It’s a family affair

Mark your calendar and pack up the kids
The CNA Holiday Party is Wednesday, Dec. 11.
Details on Page 6

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

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

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

Teens learn to change the world

When Concordian Mark Bennett was 16, little did he know a summer trip to give service in rural Costa Rica would be the beginning of his life’s work.

His experience set a foundation to explore other international educational experiences, shaped his worldview and he eventually brought it back home. Mark was fortunate to have parents who could fund his journey, and he recognized other students may not be as privileged.

After years studying and exploring the world, Mark is now living his passion as executive director of programs with Global Works Community Fund (GWCF). Founded in 2011 by Polly Moriarty, GWCF is an experiential, international, education-based program that offers full scholarships to high school students in Oregon and Colorado who could not otherwise afford the airfare and tuition.

“We envision an inclusive, anti-racist, multicultural world that is rooted in social justice and community development.”

Mark develops and implements programming. His work is focused on opportunities for students to participate in service-based study abroad programs, community engagement, global awareness, and forming leadership skills.

“I received a scholarship from the Global Works Community Fund and traveled to Panama for three weeks,” reported Anaya Tora, GWCF 2017 alumna.

“My life was thoroughly changed. My entire mindset of the world shifted, and I became enamored by what the world had to offer.”

“…We need to rethink everything.”

Anaya Tora

Heritage Markers Debut
Alberta Street Black Heritage Markers are now installed.
See Page 4

Part-time Resident Publishes
Writing is Peter Chilson’s vocation, and it’s his avocation.
See Page 7

They React To Rapid Change
Salt & Light Lutheran Church members rethink everything.
See Page 9
Help us help when it’s cold!

A
fter hearing the news of deaths on the street last winter, members of Ainsworth United Church of Christ voted to open our Extreme Cold Weather Shelter to serve people who are guests of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon HIV Day Center here.

We got off to a slow start, but have spent most of 2019 preparing to open the shelter when the temperature is below 25 degrees or there is ice and snow. We can provide sleeping spaces for up to 15 people who are HIV+, keeping them inside for a hot dinner, snacks and much needed rest.

During the day, guests can attend the day center and, on Sundays, attend worship or go elsewhere. We are working with the day center and a representative from Cascade AIDS Project to receive referrals for those in need who qualify.

We have received generous donations from the Walmart Foundation that enabled us to purchase cots and all the equipment needed for comfortable sleeping arrangements. Donations from others will also provide for food and beverages.

Staffing will be done by volunteers who have gone through training. That includes: basic HIV information, de-escalation and shelter orientation.

The Extreme Cold Weather Shelter Committee is hoping to receive a grant that will enable us to hire a person in charge to coordinate volunteers.

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.

Until then, the shelter will be staffed entirely with volunteers from the congregation and community. More are needed. We need two to three hosts at all times.

The first shift begins at 3 p.m. to greet guests, set up sleeping equipment, prepare and serve dinner. The second shift begins at 8 p.m. and will stay until 5:30 a.m. The third shift begins at 5:30 a.m. and will help the guests get up, serve snacks and beverages, take down cots and clean up.

There are additional volunteer opportunities to serve:

- Kitchen food preparation: Prepare a warm evening meal and clean up.
- Janitor: Clean up all spaces used by shelter visitors when they leave.
- Shelter clean up: Clean all the pads and wash all the covers after each use.
- Volunteers will be contacted and asked to serve on shifts as soon as we receive news that the weather requires opening.

We will arrange training for anyone seeking to volunteer and ask each to complete a background check that we will pay for. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please contact me at 503.284.8767.

The Rev. Lynne Smouse López has served since 1996 as the pastor of Ainsworth United Church of Christ, a multicultural, multiracial, open and affirming, immigrant welcoming, justice-seeking congregation.

