

# OVERLOOK VIEWS

June/July 2008

The Newsletter

Vol.5 No. 1

Overlook Neighborhood Association, Portland, Oregon

www.overlookneighborhood.org

## VOL 5 NO 1

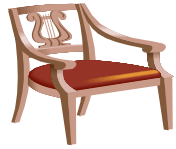
By Warren Cassell

Looking with gratitude and pride at the top of this page, we notice that our masthead shows this is Vol. 5, No 1 for Overlook Views. The last issue was Vol. 4, no.6. and a translation of these facts tells you the following: we publish 6 times a year and this is the first edition of our fifth year of publication. Or expressed another way, we survived the first four years by virtue of generous funding from Freightliner and we are continuing, we hope, for another four, forty or more. Freightliner's support means that we don't need to seek advertising and we can use that time to discover more things Overlook for publication. Residents eager to spread the word about the good things happening in the neighborhood write many of our articles and we literally could not have survived these years without their contributions. Moreover, we will continue to need our neighbors' writing talents as much as we need

5

1 Freightliner's financial support. For the budding Hemingways and Cheevers out there, we would like to see you unleash that literary talent to benefit your hometown newsletter. If you would like to write a story/article about a person, a place or an event in Overlook, please let us know.

Since this is an all-volunteer organization, there is sadly no compensation for contributions. However, we are very liberal with deadline dates---and supremely appreciative of your efforts. If you need some mild persuasion or if you would like further information, please call me at 503-288-8323 or email warrencassell@wcassell.com.



## WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

By Eric Gale



*Editors' note: One of the recent major issues on which your board has spent considerable time, energy and effort has been the projected rezoning of the Interstate corridor. Board member Claire Paris served on the Community Advisor Group (CAG) that consists of key shareholders in the very lengthy, but long overdue, rezoning process. She spent additional time at CAG meetings, review meetings and neighborhood meetings to help protect the best interests of our community's residents. Board member David Chott as well as other concerned Overlook neighbors (Amy Altenberger, David Davies, Michelle Marx and Tabor Porter) also spent valuable time providing community input at an untold number of meetings. Because of their efforts as well as the reflections from neighbors attending the April 15 neighborhood association meeting, OKNA Chair Eric Gale drew up a letter to the Planning Commission that follows. We have made some minor edits and changed some of the acronyms and building code nomenclature for clarity. For further explanation of the arcane zoning language that easily fogs the best of minds, see the asterisked footnotes at the end of this article/letter.*

*One final note: On May 27, the Planning Commission puts together its final recommendations to the City Council. In late June or July, the City Council meets to vote on the final proposal.*

## PLANNING COMMISSION LETTER

The following comments were unanimously approved by the Overlook Neighborhood Association on April 15, 2008. They are designed to highlight some of the key issues and concerns shared by the neighborhood regarding the rezoning of the Interstate Corridor.

The proposed changes in the Interstate Corridor will bring significant changes to our neighborhood. While we appreciate the work

the Planning Bureau has done in listening to our concerns and ideas and incorporating them into their proposal we do have some lingering concerns. It is a great challenge to successfully incorporate higher-density, transit-supportive development into a neighborhood that, while having a vibrant mix of uses, is primarily a single-family residential one. There is really no precedent in our city for this scale and type of development and we all have a significant stake in its success. Because of that, we hope you (Cont'd next page)

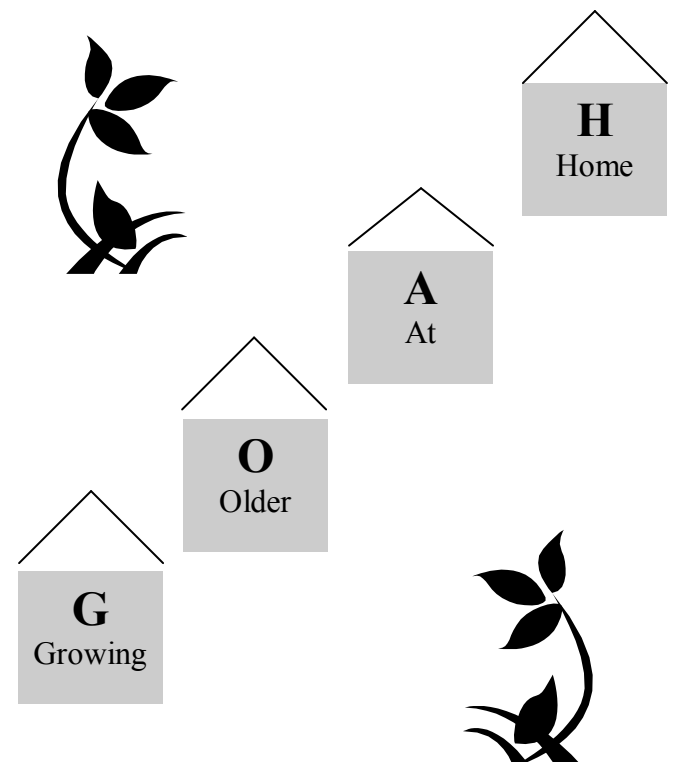
## GROWING OLDER AT HOME By Warren Cassell

Growing Older At Home - GOAH - is an informal monthly discussion group addressing the problems of the elderly who wish to remain in their homes as they age. Since its inception last year, we have met with several community partners to develop projects relevant to our goals. One of the agencies approached was the Jewish Family & Child Service (JFCS), a social services non-profit agency. At a recent meeting, JFCS informed us that the Federal Government has allocated funds for demonstration projects to benefit what our acronym oriented officials call Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC). Our NORC (which we call GOAH) initiated by the author of this article, has been actively reaching out to organizations and individuals who can help us achieve our goals. Happily, JFCS is on the same page philosophically. It has expressed interest in our working together, both procedurally and financially, toward achieving a healthy aging at home life style for our community in North Portland. We welcome this collaboration.

