

# OVERLOOK VIEWS

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The Newsletter

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Overlook Neighborhood Association, Portland, Oregon

www.overlookneighborhood.org

## ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD HOLIDAY POTLUCK

**When: Tuesday, December 2. 6:00-8:00 p.m.**  
**Where: Trillium School (Interstate and Killingsworth next to the IFCC)**

Come and join your neighbors to celebrate the season, the neighborhood, and each other. In addition to the deliciousness of the dishes everyone will bring (accompanied, please, by a serving spoon), there will be door prizes from neighborhood businesses and activities for the kids. Beverages, paper plates, and utensils will be provided. In this case, convenience trumps green (gulp).

The potluck is a festive facsimile of our usual monthly neighborhood association meeting. But, instead of meeting the third Tuesday, we moved it to an earlier date. This makes it possible for more of our neighbors to attend before getting caught up in the usual Holiday madness. Please help make this a successful neighborhood get together with your presence.

## SHAPING REDEVELOPMENT IN OVERLOOK

By David Chott, Chair, Land Use Committee

Redevelopment along Interstate Avenue signals a new era in Overlook. The Overlook Condos building is finished, and construction of the Patton Park Apartments is well underway on the Crown Motel site. Design review comment periods recently ended for two additional developments: The Prescott and Killingsworth Station. OKNA sponsored informal community meetings for each of these last two projects to help residents review the designs and collectively brainstorm aspects we might wish to see improved. More on this after a quick summary of the projects.



...waiting for the wrecker's ball to drop at The Prescott development site

The Prescott will be a mixed-use building covering the full southeastern block at Interstate and Prescott, where the liquor store and boarded up houses now stand. It features 155 residential units above ten thousand plus square feet of ground floor commercial space. The tallest part of the structure rises six stories with an underground garage.

Killingsworth Station is also mixed-use, to be built on the northeastern block of Interstate and Killingsworth. It will have 54 residential condominium units, with ground floor commercial units to be



## WORDS FROM A CO-CHAIR

By Claire Paris



These last few months, we have elected many new officials on the national level and in our neighborhood. As one of these I would like to formally introduce myself...I'm Claire Paris. You may have noticed my name associated with land use issues around the neighborhood and I'm now your new Overlook Neighborhood co-Chair. Eric Gale and I are going to be serving as co-chairs until I get my bearings or his wife has their baby, whichever comes first.

A few facts... For the last six years I've lived in a house on North Maryland (just behind the new Patton Park Apartments) and spent a good deal of time and money fixing it up. I'm also a real estate broker so I am invested both personally and professionally in making our neighborhood a vibrant, amicable place to call home. A transplant to Oregon, by way of Arizona, I am very concerned about development in our neighborhood and getting that development done in the best possible way. Another issue important to me is increasing the involvement of you, Overlook Neighbors. How do I get you interested in meeting your neighbor? What do you think about the six-story development on Interstate? What do you want to see happen in a year—, five, or ten?

With so many changes on our horizon as a nation, we as individuals can feel overwhelmed. "What can I do about all that?" you think. You can start in your neighborhood by re-newing your faith in your community. I decided to get involved in the Overlook Neighborhood Association because I think it is the most effective way to make a big difference. I want a close-knit community with a shared vision of the future. I'm sure you also want to help make that a reality. There are several opportunities coming up for you to join us. Check out the Holiday Potluck notice to your left and see the calendar on page 8. Please join the effort to shape our future. I look forward to meeting you.

Claire

sold, not leased. The building is four stories, with surface parking at the northeast corner. Eco-roofs and other features are designed to meet the sustainable construction standards of LEED Silver certification.

This scale of development is new in Overlook, and brings both excitement and concern. The new commercial spaces will bring additional services to our area. The prospect of new restaurants, coffee shops, dry cleaners, etc. is exciting. On the other hand, the number one concern among current residents is that these new residences and businesses will put excessive pressure on street parking. Because of the MAX line's proximity though, these developments have lower minimum parking requirements. As it turns out, both projects actually offer more parking than they are required to. Given these rules, increasing the number of parking spaces is not something we can really influence.

However, we do have a great opportunity to influence aesthetics, quality of materials, the pedestrian experience, and more. Improving these first three aspects of The Prescott's design were primary concerns of residents who gathered to discuss it, and comment letters stressed these points. The design of Killingsworth Station appeared to be less controversial, as very few people turned out to discuss it and those who did had only positive things to say. We know more development is coming, and OKNA will continue to sponsor neighborhood meetings to discuss design problems and coordinate our commenting efforts. When a community shows up to participate in decisions, it proves that nothing is "out of our hands."

## IFM: ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

*Editor's note: In the last edition of Overlook Views, I wrote about my very negative take on the past season's Farmers Market. I also noted that I welcomed contributions from readers with a different point of view. Following are the comments of Lauren Kilbane for which I am most appreciative.*

Dear Warren/Overlook Views,

I was surprised to read your cover story about the Interstate Farmers Market and would like to share with you a different point of view.

Like most market visitors, I am unaware of the bureaucracy and back story that shape your perspective and regret that you have had that experience. Here's mine, season-by-season:

In spring, market buzz begins with the early morning placement of IFM banners and orange traffic cones. As we ride by on our way to school, my children cheer, "It's Farmers Market Day!" To them, the IFM means seeing friends and neighbors, listening to klezmer, salsa or bluegrass music and picking out an afternoon snack while I figure out "what's for dinner" among the selections on offer by local farms and prepared food vendors. On special days, we may indulge in poetry from Luis or swords from The Balloon Man.

(Continued next page)

**IFM (Continued)**

Throughout summer, Portland Parks and Recreation sets up Van Go! including crafts, games and water fun in the fountain. Often, the afternoon extends into evening and we end our day with other neighborhood families, gathered on the grass, sharing purchases in pick and nibble fashion: sweet Unger Farm berries, freshly made Hot Mama chips and salsa, crunchy Sweet Leaf Farm baby carrots, juicy peaches from Baird Family Orchards, flavorful chicken kabobs from Wild West Barbeque and tasty tamales from Micro Mercantes.