CNA Board of Directors

Chair | Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org  Chris Lopez
East 1 |East1@ConcordiaPDX.org  Heather Pashley
East 2 |East2@ConcordiaPDX.org  Steve Elder
Northwest 1 |NW1@ConcordiaPDX.org  Isham “Ike” Harris
Northwest 2 |NW2@ConcordiaPDX.org  Amelie Marian
Southwest 1 |SW1@ConcordiaPDX.org  Gaylynn Woodsong
Southwest 2 |SW2@ConcordiaPDX.org  Ali Novak
At Large 1 | AL1@ConcordiaPDX.org  Robert Bowles
At Large 2 | AL2@ConcordiaPDX.org  Donna Dennis
At Large 3 | AL3@ConcordiaPDX.org  John McSherry
At Large 4 | AL4@ConcordiaPDX.org  Sonia Fornoni
At Large 5 | AL5@ConcordiaPDX.org  Truls Neal
At Large 6 | AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org  Matt Boyd

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 nonprofits)
Info: ConcordiaPDX.org/community-room-rental
Efforts range from trash cans to lofty signs

By Nancy Varekamp
CNews Editor

This entry sign by Ivan McLean towers above Vita Café on Alberta Street, east of 30th Avenue. It’s been welcoming locals and tourists since 2014. It’s not the first of Ivan’s public art on the street. In 2011 he was first to hammer a tree in the lobby. His work even appears among trees, like his sculpture in the midst of Hoyt Arboretum’s bamboo forest.

Based in north Portland, Ivan is no newcomer to sculpting. His work – extra large and small – appears in private and public spaces.

“Despite the perpetual draw to metal’s versatility, McLean refuses to limit himself to a single medium,” reported 1859 Oregon Magazine. “He also carves marble and wood, dabbles with resilient glasswork, and loves the challenge of incorporating random materials such as barbed wire or old silverware.”

“Experimenting with crafts always came naturally for McLean,” the magazine continued. “Growing up in rural central California, he learned to weld out of necessity. In high school, he worked on ranches near his family home. He figured out how to make quick fixes on broken machinery.”

Ivan also brings to his art his experiences in the Peace Corps in the southern Philippines. Enormous spheres are a special interest to Ivan. You’ll find a video about those online at YouTube.com/watch?v=75J89CQIQ10

Rigler asks support for student auction

Rigler Elementary School is putting out the call for auction items for its 2nd annual bazaar for students.

To buy the items and handmade gifts, they’ll spend the Panther Paws incentive program’s slips they’ve earned from school staff and faculty for demonstrating the community values of mindfulness, kindness, participation and safety.

Donated items can be new or “briefly used,” and no clothing is needed. In demand are all kinds of items, from toys for kids, to ones that interest adults – that latter because many of the students use their Panther Paw slips to purchase holiday gifts for relatives.

Bazaar organizers ask you to drop off donations at the school’s Portable 1 or the office at 5401 N.E. Prescott St. by Friday, Dec. 13. Tax exempt forms are available by request.

For details, contact, JGodoy@pps.net or JNotebaart@pps.net.
Criticism of OCCL process earns 3-year delay

By Nancy Varekamp
CNews Editor

You haven’t heard the Office of Community & Civic Life (OCCL) has plans to change the ordinance that governs Portland’s neighborhood associations, neighborhood coalitions and business districts? Where have you been?

“It is a complicated story we’re trying to share with you,” Suk Rhee told about 40 Concordians at the local neighborhood association’s annual meeting early last month.

She’s the OCCL director, hired two years ago, and is trying to assure all Portlanders the opportunity to participate in their city government. The original 1974 ordinance – which created neighborhood associations – carried several requirements.

They must hold open meetings, take fiscal responsibility and provide the opportunity for anyone who lives or owns property within their boundaries to participate. According to media reports during the past six months, the draft revisions omitted all mention of neighborhood associations and any geographic representation of Portlanders.

According to media reports during the past six months, the draft revisions omitted all mention of neighborhood associations and any geographic representation of Portlanders.

During the past year of conversations with residents of diverse Portland groups, Suk said she heard from residents who believe there is racial, disability and social injustice in participating in government.

“We need to meet community where they’re at,” explained OCCL staffer Sabrina Wilson. “We need to go beyond the current network to where they’re at: youths, native Americans, houseless communities, the aged.

