “There never was a finer feeling in a community than now exists in Irvington Park – and their community club has done it and its work will go on benefitting one and all and bringing them closer and closer together.”

Ask the Historian

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Ask the historian is a CNews standing feature that encourages readers to ask questions about the history of the neighborhood and its buildings. Is there something you’ve wondered about? Drop a line to CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org and ask Doug Decker to do some digging.

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Community calendar items

Admission to events is free unless otherwise noted. Priority is offered 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.