Students show passion for garden

By Marsha Sandman
CNA Media Team

Congenial and engaging, Zoe Dawson is the garden coordinator at Vernon IB World School at 2044 N.E. Killingsworth St. Zoe is passionate about the beautiful garden that’s vibrant and mature with blueberry bushes, grape vines, strawberry plants, apple and Asian pear trees, 30 raised vegetable beds and vermicomposting worm bins.

The garden was created in spring 2007 by more than 600 volunteers from the neighborhood, local churches, PTA, student body, families of staff members, Home Depot employees, Northwest Natural employees, SMART readers and people involved with Hands On Portland.

The garden was expanded in 2009 to include a native garden on the east side of the school. That garden has a mature alder tree, evergreen huckleberries, bachelor buttons, mock orange, gold- enrod and lupine, among various other plants. Both gardens provide the perfect opportunity for hands-on experiential student learning in an outdoor environment.

The Vernon garden vision states, “It is our hope that children will become more connected with the natural world and find a lifelong source of enjoyment by experiencing the pleasure of working in the school garden.”

“We find value in green areas, fresh food, and taking responsibility for other living things. We are delighted that so many members of the community support us in this vision.”

Zoe keeps the students engaged with half hour classes two days per week. The kids experience gardening, cooking, science experiments, biology, ecology and nutrition. Last year Whole Foods offered a grant so the kids could develop their own cookbook.

There is a robust garden program before and after school when the students can get friendly with the plants and the little red wiggler worms that keep the garden healthy.

The kids are invited to come on weekends, and families are welcome to harvest all year. The garden greens are often used for salads at various school events.

The garden is supported by the PTA, which has an annual auction in February and a fun run. The garden always needs volunteers to fill a variety of roles. Contact Zoe at ZDawson@PPS.net to learn more.

Monthly garden work parties occur generally the second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon. Donations of supplies – like seeds, seed starter soil, containers, gardening gloves, small hand tools, hoses and more – are always appreciated.

Both gardens provide the perfect opportunity for hands-on experiential student learning in an outdoor environment.

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.
Resilience is defined as having the ability to recover readily from illness, depression, adversity or the like. In Concordia, the place we call home, resilience is being able to recover from the news that left us reeling – the closure of Concordia University.

At our March general meeting, we had asked Julie Dodge, doctor of ministry, to speak to us about resilience – something that she deals with and helps others to deal with on a daily basis. The university associate professor was invited as a speaker for our March event prior to the university’s announcement about closing.

The strength and courage she showed in still coming to our meeting was amazing. As a matter of fact, there were several other staff/faculty members in attendance that night – not as representatives of the school, but as members of the community, neighbors and as people whose lives have also been changed.

The school is closing. The students will no longer be on campus. The faculty and staff are losing their jobs. This is what we have to contend with as a community. The university provided our community with the use of its library. That’s closing. But, did you know that we have six other public libraries that we can also use – for free?

They are: Kenton Library on north Denver Avenue, North Portland Library on north Killingsworth Street, St. Johns Library on north Charleston Avenue, Albina Library on northeast 11th Avenue and the Hollywood Library on northeast Tillamook Street.

We also have several free little libraries in our community. Leave a book – take a book.

The closing of the university does have an impact on our community, but it does not have to destroy us. Change is here, how do we face it?

Personally, I say we face it together. Why not work together to continue to make Concordia our home – a place where our children can live out their lives and create memories? A place where we care for our neighbors. A place where we thrive as a community.

Astrid Furstner is a mother, a wife, an immigrant, a local artist and an artisan. She lives with her husband, the luthier Brent, and her artist-in-the-making daughter, Luciana. Together, they call Concordia their home.

Need a place for your event?
The Community Room at McMemnamin’s 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

The concerts are coming! The concerts are coming!

Ready, set, start planning those picnic basket feasts. Concert dates are now set for three Fridays in Fernhill Park: July 10, 17 and 24.