Our group now consists of about twenty members, most of whom live in Overlook. Their professional affiliations/backgrounds include Kaiser, Legacy, North Portland Neighborhood Services,

Marylhurst, JFCS, and the Overlook Board. The group's members all have a vital personal and/or professional interest in aging at home. One of the problems we face is to identify other residents who have an equal interest in growing older at home. To this end, we have focused many of our discussions on how to identify the elderly, note their needs as they age and how to collaborate with agencies that provide services. Ultimately, we would like to establish a **single point** of information and referral service in our neighborhood, so that **one call** by a senior at home would provide information about adequate resources in the community to address his/her needs. These needs could range from getting to a doctor's appointment, finding a repair service or locating a walking group in the neighborhood. GOAH is a volunteer based project and we hope to continue in that mode. The grant provided by federal funding and administered by Jewish Family and Children Services can be used to help assess the community's elderly needs as well as assist in setting up a communications network, run by volunteers.

**We welcome new members to our informal group.** If you would like to participate, we usually meet each month at the Overlook House. Call or email for our next meeting date. If you have questions or if you would like further information email warrencassell@wcassell.com or call 503-288-8323.



**POLICE AND FIREALERTS—**

Immediate and July 4  
By Warren Cassell



Our neighborhood is relatively crime free when compared to a significant number of other neighborhoods in Portland. However, residents and the police and fire departments have noticed a few minor infractions of the law. I happily bring these misdemeanors to your attention--in case you are guilty and want to amend your ways to save the cost of an expensive police citation. First up, an all year round fairly benign street occurrence: parking on the wrong side of the street. Some of us do it because the spot is closer to our homes or we need to unload heavy objects---or just force of habit. Unfortunately, this practice (practical though it may be) is a no-no and you are subject to a twenty-five dollar fine. In addition, if your vehicle becomes damaged while parked incorrectly, your insurance company may well not cover your costs. Forewarned...!

The second, more serious misdemeanor, which could have tragic results, occurs on and about Independence Day. All parents and their children who live in the Overlook neighborhood should read the following material excerpted from an Oregon State Police news release:

"Oregon law bans possession, use or sales of fireworks that fly explode or travel more than six feet on the ground or 12 inches in the air," advises State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr. "Legal fireworks may be purchased only from Oregon permitted fireworks retailers and stands." ...Illegal fireworks can be expensive. Under Oregon law, officials may seize illegal fireworks fining offenders up to \$500 per violation including possession of illegal fireworks and endangering life and property. Offenders may be arrested as well. Any fireworks causing damage or misuse of fireworks carries a liability for the offender, who may be required to pay for resulting fire or other damage. Parents, too, are liable for fireworks damage caused by their children. Costs may include assessed fines as well as the cost of suppressing fireworks-caused fires.

The possible damage to property referred to above is most likely to occur on any part of the bluff from Ainsworth to Overlook Boulevard. Particularly susceptible is the area adjacent to Skidmore Court and Skidmore Terrace (Mocks Crest Park). Rockets and other fireworks landing on the bluff can cause fires, which can spread too easily. Considering the dryness of the foliage during the first week of July, there is a conflagration waiting to happen. All it needs is a spark, any spark! e.g. last year's truck-utility pole bluff fire and the earlier Union Pacific train-spark bluff fire.

We must not allow July 4 illegal fireworks to be responsible for another fire in our community. We urge you and your children to take care. It is your neighborhood's safety at stake. Towards this end, we invite you to a gathering at Mocks Crest Park on the evening of July 4. Neighbors are in the process of trying to put together a potluck or some kind of community gathering in the park to discourage the use of illegal fireworks. If illegal fireworks are noted, the police and fire department will be called.

Let us celebrate, not devastate.

**WORDS FROM THE CHAIR** (Cont'd) will seriously consider our requests. The following are our primary concerns and suggested changes to the proposed plan.

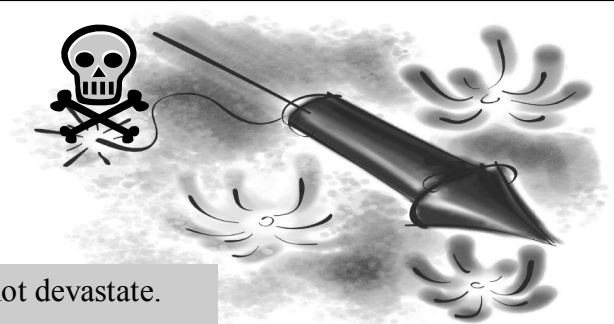
**Need for traffic and infrastructure studies:** We are very concerned that a traffic study has not been done yet and feel this should be a prerequisite for proceeding. To do otherwise could result in excessive congestion, costly retrofit solutions and problems of community safety. While we support the goal of public-transit use as development occurs along the corridor, traffic will increase greatly in an area already facing congestion issues. Of particular concern are key bottleneck intersections, drivers using adjacent residential streets to avoid congestion, emergency services to areas with limited access points, and the continuing problem of truck traffic between Interstate 5 and the Albina Rail yards. We are also concerned about similar stresses this density will place on water, sewer, power, and other infrastructure systems.

**Planning for parks:** The jump in population density planned for in the new zoning will place significantly more pressure on existing parks and green spaces, particularly in the northern end of the neighborhood where they are scarcer. We would like a commitment to improving and increasing these resources with remedies such as a recalculation of park allocation money, creating pocket parks, and including incentives for the creation of green spaces.

**Maximum Building Height:** The height limit for RH (high density residential\*) and EX (residential and commercial mix\*) zones of 100', 85', and 75' in certain areas, while fitting with the Comprehensive Plan, is simply too high. Pearl or Lloyd District-sized buildings would be intimidating and utterly out of scale in this mixed-use residential neighborhood. The base zone limit of 65' would still allow for high-density development but would be much more appropriate for the corridor.

**R2 (low density residential\*) transitional zoning:** We believe that R2.5 (a type of low density\*) rather than R2 zoning along Massachusetts and Longview Avenues in the southern end of the neighborhood would achieve a more consistent streetscape with the existing R5 neighborhood on the west side of the street and 5,000 square-foot lot sizes while still achieving the goal of a higher density transition zone.