She said ordinance authors considered, “How do we open the doors even wider? It’s not to take away and give to anybody else.”

Several Concordians took exception to the concept neighborhood associations can’t represent the diversity of Portlanders.

“We’re a model for the country for citizen engagement,” pointed out Bob Boyer, one of Concordia Neighborhood Association’s (CNAs) founders, former CNA chair and former state senator.

Another Concordian scoffed at the results of a survey that engaged just 1,000 people in a city of 650,000-plus. Ike Harris, CNA board member, also cast doubt on the process, and he criticized the absence of input into the draft from neighborhood associations. “Why did [city commissioner Chloe] Eudaly not meet with neighborhood associations herself, as opposed to doing this in a clandestine way, sneaking it in?”

Kelvin Hall recommended the commissioner visit the neighborhood associations and work with them. He believes city leadership has gone afield. “This process will be and continue to be in conflict until they clarify their vision.”

Following the local meeting, the city announced the brakes have been applied to changing the OCCL governing ordinance.

For detailed coverage on OCCL’s plans for the next three years, visit the Portland Mercury at: bit.ly/33U4nCB.

CNews update
Honorees dedicate 5 markers

Businessman and community activist Paul Knasus – aka honorary “Mayor of Northeast Portland” – prepares for dedication of the Alberta Street Black Heritage Markers. November weather cooperated and community leaders featured on the markers, the artists and city officials were among the attendees. For last summer’s CNews story about the markers, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/2019/07/markers-honor-pillars-of-the-community.

Photo by Todd Strickland, courtesy of Diversa Educations.

Association Seeks Recording Secretary

The association is seeking a person to take and transcribe minutes of directors and land use meetings and general meetings.

The contractor position requires literacy, document preparation skills and good hearing. The most important requirement is dependability. Concordia is fortunate enough to be able to afford to pay for a recording secretary.

Residence in Concordia is not mandatory.

Compensation is $20/hour for meetings – no mileage – and for time spent preparing and publishing minutes on the website. The outgoing secretary worked an average of 6 to 7 hours per month.

Directors meetings are generally held at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month and land use meetings are generally at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday. Meetings are held at the Kennedy School. Agendas are prepared and published by the committee chair. Particulars are in the association bylaws, available on the website.

This is a contract position. If the contractor is indisposed, he/she is expected to ensure the activities are covered.

Interest can be communicated to the CNA chair, copy the secretary.

References and a sample of work will aid decision-making.

Chair: Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org
Secretary: Secretary@ConcordiaPDX.org
Bylaws: ConcordiaPDX.org/about-cna/bylaws/
Government, banks took big toll

By Garlynn Woodsong
CNA Board Member, SW1
CNA LUTC Chair

The book “The Color of Law” by Richard Rothstein makes the case that constitutional violations have been committed by the federal government – and perpetuated by state and local governments – to create and enforce racial segregation in the United States.

That’s true especially after World War II, using the instruments of the Federal Housing Agency, Fannie Mae, single-family zoning, and other housing policy tools.

Urban renewal and freeway-building policies also served this agenda, to concentrate black Americans into small areas using zoning policy, then to systematically destroy those neighborhoods using urban renewal and highway-building efforts.

This story played out in Portland with the use of single-family zones and mortgage redlining to concentrate most black Portanders into a handful of neighborhoods. Those areas were then targeted from gaining access to low-interest, government-backed mortgages because mortgage lenders refused to issue loans in areas using zoning policy, then to systematically destroy those neighborhoods using urban renewal and highway-building efforts.

For instance, in 2010, black people comprised 18.7% of Concordia’s population, compared to 7.8% of all Portlanders. Yet, 7.0% of Concordia homes were owner-occupied in 2010, opposed to only 53.7% of all homes in Portland.

Our neighborhood may have had single-family zoning imposed on it during the mid-20th century, but not soon enough to prevent it from remaining a diverse enclave within a whiter surrounding city.