Stay tuned for details on the performers and how you can help fund these enjoyable evenings.

All concerts are scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Additional entertainment for children those evenings is also being planned, and food and beverage vendors will be on hand. Admission, as always, is free.
Murals describe neighborhood in pictures

Mural panels on the Black United Fund of Oregon building show the area during the redline days and the resilience of the African American community. Photo by Maquette Reeverts

CNA events, meetings affected by COVID-19

Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) wants everyone in the community to remain healthy. “We support the efforts underway to slow the progress of the Coronavirus COVID-19,” said Astrid Parsnser, CNA chair.

“We will put off our next neighborhood mixer until possibly May or until it is safe for our community to gather once again,” she reported. “Sadly, we are also canceling the Spring Egg Hunt altogether for this year.”

By press time, decisions weren’t firm on whether any April CNA meetings will be held in person. As many as four may be affected.

Wednesday, April 1, CNA Board of Directors plans to conduct its meeting virtually for board members and the public. Check Facebook, ConcordiaPDX.org or email Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings to learn how to dial/ tune in.

Tuesday, April 7, the CNA Media Team plans to conduct its meeting virtually for team members and the public. Check Facebook, ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings or email MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org to learn how to dial/tune in.

Wednesday, April 15, the CNA Land Use & Transportation Committee is scheduled to meet. To learn whether it is in person or virtual, check Facebook, ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings or email LandUse@ConcordiaPDX.org.

Wednesday, April 29, the CNA Finance Committee is scheduled to meet. To learn whether it is in person or virtual, check Facebook, ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings or email Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org.

Additionally, community-building events hosted by CNA in McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room may be affected. To confirm whether/how they will take place, consult the contacts listed in the event descriptions on Page 12. The same is true for events listed in the Page 12 community events calendar.

“In the coming weeks, please take every precaution to stay healthy,” Astrid stressed. “Look out for one another. Check in with neighbors. Be kind to each other. “Stay healthy and safe until we can come together again to celebrate our community.”

Concordia Art Works

Artworks describe neighborhood in pictures

By Maquette Reeverts

Alberta Art Works

Public art is a collaborative process and can transform our shared spaces. Our district is a true example of a landscape charged with creativity.

Our murals have become our neighborhood’s identity and reflect our stories. Birthing from Friends of Last Thursday, Alberta Art Works (AAW) consists of a few locals who continue helping support the artists and creativity of our arts district. The volunteer-run, nonprofit group facilitates public art by seeking funding to pay local artists to create street art.

It honored the neighborhood first with the façade of the Black United Fund of Oregon (BUFOR) project. Five mural panels were funded by Pie Footwear, Bitch Media, Bolt Fabric Boutique, Radio Room and Portland Association of Teachers.

The first panel, by Michael Feliz, depicts Chinook natives fishing. The next panel is of the Russian and German immigrants. Some of the buildings (that still exist) started our business district, painted by Lorena Garcia and me. The story of the Vanport flood and the migration of people in and out of the district is told using birds by Carla Bartow.

Jaamali Roberts’ panel shows the area during the redline days and the resilience of the African American community. Photo by Maquette Reeverts

Call it art tourism – people are using our murals as the backdrop to their Alberta District experience. To encourage this, AAW has created a walking tour map of our 60+ public works of art and offers tours to colleges, elementary schools and the public.

Find out more and/or help fund the repainting Alberta Street bus benches this spring at AlbertaArtWorks.org.
Dining Out for Life supports local HIV center

By Nancy Varekamp
CNews Editor

According to Katie Ugolini, raising funds for a valuable community resource can be as easy as enjoying a meal in a local restaurant Thursday, April 30.

“Just washing dishes make me feel like I’m doing something. It’s often my favorite day of the week. It’s important to give back to people who have been marginalized and to ensure they are seen and heard.”

– Katie Ugolini

That’s the concept behind Dining Out for Life, and it’s what you’ll find her doing that evening.