**Transition Between Zones:** Though we recognize the challenges associated with the transition from EX or RH to R2 or R2.5, the proposed amendment for setbacks\* and step-downs\* between EX or RH and R2 or R2.5 is not sufficient. This is particularly true in areas with 65' height limits (or 75' as currently proposed) abutting residential zones.



**RH along Interstate Ave.:** There are pockets of RH along Interstate Avenue that we feel should be rezoned as EX. This would allow greater flexibility for potential uses and achieve greater zoning consistency. RH zoning limits options for property owners by requiring four stories of housing on top of commercial space- a project many property owners in the corridor are unable to undertake. If the concern is a no net loss of housing it should be recognized that the majority of EX development would include housing, resulting in no net housing loss.

**Commercial Use in the RH Zone:** We request that the commercial use allowance for the RH along Interstate Ave. be extended to the area east of Interstate Ave. Without this extension, we fear there will be unintentional restrictions on small, particularly home-based, businesses in that area.

As a model for future development, this is an important project for the city. Without proper consideration it also has the potential to negatively impact the neighborhood feel and uniqueness of the Interstate corridor. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you to prevent future problems and to make this project be as successful as possible.

**\* Zoning Decoding and Other Terms**

**RH:** Think multi-story apartments/condos with some retail on the bottom. The height limit for RH is normally 65 feet (about 6 stories, or 1 story for every 10 feet) but is higher in the Interstate Corridor. Bear in mind that a developer would need to acquire multiple properties next to each other to build anything this tall. There is limited retail and office space on the first floor.

**EX:** Similar to RH but more flexible. Height limits are 65 feet. There aren't limits to the amount of commercial space and non-retail, non-office commercial space is allowed (subject to other restrictions).

**R2:** Multi-dwelling residential. Height limit is 40 feet. There is a minimum density of 1 unit per 2,000 square feet. So, for a regular 5,000 square foot lot, new construction would have to have 2 units. If the developer had two plots, they would have to build at least 5 units. Another possibility would be to keep the main house and build a separate unit in the back yard.

**R2.5:** Another multi-dwelling residential zone. Think row-houses. Height limit is 35 feet. No minimum density. Unlike R2, you can split the lot.

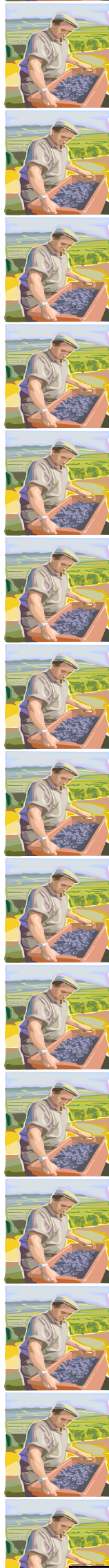
**Other terms**

**Setbacks:** A minimum distance between the building and the property line. **Stepdowns:** A stair-step design for a building so that it is shorter near the property lines and gets taller toward the middle and front.

\*\*\*\*



### INTERSTATE FARMERS MARKET JUST OPENED



Interstate Farmers' Market is sure to please all summer long! Join us at Overlook Park this summer on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. for the Interstate Farmers Market! Come enjoy the sights, smells, tastes and sounds of this year's 2008 season.

According to Bob New, the IFM manager, there will be about 22 vendors at the market's opening day and total of 37 different vendors offering their goods sometime this summer. Because of the seasonal nature of some crops, not all of the vendors will be selling every week at our market. There will be 11 vendors making a first time appearance (identified as NEW) in the list below. In addition, the breakdown for the types of vendors is as follows: 18 Farmers, 8 Processed Food, 5 Prepared Food, 4 Bakery and 2 Unclassified.

Staying with the theme of keeping it local and helping to create the upbeat ambiance of the Interstate Farmers' Market will be area musicians playing a variety of music all summer long. Entertainment will be provided by The Underscore Orkestra, John Twist, James Clem, Reverb Brothers, SpeedLimit and the Violation, Sambafeat, Lew Jones, Debbianne DeRose, Steve Cheseborough, Kate Mann, Padam Padam and more!

Following is a list of farmers and other vendors who will be selling fresh and local food at the market...

**Al Forno Ferruzza (NEW)** - Handcrafted artisan pizza in the Sicilian style and a traditional rustic style loaf of bread.

**Baird Family Orchards** - Providing a great selection of cherries, peaches and nectarines.

**Boyco Food** - Local honey from Oregon and Washington.

**Brownie Farm (NEW)** - nine types of chocolate brownies and other baked goods.

**Carol's Nuts and Candies** - Peanut brittle, toffee, nuts of all kinds, candied dried fruits, licorice, pumpkin seeds and more!

**City Garden Farms LLC (NEW)** - Fresh, local and sustainable produce from plots of land in and around Portland.

**Crabapple Company** - Green pepper jelly, spreads, salsas and hummus with fresh, local ingredients.

**Creative Growers** - High quality vegetables and herbs. We specialize in heirloom varieties and grow over 50 varieties of tomatoes.

**Dante's Garden Pesto** - Processed foods.

**Deep Roots Farm** - Fruits and vegetables from a farm providing clean food to markets.

**Dmitry Chaschin (NEW) and Draper Girls Farm (NEW)** - Farmers.

**Happy Barker**- Prepared Foods.

**Happy Harvest Farm** - Farmer.

**Heavenly Bites (NEW)** - Fresh cheesecake and homemade bread pudding and custards!

**Herr's Family Farm** - Fresh cut flowers - cut and sold on the same day.

**Hot Mama Salsa (NEW)** - Homemade fresh salsas based on cherished family recipes made with local and seasonal produce.

**Liepold Farms** - Family farm, owned and operated since 1952 practicing sustainable agriculture as good stewards of the land.

**Micro-Mercantes** - Tamales!

**Mocha Roma's** - Coffee, smoothies, espresso, ice tea, lemon aid (frozen too).

**New Cascadia Traditional (NEW)** - Hand crafted artisan breads baked with gluten free whole grains.

**Packer Orchards and Bakery** - Fourth generation family farm, farmstead and bakery providing fruits, cookies, jams and pies.