This diversity made it the target of racism – including redlining – that prevented many Concordia homeowners from gaining access to low-interest, federally-backed mortgages to purchase or to access equity-backed credit.

The latter 20th century thus saw much of Concordia’s housing stock deteriorate, as owners had difficulty accessing credit to pay for maintenance and upgrades. Yet, against this adversity, neighborhood residents persisted. They founded the Concordia Neighborhood Association, and they worked diligently over the decades to overcome obstacles presented by lingering policies related to institutional racism.

The low housing prices in Concordia at the dawn of the 21st century made it an attractive place to settle; however, as new people moved in, many long-time residents moved out.

Today we have a mix of people young and old, long-time residents, new arrivals and folks who have been here awhile but not that long.

There are a variety of remedies that could be sought at the federal level. After reading “The Color of Law,” it seems there locally is a case to be made that constitutional violations have occurred as the city continues to act as a regulatory instrument that may be perpetuating ongoing economic and, potentially, racial segregation. Single-family zoning must be reformed to prevent it from inflicting further harm.

Adopting and enacting the zoning code updates proposed as a part of the Residential Infill Project represents our first, best chance to do so as a city.

This will not be a silver bullet to erase the harms imposed by racial segregation, but it will be a first step in the right direction.

Garlynn Woodsong
lives on 29th Avenue, serves on the CNA board and is an avid bicyclist. He also is a dad who is passionate about the city his son will inherit. He is the planning + development partner with Cascadia Partners LLC, a local urban planning firm. Contact him at LandUse@CascadiaFX.com.

News from the NET

Local leaders practice emergency procedures

At the dawn of the 21st century made it an attractive place to settle; however, as new people moved in, many long-time residents moved out.

Today we have a mix of people young and old, long-time residents, new arrivals and folks who have been here awhile but not that long.

There are a variety of remedies that could be sought at the federal level. After reading “The Color of Law,” it seems there locally is a case to be made that constitutional violations have occurred as the city continues to act as a regulatory instrument that may be perpetuating ongoing economic and, potentially, racial segregation. Single-family zoning must be reformed to prevent it from inflicting further harm.

Adopting and enacting the zoning code updates proposed as a part of the Residential Infill Project represents our first, best chance to do so as a city.

This will not be a silver bullet to erase the harms imposed by racial segregation, but it will be a first step in the right direction.

Garlynn Woodsong
lives on 29th Avenue, serves on the CNA board and is an avid bicyclist. He also is a dad who is passionate about the city his son will inherit. He is the planning + development partner with Cascadia Partners LLC, a local urban planning firm. Contact him at LandUse@CascadiaFX.com.
E verybody falls. Toddlers, by definition, fall a lot. The older we get, the less we want to fall – the consequences and our trepidation increase exponentially.

Staying upright is all about balance. In fact, balance helps us in many ways beyond fall avoidance. Balance supports performance, endurance, rhythm, conversations, relationships, democracy, climate, happiness... and the list goes on.

Regarding corporeal aspects of balance, we have an exquisite system in our inner ear involving canals, sloshing liquid, tumbling crystals and minute hairs that mind the liquid and crystals. This system works in concert with:

- **Visual input** – balancing with closed eyes
- **Tactile input** – for example, our feet on the ground
- **Proprioceptive input** – where body parts are in relation to one another

As we age, our reflexes slow, our balance supports life

By Kim Magraw, LMT

In fact, balance helps us in many ways beyond fall avoidance. To your wellness

**December job: make spring gardening plans**

When the year comes to a close and the edible garden is lying mostly dormant, it is an ideal time to evaluate and plan. Dedicating time to reviewing or creating your garden journal is invaluable to successful garden planning.

If your yield was insufficient, consider growing more plants of one crop or doing succession planting to ensure a continuous harvest.

Start by making a detailed list of all the edible crops you grew with notes about when you planted, plant size at maturity, yield, how you used them, and any problems with pest or disease.

From this data you can determine which crops you would like to again try growing. If the crop was unsuccessful growing healthy to maturity, now is the time to research proper planting time, spacing and planting method – like seed vs. transplants for example.

