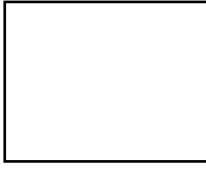


“Digging deep,
Shining a light”

INSIDE



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Can we all
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to serve you



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Wallace Park
forever

NOVEMBER 2021/ VOLUME 35, NO. 3

FREE

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[nwexaminer](#)

Freedom of the Press shall not be abridged

In America ... or even Northwest Portland

A First Amendment violation, law professor says

Steve Kanter, the former dean of Lewis & Clark Law School, where he was a professor of constitutional law, said that because NWNW is intertwined with city functions, “There’s a very good likelihood that NWNW is in fact a state actor. If they are, the First Amendment pertains fully to what they do.”

After reading the resolution banning the NW Examiner from NWNW meetings, Kanter said, “That resolution is not only improper, illegal and unconstitutional, it is very wrong headed. They should immediately rescind it and apologize.”

NWNW officers contend that because they are a nonprofit corporation and deemed not a public body under Oregon Public Meetings Law, they are subject merely to terms of their contract with the Portland Office of Community & Civic Life. But Kanter said that NWNW’s entanglement with city functions, including drawing funds predominantly from the city of Portland and providing services as directed by the city, “should protect speech and press right of access

as a government actor under federal or state constitutions, or even if not, under state and local law and rules of operation.”

Kanter clarified that he was speaking in general and was not a witness to the events of the case.

“Whether they’re covered by all of these things or not, they certainly are required to operate as a public body. They have a responsibility to be open and hold open meetings. Any attempt to bar any citizen, but especially a member of the press, from their deliberations or try to sanction any member of the press is completely inappropriate unless someone is being physically threatening or repeatedly actually obstructing the functioning of the body after being repeatedly warned,” he said.

“Saying we don’t like what you say, so we’re taking you out is completely antithetical to the Constitution,” he continued. “With every authoritarian in history, the first thing they do is censure free speech and the press.”

Neighborhood coalition board bans NW Examiner from its meetings

‘Sheer presence’ would supposedly create ‘hostile work environment’ for employee

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The board of Neighbors West-Northwest, a coalition of 11 Westside neighborhood associations served by a city-funded nonprofit, banned me and all NW Examiner representatives from attending their meetings based on the complaint of an employee.

Although longtime observers of Portland’s 47-year-old neighborhood association system could not recall any historic precedents for such press censorship, Goose Hollow Foothills League Secretary and City Council candidate Vadim Mozyrsky found a parallel from the national stage.

“I’m against Neighbors West-Northwest being Trumpian in any way,” Mozyrsky said.

The coalition’s action came in response to an email from Communications Specialist Rhys Ornstein-Hawes calling me a “bigot” and “transphobe”

who must be called out.

Stan Penkin, president of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association and vice president of NWNW, introduced the resolution that was adopted by the board by a 9-2 vote.

“Allan Classen is not welcome to attend meetings of NWNW and will be barred from doing so effective immediately, and further, NWNW will cease doing business with the NW Examiner.”

The board amended the resolution to open the door to negotiations.

“If Allan is not amenable to that, to be open-minded toward that conversation,” Penkin said at the October coalition board meeting, “then I would want the resolution to stand.”

My answer is in the headline above. There is nothing to negotiate, compromise or apologize for.

See related coverage of Pages 6-7 & 10-13.

Block-at-a-time strategy catches fire



Jerry Vermillion, who lives on the street, does more than his share to keep his neighborhood clean. He tends the mini park at Northwest 21st and Lovejoy streets, part of the area he claimed in the AdoptOneBlock program. Photo by Matt Ercego

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Frank Moscow’s daily walks to work through Goose Hollow and downtown descended into a world of trash and chaos he could not reconcile.

“I was appalled by what I saw,” said Moscow, who moved to Goose Hollow four years ago. “My

hometown was deteriorating.”

While a less visionary and technically ambitious man might have grumbled about whom to blame, Moscow nursed a solution to what he saw. Not just the one before his eyes, but the growing mess across the city and cities everywhere.

Moscow, who was born in the Wilcox Building at

Continued on page 9

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— Adriane Blackman

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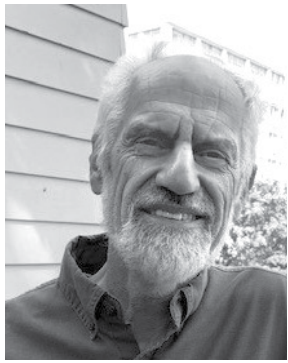


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Dan, Kishra, Mardi, Fritz and Burdean



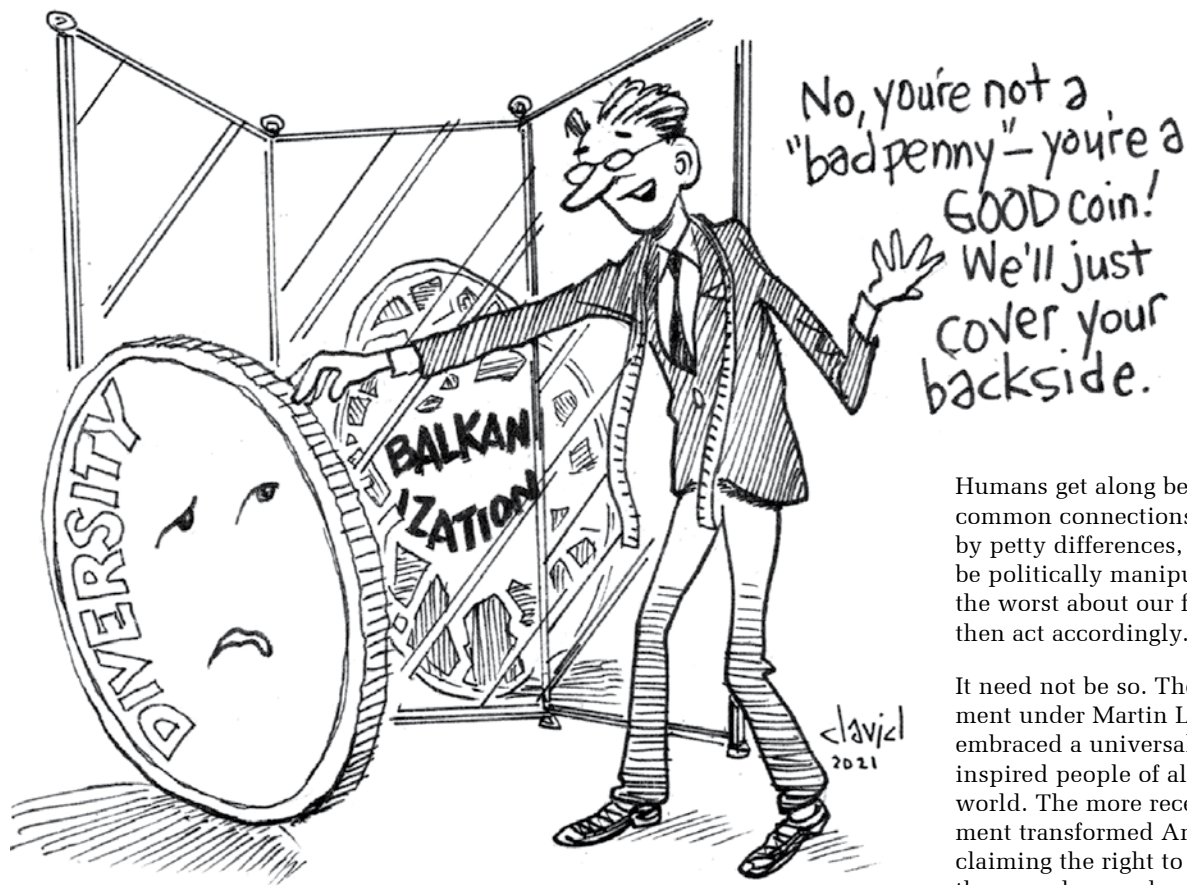
Can we all get along?