**Phileo Asparagus** - Specializing in growing asparagus delivered fresh to local markets.

**Pine Mountain Ranch** - Grass fed, free-range buffalo, yak, beefalo, Texas Longhorn, Barbados sheep, pork and free-range chicken for eggs.

**Plowshare Farm - West Wind Gardens** - Farmer.

**Rick Steffen Farm** - Vegetables and berries all summer long!

**Rogue Creamery** - Processed Foods.

**Serious Bread (NEW)** - Artisan "everyday" breads. You'll love our toast bread and we make real boiled bagels.

**Simon Sampson** - The Salmon Man.

**Spring Water Farm** - Farmer.

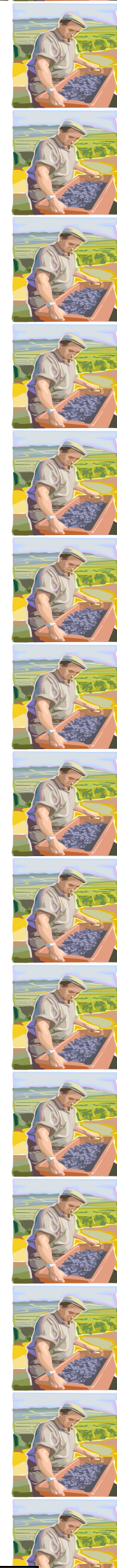
**Stephens Farm** - Vegetables and berries!

**Sun Gold Farm (Vicki's Produce)** - 5th generation family farm providing produce sold directly to the consumer. market are students from Trillium with Nature's Baskets.

**Unger Farms** - Strawberries are our specialty.

**Victorian Acres** - Heirloom sugar-free treats and sweets from recipes of the 1700s representing 24 cultures and countries.

**Wild Wild West Barbeque (NEW)** - Pork ribs, shredded BBQ, beef sandwich, franks, chicken or beef kabob.



More information: contact Bob New, IFM Manager, 971-344-0115 or email [contact@interstatefarmersmarket.com](mailto:contact@interstatefarmersmarket.com).



## WORLD'S LARGEST ORGANIC BREWERS FESTIVAL RETURNS TO OVERLOOK PARK

The North American Organic Brewers Festival, which poured 50 different organic beers for 7000 people last June, returns to Portland's Overlook Park this June 27 thru 29. In its fourth year, the festival will again feature organic beers from across North America and Europe. The 2007 event raised over \$2000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Oregon Tilth, a certification body dedicated to organic agriculture. It also brought in hundreds of cans of food for the Oregon Food Bank.

The downside of last year's festival however, was the impact it had on the neighborhood in terms of noise, parking and limited bathroom facilities. Festival organizers made an informative presentation to the Overlook Neighborhood Association board last January and the topic of minimizing the adverse affects on the neighborhood was discussed at length. Because of that meeting, the Festival organizers agreed to the following:

1. **Pointing** the stage south (away from residents' homes) so that noise will be mitigated;
2. **Doubling** the number of porta-john facilities to meet festival goers needs more adequately;
3. **Addressing parking:** "In the interest of making the event ecologically sustainable we are doing everything within our power to discourage festival attendees, volunteers, and exhibitors from driving to the event. All of the promotional literature, advertising, and handbills will stress taking the MAX, and the lack of parking at the festival site;"  
**Planning:** to provide 250 additional bike parking spaces.

This will not be an absolutely perfect scenario for homes immediately adjacent to the park, but we hope it will be a clear improvement over last year's event.

The NAOBF celebrates the diversity and range of beer styles being brewed organically; from pilsner to pale ale, saison to stout, amber ale to lambics. Brewers from across Cascadia, the heart of organic brewing, pour their beers alongside organic pioneers from Europe, such as Pinkus Mueller, from Muenster, Germany. Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Northern California, often referred to as Cascadia, lead the continent in

the number of organic breweries, with nearly half of Oregon's 80 breweries having produced an organic beer since the first Organic Brewers Symposium in 2002.

In addition to pouring organic beers the NAOBF features sustainability oriented vendors, live music, and local and organic food. The festival is powered by biodiesel, composts food waste, and will use biodegradable tasting cups. For more information, or to participate in the festival, contact festival organizer Abram Goldman-Armstrong at [abe@brewingnews.com](mailto:abe@brewingnews.com) or 503-730-5597.



PAST



PRESENT

# FUTURE?

**NEW BRIDGE—NOT...OR WHAT?**  
By Brad Halverson, OKNA Transportation Chair

It is finally THE time for you to speak up about the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project. This is on I-5 where the current Interstate Bridges over the Columbia between Vancouver and Portland (or Washington and Oregon) may be left as is, removed after new bridges are built, or kept with another bridge added on next to them. Will light rail or bus rapid transit be best on the new bridge? And what will be the endpoint of the line in Vancouver? Those are the big questions being asked.

After three years of work and study, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been released. The executive summary (36 pages) can be delivered to your home at no charge by calling 503-256-2726 or emailing them at [feedback@columbiarivercrossing.org](mailto:feedback@columbiarivercrossing.org). The whole statement is 850 pages and will cost \$50 to have it sent by paper. You can call the CRC to find out which libraries have it as well. Either one can be downloaded in sections from the [columbiarivercrossing.org](http://columbiarivercrossing.org) website.

OKNA plans to take a position on the project at the June 17 general meeting. If you cannot make that meeting, you can send in your comments to [drafteisfeedback@columbiarivercrossing.org](mailto:drafteisfeedback@columbiarivercrossing.org). There will be two open houses where you can comment as well: Wednesday, May 28 at the Red Lion at the Quay in Vancouver or Thursday, May 29 and the Expo Center. The open house will be

from 5 to 8 p.m., and the public hearing will be from 6 to 8 p.m. each night.