She and husband Chris Lopez serve as ambassadors each year at a participating restaurant. They invite friends and acquaintances to join them, greet diners and generally spread the word about Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s HIV Day Center in Concordia.

Check Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX the week beginning April 23 for a list of local participating restaurants.

The restaurants donate 20-35% of each diner’s bill to Dining Out for Life to support that day center and the OHSU Partnership Project. The organizations provide vital programs and services to area residents living with HIV.

Supporting the day center isn’t on Katie’s calendar just one evening a year. For about 10 years, she’s been a Friday

board member, social committee chair and still active participant. She became aware of the day center when fellow CNA veteran George Bruender invited her to an annual AIDS Day breakfast at Concordia University.

The center’s clients spoke about what the center means to them.

“It definitely moved me,” Katie said. “It’s such an open, welcoming community for people.”

The HIV Day center opened 30 years ago. It’s the oldest free-standing, multi-service, drop-in center for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS in the country, according to Katie. (See the CNews ConcordiaPDX.org/2017/04/services-arent-limited-medical-hiv-center.)

Among the myriad services offered is foot care, currently provided by Concordia University nursing students. “Some remain as volunteers,” Katie said.

Her day job is as a psychologist, so Katie is accustomed to hearing people’s stories. At the day center, she is a friend and volunteer.

“The clients are very inspiring,” she pointed out. “I feel so grateful to meet them and so honored to hear their stories.”

That’s the concept behind Dining Out for Life, and it’s what you’ll find her doing that evening.

Chris Lopez and Katie Ugolini support the HIV Day Care Center every April during the Dining Out for Life fundraiser. Find them April 30 at a local restaurant, greeting diners and thanking them for the 20-35% of their bills the restaurant will donate to the organization.

Photo by Nancy Varekamp

Nancy Varekamp is semi-retired from her career in journalism, public relations and – her favorite work engagement – writing and editing targeted newsletters.
Area needs safe crossings on busy corridor

By Garlynn Woodsong
CNA Board Member, SW1
CNA LUTC Chair

Since last summer, the Port-
land Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) has been working on a planning project focused on the Columbia/Lombard corridor, including north/south routes across it.

In July 2009, Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) wrote to PBOT with a collection of neighborhood concerns with – and requests for improvements to – the corridor, also including issues related to the bridges and overpasses on 33rd and 42nd avenues, and to the Columbia Slough Trail System.

The top priority of neighbors around the overpass is to provide north/south crossings in this corridor that are safe for people of all ages and abilities.

The top priority of neighbors around
the overpass is to provide north/south crossings in this corridor that are safe for people of all ages and abilities.

We can see the Columbia River from our neighborhood, but we can’t walk there safely. Riding a bicycle there means taking a lane and your life into your own hands on Columbia Boulevard.

These are CNA’s priorities as we review the proposals coming from this project:

- At 33rd Avenue, CNA is focused on the need for purpose-built bicycle and pedestrian connections across Columbia and Lombard. Our conversation focused on whether the project, as designed, goes far enough to protect vulnerable road users. The project is currently not funded, so there is no timeline for delivery.

For details, see Garlynn Woodsong’s report above.

Concordia University Closure

Of course the biggest news was the shocking demise of Concordia University – for which our neighborhood was named – whose official announcement abruptly is closing at the end of the academic year. We heard about some of the factors that appear to have contributed to the decision, and assistance that is being provided to help students who have been placed in the difficult position of having their university close.

It is too soon to know what may become of the roughly 24-acre campus, which is zoned CI, a multi-use zone for larger institutional campuses in residential neighborhoods. Obviously the entire neighborhood will be watching with interest.

The LUTC meets every third Wednesday of the month in the Kennedy School community room at 7 p.m. The next meeting is April 15. All are welcome.

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

Hasson Company Realtors

Garlynn Woodsong

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Amelie Marian
Real Estate

What’s Selling in Concordia?