Before I had formed my own political or world views, I drew deeply from a high school civics course exploring the aftermath of World War I. The problem of suppressed nationalities, minorities in a state dominated by a larger national or ethnic group, was blamed for endless instability. One solution posed was upholding the right of all peoples to “self-determination”—the opportunity to live in a state governed by their own kind. If the suppressed peoples could only move to or establish a state formed around their culture, race, history, religion, etc., a better world was possible.

It was not that simple. Newly formed nations, such as Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, still contained ethnic divisions. Pakistan, carved out of India by its Islamic minority after World War II, soon faced opposition from its further splintering by non-Muslims and even Islamic sects. Assuming that displaced people would join large migrations to “their” country was unrealistic; those who have built homes, businesses and communities may have loyalties stronger than their national identity.

My historical perspective was and remains limited, but I believe I used it to come to the right conclusion: The only way for different kinds of people to live together in peace and thrive is through tolerance. By committing to the principle that our differences matter less than what we hold in common as human beings, our worst tendencies are curbed.

I claim no credit for this philosophy, which is at the core of classic liberalism. But I have tried to live by it, adding evidence and examples to test and tune my understanding along the path.



I am now faced by people at least as educated and intelligent as I am—and apparently more in tune with today’s political mood—who say this approach is wrong. They argue that way of thinking is fatally flawed because it has not worked. Injustice, inequality, prejudice and oppression endure as the status quo is defended by an outmoded philosophy.

Reality, of course, falls short of the perfect ideal. But is there a better way?

The better way frequently expounded today accentuates differences by “raising consciousness” toward an ever-expanding list of population subsectors and their unique challenges. This viewpoint accepts the immutability of race, a scientifically indefinable distinction

created largely to subjugate people, and expects equality to be achievable within its false order.

As in a 1968 experiment by Iowa school teacher Jane Elliott labeling children as either good or bad depending on their eye color, emphasizing distinctions invites division and persecution. “I watched what have been marvelous, wonderful, cooperative, thoughtful children turn into nasty, vicious, discriminating little third-graders,” Elliott said. The experiment proved so traumatic that further research of this nature is considered unethical.

Yet we somehow find it appropriate to accept the land-mines surrounding such a starting point in our attempts to overcome racial inequities.

Humans get along better when we seek common connections. We can be divided by petty differences, and once divided can be politically manipulated into assuming the worst about our fellow citizens and then act accordingly.

It need not be so. The civil rights movement under Martin Luther King Jr. embraced a universal inclusion that inspired people of all colors around the world. The more recent gay rights movement transformed American society by claiming the right to marry and live with those we love, values cherished by all people.

I believe that progress is possible—if we learn from history, respect each other and dig deep within our souls.

Balkanization, with every ethnic group pitted against its neighbors, has been tried. It led to World War II. It erupted again in genocidal slaughter in Yugoslavia in the 1990s. We don’t call today’s diversity ideology Balkanization, for good reason. It’s a pejorative term referring to a country divided into small political units unfriendly to each other. But perhaps it belongs in the discussion. Can we attain the benefits of diversity without awakening the demons of Balkanization? And how will we know the difference?

We’re all in the classroom whether we know it or not. ■

Readers Reply

Letters can be sent to: allan@nwexaminer.com or 2825 NW Upshur St, Ste. C, Portland, OR 97210. Letters should be 300 words or fewer; include a name and a street of residence. Deadline: third Saturday of the month.

Profound statement

One of the most profound statements on what it is to be an American I have ever read. Congratulations.

Stephen Kafoury
NW Couch St.

Editor's note: If I may repeat myself: “We need not pledge allegiance to any flag in order to be American; we are American if we agree to live in peace with each other and obey laws enacted by the people for the common good. Our minds are free to believe, not believe or object according to our own conscience.”

Freedom of the press

Without freedom of the press, we don’t have freedom.

The Neighbors West-Northwest board’s commitment to ensure the safety and equitable treatment of transgender employees is commendable. However, the board’s Oct. 13 resolution to ban and fiscally punish NW Examiner journalist Allan Classen appears based on an accusation of vague discriminatory complicity, unsupported by objective evidence, impugning a journalist doing his job.

The NWNW board should rescind this resolution.

A veteran journalist, Classen reports facts and data

collected during the public portion of board meetings and when interviewing board members and association members at large. He also attends and is free to report portions of executive sessions under the provisions stipulated by ORS 192.660.

I strongly concur that the safety of LGBTQ persons is paramount. I worked closely with the Rev. Malcolm Boyd on one of his last books. He was the first openly gay (and often threatened) Episcopal priest in the United States. I also attended the consecration of the first gay Episcopal bishop, The Right Rev. Gene Robinson, where clergy wore bullet proof vests and we lay people passed by raging right-wing protesters as we filed through metal detectors into the venue.

Cont'd on page 6

The NW Examiner

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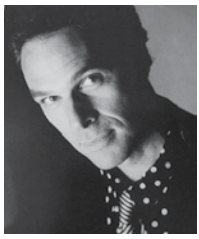


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James Emrick



James "Zeb" Emrick, a model in Norm Thompson catalogs and waiter at the Bijou Café and Wildwood Restaurant, died Aug. 26 at age 75. He was born in Portland on Jan. 6, 1946. He attended Jesuit High School and the University of Portland. He served in the Marines in Vietnam. He was best known for his 30-year career as a server at the Bijou Café. In 2005, Portland Monthly described him as "the café's charismatic lead conductor. He knows every person who has walked through the door more than once, as well as who they know, who they want to steer clear of and who they might profit from knowing a little better." He is survived by his brother, John. He was predeceased by his brother, Al.

Edward Epstein



Edward Louis Epstein, former president and trustee of Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center, died Oct. 7 at age 85. He was born Jan. 10, 1936, in Walla Walla, Wash. He graduated in 1954 from Walla Walla High School, where he was senior class president and co-valedictorian. He graduated from Stanford University and Harvard Law School in 1961. He became the first Jewish lawyer hired by Stoel Rives LLP, where he practiced until his retirement in 2008. He was listed in the Best Lawyers in America in both corporate and health law multiple times. He was a trustee of the Morrison Center for Youth & Family Services and the Oregon Association of Hospitals Foundation. He was

a member of the Neurological Sciences Center Operating Committee of Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center. He was on the board of the Library Foundation and a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; daughters Lisa and Rachel; and one grandchild.

Leroy Livermore



Leroy "Roy" Charles Livermore, who grew up in the Slabtown section of Northwest Portland, died Sept. 29 at age 90. He was born Nov. 14, 1930, in Montevideo, Uruguay, and moved with his mother to Portland in 1937. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1949. He served in the Navy from 1949-56 before graduating from Lewis & Clark College in 1958 and earning a CPA two years later. He worked for Haskin & Sells, Dieringer's Grocery Stores, Northwest Acceptance Corp., Meadowlark Ski Shop and Deschutes River Adventures. He was controller for Orbanco Corp. from 1968-86. He was president of the Oregon Society of CPAs 1978-79, treasurer of Gov. Vic Atiyeh's 1978 campaign and served on the SAIF board of directors 1979-1980. He married Dorothy Bonnicksen in 1953; she died in 2014. He married Patricia Swayne in 2015.