While picking the options above is important, there are many other crucial decisions that will be made in the future. I believe we should start suggesting what parts of the project are especially important to us. Does the number of lanes match the rest of the system? Making the bridge too big puts more pressure on widening I-5 in North Portland in the future. Relieving the bottleneck with interchange improvements has both supporters and opponents. The price tag for a new bridge(s), dedicated transit into Vancouver and fixing the connections will cost up to 4 billion dollars. Tolls are proposed to be used to pay for the local share. Finally, the height of the bridge is limited by boats going under it and planes flying over it so the proposal looks similar to the I-205 bridge to the east. Many people are interested in making this a gateway of some sort, but how to do it is the question.

The deadline for making comments is July 1, but I encourage you to send them in by mid-June so the CRC Task Force will be able to review them before their meeting on June 24. OKNA will submit their position, and I (as a member of the CRC Task Force) will repeat our stand as well as those of the other North Portland neighborhood associations at that meeting. Your comments do matter, so I hope you make yourself heard.

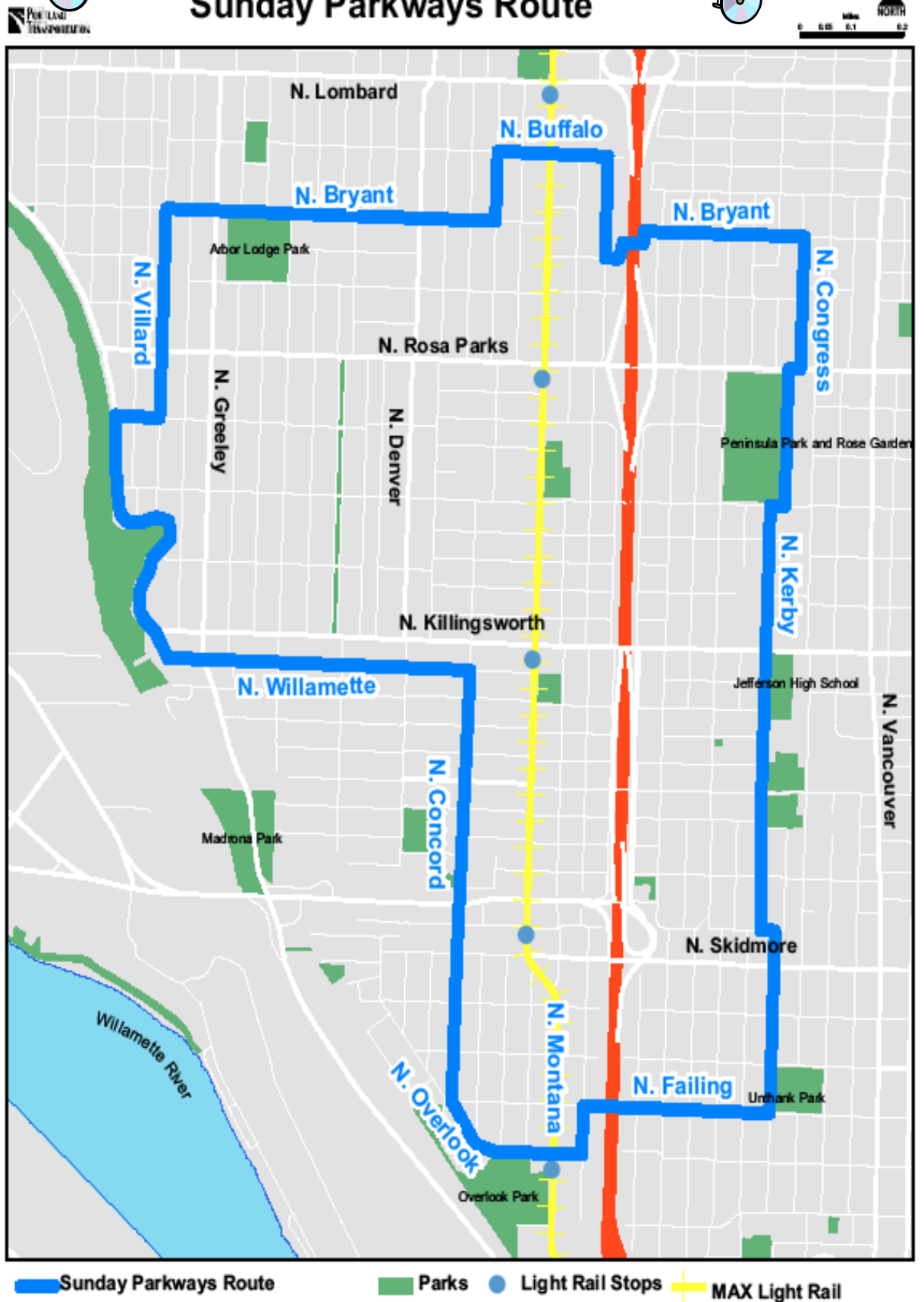
**PORTLAND SUNDAY PARKWAYS  
IN NORTH PORTLAND ON JUNE 22**

If you are looking for wide-open space to play in, streets free of traffic to walk and bike on, clean air to breathe and tree-filled parks to enjoy, you'll love Sunday Parkways! On Sunday, June 22, for six hours and six miles in North Portland, much of it in our neighborhood, specific streets will be traffic free. (See adjacent map for route.) This event promises to be a fun-filled celebration of America's most walk and bike-friendly city. From 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. everyone is invited to walk, bike, skateboard, skip and run on a traffic-free route that connects four parks in North Portland.

With a generous grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and major community sponsorship from Kaiser Permanente, the City of Portland in partnership with the Community Cycling Center, is hosting this six-mile "temporary park" connecting North Portland neighborhoods. Overlook residents and other Portlanders can enjoy a relaxed, non-competitive, FREE event featuring a variety of activities, music and food in several parks along the route.

"Because the route has no start or finish, people can ride a bike or catch a bus or train to any convenient location along the route and join in the fun in the spirit of community connection," said Susan Remmers, Executive Director of the Community Cycling Center.

Those of you who will be using your cars that day will be pleased to know that the Portland Police and Office of Transportation will keep all major roads crossing the Sunday Parkway route open to motor vehicle traffic. Other intersections will be closed, but staffed by volunteers, allowing residents to get to and from their driveways along the route. Residents in the area are encouraged to limit their motor vehicle use during the event.