Come fall, the market helps us in our transition back-to-reality, providing an extended taste of summer despite the change in days. IFM vendors make it possible to invite friends to a delicious midweek dinner without fuss: we cut up melon and cucumber from Deep Roots, grill fresh salmon from Simon Sampson or buffalo sausage from Pine Mountain Ranch, toss some Sweet Leaf greens for salad and enjoy Brownie Farm delicacies for dessert. Indulgent, but a lot less expensive than a restaurant tab + babysitter.

Just this morning, benefits of the IFM lived on in our kitchen as we discussed "meadow foam" the nectar collected by bees to make the Boylan honey drizzled on our oatmeal.

To be sure, there are plenty of practical improvements to be made and ways to evolve the market to better benefit both vendors and shoppers (fresh eggs, please, bring back cheese!) but overall, I was happy with Market Manager Bob New's results for 2008: a lovely, well-balanced weekly market that served at least one neighborhood family well in terms of healthy social and practical needs.

Respectfully,

Lauren Holden Kilbane

**A HAVEN FOR HEALING  
(ON MONTANA STREET)**

By Sarah Friedel

Montana House combines the skills of a professional staff and the comforts of home in a new Overlook resource for the enrichment of mental and spiritual health.

Independent therapists at Montana House treat conditions such as anxiety, depression, trauma, parent-teen conflict, and family disruption. Among services offered are parent-teen mediation, divorce mediation, and counseling for children of separated parents.



Located at 5404 N. Montana Street, a half block south of Killingsworth, Montana House is a beautifully refurbished English Tudor home. Owners Paul Stretch and Alicia Richards bought the house for their counseling practice, Straight From the Heart.

Both Paul and Alicia are licensed clinical social workers. The foundation of Paul's therapy is the trusting and open relationship he establishes with children, adolescents and adults who have experienced trauma. Alicia enjoys working with teen girls. In addition, her clients include adults and couples who desire stronger relationships or who are living separately and want to create a successful co-parenting plan.

Occupying their own spaces in Montana House are Michele Aranguiz, MS; Bridget Geraghty, LCSW; devora moon marbin, LCSW; Kristin Maus, MA, ATR; Alejandro Pawliszyn, MS, Lic.; and Heide Perry-Bringman, LPC, LMHC.

Montana House has been operating for four months. "We formerly were on East Burnside in a rented building. We wanted our own house with a homey feel," says Paul Stretch. Urban renewal area mixed zoning allowed them to carry out their plan.

Acceptance by their residential neighbors has been heartening. "We were even able to hire our next door neighbor for landscaping," said Paul. A beautification grant from the Portland Development Commission partially supported improvements in the appearance of the house and grounds. "We were able to do even more because of the grant money," said Paul, referring to a striking new fence, steppingstones on the median strip, and attractive railings on the sidewalk and porch. A bike rack is conspicuously mounted in the driveway.

Open house on Oct. 19 gave visitors a chance to feel the Montana House vibes. Friends and clients meandered through the offices and around the yard. Around a crackling fire outside, guests shared food and drink from Eddie's Flat Iron Pizza, Thai Food, and Krakow Koffee House, all located in the neighborhood.

In one corner of the back yard, varying rhythms and timbres emanated from the giant didjeridu of counselor/musician Michele Aranguiz. One by one, guests were privileged to absorb the instrument's active energy, followed by the peaceful release of Michele's special and ancient Tibetan singing bowl.

Upstairs in her lovely workspace, art therapist Kristen Maus provided materials, instruction and encouragement for making soul collages. Art therapy participants will be aware more often of moments of beauty in their daily lives, says Kristen, and no talent is required.

Alejandro Pawliszyn, who facilitates a mindfulness/meditation study group for therapists, shared a simple mindfulness tip. Stop whatever you are doing and take three breaths. Look around and be present. Make this a habit.

devora moon marbin has the coolest acronym for her work: FLUID (Frameworks for Learning and Understanding Identity and Diversity). She works with people from all walks of life includ-

Montana House staff on their front porch:

Back row from left: Alejandro Pawliszyn, Bridget Geraghty, Kristen Maus, devora moon marbin

Front row from left: Paul Stretch, Alicia Richards, Michele Aranguiz

ing Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Questioning (BLGBTQ). She is fluent in Spanish, as are Alejandro and Paul.

Bridget Geraghty focuses on creating, maintaining, and restoring health in relationships. She carries a generous stash of business cards with "My pocket self-care plan" on the back. Tip #11 is "Say something nice to you."

Heide Perry-Bringman's therapy background is steeped in sign language and deaf culture. Her work is with adults in family change transition, couples in relationship, and women addressing birthing and post-partum issues.

Several Montana House therapists accept payment from health insurance, and sliding scale fees are common. Montana House staff makes careful referrals for conditions in which they do not specialize, such as addiction.

Paul and Alicia's phone number is 503-232-0969; email at [paulstretch@gmail.com](mailto:paulstretch@gmail.com) to request contact information for any of the other practitioners.

**OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS  
Of a New OKNA Board Member**

By Clare Matthias

I moved to the Overlook neighborhood a little over three years ago, having returned to Oregon after many years away in other states. During my rambles, I lived in quite a variety of neighborhood and community settings. My opinion is, we've got it pretty good here in Overlook.

That's why I decided this past September—no more excuses about not having enough time—to join the board of the Overlook Neighborhood Association. I wanted to take an active role in helping to maintain the quality and livability of our neighborhood in the face of the many issues and changes faced by urban communities such as ours.

Board elections were held earlier this fall, but we still have a few vacant spots, so for any of you who are curious and/or are considering a seat for yourself, I am offering my impressions and observations of the board and how it works.

So far, after attending two board meetings and watching a steady stream of email correspondence on a range of issues, I am impressed by the level of commitment and earnestness I've witnessed on the part of my fellow board members. These are your neighbors, every one of them, who donate a not insignificant amount of time and energy, as well as their professional know-how and personal experience in the best interest of our shared residential community. They approach their volunteer jobs on the board with a level of responsibility and commitment that I wish I could say was universal in every workplace I've been a part of.