James Mason



James Michael Mason, who graduated from Ainsworth School and Lincoln High School, died Sept. 26 at age 77 from cancer. He was born in Portland on Oct. 26, 1943. He attended the University of Oregon. He married Diane

Holman in 1962. His career began with the construction business, Henry M. Mason Co., founded by his father. He later worked in sales, retiring from Tytan International in 2017. Survivors include his wife, Dee Dee; and daughter, Libby. He was preceded in death by his son, Michael.

Sam Notos



Sotere C. "Sam" Notos, a Lincoln High School graduate, died Oct. 7 at age 85. He was born Feb. 29, 1936, in Portland, and attended Multnomah Grade School. He received a scholarship to play baseball at the University of Oregon. He married Charlene Isaacs in 1959. He worked for IBM and later as a commercial real estate broker until retirement. He was a founder of Tournament Golf Inc., which sponsored an LPGA tournament in Portland. He was a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club. He is survived by his daughters, Cindy Aschbacher and Pam Scanlan; and three grandchildren.

Tim Ramis



Timothy Victor Ramis, whose law practice was based in Northwest Portland for many years, died Oct. 13 of cancer at age 71. He was born April 4, 1950, in Portland and graduated from Madison High School. He attended Princeton University and Stanford University before graduating from the University of Oregon School of Law. As a land-use attorney, he argued the Dolan v. City of Tigard case before the U.S. Supreme Court. He is sur-

vived by his wife, Melissa; their children, Henry, Katherine, Eleanor and Benjamin; William, Kelly and their mother, Marina Mar; and sister, Sue Thompson.

Death Notices

DOROTHY DAZY, nurse and instructor at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center.

CHARLES DIMON, 92, a longtime resident of West Sylvan.

JANYCE (LARSON) GASSAWAY, 88, member of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

CHARLES KOZACH, 85, soloist for First United Methodist Church for 18 years.

JOHN LARSON, 93, longtime parishioner St. Mark's Anglican Church.

PHIL LOWTHIAN, 85, a Pearl District resident.

JAMES A MEYER, 85, a Multnomah Athletic Club member.

SUSAN L. OVERBACK, 75, 1964 graduate of Lincoln High School.

The Northwest Examiner publishes obituaries of people who lived, worked or had other substantial connections to our readership area, which includes Northwest Portland, Goose Hollow, Sauvie Island and areas north of Highway 26. If you have information about a death in our area, please contact us at allan@nwexaminer.com. Photographs are also welcomed. There is no charge for obituaries in the Examiner.

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Readers Reply

continued from page 3

Still, NWNW is an organization that falls under the auspices of local and state government. If the NWNW board's resolution stands, the city and state will not only be telegraphing their approval to trash freedom of the press, they will be green-lighting secrecy by denying public access to press coverage of policymaking decisions that will impact our lives.

Barring a journalist from taxpayer-funded public meetings also does not appear to comport with state law and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement standards. Exerting economic pressure by refusing to do business with the NW Examiner undermines our cherished principle of freedom of the press. This action erodes a pillar of democracy desperately needed to ensure LGBTQ communities' freedoms.

Connie Kirk
SW Fifth Ave.

the back burner as the importance of implementing a code of conduct became the first priority. Clear expectations about how board members and staff are treated and act is a crucial first step before the deep dive of discussing and defining who NWNW is, our guiding principles and priorities moving forward. Collaboration is only possible when all board members and staff feel comfortable and respected in expressing opinions. My aim was the fostering of a safe, supportive space to have robust discussions, to be able to disagree but come to a happy medium and to be able to have all the voices at the table heard.

Unfortunately, life threw me a curve ball that demanded my full attention. I was not able to continue my commitment on the NWNW board.

Kristin Shorey
SW Elm Lane

Laid groundwork

In 2019, I became president of Neighbors West-Northwest. My goal was to move beyond the years of internal conflict and position the coalition as a productive and proactive board. I was the driving force for the vision process. NWNW staff actions were done under my direction with full support of the board executive committee.

I was clear about this goal in many meetings as I asked each neighborhood for their own goals to see where we could join forces and begin laying the groundwork for our visioning work. My aspiration to move forward with visioning within my tenure got put on

Call for accountability

I recently became aware of the Neighbors West-Northwest resolution passed 9-2 by its board on Oct. 13. To the nine neighborhood association representatives who voted for this resolution: You should be ashamed of yourselves. To the executive director of NWNW: Why did you not advise against this or protest?

I spent 25 years of my life proudly serving our country in the U.S. Navy, including about 10 years totally submerged in submarines. When I first enlisted and every time I reenlisted, I swore an oath with my hand on the Bible saying, "I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States

against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same—so help me God."

So for the NWNW board to now just shred the Constitution is absolutely appalling to me.

NWNW is a public organization funded with our tax dollars and its representatives are elected by the neighborhood associations. I'm calling for accountability and for the nine neighborhood representatives and the executive director to resign immediately. If they do not, then I call for their associations to remove and replace them, and then for the new board to then fire the executive director.

I also call on those nine people and the executive director to issue a public apology in the form of a full page ad in the NW Examiner signed by all 10 of them and paid for out of their own pockets, and not with our taxpayer dollars.

I believe Portland is a fatally torpedoed ship ready to slip beneath the waves, but is it really so far gone that we now disregard our nation's founding documents?

Mark Velky
SW Vista Ave.

Shut it down

I served five years on the NWNW board. During that time there were multiple occasions when staff provided erroneous legal advice to neighborhood associations. They also denigrated and put forth falsehoods about neighborhood association directors and members they disliked. On one occasion, a staffer publicly berated a neighborhood association director at his own neighborhood

meeting in front of the attendees. So the panegyric of Mark Sieber and staff in the NWNW resolution is just so much squat.

Common sense and logic direct that assertions without proof are valueless. NWNW asserts both Steve Pinger's behavior and Allan Classen's reporting create an "unsafe environment" for staff. Oh? How? Mr. Pinger is only one among 22 directors. He must be very talented to be so destructive on his own. Does he manage it with smoke and mirrors or sleight of hand? Mr. Classen apparently accomplishes it with simple, factual reporting. Have either of them booby-trapped the office or sent glitter bombs? Show us the proof of this Orwellian accusation.

Ironically, I do heartily approve of NWNW censuring Mr. Classen because that is a real badge of honor. I hope that they will censure me also, because I would frame it and hang it on the wall next to my honorable discharge, diplomas, etc.

NWNW board members love spending public money while denying that they constitute a public body and asserting they are not accountable to us. This spurious opinion's source is apparently Sieber's personal attorney, whom NWNW hired at his behest. They also voted to defray some of his personal legal expenses. How cozy.

NWNW has always acted as if it were a law unto itself, its dysfunction financed by hundreds of thousands of our tax dollars. It's way past time to defund this rogue organization and shut it down.

Roger Leachman
SW Vista Ave.

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Coalition board says it approved new direction

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Neighbors West-Northwest board of directors, I am writing to correct your September 2021 article, "Vision quest cloaks personal attack."

Your assertion that NWNW staff have "taken charge of the neighborhood coalition program, initiating a broad social equity mission fashioned upon City Hall's lead" is simply untrue.