**Sunday Parkways Highlights June 22, 2008 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** (Ongoing unless a start time is noted, with sets and classes approx. 1 hour)  
Check the website for updates! [www.gettingaroundportland.org](http://www.gettingaroundportland.org)

**Overlook at Kaiser Town Hall**

- Kaiser Permanente free pedometers
- TriMet Travel training
- Ride Connection
- Rose City Roamers 10K Volkswalk 8am-Noon
- Lion's Club Eye checks
- Truck and bike visibility safety demonstration

**Arbor Lodge Park**

- Tango Lessons 10 a.m.
- Ward Stroud Band 11 a.m.
- Nuborn Tribe (reggae) Noon
- Circus Cascadia
- Tulen Center Poekoelan lessons
- Yoga for Seniors
- Laughing Tiger Taiji Thai Chi for Seniors
- Rose City Pedicab rides
- Try a Trike test rides PDOT
- Clif Bar & Company
- Blooming Lotus acupuncture demos
- Horseshoes and tether ball
- Doggie rest stop, water and treats
- Office of Sustainable Development recycling carts



**Peninsula Park**

- The No Kidding Choir & Friends 9:30 a.m.
- DJ Paulie Think
- The Wandering Minds (music) 10:30 a.m.
- Family bike ride & parade 11:00 a.m.
- Free Clinic from Foot Traffic 11:30 a.m.
- Devon Phillips Funk Band 12:00 noon
- Hoop Dreams hula hopping
- Oregon Zoo ZAP team & T Rex
- Kids bike helmets \$5 sale & fittings
- Park Bureau Rose Garden tours
- Community Cycling Center and New Seasons Market Healthy Eating Healthy Living activities and demos

**SEI/Unthank Park**

- Jump roping
- Kickball & Basketball (pick up)
- The Beaterville Band 12:30 p.m.
- African American Outdoor Assoc.
- Alberta Food Coop
- Good In the Neighborhood



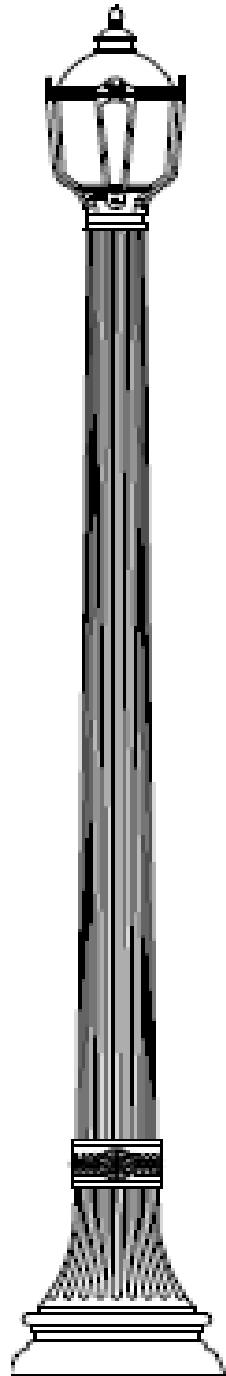
Food will be available at the following locations:

- NW Hot Dogs
- Village Crepery
- Russell's Breads
- Junior Ambassador's
- Altengartz Bratwurst
- Ramona's Bkfst Burritos
- Headwaters Café
- Hannah Bea's Poundcake .....and More
- al Forno Ferruzza pizza
- Boonrod Thai Food
- Little Red Bike Cafe
- The Ice Cream Pedaler
- Tita's Pista
- Café Velo
- Blend Coffee Lounge

For additional information and latest updates, check the website:  
[www.GettingAroundPortland.org](http://www.GettingAroundPortland.org)



For an interesting detour from the main route, head out to the W.C. Elliott House at 222 North Willamette Boulevard. This designated historic landmark building is open for visitors only one day a year. The good news is this year it's Sunday Parkways day. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and if you need additional information, call Sharon or Robert Sullivan at 503-285-4313.



**UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR YOUR PREFERENCES**

Willamette Bluff Light Posts Neighborhood Improvement Project  
By Sally Kavanagh

**PROJECT OVERVIEW:** The Overlook Neighborhood Association is preparing for the construction of new light posts on Willamette Boulevard. The plan is to replace 14 old wooden street light poles and their overhead wiring with new aluminum poles and underground wiring. The location of this project starts immediately north of PGE's eighty-foot-high power line at the corner of Killingsworth and Willamette and ends just beyond the corner of Curtis and Willamette. The new poles will run along the alignment of the existing poles.

**FUNDING:** The Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and Portland General Electric (PGE) have set aside \$80,000 in mitigation for code violations when erecting the 80-foot power line that runs to the Swan Island pumping station.

**COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:** The City of Portland and PGE have generously constructed a street lighting demonstration at the corner of Willamette and Jessup. Two existing street lights have been replaced with new ornamental street lights for community observation and input on the process and the final design.

**SELECTING THE STREET LIGHT STYLE:**

**OPTION 1:** (Shown on the left) The Single Ornamental Pole.

**Benefits:** Aesthetically pleasing.

**Concerns:** Reduction in light levels on the street; increased "glare" associated with this type of lantern (compared to the standard "cobra head" mast arm which casts most of its light down onto the street); dark sky pollution; 14 foot lantern height may be more obtrusive to homes adjacent to the project; and the cost expected to exceed the \$80,000 budget and require additional fundraising.