Each of the 14 members represents and advocates for a different issue affecting the neighborhood, including land use and planning (i.e. the Prescott and Killingsworth Station projects), safety and crime prevention, parks and open spaces, fire prevention on the bluff, transportation issues, the neighborhood newsletter, and in my case, business and community relations. Needless to say, there's a lot at stake for Overlook these days.

(Continued next page)

**(Observations continued)**

Our board has a respectable representation of the young and the older, life-long residents and relative newcomers and the north and south ends of Overlook. We're lopsided in other respects though. We have lots of representation from the west side of Interstate but we would benefit from more east side representation to get a fuller picture of the concerns and priorities of that area. Given that we represent a wonderfully mixed urban population, OKNA is sorely lacking in terms of ethnic and racial diversity. I would also love to see a renter or two in our ranks (for any of you who could help fill out the picture, you can nominate yourself for a position and we'd very much welcome your involvement!).

However, what mix we *do* have at the table inevitably results in the occasional disagreement regarding the 'right' way to tackle a problem or issue, or even whether a given problem is worth the effort of an effort. Discussions can get a little tense and abrupt at times, but another thing the board currently has going for it is a healthy level of dialogue. The board is refreshingly free of hierarchy and all members have equal opportunity to speak their mind and make their contributions. There also seems to be a real desire for collaboration. As far as I have observed, the differences in opinion seem to evolve quickly into a compromise approach. And at least everyone has had the chance to air their thoughts and have their say.

If you're interested in learning more about the details of board responsibilities and objectives, have a look at the front page of the August/September issue of the Overlook Views (available electronically on the neighborhood website [www.overlookneighborhood.org](http://www.overlookneighborhood.org))

In any case, we welcome all Overlook residents and business owners to attend the monthly general meeting of the neighborhood association. We're at Kaiser Town Hall on the third Tuesday of every month from 7 to 9 pm. Hope to see you there.

**JUBILANCE FOR JANUARY**  
By Melisa Cassell

At that moment  
when we turn December's page  
And discover that the  
calendar is spent

With a wistful gasp  
we survive the jolt  
That Time, again, has sent  
And see the chance to start anew.

To joy engage  
To pain assuage  
To find the page that faces  
is the first.

Though calendars have corners  
Board and paper as so many are  
Their Truth is of another shape  
and gauge.

The Circle reveals its kind intent  
bestowed gently from afar  
And reminds Delight to inscribe  
our page  
Even at that moment  
when the calendar is spent.

**RAILROAD JOINS PROGRAM TO REDUCE BLUFF FIRE RISK**

By Steve Lanigan, OKNA Board Member

The Union Pacific Railroad recently agreed to participate in ongoing efforts to reduce the risk of fire on the Willamette Bluff. The Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) deserves a lot of credit for never giving up on their negotiations with the railroad over the past two years.

"The railroad's decision to participate means we will now be able to treat nearly all of the bluff by Overlook Park and the Kaiser Interstate Campus," said James Allison, BES Watershed Revegetation Program Manager. About 87% of eligible properties in the boundary area, which extends from the University of Portland to the intersection of Interstate and Greeley, are now participating in the program. A project area map can be seen at: [www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=152387](http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=152387)

Properties that have recently joined the program will be treated with a winter cut of blackberries, followed by the spraying of a herbicide on invasive plants during the spring. All project properties already undergoing treatment will continue to be evaluated and treated as appropriate over the next several months. Treatments include more cutting of invasive plants like blackberries, scotch broom, and clematis; spraying the plants with a herbicide; and seeding treated areas with native grasses.

The presence of crews removing the invasives is pretty obvious. You can hear the sound of their chainsaws as they attack the dense stands of blackberries and clematis. The initial cutting provides a dramatic improvement in reducing fire risk and creating better habitat. One can observe the "before and after" treatments by walking below the bluff on N. Greeley.

Another area to see effective treatments is all along N. Willamette Blvd where blackberries and clematis had once dominated this small greenspace. The area is now clear and has native grass. Oaks, maples and madrones are now free to grow, no longer threatened by invasives.

Areas next to public property (like Overlook Park and Madrona Park, aka "Skidmore Bluffs") will continue to have signs posted prior to spraying. The City uses an integrated pest management (IPM) approach that optimized the treatment time for spraying—this results in less herbicide being used. The type of herbicide and the timing of their use depends on the invasive plants present, the time of year, weather conditions, and whether or not native plants are in the area. City crews use only two types of herbicides, determined to be safe for use in parks, around people and pets. City crews then dilute the herbicide by adding 95-99% water. Careful treatment timing allows the City to reduce herbicide concentration and still treat invasives effectively. Residents will notice that invasives take longer to die, sometimes several months, as the low-dose herbicides slowly reach plant roots.

The timing of cutting, seeding, and pulling creates a complete treatment schedule that reduces weed problems systemically. More information on the IPM program can be obtained by contacting James Allison at the City.

There's also good news regarding the original FEMA grant used to fund the fire risk reduction project. The project grant recently received an extension from April 2009 to September 2009. This will allow BES to treat the invasive plants for another full growing season and expend all of the grant funds. BES staff has also applied for additional internal funds to con-

tinue fire reduction efforts after the FEMA grant monies run out.

Anyone interested in learning more about this project should contact James Allison (BES Watershed Revegetation Program Manager, [jamesa@bes.ci.portland.or.us](mailto:jamesa@bes.ci.portland.or.us)) or Steve Lanigan (OKNA fire risk reduction representative, [lanoman@wa-net.com](mailto:lanoman@wa-net.com)).



Fire on the bluff off Mocks Crest Park Summer '07

**WHAT IF YOU KNEW WHAT TO DO WHEN A DISASTER HITS?**

By Gayle Vrla

The City of Portland trains citizens in easy-to-learn emergency response techniques. The classes are very interesting, fun and valuable. When trained, you will not have to sit back and be a victim. Rather, you will be able to be effective helping yourself, your family and your neighbors if a small or large disaster were to hit Overlook or all of Portland.