187 Homes sold in RMLS in last 12 months as of March 10

2.0% Increase in Average Sale Price since 2019

2. Avg. Sale Price currently: _________ $532,889
3. Avg. Days on market: _________ 32

This information provided by
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Keller Williams, Portland Central.
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Hasson Company Realtors
Filling Station, four-footers celebrate 15 years

By Kathy Crabtree
CNA Media Team

What’s in a name?
Laura Amiton chose The Filling Station for the name of her 2001 N.E. Alberta St. pet store, “to emphasize our ability to fill the needs of pets and their owners for nutritious and healthful food and treats.”
The pet supply store has been true to that mission for 15 years, and she hopes to continue to serve the community for years to come. Laura remembers in the very beginning her first location on Alberta was surrounded by empty lots and store fronts.
Growing with the neighborhood has been a source of pride. She values the sense of community, and it is evident in the number of her patrons, including four-legged ones.
Employee Yolin May estimated about 40-60 dogs a day visit the store along with their owners. They come for the treats and attention from the staff. Yolin said there are some interesting pet visitors, listing a hedgehog and a pig that did tricks.
The store’s tag line, “Feed the love” is apparent in the array of dietary options related to skin allergies, grain sensitivities and digestive health.
All the employees are knowledgeable about the products stored on the shelves and can provide resources for most questions concerning the family pet.

Growing with the neighborhood has been a source of pride. She values the sense of community, and it is evident in the number of her patrons, including four-legged ones.

“We work closely with local vets and recognize that natural products are most pet owners’ choice,” Laura explained. “I believe good nutrition is the secret to a pet’s long and active life.”

Anna Ilchak, purchasing manager, added, “We get really attached to our pet visitors. We know most of their names and their favorite treats. Many are on special diets related to diabetes, obesity and cancer, so checking in with them on their progress is rewarding.”
Healthy food and petting perks aren’t the only love being shared at the store. A variety of chew toys and activity-treat puzzles are also available.
Winter coats and rain gear for pup sizes miniature to extra-large are in stock, as well as leashes, collars, halters and a variety of devices to walk your pet comfortably and safely.
Laura stressed the local community is The Filling Station’s focus, so the store provides the best service she can and products she finds available to pet lovers in the store and online. And its merchandise is available for same-day delivery through FillingStationPDX.com.

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A project that will benefit the environment plus the watershed and habitat – as well as the community – drew plenty of neighborhood interest and effort in February.

About 60 neighbors and nearby residents came out for three hours to turn the two blocks of the Ainsworth Street median – between 22nd and 24th avenues – into an attractive, self-sustaining habitat corridor.

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council organized the Stewardship Saturday in this pilot project. Eventually, it will connect Alberta Park’s nature trail that’s due for expansion and one planned for Fernhill Park. (See 2017 CNews report on Alberta Park at ConcordiaPDX.org/2017/12/ecology-sustainability-merge-in-local-park.)

“We bit off a chunk we knew we could finish,” reported Max Samuelson, interim stewardship director. The dynamics worked well, so the next event will move east to the next two blocks. That’s planned for early next year after the first effort is assessed to determine if plantings thrived and/or if tweaks to the plan are needed.

The 15-block, 25-foot-wide median receives tendencies only at the mercy of neighbors, and its grass and weeds aren’t always attractive. They also don’t stop storm runoff that picks up pollutants to flood and send sewer overflows into basements and streets and/or flow into the Columbia watershed.

Native shrubs, trees, grasses and rushes comprised the 1,700 plants chosen for their low maintenance and deep rooting abilities – as well as their habitat for birds, wildlife and pollinators.

The project is a partnership between the watershed council, Portland bureaus of environmental services and transportation, Audubon Society of Portland and Wisdom of the Elders.

Enthusiasm for the project wasn’t limited to the volunteers Feb. 8. “People were sticking their hands out of the cars, honking their horns and cheering us on as we were planting.”