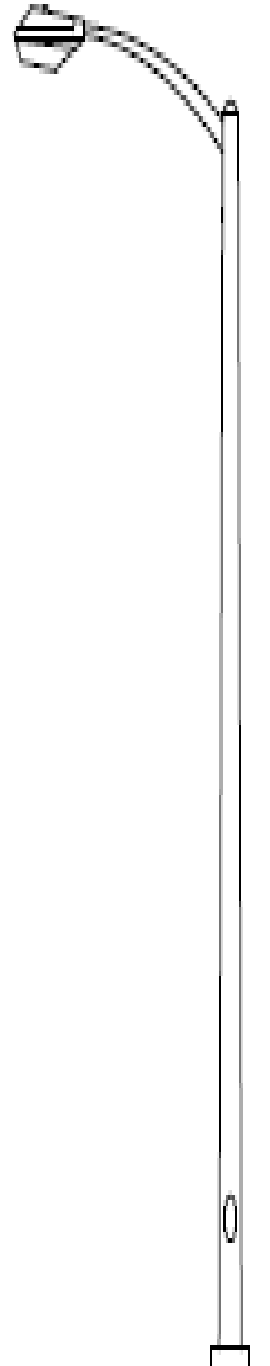
**OPTION 2:** (Shown on the right) The Standard Street Light typically employed for new construction with a cobra head mast arm.

**Benefits:** This type of new street light would most closely resemble the light levels and light distribution of the existing street light system. Cost expected to be within the \$80,000 budget.

**Concerns:** The concern is that the Standard Street Lights do not address the residential atmosphere and the "human scale" of this unique, highly utilized pedestrian environment as suitably as the Single Ornamental Pole does.

We want the community to participate in this discussion. You are invited to attend the next Overlook Neighborhood Association Meeting at Kaiser Town Hall, 3704 North Interstate Avenue on Tuesday May 20th at 7:00 p. m. This discussion will be on the agenda. Alternatively, email comments to Sally Kavanagh at [sallytodaro@hotmail.com](mailto:sallytodaro@hotmail.com).

**It is likely you will receive this newsletter after the OKNA general meeting. You can still register your preferences/comments to Sally at 503-442-9957 or email above NO LATER THAN JUNE 10.**



**OVERLOOK HOUSE NEWS**



**YARN ARTS**

**AND**

**T'AI CHI CHIH**

The Historic Overlook House will host a free weekly knitting and crochet "open forum" for crafters to get together and work on their projects.

Where: The sunroom/living room of the Overlook House at 3839 N. Melrose Drive, Portland, OR 97227

When: Every Monday evening - beginning May 19th Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Crafters are responsible for bringing all their own materials. All ages, genders and skill levels are welcome! For further information, please contact Lori Hoffman at 503/335-8456 or email her at [lorraine\\_hoffman@toc.org](mailto:lorraine_hoffman@toc.org).

Our eight week summer session starts on June 19 and will continue through August 21 (no class on 7/3 and 7/17). We'll meet on Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. and we will learn all 19 movements and a final pose. All ages are welcome and no special abilities are required. Class fee is \$60. An ongoing monthly free and optional Saturday morning practice ensures continuity while providing a social connection. More information will be found at [www.taichichih.org](http://www.taichichih.org). For additional information/registration: Steve Marsh M.Ed., Accredited teacher, [tccmarsh@hotmail.com](mailto:tccmarsh@hotmail.com), 503-283-4991.

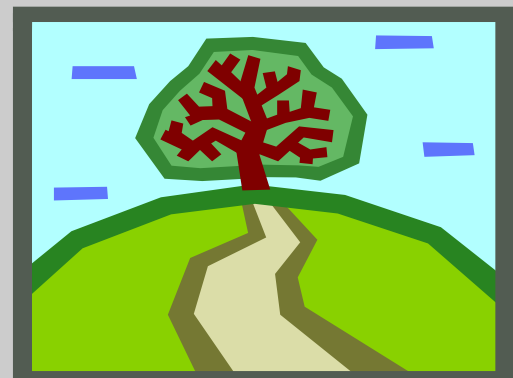
**MANY THANKS**

Esther Brock, Bean Sprout Instructor, would like to thank our Overlook neighbors, Mark and Maria Cross, for their generous donation for her class. Nike will be providing a matching employee donation! Bean Sprout is held every Thursday morning, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., in the basement of the Overlook House. This activity/story time class is free for children four years and under and parents must accompany their children.

**PATTON PARK GRAND RE-OPENING**

You're Invited--Mark Your Calendars!  
By Cynthia Sulaski

Come to the Patton Square Park Reopening Celebration on Saturday, June 14, from 11:30 to 2:30, and see why the wait has been worth it. We have planned a fun and interactive event to welcome this small, but invaluable, green space back into the Overlook Neighborhood. There will be activities for all ages, including the Trillium Drummers, Portland Theater Brigade, a clown to make us giggle, the Van Go (Portland Parks' playground program on wheels), flag making to express our wishes for the park and neighborhood, story telling by and for neighbors, and a ceremonial event involving the community (1:00-1:30). If you have any photos and/or memories of the park, please come to the IFCC theater from 1:30 to 2:30 to share them with your neighbors. If you want, pack a lunch and bring a blanket to sit on the grass and enjoy our gem of a neighborhood park. Contact me if you have any questions (503.249.7728 [csulaski@comcast.net](mailto:csulaski@comcast.net)). See you there!



**NEED A NEIGHBORHOOD BABYSITTER?**

Sarah is 13 years old, Red Cross certified, responsible and fun. References available. (503) 288-0200

### DIVERSIFYING THE OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Matthew J. Scoggin

The Overlook Neighborhood Association, (OKNA), as it stands right now with its general make-up of participating members is missing something. What



is that something, you ask? Well, it could be any number of things depending on whom you asked but I think everyone would agree that a need for a more diversified group, one that is more reflective of the neighborhood's residents would be high on a list of needed improvements. Personally, I have been attending neighborhood association meetings for about 3 years now and as I have looked around I couldn't help noticing two things: I keep seeing the same set of people, and more specifically, that set is primarily all alike (white, middle aged or older, homeowner). Now please don't get me wrong. I think that our neighborhood association is a fine one, with great members who have good intentions, and it is an association that makes the Overlook neighborhood a better place in which to live. I just believe that a neighborhood association with a more varied population will be more welcoming, more effective, more respected, and an association that will be able to change and grow as its neighborhood does. To that end, I am happy to announce that the OKNA has recently established a Diversity Committee, whose paramount goal will be to help increase the diversity of participating members within the OKNA.