Would you be less worried? Do you think it would increase your certainty that you are prepared?

I invite you to join NET 24. When done with the training, you will have the option of joining our local Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET). Our 30 teams across Portland work in conjunction with the Portland Fire Bureau, under the supervision and coordination of the Portland Office of Emergency Management. We are trained to help our neighbors during the immediate aftermath of an overwhelming disaster until emergency response professionals can get to us. NET 24 serves the Boise, Humboldt and Overlook Neighborhoods.

We welcome our neighbors! If you are one of the people who stands up to help when something bad happens you should join our team. The training is interesting and *very* useful. The time commitment is minimal. You don't have to be young and strong to join. All ages above 14 are welcome.

A vital aspect to a safe neighborhood is one that has a strong emergency team. We would love for you to be a member. If you have any questions or if you would like more information on Portland NET, please contact me. In addition, contact me for some basic information about what you can do to be prepared even before you take the classes.

The next classes start in January 2009 and the training is free! Go to [www.pdxprepared.net](http://www.pdxprepared.net) to sign up. For more information, contact Gayle Vrla, NET Team Leader at [vrla@comcast.net](mailto:vrla@comcast.net) or 503-289-7158.



**A SWAN ISLAND STORY**

By Bob LaDu

There are many tales that could be told about Swan Island in the early days of the Oregon Territory. One of the most compelling is about a small group of American ex-trappers who improved the lot of all settlers by breaking the monopoly that the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) had on livestock.

By 1841, the Rocky Mountain fur trade was finished. Fashion changes in Europe brought the silk hat into style, replacing the rainproof beaver head covering and eliminating the demand for beaver pelts. The trappers suddenly had no employ. A colorful era symbolizing danger-filled free life in the wilderness was at an end. Individuals whose hair-raising exploits had made them known far and wide – Joe Meek, Kit Carson, Ewing Young, and others – drifted to the settlements wondering what life would bring them next. Some of these would come to the Willamette Valley, among the very first to settle there, after the retired HBC French Canadian trappers.

One group that had trapped together in the high Rockies – Robert Newell, Caleb Wilkins, and Joe Meek – decided to see what the Oregon Country was like (Meek actually guiding the first two wagons to reach the Valley). There they quickly made contact with Ewing Young, a fellow trapper who five years earlier had arrived with Joseph Gale via California and settled in the Chehalis Valley near Newberg. After Young gave them the lay of the land, Newell and the others, with their Nez Perce wives, staked out land in the Hillsboro area.

This was the time of the joint occupancy of Oregon where, by the treaty of 1818, Great Britain and the U.S. together held the Oregon Territory. Citizens of both nations could use it, but neither could claim its ownership. In fact, the HBC was the dominant power there. The only Americans were the few who had belonged to Astor's ill-fated trading post at Astoria, which the HBC took over in 1812. In 1824, the HBC established Fort Vancouver with John McLoughlin as chief factor. This served as a trading post in its own right and as the central collecting point for furs to be shipped to England from the far-flung HBC posts throughout the Northwest. McLoughlin ruled the whole area by virtue of his strong character and dominant personality, the power of the HBC, and its monopoly on manufactured goods.

Besides trapping, McLoughlin developed various business interests: growing wheat on more than a thousand acres, producing lumber from his mills at Vancouver and Willamette Falls, and raising hundreds of horses, cows and sheep. The products of these enterprises he sold in Hawaii and to the Russians in Alaska. One of his transactions was trading yearly supplies of butter to the Russians for the right to have a trading post at the mouth of the Stikine River, near Wrangell, Alaska.

Good hearted by nature, McLoughlin was often of crucial help to needy U.S. settlers when they began to arrive in Oregon, supplying them with provisions, farming implements and seeds. He would often lend (but never sell) them a horse and two cows for their farm work. Eventually, there was a great shortage of livestock in the Valley, none being available for meat.

In 1837, a group of settlers and missionaries, led by Ewing Young, went to California and drove back 200 head of cattle (130 cows, 70 bulls), thus mitigating but not eliminating the shortage. Cattle could be purchased in California for about \$3.00 a head, were worth \$10.00 each in Oregon, a milk cow, if ever available, commanding a price of \$70.00.

An exciting idea arose from the discussions of the problem that the young trappers-turned-settlers had. Why not build a ship, sail it to Yerba Buena (San Francisco), sell it and buy Mexican cattle with the proceeds? This was a pretty big idea for a group with limited boat building and sailing experience. The only one who had been involved with large boat building was Felix Hathaway, who before trapping had worked in a shipyard. And the only person they knew with maritime experience was Joseph Gale, whose confidence in his own sailing ability led him to state that he could navigate and sail to any port on the globe.

The members of the group were: Felix Hathaway (described as an excellent ship carpenter), Pleasant Armstrong (whose agreeable personality matched his name, and who would be killed in an Indian fight some years later), Henry Woods (whose unsavory character would lead to his expulsion from the group), Jacob Green, John Canan and Ralph Kilbourn. They approached Joseph Gale who, while glad to give them advice and counsel, said that he would hold off buying into their enterprise until he was confident that their boat building would succeed.

Trappers, if anything, were by habit good planners. It was too late to think of some urgently needed item when they were deep in the wilderness, out of touch with civilization. This quality now came to the forefront as they decided on the type of craft to be built (schooner), its size (53'8" long x 10'9" wide), the length of its keel (48'8"), the number of ribs, kinds and numbers of nails, spikes and ironwork, the number of sails, the amount of cordage, and a hundred other details.

The needed wood was readily available, but for iron, cordage and canvas there was only one source: McLoughlin at Fort Vancouver. As former Northwest Company trappers always in competition with HBC, and planning to break the HBC's livestock

monopoly, they knew McLoughlin would not approve their plan and felt that they would have to resort to subterfuge. They obtained iron from him by telling him that they intended to build a ferry for Willamette river use. To acquire rope for the ship's rigging, they approached the French Canadian farmers (former HBC employees) and asked them to make such purchases and to tell McLoughlin that it was needed to make harnesses for their horses. It didn't take the chief factor long to realize what was happening, and he cut off any further purchases for the group.