– Max Samuelson

About 60 volunteers turned out during on-and-off rain showers in February to turn two blocks of the Ainsworth Street median into an attractive, self-sustaining habitat corridor. Among them were neighbors Roger Smith and Sandra Wilborn. Photo by Autumn Lindseth

“People were sticking their hands out of the cars, honking their horns and cheering us on as we were planting.”

– Max Samuelson

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Substation expansion towers above neighbors

PacifiPower began reconstruction of its dormant Kennedy Substation last September. But the utility neglected to advise neighbors in advance of its expansion plans to fill the growing energy needs of northeast Portland.

So the plans and the lack of notice have continued to be the talk of the neighborhood for months. According to Tom Gauntt, PacifiPower spokesman, the utility is installing one transformer and three distribution voltage circuit breakers. Efforts include associated steel structures and wires on 41st Avenue to tap into the existing northeast Portland transmission system and provide three new sources to serve the neighborhood.

“We are not removing any facilities, but are replacing some existing distribution and transmission wood poles with a mixture of wood and steel poles to make the new connection,” he said.

Neighbors reported they were surprised and dismayed when the substation reconstruction began, including a 52-foot structure. “We are developing a better protocol for providing notice to the neighborhood before work commences again,” the utility spokesman said.

A letter responding to their questions and concerns was sent by PacifiPower, following a meeting of those neighbors. It addresses noise, landscaping, street repairs and more. Under consideration is building a wall between the substation and adjacent houses to buffer light and sound.

The letter goes into such details as the fate of the existing cherry tree on Emerson and removal of the dead tree on 42nd Avenue. PacifiPower submitted a draft of a “good neighbor agreement” at a Feb. 27 meeting with neighbors. It calls for monitoring noise and electromagnetic fields, a commitment to construct considering a shell around the site, solar storage at St. Charles Church and a $25,000 annual grant for energy-related projects in the area.

The utility also offered to pave the section of Emerson Street between 42nd and 41st avenues, but neighbors declined, saying their property taxes would be impacted.

Those commitments are not enough for neighbor Rebecca Marshall. “My concern all along has been the enormity of this ‘upgrade,’” she pointed out. “This substation is a major change to the way our neighborhood looks, and we are also concerned about our health and loss of property value.

“We are also concerned about the noise this will make when it is fully energized.”

Other potentially impacted residents expressed concern about noise and lights left on all night. So the utility pledged to contain noise to levels governed by city code and to install motion sensors for security lighting.

By Steve Elder
CNA Media Team

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

Save the Date!
CNA Annual Spring Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 11
Fernhill Park
CANCELED

Adult volunteers are needed the evening before to stuff several thousand plastic eggs with treats and prizes. Join the party, 5-8 p.m., American Legion Post 234, 2104 N.E. Alberta St. Additional help is needed at 8 a.m. on Saturday at Fernhill Park to “hide” the eggs and set up!

No registration or RSVP is required for either event.

If you have un-opened items to donate as prizes — or candy for the eggs — please contact Sonia.

For more info, contact Sonia at SoniaGF419@gmail.com

Watch for details in the April CNews

Sponsored by CNA & American Legion Post 134

Searching for LUTC volunteers

The Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA)’s Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC) is in need of neighbors who care about development, roads, safety, bike routes, climate change, housing, parks, intersection art, alleys, spot greening, or the other cool things that help make Portland the place that we love.

Committee members work with neighbors to understand concerns, opportunities, and strategies around these issues; speak with City, County, and other government representatives; work with other community partners; and provide policy recommendations to the CNA board.

Wednesday, April 15, LUTC is scheduled to meet. To learn whether it is in person or virtual, check Facebook, ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings or email LandUse@ConcordiaPDX.org.