The OKNA Diversity Committee knows it is up against tough odds given Overlook's dynamic demographics and large area, but those factors will not be a deterrent to our progress. Rather, we see these challenging factors as things to invigorate our thinking and used to our benefit, when possible. The Committee will first try to establish/define our specific deficiencies and look at why we are lacking in those areas. Secondly, the Committee will attempt to formulate a "game plan" for tackling such deficiencies. Some of those plans may include speaking at area churches and other community organizations, working with the area schools and business, hosting public monthly meetings, posting flyers and announcements in area publications and working closely with the newly formed OKNA Welcoming Committee. In addition, this summer

our group will do some focused door-to-door outreach within the community.

The Committee's monthly meetings will be held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at The Overlook House (in the upstairs room) from 7 to 9 p.m.** The meetings are open to anyone within the Overlook neighborhood and all input/participation is welcome. For information, email Matt Scoggin [scogginm@gmail.com](mailto:scogginm@gmail.com).



### EARTH DAY AT OVERLOOK PARK dinosaurific!

By Bob New

Earth Day was a magical moment for lots of kids, big and small... Wandering into Overlook Park on April 19th provided a feast for the senses as dinosaurs roamed the grounds, music played throughout the day and hail came down (only briefly) for one of the most memorable Earth Day celebrations organized by The City Repair Project over the years.

Over 140 organizations and businesses displayed their sustainable practices, music played on three stages, stilt walkers charmed the crowd with parades throughout the afternoon and many people learned about this amazing park in North Portland. DANCE of the DINOSAUR was the theme that set the mood of the festival and many came dressed for the occasion.

Thank you everyone who helped and came to this year's celebration. The Earth Day event moves to a different location each year. If you are interested in becoming involved for 2009, please contact [earth-day@cityrepair.org](mailto:earth-day@cityrepair.org).



### EARTH DAY CLEANUP

By Rebeca Siplak

As the Earth Day volunteer coordinator for the SOLV cleanup, I wanted to give everyone an update on our service project that was held in the Overlook, Boise and Humboldt neighborhoods during the Earth Day festivities on April 19.

First, let me offer many thanks to all who participated and spread the word about the event. We had 15 volunteers who participated despite the cold conditions. We collected about 20 bags of trash and three bags of recyclables. Garbage was collected by a group of four volunteers along a stretch of Interstate Avenue as well as the green spaces found on Going & Interstate and the overpass at N. Concord Avenue. Another group of three volunteers collected trash along Missouri & Michigan streets from Failing to Killingsworth. Finally, a group of eight volunteers cleaned up the areas surrounding the Failing St. pedestrian bridge. Much success and many thanks again!!





**REAL ESTATE UPDATE  
PORTLAND/OVERLOOK**



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

As of the end of March, 2008, the average time for a residential property to sell in the Portland Metropolitan area was 84 days, compared to 65 days a year ago. The number of new listings decreased by 1.8% compared to March, 2007, pending sales were down by 36.9% and closed sales decreased by 39.1%. The average sale price increased 4.0% from a year ago.

In North Portland, at the end of March, there were 551 active listings (including 204 new ones), 110 pending sales, and 90 closed sales with an average sale price of \$283,400 and an average market time of 51 days. Appreciation has increased by 8.2% from March 2007. Listed below are properties that have sold in Overlook since the last Newsletter.

| Address              | Bed/Bath | List Price | Sold Price | Days on Market |
|----------------------|----------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 4670 N. Concord Ave. | 2/1      | \$229,000  | \$220,000  | 20             |
| 1235 N. Prescott St. | 3/2      | 285,000    | 270,000    | 26             |
| 5543 N. Denver Ave.  | 3/2      | 299,900    | 290,000    | 254            |
| 1625 N. Wygant St.   | 3/1.1    | 349,900    | 295,500    | 194            |
| 1615 N. Church St.   | 3/1      | 329,000    | 315,000    | 12             |
| 2037 N. Emerson St.  | 3/1      | 310,000    | 320,000    | 2              |
| 1715 N. Prescott St. | 3/2.1    | 337,000    | 328,000    | 173            |
| 4105 N. Concord Ave. | 3/2      | 439,900    | 415,000    | 327            |
| 1705 N. Humboldt St. | 4/2.1    | 419,900    | 432,500    | 15             |
| 2036 N. Wygant St.   | 3/2      | 449,900    | 435,000    | 223            |

**SPRINGSONG**

By Melisa Cassell

Well, I have to say it,  
We almost cancelled the trip this year.  
But then, we talked and reconsidered.  
And we figured we'd give you people  
Another chance (Yet again!)

So, yes, Summer and I are coming  
As usual, I'll get there first,  
And she, slower, will be along later,  
Because of all that stuff she carries.

But, I have to say it  
What is with you people?  
What are you thinking?

Every year (And it's the same on the other  
side of the rock  
Where we spend half our time)  
We bring you ample Proof ---  
And you behave as though---it doesn't  
Exist.

You fight over what to call our Hometown  
And then you act like you never want to get  
there—

Like you want to destroy it.  
What's with that? How stupid is that?

Summer is saying things like,  
"They're even messing with my methods and  
materials  
Why should I even bother?"

I'm saying "They treat each other so mean  
Why should my nice stuff even get deliv-  
ered—they ruined so many  
of my access roads already."

But, "What the Hell"—we say  
"They are so clueless---things can  
only get better  
And we pretty much control (with the other  
two (Blowy and Snowy)  
the only energy for them to learn from."

So fools that we are  
We're here again  
But listen up you people,  
Please!

Get your act together  
Or else—sometime we really will  
Cancel---

We have to say it.

**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

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Hoddick@teleport.com  
**Secretary:** Open & Much Needed

**OVERLOOK VIEWS**

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

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**Eric Gale, Erin Gale, Brad Halverson, Sally Kavanagh, Bob LaDu, Bob New, Matthew J. Scoggin, Rebecca Siplak and Cynthia Sulaski.**

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 July 3. 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**

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