If your yield was insufficient, consider purchasing a compost bin and set it up on a mild winter day.

Use the sheet-mulching technique in your raised bed or in-ground garden beds by laying first cardboard, second food scraps, third fallen leaves and/or grass clippings, and cover the pile with at least two inches of compost.

The cardboard will biodegrade during the winter while actively smothering weeds and the organic matter will compost in place enhancing your garden soil.

At the beginning of December, when the weather is mild in an ideal time for cleaning and storing gardening supplies, tools and containers for the winter. December is definitely the time to request seed catalogs for the coming year. Armed with your garden notes and seed catalogs, you can devise a winning strategy for your best garden ever.

For all the dirt on garden planning please visit JolieAnnDonohue.com

**Gardening Goddess’s Guide to Edible Gardening in Portland. Reach her at her website, JolieAnnDonohue.com.**

**December 2019 Concordia News**

**To advertise in CNews contact her TODAY!**

503.891.7178
CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org

**GARDENING GODDESSES**

**Jolie Donohue is a garden educator, consultant and designer. She is the author of The Gardening Goddess’s Guide to Edible Gardening**

**By Jolie Donohue Gardening Goddess**

**Featuring!**

- Vernon School Band
- Faubion School Choir
- Grupo Latitudes Band featuring South American and Andean music
- Craft table and activities for kids

**Food drive and raffle to benefit Northeast Emergency Food Program**

Suggested donations:

- Men’s & women’s clothing
- Soups, canned meat, rice, pasta, cereal and oats
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Staples (salt, pepper, cooking oil, etc.)
- Snacks and treats
- Personal hygiene items (toilet paper, feminine hygiene, soap, shampoo, etc.)
- Household supplies (laundry and dish detergent, cleaning supplies)
- Pet food

**Raffle tickets: $2 each or six for $10**

Great Raffle prizes graciously donated by Concordia neighborhood businesses. All businesses will be announced from the stage!
Part-time Concordian writes

By Tamara Anne Fowler
CNA Media Team

Peter Chilson wanted to be a writer ever since junior high school. He can’t recall wanting to be anything else.

When he was 14, he read a column in the local weekly newspaper in Aspen, Colorado, that painted an unflattering portrait of teenage youths in town. Peter, being one of those teenage youths, wrote a response in the form of a letter to the editor.

The experience brought him a small amount of attention. He learned something about the power of words and the power of story.

He has been writing ever since.

The newspaper invited him to contribute a regular column on youth life in town. Peter helped found the monthly newspaper in his high school, and he went on to become sports editor.

“We appreciate the work you do at Concordia News,” said a response in the form of a letter to the editor. “You have taught me so much.”

Peter has a fourth book out with Edit Kitten, a writer and editor who he collaborates on a regular basis.

A favorite subject, Peter has been writing about Africa since he was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Niger in the mid-1980s.

A favorite subject, Peter has been writing about Africa since he was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Niger in the mid-1980s.

A favorite subject, Peter has been writing about Africa since he was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Niger in the mid-1980s.

A favorite subject, Peter has been writing about Africa since he was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Niger in the mid-1980s.

A favorite subject, Peter has been writing about Africa since he was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Niger in the mid-1980s.

A favorite subject, Peter has been writing about Africa since he was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Niger in the mid-1980s.

A favorite subject, Peter has been writing about Africa since he was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Niger in the mid-1980s.

A favorite subject, Peter has been writing about Africa since he was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Niger in the mid-1980s.
Astrid Furstner was elected Concordia Neighborhood (CNA) chair at the November annual membership meeting. Her term is one year. Sitting board members ran unopposed and were elected to hold those seats for two years. All are pictured above.

Unless otherwise announced, the CNA Board of Directors meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room. The public is welcome, and board meetings are focused primarily on issues requiring attention and action. You’re welcome to introduce new issues at each meeting.

General membership meetings are at 7 p.m. the first Wednesdays of March, June and September, again in the Community Room. These typically focus on major issues of interest to the community, and significantly more time is devoted to public discussion.