In the meantime, the Methodist mission near Salem agreed that its blacksmith could make the needed spikes and other ironwork there; and Thomas H. Hubbard, a noted gunsmith, did that in fine fashion.

In spite of not knowing just how or when they would obtain their needed materials, the group decided to forge ahead. In the spring of 1841 they selected a spot on the east side of Swan Island (close to the main river channel) where the ship building would take place. Oak and cedar were plentiful, but they would need a special tree for the 48'8" keel. They found that on Sauvies Island, rough dressed it and brought it to Swan Island for finishing. After setting the keel in place, they installed seasoned fir roots for ribs and cut oak lumber for the frame and side planks. Clear cedar was sawn for deck planking. A double 1-1/4" layer of this beautiful wood provided a watertight deck with no need for caulking. Young fir trees were selected for masts and spars.

Just when this work was going on, there occurred one of those extraordinary coincidences that are decisive for successful ventures. In 1838 the U.S. had sent a six vessel squadron, commanded by Lt. Charles Wilkes, on an around the world voyage (the first for the U.S.) to show the flag and to investigate the conditions in Oregon while charting its shores. In May 1841 Wilkes arrived at the Columbia River and anchored at Fort Vancouver. McLoughlin entertained him royally and provided him with a boat and guides so that Wilkes could visit Willamette Falls, Champoege, the Methodist mission, and other American settlers.

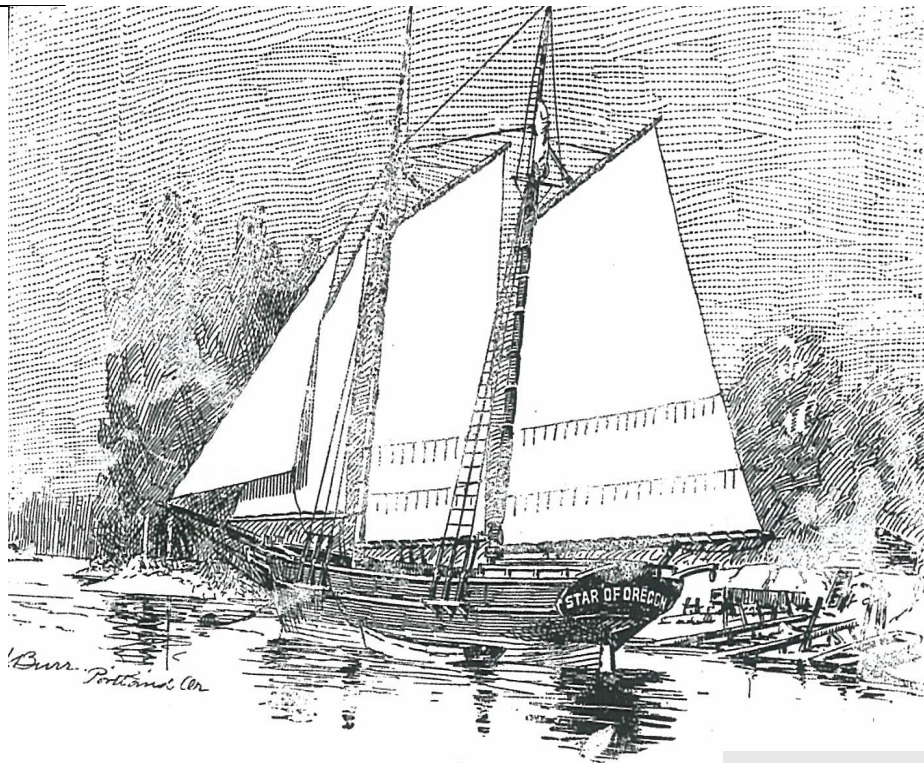


Swan Island circa 1850's when it really was an island. This map appeared in Wilkes' four volume account of his voyage.

Hearing of his arrival, three members of the boat-building group went to the Fort to meet him. Impressed with their characters, enthusiasm, and youthful vitality (Wilkes was 41 years old and described them as "young men"), he promised to visit them at Swan Island.

The group felt that Wilkes was the key to the materials they needed, that he could either provide them from his own stores or else could be their advocate to McLoughlin. Again, they decided on subterfuge, telling Wilkes that their purpose was to leave Oregon because of its lack of women. Their intent, they said, was to sail to California and from there to make their way overland to Texas and, eventually, home. If Wilkes were to relate this to McLoughlin, they thought, the latter would believe that in aiding them he would be getting rid of unwanted American settlers.

Wilkes did visit and chart Swan Island (the first to do so), calling it Oak Island in his diary and Willow Island a decade later when the four volume account of his voyage was published. He said: "The grove of oak on this island was beautiful, forming an extensive wood, with no undergrowth. The species of oak that grows here is white-oak, of very close grain." His favorable impression of the group was strengthened, as it was also on his return visit some weeks later. He succeeded in prevailing upon McLoughlin to sell them the materials they needed.



STAR OF OREGON

Above drawing of the schooner Star of Oregon is from the transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association, 1890.

instruments and an American flag. He also provided Gale with documents affixed with a large U.S. seal, affirming that this was an American vessel and Gale was its master. These papers were protection against the craft being seized in a foreign port (e.g., Yerba Buena, Mexico).

With understandable pride of ownership, Gale described the Star of Oregon as: "...painted black with a small white ribbon running from stem to stern she was one of the handsomest little crafts that ever sat on the water."

They sailed down the Willamette, passed Overlook and Swan Island, showed off their craft in front of Fort Vancouver, and then headed for the sea, crossing the Columbia river bar on September 12, 1842. Five days later they entered the Bay at Yerba Buena. There they sold the Star to a French captain (who had wrecked his ship) for 350 cows. Knowing that it was too late in the year to make the cattle drive north, the group decided to winter in California.

Gale also realized that the five friends would need more companions for the trip home, both to handle the herd and for protection against hostile Indians. He met this challenge by distributing circulars to Americans and other shore bound sailors in the area touting the attractions of Oregon and inviting them to join him at his camp where his American flag was flying from a tall trimmed cottonwood tree.