Since our board retreat in January 2020, we have repeatedly directed NWNW staff to help our neighborhood associations more effectively diversify and expand their membership and outreach to less represented communities by developing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programming. NWNW staff responded by developing excellent formal and informal DEI training and programs for our neighborhoods and the community. The public is welcome to join our workshops, lectures and roundtable conversations, which can be found under the Building Diverse Communities link on our nwnw.org website.

The NWNW board discussed and approved the social justice statement on our website.

Steve Pinger was present at the June 10, 2020, NWNW directors meeting and participated in unanimous board votes to approve both the social justice statement and our FY 2020-21 budget which allocated \$4,000 for NWNW staff to develop and implement DEI training. This is clearly documented in attached meeting minutes and documents. Our meeting minutes are available to the public and are attached for the NW Examiner to review.

We hope you will direct any future criticism of our coalition's effort to reach out to and engage underrepresented communities to the responsible party – the NWNW board of directors who requested it. Blaming staff for following the boards' directions disrespects both the board and staff. Naming and publishing a photo of our most junior staff member and calling out their minority status is particularly inappropriate and hurtful. The named employee was not even employed by NWNW until September of 2020.

Regarding your speculations concerning a staff complaint against a board member's behavior, NWNW policy and common decency require that personnel issues be kept confidential and disclosed only as necessary to investigate and act on the information. For you to "presume" the name of a complainant or the nature of the complaint is irresponsible and harmful, misleading and likely to discourage future employee complaints.

An attorney specializing in employment law has been hired to advise us throughout the complaint process. We are also hiring an independent investigator to look into the formal staff complaint against Mr. Pinger. The investigator will review the evidence and interview all the parties concerned in order to ensure this matter is handled respectfully and fairly.

Our board regrets that you have chosen to ignore the other work that our organization has done on wildfire preparedness, homelessness, cleanup programs, election candidate panels and

other topics. We appreciate our staff and the work they do to make our community a better place for all.

Your readers and our neighborhoods deserve fact-based journalism, not speculation and discrimination against minorities.

RICHARD BARKER
President, Neighbors West Northwest

ATTACHMENTS

Examples of NWNW board directing staff to implement DEI programming.

- Minutes of the **Feb. 12, 2020**, NWNW board meeting note discussion about the January 2020 NWNW board retreat. The minutes for this section say "Future work includes: Diversity and inclusion training as priority." Mr. Pinger was not present.
- Minutes of the **June 10, 2020**, NWNW board meeting where the board added \$4,000 to the 2020-21 FY budget for DEI training and support. The budget, with the addition, was unanimously approved. Mr. Pinger was present and voted.
- The 2020-21 Civic Life Grant Agreement Appendix with Scope of Work including the budget approved at our **June 10, 2020**, meeting with minor budget changes. Elements relating to DEI are highlighted. This agreement was delayed well beyond the end of the fiscal year because Civic Life was in turmoil and dealing with COVID. The board was not able to vote to approve the agreement due to the limited window available for signature, but the agreement included our approved budget with minor changes and it was approved by Brian Harvey, the board president. The signed agreement and modified budget were discussed at our **Aug. 12, 2020**, meeting.
- Minutes of the **Aug. 12, 2020**, NWNW board meeting. The board voted unanimously to approve the adjustments to the budget in the Civic Life Grant Agreement. Mr. Pinger was not present.
- 2021-22 FY Grant Civic Life Grant Agreement with Scope of Work (signed PDF), including NWNW budget. See DEI-related items highlighted on pages 12-15. This agreement was approved unanimously by the NWNW board on **May 12, 2021**. Mr. Pinger was present and voted.
- Minutes of the **May 12, 2021**, NWNW board meeting. The board voted unanimously to approve the 2021-22 Civic Life Grant Agreement. Mr. Pinger was present. Further unrelated budget adjustments were approved at our June meeting.
- NWNW board votes approving statement on social justice.
- Minutes of the **June 10, 2020**, NWNW board meeting where the board edited and unanimously approved a social justice statement. Mr. Pinger was present and voted.

COMMENT ON NWEXAMINER.COM
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Editor's reply

Check the record

For two years, Neighbors West-Northwest has discussed a new direction for the organization centered on promoting greater social and internal diversity and inclusion. It has also entertained the possibility of expanding the board to include people who do not represent neighborhood associations.

The question raised by a critic on the NWNW board, Steve Pinger, and the NW Examiner is: Did the board agree to merely begin exploring such changes at a 2019 board retreat, or did that step reflect a final board decision to move forward, with further discussions and retreats serving merely to reinforce and fine-tune established policy?

The board is attempting to discipline Pinger for disrupting meetings by "the relitigation and resistance to the implementation of matters that have already been voted upon and in process." That suggests the course has been set.

But in a statement at the September NWNW board, Executive Director Mark Sieber, said:

"The retreat, as well as discussion in board meetings before and after, included that Neighbors West-Northwest might consider adding community groups to it. There is indeed an honest debate to be had about how and how much the coalition might include others. And it has not occurred yet.

"Once the consultants have cataloged and organized all the issues that you have contributed, they will facilitate a publicly transparent debate by the board as it works to set a course for the next decade."

However, the NWNW letter to the Examiner asserts that meeting minutes prove board support for staff actions that have included the hiring of a communication specialist who has held diversity workshops.

Readers can be excused for not knowing whether the time for debate is over.

To justify its actions, NWNW has falsified the public record.

For example, the June 10, 2020, minutes state:

"In addition, a line item for Capacity Building of \$4,000 has been created in order to provide increased training and support opportunities for leadership development, equity & inclusivity."

The speaker was Sieber, who also keeps the minutes.

On the recording of the meeting, this is what he actually said:

"The next item is the call for a meeting of the Steering Committee for the stuff that came out of the retreat, and I'll just be communicating with you guys who are interested in that and figure out how you can get that moving."

Nothing else was said on the subject. There was no vote of affirmation. Sieber suggested more details would be coming for those interested, but nothing suggested an important policy plank was being laid.

A more substantive subterfuge is reflected in the minutes of the September 2021 board meeting, at which a vote to establish a committee to discipline Pinger was mishandled. There were two violations of Robert's Rules of Order (a revote on a motion decided earlier in the same meeting and allowing a person casting a vote on the losing side of a motion to change her vote.)

Had these irregularities not occurred, the motion would have failed. As it was, board President Richard Barker declared it adopted.

The vote was the first item on the agenda and was brought up again at the end of the meeting. The minutes, however, report it all as one topic completed in the first 10 minutes of the meeting, mentioning the changed vote but not noting that the vote was changed after the motion was ruled to have passed.

The full sequence that unfolds in the video recording reveals why opponents, with information they had at the time, accepted the changed vote believing it would not have changed the result.

It may be a small detail, but it was important enough to the preparer of the minutes to blur the evidence.

The September minutes were later approved by the board without discussion. It is not clear if board members knew they were approving a provably false account.

Videos of this and other meetings of NWNW can be viewed at nwnw.org. Scroll down to Our Board and then scroll to Meeting Minutes.