The annual meeting is scheduled for the first Wednesday of each November in the Community Room. That’s when board elections are conducted.
Leaven embraces changing the community

By Mischa Webley
Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

On Killingsworth Street, across from Vernon Elementary School, a small, modest building is evidence of a solution to a changing community. This is the home of Leaven Community, a nonprofit incubated by the Salt and Light Lutheran Church, previously Redeemer Lutheran, which has been in the northeast community for decades.

They had decided the key to moving forward wasn’t to serve the community in a one-way relationship. Rather, it was to build a platform that could become whatever it was the community decided it should be.

Starting in 2010, church members began to rethink everything.

Seeing the neighborhood change rapidly around them – and the feelings about church and religion changing with it – they decided the answer was to lean into the change wholeheartedly and embrace it.

To do that, they hired a community organizer and spent three years soul searching and simply listening to their neighbors: they knocked on doors, held public meetings and heard about what holes in the community they could fill.

They had decided the key to moving forward wasn’t to serve the community are not faith-based at all. “It’s a practice-based community,” said Mira Ayala, a Leaven Community member and organizer with Oregon Synod, the regional arm of the Lutheran church. “It’s about practices, not an expectation to subscribe to any set of beliefs.”

The groups on-site are diverse, and decidedly agnostic:
- The Portland Tool Library, which loans out tools to neighbors
- A Buddhist meditation group
- A feminist women’s group
- A food collective
- An innovative Salt and Light program called Intercambio
- An intercultural language exchange that hosts dinners for people who speak different languages to come together and learn from one another

It’s all part of a broader philosophy that defines the role of the church as providing the journey, but not necessarily the destination.

In the words of LaVeta Gilmore-Jones, Leaven Community co-executive director, “We create spaces for people to be who they are through the exploration of their spiritual journeys and to act together out of our stories and the love we have for one another to do systemic and structural change so that we have more thriving neighborhoods.”

Editor’s note: This story was reprinted with permission from NECN’s Hey Neighbor! newsletter. See more stories at bit.ly/NECNHEY
A sandwich is a sandwich, in many cultures

By Karen Wells
CNA Media Team

Does making a sandwich give a nod to cross-cultural sensitivity? What’s the link between bread, meat and cultural awareness?

At EQC Home Care Agency, meal preparation and cultural awareness can connect 14 languages. Sandwich making can be a gateway to supporting a client’s needs.

EQC “Essential Quality Care” Home Care opened its doors in 2016. Owners strive to provide in-home care services tailored to meet the cultural and care needs of clients. The 85 employees represent communities from Eastern nations, West Africa, Europe and North America.

Cultural diversity is a driving principle behind the home care service. The emphasis on culturally-relevant and appropriate home care sets EQC apart from other in-home care services.

If language is a barrier, offering a sandwich may open a connection. You may know what a sandwich is, but a sandwich might mean something different to people from different cultures.

The concept of “sandwich” – a vehicle to gather or scoop food, sauce, veggies, cheese or cooked meat to guide to your mouth – dates back several centuries. This method of eating was found throughout the ancient world, Asia, Africa and North America.

It’s known by a variety of names, i.e., torta, korech, shawarma or panini. Eastern and African communities refer to it as simply bread and meat. For example, “khabaz lahm” in Arabic, “paanoo mogyanam” in the Ghana language of Akan or “banh mi thit” in Vietnamese.

Sandwich was the “fast food” of 18th century European taverns. By the 19th century it had spread across the Atlantic, landing in the Eastern Seaboard. Iconic sandwiches such as the lobster roll, beef pastrami and the hoagie all originated there.

Fast forward to the 20th century’s Great Depression era with New Orleans “po’boy,” school lunch staple “sloppy joe” and the Nebraska “Reuben” all hit the American gastronomical palate.

EQC Home care professionals are paired one-on-one with clients to foster a meaningful and holistic approach to caregiving. More than 40% of the client/caregiver pairings are long-term contracts, lasting more than 24 months and counting.