Interested in participating? Let us know!
Email committee chair, Garlynn Woodsong, at: LandUse@ConcordiaPDX.org
Fixing Our Streets up for renewal

By Garlynn Woodsong
CNA Board Member, SW1
CNA LUTC Chair

I n May 2016, Portlanders voted to add a dime to the price per gallon of gasoline within city limits to raise money to fund city streets. Since 2016, $64 million has been raised to fund street repairs and safety improvements, including:

• 40 miles of road paving through more than 400 “base repair” heavy-duty street rebuild projects
• 27 new wheelchair-accessible sidewalk ramps to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards
• 58 intersection safety upgrades
• 79 Safe Routes to School projects, serving at least 31 elementary schools, eight middle schools and 10 high schools
• Funding toward the repaving of Alberta Street from 15th to 30th avenues, expected this October

That four-year temporary tax is scheduled to expire this year. Portland City Council voted unanimously Feb. 6 to refer a renewal of the Fixing Our Streets program, to the May 19 primary election ballot. The new four-year measure is expected to fund $74.5 million of additional projects, including:

• $6 million for Safe Routes to School projects
• $4.5 million for Neighborhood Greenway projects
• $4.5 million for Neighborhood Safety Improvements focused on saving lives and preventing injuries for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users
• $10.5 million for basic safety improvement projects
• $6 million for paving
• $4 million for base repair, repairing sections of failing streets
• $4 million for maintaining Portland’s gravel streets
• $5 million for a dedicated, year-round pothole repair crew
• $5 million for new traffic signals and beacons on some of Portland’s most dangerous streets
• $4.5 million for sidewalks
• $4.5 million for street lighting

On the May primary ballot, you’ll have the opportunity to renew the 10-cent gas tax to raise $74.5 million for road improvements in Portland. The $64 million budget produced from the 2016 tax will finish off this year with repaving Alberta Street from 15th to 30th avenues. Photo by Nancy Varekamp

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To your wellness

Rehearsal is powerful

By Penny Wells
Licensed Massage Therapist

To learn something new, we practice. And practice and practice. With repetition, we move from conscious attempts to unconscious ease.

Most of us have been practicing being who we are for a good long time. And we’re pretty good at it, regardless of how well “being who we are” is working for us. Our regularly scheduled, automatic, responses remind us who we are (just in case we forget).

What if you could replace those statements each time they arose and slowly change what you believe is true for you?

For more people to become “two weeks ready” along the guidelines laid out by the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. In NET, probably our biggest goal is to convince Portland residents to follow these guidelines to “be prepared.”

We often focus on the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) megathrust quake that will occur here at some point. This focus is because a CSZ rupture will be unprecedented in scope and impact. But what isn’t highlighted as often is the Subduction Zone (CSZ) megathrust quake that will occur here at some point.

But for now:

- Wash your hands
- Wash your hands (again)
- Don’t touch your face
- Stay home if you’re sick
- Cover your cough (but not with your hand)
- Leave N-95 masks on the shelves for those who are infected – and for their care providers

Stay well out there! And visit MultCo.us/novel-coronavirus-covid-19 for more information.

Amy Gard is a mother, retired teacher/administrator, former Concordia business owner, saxophone player and active volunteer for the NET and Oregon Food Bank.

News from the NET

COVID-19 crisis may offer positive lessons

By Amy Gard, Team Leader Concordia/Vernon/Woodlawn NET

You’ve probably read that some stores have experienced a run on supplies following the announcement of a COVID-19 diagnosis in their area. But guess what? You would already have what you need if you were “two weeks ready.” (Hint: everything you need, including masks, and without having to brave a rush to the store.)

But for now:

- Wash your hands
- Wash your hands (again)
- Don’t touch your face
- Stay home if you’re sick
- Cover your cough (but not with your hand)
- Leave N-95 masks on the shelves for those who are infected – and for their care providers

Stay well out there! And visit MultCo.us/novel-coronavirus-covid-19 for more information.

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CConcordia News
is THE place to write!