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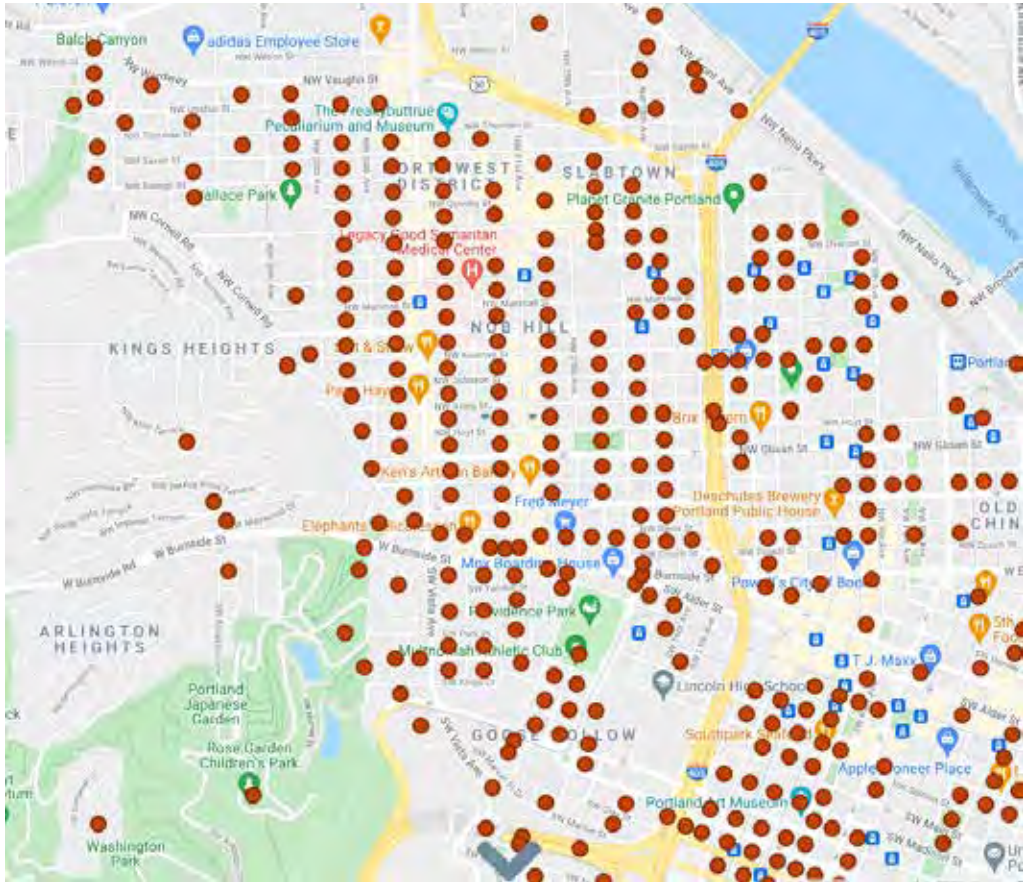
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Far left: The map showing blocks adopted on the Westside has few gaps.

Left: Frank Moscow and his assistant, Olivia Langley, run the AdoptOneBlock program from a condo in the heart of the Northwest District.

Below: Susan and Downer Nunnery, some of the first AdoptOneBlock volunteers, find keeping their corner of downtown clean deeply rewarding.



"Adoptablock" cont'd from page 1

the Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center a few blocks from his current home, retired two years ago from a high-tech consulting business he ran for 25 years.

But he still had energy for a new challenge. He followed the periodic volunteer cleanup events held by neighborhood associations and other groups. People come together and roll up their sleeves for one-day work parties providing immediate relief. A week later, the trash returns.

"I thought, there should be a better way," he recalled. "I couldn't find one, so I invented one."

His plan would involve no scheduling of scattered individuals or commuting to one site. On the plus side, it would reinforce people's connection to their own block and their neighbors. He would create a website allowing anyone to select a block near their home and pick up litter at a time most convenient to them.

The system would function as an online clearinghouse letting volunteers see which blocks were already claimed and which were open for adoption. To complete the circle, each adopter would be sent a free package of supplies and equipment to carry out their duties.

As AdoptOneBlock was about to launch, Moscow discovered that Google Maps, which provides the template on which volunteers can find and claim a block, could not comprehend what a block was. It took 18 months for Moscow and his smartest friends to develop an application that could accommodate the essence of adopting a block.

In October 2020, the program finally went public. The website now functional,

Moscow added a Facebook page where Block Ambassadors share their photos and stories and respond to weekly questions and challenges. Weekly email messages keep all participants in touch. The program grew and grew.

After 12 months, 5,700 blocks have been adopted in the city, nearly half of the city's 13,100 total blocks. Volunteers cover the gamut. Some are loners. Some make their own social events. Some do it as families.

Two of the first adopters were Susan and Downer Nunnery, downtown residents who were looking for a way to help when they heard of AdoptOneBlock. Hours after they enrolled, Moscow came in person to their building, American Plaza Towers, to hand them the tool of the trade, a picker, and other free supplies. They now spend 30-45 minutes every week or two cleaning their block.

The Nunnerys feel appreciation when drivers honk or neighbors, many of whom have also adopted blocks, give them kudos. Businesses are more than happy to let them dump trash in their dumpsters.

Susan explains the boost she gets from volunteering with a quote from Nelson Mandela: "There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to helping others without expecting anything in return."

Another example of the social capital created by AdoptOneBlock is Jerry Vermillion, a homeless man living in Northwest Portland who adopted the block bounded by Northwest 21st, 22nd, Lovejoy and Marshall streets.

I saw him one morning last summer pushing a toy baby stroller bearing a hand-lettered AdoptOneBlock sign as he

cleaned the mini park on his turf. He was wearing an orange vest and holding a picker as he intently pursued objects out of place. No sanitation employee could have been more dedicated to the task.

The Examiner featured Vermillion in a 2016 cover story when remodeling of a commercial building removed access to an alcove where he slept. He spent nights across the street from the service station where he worked the day shift.

Moscow was thrilled to learn of his diligent Block Ambassador

"We dropped off an AdoptOneBlock sweatshirt, beanie, trash picker and garbage bags to him this afternoon," Moscow emailed the Examiner. "Great conversation with Jerry and yes, it's the same guy. We are going to make sure he has a better sleeping bag and super warm socks before it turns cold."

Later, he shared his admiration with "the level of pride" Vermillion brought to his work and his community.

Vermillion now pushes a better stroller with a bin bearing the AdoptOneBlock logo.

Moscow's first overtures to neighborhood associations before the program launched were received coolly. These organizations had made cleanup events a community gathering activity, and some wondered if a personally governed program would divert involvement.

Those doubts largely vanished as members of the most active neighborhood association "clean teams" also became Block Ambassadors in their spare time.

"Community building happens naturally," Moscow said, as neighbors see each other cleaning up on their street.

Tim Boyle, the philanthropist CEO of Columbia Sportswear, is a big supporter of the program. When Boyle's check to the city of Portland to help clean up the streets was refused, Boyle gave half of the amount to AdoptOneBlock.

Moscow is grateful for the program's success in Portland so far. "We're on the receiving end of 5,000 people who want to do more than their share to clean up their neighborhoods and the city," he said.

For now, that's enough. People in other states have contacted him about tying into the system, and that may happen someday.

While his mission statement is still "clean up our world one block at a time," he sees many ways to improve his Portland model. A separate program for retailers to adopt their linear block, for instance. He recently added a community calendar that lists cleanup events by other organizations in each zip code.


He wants it to get better before getting bigger.

"I'm going to take care of Portland first," he said.

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Coalition deliberates into a crisis

The theory of objective news reporting strains when the reporter at work is the subject of the story. NW Examiner cover stories in September and October outlined the premise that the coalition is guided by staff, which is transforming an organization created to serve its member neighborhood associations into a social justice agency governed by a more diverse range of directors.