This kind of track record confirms the success of the diversity-driven business model. The tenets of relationship, trust and cultural awareness are sandwiched between professionalism and cross-cultural sensitivity creating a rewarding experience for the clients and caregiving professionals.

EQC Home Care Agency has mastered the art of the “sandwich” on many levels. Find it at 5128 N.E. 42nd Ave. or call 503.753.8551.

Sandwich, anyone? Thanks for asking.

If language is a barrier, offering a sandwich may open a connection.

Grant apps are due

Deadlines for community-based grants are looming.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Pre-applications for 2020 Community Technology Grants from Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission are due Dec. 12. Grants support public and nonprofit use of interactive, multi-media communications technologies for public benefit purposes.

To determine if your organization qualifies, to read guidelines and to download the pre-application instructions, visit MHCRC.org. To discuss your proposed project, contact Rebecca Gibbons at 503.825.5515 or RGibbons@mhcrc.org.

Monday, Dec. 16

The East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) program provides funding to local organizations’ projects that support conservation projects & conservation. To be eligible for funding, projects or events must be located within the EMSWCD service area – all Multnomah County east of the Willamette River – or serve its residents. Projects must show a clear public benefit in one or more of the following: habitat restoration or watershed health, soil erosion prevention/control, soil health, water quality, water conservation, and/or environmental education.

Applications are due by Dec. 16 for 2020 Partners in Conservation Grant applications. For the application form and details, visit EMSWCD.org/grants-and-cost-share/apply-for-organizations-pic.

Body Blossom Belly Casting

Celebrating your bump! With a Belly Cast from Body Blossom!

Visit us at bodyblossombellycasts.com or call 503.789.4480

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
Horses and wagons drove width of streets

By Doug Decker
Historian

The question: With all the cars parked up and down our streets, it can be pretty hard to maneuver at times. What’s up with that? Why are our streets so small?

The answer: I like to say you can’t understand our landscape today without understanding how it came to be, and this question is a great example that allows us to thread together a few of our favorite themes: horses, streetcars, early developers, and change.

First, recall that most of our neighborhood streets were laid out on plat maps about 120 years ago by developers who were in the process of transitioning these lands from forested slopes above the Columbia River into fresh new suburbs, complete with a grid of streets, streetcars and thousands of new homes.

In 1906, the city limits were right up against our eastern edge. Just a few years earlier, wolves had been reported not far from 33rd Avenue and Fremont Street, and one of the biggest perils facing neighbors at that time was wildfire.

During platting, the car was a novelty. In 1906 only 6,000 cars were registered in Oregon.

During platting, the car was a novelty. In 1906 only 6,000 cars were registered in Oregon. It wasn’t how people got around. It wasn’t a design criteria for those planning neighborhoods. And it just wasn’t practical much of the year because of muddy streets and roads.

Street paving here in Concordia didn’t really get underway until the 19-teens. Alberta Street wasn’t paved until spring 1911.

Meanwhile, people got around on foot and by streetcar. Our Alberta Streetcar – which ran out Alberta Street and turned north on 30th Avenue down to Ainsworth Street – was the way most people got around.

Parking was not yet really even a concept. When you look at early aerial photos of the neighborhood, the lack of cars on our streets pretty much jumps out at you.

The horse tethering rings still in curbs throughout the neighborhood today were mandated by city ordinance during the early years because everything that came to your house was delivered by horse and wagon.

Ice, coal, wood, groceries, mail, heavy goods like furniture – all came by horse. Drivers needed a place to stop and tie up safely while they unloaded.

A much more common sight than the ubiquitous cars at the curb we see today would be firewood piles at the curb, drying in the summer air and awaiting the splitting ax.

But skyrocketing numbers of cars changed all that. When the Broadway Bridge opened in April 1913, there were 80,000 registered cars statewide. By 1924, that number had jumped to more than a million. By 1948, when the Alberta Streetcar lines were paved over and streetcars ceased to operate in Portland, there were 2.1 million cars in Oregon.