With 42 men, Gale started for Oregon on May 14, 1843, herding some 5000 animals (1250 cattle, 600 head of mares, horses and mules, and about 3000 sheep). They arrived in the Willamette Valley 75 days later "after a toilsome journey."

This marked the end of the HBC's monopoly on livestock. The men were treated as heroes. That year Gale was elected to the three man

committee that acted as Governor of Oregon's first provisional government. Later he sold his farm on Gales Creek (putting the first real estate ad in the first issue of the first newspaper west of the Rockies, Oregon City's The Spectator), and spent some time in the California gold mines. Then, with his Nez Perce wife Eliza, he settled permanently in Eagle Valley (Chief Joseph country) near Baker, always remembering with pride his great adventure that began on Swan Island.

*\*My grateful thanks for the generous expertise of the staff of the Oregon Historical Society and the ever-gracious help of the volunteers of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in the preparation of this article.*



Above drawing of the ship being constructed is from the May 18, 1941 edition of The Oregonian

In the fall of 1841 the Star of Oregon was launched, completed up to the water line, and worked up to the Falls. At this time Gale agreed to commit to the enterprise, was given a full share in the venture and named captain. Even though he knew that they couldn't continue work on the vessel until the following spring, Gale obtained all the needed canvas, cordage, paint and other supplies from Vancouver at once, fearing that McLoughlin might change his mind.

By this time, Hathaway, Woods and Davis had dropped out of the undertaking. The others returned home for the winter, leaving one person on board as caretaker. Gale spent the winter running the Mission's sawmill. They gathered again in the spring of 1842 and by August were ready to sail. Lt. Wilkes gave them an anchor, hawser, navigational

### WELCOME TO OVERLOOK

By Matt Scoggin, Chair, Membership Committee

Are you new to the neighborhood? Have you been in the neighborhood for a while now, but still feel as if you are a new resident? Do you have a neighbor who is new to your street or block? Do you have a property for sale or rent here in the neighborhood? If you can answer YES to any of those questions, the OKNA Membership Committee (formally, the OKNA Welcoming Committee) would like to hear from you. Currently, the committee is in the final stages of collating and preparing Welcoming Packets to be appropriately distributed. We will start handing out packets in January to an initial group of 50 recipients. In addition, we have applied for a small neighborhood grant, which, if we get it, will enable us to expand that number and extend the packet making for a full year.



As all of you can surely tell, the Overlook neighborhood is growing rapidly with new condominiums, apartments and houses being built all over, some of which include the Patton Park Apartments on Interstate and the Daybreak Cohousing project on Killingsworth. A welcoming packet for our new neighbors will help in many ways: by informing them about neighborhood resources, assisting in making connection with our neighborhood association and most important, it will enable them to feel strongly welcomed to the new place they are now calling home.

If you were one of those people who could answer YES to the above questions and/or if you think you would like to help in our welcoming efforts please contact Matt Scoggin, Membership Chair of the OKNA at 503-522-1889 or scogginm@gmail.com. Also, the OKNA Membership Committee would like to mention that if there are any area businesses who are interested in having something included within the packet they are encouraged to contact Matt.

In closing, to enthusiastically give credit where credit is due, we want to thank **Kelly Orehovec** for her help and for her leadership in the beginning of this project.

# OVERLOOK HOUSE

3839 N. Melrose Drive—Portland, Oregon — Carol Padden, Coordinator — 503-823-3188 or [Coordinator@historicoverlookhouse.org](mailto:Coordinator@historicoverlookhouse.org)

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR

By Carol Padden

The Season of Holiday “Sparkle” is Here!

Please join us at the Overlook House Community Center’s 4th annual Holiday Bazaar, Saturday Dec. 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday Dec.7 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Many new vendors will feature handmade art, crafts, clothing and specialty items designed for the entire family. Donated items from all vendors will be raffled off at \$1.00 per ticket. Once again, we are asking for donated home-baked goods as well. All proceeds will support the N.W. Children’s Theater camp at the Overlook House in the summer of 2009.

Our new neighborhood deli, Krakow Koffee House, will be this year’s food vendor!



Questions or more information? See contact information in banner above.

## \_OH! OOOOOH! Halloween at OH

## SANTA AT OVERLOOK HOUSE

By Carol Padden

Look who’s coming to the Overlook House, Saturday, December 13, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. HO! HO! HO! It’s the holidays—time for some fun, for good ol’ Santa is coming to the Overlook House! Now everything’s in apple-pie order—the sleigh’s all shiny and ready to take off and so is the roly-poly old man with his BIG bag of goodies coming to see all of his favorite children (and grown-ups too!) in the Overlook community. Have a free picture taken with Santa and whisper in his ear what you want for Christmas this year!



## OVERLOOK HOUSE HALLOWEEN PARTY

By Carol Padden

What a spooktacular time children had at the Overlook House Halloween Party on October 31! There were plenty of hoots and howls for our youngest Overlook residents, (ages one through five) who enjoyed arriving in costume and participating in festive Halloween activities! A big thank you to DC Custom Silk Printing on Interstate and Shaver for their generous banner donation. The event was headed by Catherine and Vaughan Reynolds and supported by Matthew Werres, Matt Scoggin, Linda Gorg, Nicole DeMango, Rebekah Dortmund, Katherine VanZanten, Pat Hazlett, Paul Farrell, Marsha Parks, Sarah Barrett, Mat Thorburn, Kurt and Frances Dahlke. Once again, Overlook volunteers were instrumental in making this year’s Halloween holiday memorable for neighboring young families.



All of the splendid photographs on this page were taken by Steve Lanigan.



**REAL ESTATE UPDATE PORTLAND/OVERLOOK**



Thanks to Overlook neighbor Bob La Du of RE/MAX (503-495-5431) for providing the information for this real estate market update

As of the end of September, 2008, the average time for a residential property to sell in the Portland Metropolitan area was 120 days, up substantially from a year ago. The number of new listings declined by 15% compared to September, 2007, pending sales were down 11.7%, closed sales decreased by 12.1%, and the average sales price dropped 5.6%.