Dissenters to this transformation have been targeted for discipline. Steve Pinger of the Northwest District Association faces investigation by a private consultant in preparation for possible board discipline by Neighbors West-Northwest. As I expanded on the theme of undemocratic authoritarian actions, I now face exclusion from NWNW meetings.

My views on the direction of NWNW have been fully developed in past editions. I review them here primarily to give context to direct quotes taken from the Oct. 13 coalition meeting.

I have added headings to provoke thought and elicit irony.

— Allan Classen



Mark Sieber
Executive Director
Neighbors West-Northwest

Protect staff first

“The thing you are missing about the NW Examiner is that it is creating a hostile work environment ... If you fail to do something to protect staff from being in the presence of hostile work conditions, then they can file with the EEOC [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission], they can get an attorney ... I mean it’s not a place you want to go.”

“If you don’t protect your staff, there will be certainly potential consequences that you will find perhaps more destructive than the consequences you might have if you don’t protect your staff.”

Mute the man

“STEVE, BE QUIET! I AM TALKING. PLEASE MUTE THE MAN [shouting].”

“I want to point out very clearly. Steve is continuing, with a number of emails last week and through this meeting, to try to adjudicate his own case. He should be recused from this session because he’s been trying to manipulate the outcome. Let me be very clear about that.

“We are working on the advice

of an attorney. The attorney said that under the code of conduct and ethics, the thing that I had put out is the way to go. And she recommended strongly that we have an independent investigator.”

No vote necessary

“That’s why that was done. And it was also done without a vote of the board because the process had one choice and one choice only, if you were to follow the attorney. Richard started that process, it was rolling, Steve was offered options and did not respond to them, and it clicked over to the next step. Steve doesn’t want to believe it because he’s trying to get off the hook. I will be blunt.

“Now if he’s OK, he should trust in the investigation. Not sure why he’s afraid of it.

“So, pardon me for going off on it a little bit, but this is really out of line. Steve is laughing because he imagines he’ll be immune from all of this.

Not about feelings

“There’s another point that people keep saying which really misses a serious point, and that is, they keep talking about the feelings of staff. It’s not about feelings. It is about the law. It is about protected classes and it is about the rights of employees not to have a hostile work environment. So this keeps wandering off into mushy territory. And I will add for the record that Steve should be recused from this session if he is trying to manipulate the outcome of a process that is already underway.”



Richard Barker
President,
Neighbors West-Northwest

About her feelings

“I sent out a copy of a very heartfelt and sincere email that Rhys had provided us, or provided myself and Stan in regard to her feelings, so we want to make sure that everyone has a chance to have read that.

[Barker, who demanded universal

announcement of personal pronouns of all persons at prior NWNW meetings, consistently refers to Rhys Ornstein-Hawes, who goes by they/them, as she.]

Your pronouns are slipping

“If we do not decide to exclude the NW Examiner—correct me if I’m wrong—from the meetings, then basically we are by default excluding Rhys from the meetings because, just by the NW Examiner’s sheer presence, that she would feel uncomfortable that she would be subject to ... a hostile work environment.”

You speak if I let you

“Steve has his hand up and I will let him speak, but if necessary or I feel the conversation is not productive or whatever, then I will ask Stacy to mute him.”



Les Blaize
Secretary,
Neighbors West Northwest

City duties secondary

“We have a fiduciary duty not only to our corporation but to our employees ... we have to actually protect our employees.”

“The fiduciary duty to our employees will sometimes overshadow the responsibilities that the city puts on us.”

Overcome the blahs

“In the meantime, we’re erring on the side of caution from the point of view of just having our employees in meetings where representatives from the Examiner would be considered a hostile workplace. I think we should go forward with this and we can have discussions on it later. From the point of view of freedom of the press and First Amendment, blah blah blah, remember that we are a private nonprofit corporation first, so we have the ability to do this.”

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Stan Penkin
Vice President,
Neighbors West-Northwest

He didn't mean it but

"The board has not been as strong as it should have been in supporting staff in the struggles they have been feeling and going through.

I don't think for a moment think that Allan is intentionally discriminatory. I do not believe that. I think Allan—what he wrote in the Examiner—I can believe that it was not intentional.

Part of it is a lack of understanding about how staff feels about certain things that may be written or photos that are placed in his paper, and we have to look at this from the perspective of—which is hard for many of us to do—of how a 23-year-old transgender, nonbinary, disabled person feels, and it's hard to put ourselves in that position."

Be open-minded or else

If Allan is amenable to sitting down and talking this through—coming to a better understanding about what happened here—I would be willing to amend this resolution. I would want the resolution to stand in terms of a statement about our support of staff, but I would like to see if we can find another way. If Allan is not amenable to that, to be open-minded toward that conversation, then I would want the resolution to stand."



Darlene Garrett
Board member,
Neighbors West-Northwest

Getting in the mud

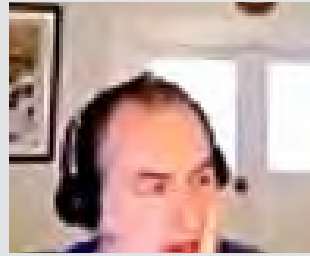
"Do we have to go to a lawyer? Can we bring in a professional mediator and handle this at a higher level before we get down on the ground and start playing in the mud with lawyers?"



Steve Pinger
Board member,
Neighbors West-Northwest

Is this our priority?

"This is quickly turning into a multilayered guided legal quagmire. ... I'm hoping we can find an exit here. ... This cannot possibly be a priority for this organization in our city given its state currently."



Jim Olsson
Board member,
Neighbors West-Northwest

Drastic escalation

"What we are proposing here is a drastic sort of escalation. While I agree with Les that boards have a fiduciary responsibility, I don't even know what the deal is with our employees, so how on earth can I vote to approve an escalation that I think would further harm the coalition and the neighborhood.

"Going to war with the newspaper and the community to me is an escalation. I've noticed also the escalations on email. We're just exploding in the public right now. As Darlene said, there are defamation issues. None of this is helping."

Doing what we denounce

"How can we say we're upset with the NW Examiner if we're in a [Zoom meeting with a comment in]

'chat' right now saying that they're against brown people, that they're bigots? We have to become adults here. This is a serious thing, as Darlene said. We can't just accuse people. We're doing exactly what we're accusing them of doing.

"This is serious business here and a serious undertaking. We can't say that the Examiner has a history of divisive and anti-brown. There are no facts that you can ... base that on. ... And for Rhys, I don't even know the situation, so it's hard for me to give you an opinion, but the mail that is now public to everyone accuses [Allan] directly of being a bigot and anti-trans. I don't know that."

Closed to scrutiny?

"I think you should consider the escalation here and the implications. What about the next newspaper? They're going to create a hostile environment, so now our board is closed, and we have no scrutiny? There's no oversight for us?"

"It's a serious matter. We're about to tell a newspaper in our community that we're not going to do business with it ever and that we won't allow them at our meetings. It's becoming like a Twitter argument with non-board members."

Editor's note:

After a session devoted almost exclusively to this topic and running 30 minutes overtime, the board voted 9-2 to support a resolution introduced by Penkin to bar me from NWNW meetings and to cease doing business with the Examiner immediately.

A motion to adopt the resolution was amended to attempt negotiation prior to enactment.

Voting for the motion:

Joyce Allegra de Rosario, Richard Barker, Les Blaize, Jessie Burke, Darlene Garrett, Jim Olsson, Stan Penkin, Michele Shea-Han and Kristi Wuttig

Voting against the motion:

Steve Pinger and Scott Schaffer

See for yourself

Videos of this and other meetings of NWNW can be viewed at nwnw.org.