Today, there are 4.1 million cars and, on Friday and Saturday nights, it might seem a good portion of them are parked on our streets.

Before parking there were horses. Delivery wagons like this – and the Alberta Streetcar – kept the neighborhood supplied and accessible (and free from lines of parked cars) until the automobile remade our city, like so many other American cities. In 1909, this delivery wagon operated from a grocery store at 26th Avenue and Alberta Streets.

The horse tethering rings still in curbs throughout the neighborhood today were mandated by city ordinance during the early years because everything that came to your house was delivered by horse and wagon.

Ice, coal, wood, groceries, mail, heavy goods like furniture – all came by horse. Drivers needed a place to stop and tie up safely while they unloaded.

A much more common sight than the ubiquitous cars at the curb we see today would be firewood piles at the curb, drying in the summer air and awaiting the splitting ax.

But skyrocketing numbers of cars changed all that. When the Broadway Bridge opened in April 1913, there were 80,000 registered cars statewide. By 1924, that number had jumped to more than a million. By 1948, when the Alberta Streetcar lines were paved over and streetcars ceased to operate in Portland, there were 2.1 million cars in Oregon.

Today, there are 4.1 million cars and, on Friday and Saturday nights, it might seem a good portion of them are parked on our streets.

By Doug Decker; initialed his blog AlamedaHistory.org in 2007 to collect and share knowledge about the life of old houses, buildings and neighborhoods in northeast Portland. His basic notion is that insight to the past adds new meaning to the present.
Concordia community events calendar

**Community Room Calendar**

Concordia Neighborhood Association hosts these events in McMenamins Concordia 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.

**Mondays, Dec. 2, 16, 10-11am**
EPT TAPPING STRESS RELIEF
ePfT combines cognitive elements with tapping certain acupuncture points. This allows for quick release of current stress and the release of old, stuck energy that may be affecting your health & well-being.
Details: 503.495.5954, pfett22@gmail.com, calminthestress.com

**Saturday, Dec. 7, 1-3pm**
**FREE CRAFT NIGHT**
Location: Atlas Pizza, 710 N Killingsworth Ave. Atlas Pizza will celebrate the third Thursday of each month to sponsor this event. Supplies & instructors are provided, no registration necessary.
Details: collapellex.com

**Monday, Dec. 9, 6-8pm**
**SACRED HARP SINGING**
This is not a choir, & there are no auditions or performances. Each session is facilitated by a leader familiar with the Sacred Harp tunebook. The Sacred Harp tunebook is a collection of spiritual songs and hymns, & it has been used in American religious groups since the 1820s.
Details: soniaGf419@gmail.com

**Tuesday, Dec. 10, 12-1pm**
**BROOKS ART & WINE PARTY**
A juried art show and wine tasting in the beautiful St. Mark’s auditorium. Hosted by the Brooks PTA.
Details: brookspoetry@gmail.com

**Tuesday, Dec. 10, 11am**
** brown bag herbal medicine presentation**
Learn to identify, use & apply the wisdom of herbal medicine to your daily life.
Details: 503.786.6540, jk@johidesign.com

**Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1-3pm**
**HANNAH PRATT: DYNASTY OF GREAT SPIRITS**
A presentation by Hannah Pratt, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, addressing this work in progress with her experimental play and an exploration of her family’s history.
Details: hannah.pratt@wedgepoint.org

**Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7pm**
**OMSI SCIENCE PUB: OCEAN PLASTICS**
Location: OMSI, 620 N Interstate Ave. Entrance to OMSI is free to all participants. Doors open at 5:30pm. The presentation blends science, art & activism by 3 Northwesterners working to change the story of plastic. $5 suggested donation all goes to OMSI. Doors open at 5:30pm.
Details: sciencepub@OMSI.edu

**Tuesday, Dec. 24, 4-7pm**
**CREATIVE PATH WALK**
The sounds of Christmas music from all of the Concordia University student music ensembles—along with the Christmas story—fill the evening. Details of the evening are subject to change. Donations are always appreciated.
Details: creativepathwalk.org