“I enjoy writing for the Concordia News because I believe everyone has a story. I delight in being continually amazed. What’s your story?”

Marsha Sandman,
CNA Media Team
Marsha.Sandman@gmail.com
Concordians share their memories of CU

News asked readers to send their memories of Concordia University to share with the community at this time of grief about institution closing. Below are some of the submissions. If you have any to share, post them on Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX.

Dick Wrye
The first five years I lived in the Concordia neighborhood of Portland, I taught in the high school department of Concordia College and High School. The high school then moved off the Concordia campus and became Lutheran High School.
At Concordia I taught music, primarily choir and band. Many of those students are still my friends. I am glad to have memories of the many years of teaching.
The Concordia High School choir was directed by Dick Wrye, during the 1972-73 school year.

Dolores Sharadin

This is Karen (Sasser) Wrye’s confirmation class from St. Michael’s Lutheran Church Concordia College in 1958. St. Michael’s congregation began on campus and worshipped there for 10 years before the current church building was constructed.

Karen (Sasser) Wrye
Concordia University has been a part of my life for many years. My family moved to Portland in 1945. I grew up on 27th and walked past the campus on my way to Fabunio to grade school.
We neighborhood kids also played on the campus. When it was time for college, I attended there to study to be a teacher.
After graduating, I lived out of state for eight years. In 1972, I moved back to Portland when my husband accepted a position to teach in the high school department at Concordia.

I have lived in the Concordia neighborhood since then. For 12 years, I was an adjunct instructor at Concordia University. Over the years I have witnessed the many changes and additions to the campus.
All my memories as neighbor, student and instructor are too many to list. A few of my favorites are singing in the Concordia College Choir, attending concerts and sporting events over the years, visiting the library and walking across campus on my treks through the neighborhood.
I live close enough to campus that, in recent years, I have enjoyed the music of the carillon.
I grieve the closing of Concordia University and wonder what will take its place as my neighbor.

Save the Date!
Annual Spring Clean Up
Three neighborhoods, Vernon, Woodlawn and Concordia, team up to bring you Vernlawndia!
Saturday, May 30, 8 am – 2 pm
PCC Workforce Training Center at NE 42nd Ave & Killingsworth

Tired of seeing all the clutter & junk in your closet, basement & garage?
Drop it all off at the PCC Workforce Training Center.

The People of St. Michael’s Lutheran Church wish you a blessed Easter. We are praying for all in our community in this time of anxiety and stress. God promises his love always.
Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life.” John 11:25

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Parks open, be careful
At CNews press time, all Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) facilities were closed, and indoor activities, programs and rentals were suspended indefinitely. However, outdoor parks are open. PP&R suggested you practice social distancing when visiting them.
For the latest information, visit PortlandOregon.gov/parks.
Library has digital offers

All Multnomah County libraries were closed at CNews press time. However, they offer myriad materials online for all ages: e-books — among them academic titles — and audio books; visual arts; games and activities for children; movies, music, comics and TV to stream.

Of special interest for parents with children out of school is the library’s Overdrive site: MultiColib.overdrive.com/library/kids. It’s filled with activities: E-books, narrated books, games and more activities are on the Tumblebook site at: MultiColib.org/resource/tumblebook-library. And Ebook Central provides ebooks in all academic subject areas, plus research tools at MultiColib.org/resource/ebook-central-proquest. 

EBook Central additionally offers homework resources, databases and research tips for subjects that include: literacy and literature, history, people and places, science, math, and social issues.

Don’t have a library card? Good for six months is a digital library card at MultiColib.overdrive.com/library/kids. This card is a digital library card that can be used to access library resources, including e-books, audiobooks, and more. To get started, visit the library’s website and sign up for an account.

Art worth repeating

As you might expect, social distancing has caused many cancellations at local businesses. Hence CNews advertising is reduced this month. So here’s an opportunity to again enjoy Concordian Jeanette Zeis’ art corners from past issues of the newspaper.