Scroll down to Our Board and then scroll to Meeting Minutes.

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Pearl rep Stan Penkin tells his board nothing after delivering haymaker



Stan Pankin

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Members of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association board met Oct. 14, the night after their president, Stan Penkin, presented a resolution banning the NW Examiner from future meetings of the Neighbors West Northwest coalition, where he represents the association. That resolution had not been mentioned at prior PDNA board meetings, and it was not clear that any board members knew what he had done when the following exchange occurred.

The exchange, of which sections are removed for brevity, covers the final minutes of the Oct. 14 PDNA board meeting.

STAN PENKIN:

“There’s no secret that there’s stuff going on at the coalition right now. It’s very complicated. A lot of it is very sensitive, and it’s not something that I feel I’m at liberty to talk about right now. There are things that are in process.”

MARY SIPE:

“Did I miss something? As I’m going through the agenda, it looked like you skipped your report on the Neighbors West Northwest coalition, and so I’m curious about that. So you have nothing

to report?”

BILL BAGNALL:

“I do feel as though ... our mothership has all of these things happening for which we know nothing about. Maybe that’s the intention or maybe that’s not the intention, but when it is being reported on and commented on and the people are coming up to me in the building and asking me about this, and I basically have to say, ‘I have never heard about this. You have read it at the same time I did.’

“I understand the sensitivity, I get that, but I do feel that we are not informed about what’s happening above us.”

STAN PENKIN:

“I get that, Bill. Honestly, I just feel, considering a meeting that was held last night, I feel it wouldn’t be appropriate to get into the weeds on this. It’s just not the right time, and I apologize for that, but right now I feel it’s best for me not to talk about what’s going on right now.

“There was a meeting last night. It was a public meeting. Anybody who was really interested in what was going on could have attended that meeting and found out more. Again, I’m not trying to dodge it and maybe I am, but I just

don’t want to talk about it right now.”

BILL BAGNALL:

“If someone in our group is the representative and they’re at the meeting, I honestly don’t feel that I have to attend the meeting, because I’m going to get a report as to what happened at the meeting. You’re now telling me I could have attended the meeting and know what’s going on. You’re not going to tell me what happened last night. So you can understand that ... I’m left scratching my head on this topic.”

STAN PENKIN:

“At some point, everybody will understand better. Again, I’m sorry.”

JOHN WARNER:

“I am happy to defer to due process or whatever, where confidentiality is needed in the case of what’s happening at Neighbors West Northwest. But nature abhors a vacuum and people are inquisitive, and as Bill said, he’s gotten some questions about what’s going on. Absent information, I think we could be perceived, if not actually feel, a little bit out of the loop, on the defensive, however you want to put it.”

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STRAIGHT FROM THE STREET

Breach of Decorum or Violation of Ethics (ORS 65.377)? A series of emails have recently been discussed and made public at the GHFL Board Meeting of 9/16/21 that the community needs to be made aware of.

Email #1 Dated 8/5/21 {From GHFL Board member A to a community member D}: You should be ashamed of your testimony today (community member D). How dare you invoke Michelle’s horrific dog accident as an argument against livability in this community. I’ll make sure Michelle knows this. People (and dogs) are only going to be more at risk of accidents if there is more traffic without the requisite infrastructure upgrades PBOT isn’t supporting. You are not welcome at any GHFL meetings going forward **and you are not welcome within Goose Hollow . Please remove yourself from any further engagement with this community.** Goodbye signed (redacted)

Email #2 Dated 8/18/21 {From GHFL Board member A to community member D}: I heard there was some concern over my previous email and I apologize for any inference that I could ban you from the GHFL. I cannot ban nor censure you in any GHFL activity nor would I want to. In the heat of the moment I used GHFL instead of FOGH (Friends of Goose Hollow) which is an organization where your perspectives are unwelcome. Please don’t use our neighbor’s dog’s death as an argument to bring 400 more cars to our block. I encourage you to reach out to me directly if you have any future concerns or questions. **(no mention or apology is made for bold statement in email #1)** Signed (redacted)

Email 3 Dated 9/8/21 {From GHFL Board Member A To GHFL Board} I’d like to offer my apology for a MISTAKEN OVERSTEP in my communication with a member of our community on 8/5 that imposed my opinion over top of my role on the GHFL Board. On 8/18 I reached out to the community member to clarify and offer my apology for my MISCOMMUNICATION. In that apology I was clear to absolve the GHFL from any implication with my opinion. I regret this overstep and, above all, am re-morseful for the time spent on this matter that could have been better spent on issues important to our community. **(no mention or apology is made for bold statement in email #1)** Signed (redacted)

Motion of GHFL Board 9/16/21 reads “Board accepts (GHFL Board member A) statements as written.” AYE 7 to 1 vote

Do these apologies address the original email of 8/5/21? Has the GHFL Board acted appropriately? Community input is important so please weigh in at board@goosehollow.org with your opinion and thoughts. All information contained herein is in the public record and video is available at the GHFL website (www.goosehollow.org) under Minutes / v(ideo) for September 2021 (Go to 57 minute mark).

BREACH of DECORUM or VIOLATION of ETHICS? (ORS 65.377)
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Emile Zola Jr.

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NW PORTLAND / PEARL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MAP

NB30 COLLABORATIVE

A cluster of seven residential buildings is planned for the corner of Northwest 29th and Nicolai streets where the Northwest Children's Theater had planned to build before the COVID pandemic. The same developers are building a similar building cluster immediately west. All buildings will be under 20 units apiece to avoid triggering a requirement to include a share of affordable units, a strategy Northwest District Association Planning Committee member John Czarnecki strongly criticized.