In North Portland, at the end of September, there were 599 active listings (including 208 new ones), 73 pending sales, and 65 closed sales with an average sale price of \$265,500 and an average market time of 93 days. Appreciation has increased by 2.7% from a year ago (the third highest rate in the metropolitan area). Listed below are properties that have sold in Overlook since the last Newsletter.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Bed/Bath</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sale Price</u>	<u>Days on Market</u>
2622 N. Killingsworth St.	2/1	\$225,000	\$205,000	71
2035 N. Sumner St.	2/1	254,900	250,000	57
5644 N. Detroit Ave.	2/2	325,000	297,000	43
1935 N. Skidmore Ct.	3/1.1	324,900	315,000	35
2122 N. Emerson St.	3/2	389,000	315,000	89
1732 N. Alberta St.	4/2.1	385,000	355,000	70
3762 N. Melrose Dr.	5/3	399,900	360,000	234
1829 N. Alberta St.	3/2.1	525,000	365,000	6
2044 N. Sumner St.	3/1	394,500	383,000	36
1533 N. Prescott St.	3/2.1	499,500	399,000	290
3735 N. Longview Ave.	4/3	599,950	530,000	66
2868 N. Willamette Blvd.	4/2.2	599,900	545,000	312

**CALENDAR**

Dear Overlook Neighbors,

Several of you have requested an Events Calendar in each edition of the Overlook Views. And no wonder. It seems as if there is so much happening in the neighborhood that it is difficult to keep track of it all. To meet this need, we will incorporate a calendar feature for non-profits in all future editions of the newsletter. We may have some space limitations and relevance issues, but we will try to include as many Overlook oriented events, happenings, fairs, meetings and activities as possible. If your organization, group, block association or community cop would like to announce an event inviting the public, we welcome the opportunity to publish the information in the newsletter. The following guidelines need to be observed:

1. Due dates will be the first of the month preceding the next issue. For example, the due date for the coming February/March edition will be January 1, due date for April/May will be March 1, and so on.
- 2 Information required is as follows:
  - a. Date, time and name of event
  - b. Location
  - c. Contact name, phone and email

Specify if the event is a **continuing** one, i.e. a regularly scheduled monthly meeting or **new... (or first time this year)** i.e. a school fair or festival.

All calendar items must be submitted electronically to me at [warrencassell@wcassell.com](mailto:warrencassell@wcassell.com). Please note that incomplete submissions will not be printed.

Your suggestions for additional improvements in the newsletter are welcome. And, if you would like to write an article about all things Overlook, please don't hesitate to volunteer.

Warren Cassell, Co-Editor

**PROVIDENCE MEDICAL GROUP CLINIC REFLECTS NEIGHBORHOOD DIVERSITY**

By Shana Ensninger and Paula Fasano

It sounds like a riddle from a brainteaser book: What has 16 legs, speaks four languages, has x-ray vision and "lives" right here in Overlook? No, it's not some extraterrestrial being. If it were, however, it would be welcomed here in one of Portland's most diverse neighborhoods. Located at 4920 N. Interstate Ave., Providence Medical Group – North Portland, opened in March 2007 with a focus on family medicine and obstetrics. The clinic combines "old-time" family practice values with new state-of-the-art technology such as an x-ray clinic that is open five days a week.

Seven physicians and a nurse practitioner make up the medical staff and reflect the multiplicity of Overlook. They include Matthew Breeze, M.D.; Shauna Ensminger, M.D.; Monique Genenk, M.D.; Thanh Long Pham, M.D.; Aoi Mizushima, M.D.; Mark Thompson, M.D.; Kimberly Wehbe, F.N.P., and David Wu., M.D. In addition to English— Spanish, German and Vietnamese are spoken by various members of the team.

Family minded and communication oriented, PMG North Portland physicians offer a solid foundation of primary care, from delivering babies to caring for elderly patients. They develop treatment plans for individuals within the context of their social and family circumstances.

The clinic's staff of 31 is managed by Vonnice Burke. A dedicated community partner, the clinic adorns its walls with artwork from students at Beach Elementary School, and each year, PMG participates in neighborhood health fairs and a Vietnamese outreach program. So, what started as a riddle is a joyous statement of participation and contribution to the Overlook neighborhood. We are happy to be here.

Providence Medical Clinic – North Portland is accepting new patients. Office hours are Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 503-215-3300.



**THANK YOU, BRAD**

By Warren Cassell

In other parts of this newsletter, we have discussed incoming Overlook Neighborhood Association board members and their functions. But now we need to recognize a departing board member who has probably spent more time and energy than any half dozen people working on behalf of the neighborhood. Brad Halverson has served on the board as chair, and as an ad hoc chair when needed. He has done yeoman work on transportation and traffic issues affecting the neighborhood and has been a board liaison with Beach School...and this only starts the list. He has been attending dozens (yes, dozens!) of meetings every month on behalf of Overlook neighbors and he has contributed to those sessions articulately with intelligence and thoughtfulness---always with the concern for what's best for you and me. So, thanks Brad. You have been a model for participatory democracy and an inspiration to all of us who want to make our small part of the world a better place to live. You are going to be a tough act to follow and we wish you well with your lighter load of community activism. Rest a bit; you certainly have earned it.

**NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR**

**NOTE: You can make this calendar interactive in two steps: A. cut out and post on fridge and B. indicate your level of interest for different activities by filling in the priority column coded with a: 1 (don't care), 2 (maybe) or 3 (absolutely must attend!).**

<u>PRIORITY</u>	<u>NEW EVENTS OR FIRST TIME THIS YEAR</u>
_____	<b>December 2 (Tue) OKNA yearly potluck in lieu of usual general meeting. Location: Trillium School from 5:30-7:30. Bring a dish, meet your neighbors and celebrate the holidays. More details on page 1.</b>
_____	Dec 6 (Sat) 9:00-5:00 and Dec 7 (Sun) 9:00-3:00 Holiday Bazaar at Overlook House. Information: Carol Padden 503-823-3188. More details on page 6.
_____	Dec 13 (Sat) 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Santa at Overlook House. Information: Carol Padden 503-823-3188. More details on page 6.
_____	<b>January: Nothing is happening that we know about! Tell us about your events for the next newsletter (See p.7)</b>

<u>PRIORITY</u>	<u>ONGOING EVENTS AND MEETINGS</u>
_____	<b><u>MONDAYS</u></b>
_____	<u>Monthly</u> —Second Mondays—OKNA Welcoming/Diversity Committee at Overlook House 7:00-9:00 p.m. Matt Scoggin 503-522-1889 or scogginm@gmail.com.
_____	<u>Weekly</u> —Knit & Crochet at Overlook House 6:30-9:00 p.m. Lori Hoffman-503-515-3200-Lorraine_Hoffman@toc.org. For people of all skill levels.
_____	<b><u>TUESDAYS</u></b>
_____	<b><u>Monthly-First Tuesday-Jan 6 OKNA Board-at Overlook House — 7:00 p.m.</u></b>
_____	<b><u>Monthly-Third Tuesday-Jan 20 OKNA General Meeting-Kaiser Town Hall-7:00 p.m.</u></b>
_____	<b><u>WEDNESDAYS</u></b>
_____	<b><u>THURSDAYS</u></b>
_____	<u>Weekly</u> -starts January/8 —T'ai Chi Chih at Overlook House 6:30-7:45 p.m. Steve Marsh 503-283-4991 or taichimarsh@hotmail@hotmail.com

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION**

Overlook House—3839 N. Melrose Drive

Kaiser Town Hall—Corner of Interstate and Overlook Boulevard

Trillium School—Corner of Interstate and Killingsworth (Next to IFCC)



**“HE WHO PLANTS A TREE PLANTS A HOPE”**

(Lucy Larcom from Plant a Tree)

By Cynthia Sulaski, Chair, Parks, Trees and Trails Committee

**D**on't miss this opportunity to plant inexpensive yard and street trees. The deadline is on December 1. Register at [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org) and you will be on your way to getting beautiful trees for your yard or parking strip for only \$15 per tree. But don't delay. If you want parking strip trees, the sooner you register, then the sooner the city forester will check out your property and approve your request. And after the forester informs us of his inspection, you'll want to order your desired trees since Friends of Trees often runs out of the more popular tree species. If you only want yard trees, you can immediately order after registering.

This tree planting - our tenth - will be a fun and unique experience. For the first time, we are collaborating with the Arbor Lodge Neighborhood and planning for an exciting and large planting on January 31. Another first, at our kick-off morning meeting at Kaiser Town Hall, we'll raffle off great gifts donated by our terrific neighborhood businesses. All homeowners and volunteers at that meeting will be eligible to win them. A partial list of the contributing businesses is DiPrima Dolci Italian Bakery, Roux, Beaterville Cafe, The Naked Sheep, Best Friends Bath & More, Blend Coffee, Zoom Baby Care and Roots Garden Supply. We'll have entertainment to accompany our delicious lunch after the planting, including blues player and Overlook resident, Steve Cheseborough.

If you are not getting trees, but don't want to miss the fun, come to Kaiser Town Hall on 1/31 at 8:30 AM and sign up to help your neighbors plant trees. No pre-registration is necessary. Call (503-249-7728) or email ([csulaski@comcast.net](mailto:csulaski@comcast.net)) me if you have any questions.

**IMPORTANT NITTY-GRITTY**

Want to join us and receive witty late-breaking email reminders about meetings, events, etc.? Just go to [www.overlookneighborhood.org](http://www.overlookneighborhood.org) and subscribe by entering your email address as directed on the home page.

Or via snail mail:

**OKNA**  
2209 N. Schofield St.  
Portland, Or. 97217

**OKNA OFFICERS**

**Co-Chairs:** Eric Gale 503-737-5227 [ericgale@yahoo.com](mailto:ericgale@yahoo.com) and Claire Paris 503-998-4878 [claireparis@comcast.net](mailto:claireparis@comcast.net)

**Treasurer:** Kent Hoddick 503-286-9803 [hoddick@teleport.com](mailto:hoddick@teleport.com)

**Secretary:** Open (Could someone please volunteer?)

**OVERLOOK VIEWS**

A bi-monthly publication of the Overlook Neighborhood Association

Co-editors: Warren and Melisa Cassell  
Poet in residence: Melisa Cassell

Distribution Captains: **Alan Cranna and Carol Cushman**

Thanks to the following lovely people whose contributions made this edition possible: **David Chott, Shana Ensinger, Paola Fasano, Sarah Friedel, Eric Gale, Brad Halverson, Lauren Kilbane, Bob LaDu, Steve Lanigan, Clare Matthias, Carol Padden, Claire Paris, Matt Scoggin, Cynthia Sulaski and Gayle Vrla.**

The Overlook Views is published six times a year and your comments, suggestions and/or contributions are welcome. This really is your newsletter! Deadline for the next issue is January 5. Articles must be submitted electronically and should not exceed three hundred words unless there is prior agreement with the editors. Submissions should be sent to: [warrencassell@wcassell.com](mailto:warrencassell@wcassell.com). For additional information, either email above or call 503-288-8323.

**DISCLAIMER**

The ideas expressed in any editorials are the thoughts of the editors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the OKNA board unless explicitly stated otherwise. In addition, the Overlook Neighborhood Association and editors do not endorse, warrant or assume any responsibility for the ultimate value, quality, safety or fitness of any of the people, establishments or events identified in the newsletter or other forum. The Association and editors strongly support the concept of using local stores and services, and visiting events that are neighborhood based.

**WANTED: Backup Newsletter Deliverers** — Our ornately worded plea for occasional newsletter deliverers in our last edition bore no fruit. We fired our ad agency and make this simple request: Volunteer and/or get more information now by calling Alan Cranna at 503-285-7944 or Carol Cushman at 503-288-3888. We need your help and you will get some occasional exercise. Win-win.