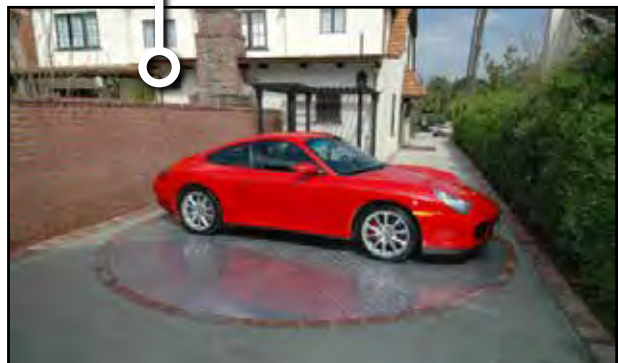
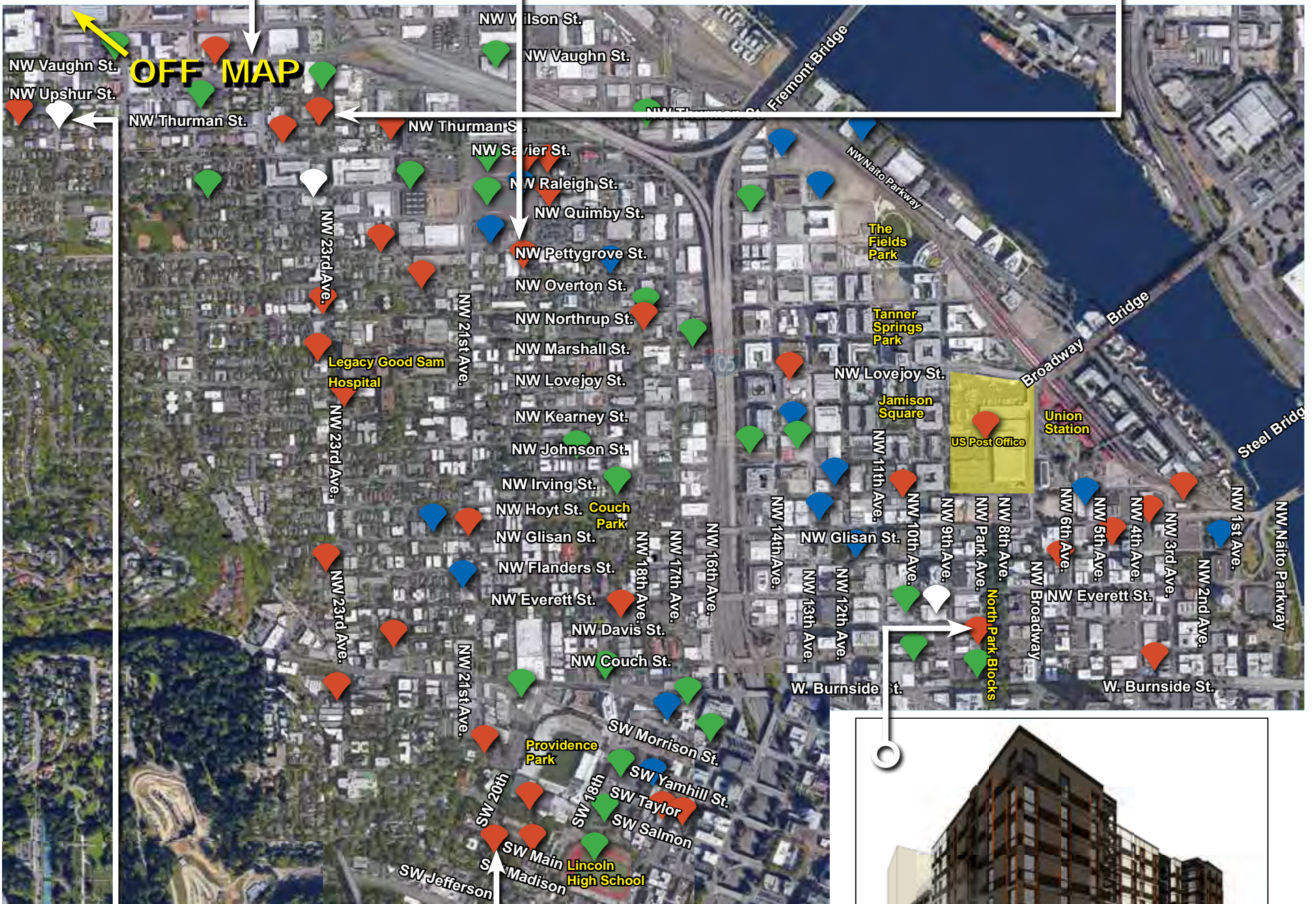
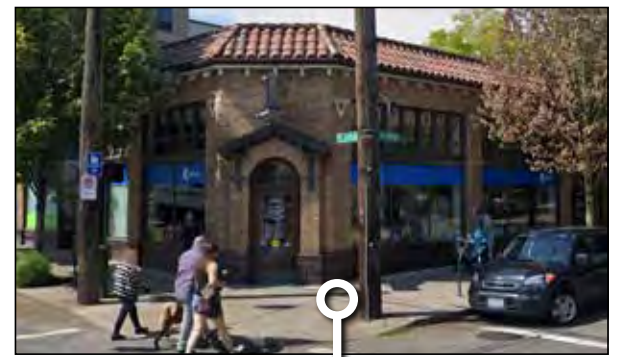
SLABTOWN PARK

Long-frozen plans to build a city park on the eastern half of the block surrounded by Northwest 20th, 21st, Pettygrove and Quimby streets could thaw this month, when the developer of the western half of the block, Guardian Property Management, is expected to receive building permits and then transfer the eastern half to the city. Brett Horner, a Portland Parks & Recreation planner, said construction could begin early next year.



NORTHWEST LIBRARY

Negotiations continue to move the overcrowded Northwest Library to a larger building in the neighborhood. Willamette Week reported that Multnomah County Library officials are in talks to buy a building on the 2000 blocks of Northwest Overton Street. Library spokesperson Liz Sauer said that a new site may be acquired long before funds are available to convert it for library use.



2771 NW THURMAN ST.

Alta Urban Projects, developers of a corner lot at Northwest 28th and Thurman streets, is turning to an old railroad technology to reverse vehicles in tight quarters—a roundhouse. Without the novel solution, cars would be unable to exit a mid-block garage without maneuvering into space from an adjacent backyard shared by owners of 10 row-houses immediately to the north.



MODERA MAIN

The City Council will hear an appeal of the Modera Main, a 17-story residential tower at Southwest 19th, 20th, Main and Madison streets Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m. The Goose Hollow Foothills League is appealing an approval by the Design Commission based in part on its bulk, which has more than double the square footage per lot size of any building in the neighborhood. To participate in the virtual hearing, visit portlandoregon.gov/auditor/26997



CAMBRIA HOTEL

The Portland Design Commission and Pearl District Neighborhood Association alike have been critical of preliminary designs for Cambria Hotel on the Northwest Park Blocks between Couch and Davis streets. Both call for higher quality materials and a more distinctive look befitting the prominent location. Substantial modifications by SERA Architects are expected before the next design hearing.



For an interactive and continually updated version of this map, visit NextPortland.com
Also see the development map maintained by the Goose Hollow Foothills League: goosehollow.org/images/GooseHollowDevelopmentMap.pdf



Robots are coming

Top Burmese founder Calvin Myint introduced Oregon's first robotic server at his Beaverton restaurant last year, and now 12 robots roam his three restaurants, which include Top Burmese at 413 NW 21st Ave. and his newest, Burmese Joy at 1305 NW 23rd Ave.

The initial rationale was to allow social distancing as indoor dining began opening up after the initial wave of COVID hit. They are used primarily to carry food to tables and haul empty dishes back to the kitchen. Although the capability to communicate with customers and take orders exists, Myint believes human servers can do that better.

"Our staff can now focus more on hospitality and leave the burden of carrying anything heavy or dangerous to the robots," he told the Portland Tribune this spring.

"It has a camera that actually reads all the different QR codes on the ceiling and then the



LIDAR that uses light to detect objects around it for collision avoidance," Myint said in an interview with Oregon Public Broadcasting. "In a nutshell, it knows where it is and it knows where it needs to go."

Customers have taken to the robots.



"He's a celebrity," Myint said of his first robot, named Milo. "We have families that just come here for Milo. I guess he's getting more popular than the restaurant."

Myint and his wife Poe started the business from a virtual kitchen on Northwest 16th Avenue.

Community Events

Community Awards



The NW EXAMINER 26TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARDS will be held Saturday, Nov. 13, 6p.m. at Redfox Commons, 2638 NW Wilson St. Plaques will be presented to eight individuals and organizations that have contributed to the neighborhoods in the Examiner's coverage area. The event is free and open to all. Complimentary snacks and beverages will be served. Mask wearing is required.

Chrysalis

"The Waiting Room," part of the Chrysalis multimedia art installation by F.L. Carrera, presents the cocoon lifestyle brought on by the COVID pandemic. It can be seen by appointment through Nov. 10 at Northwest Marine Artworks, 2516 NW 29th Ave. Contact artbycarrera@gmail.com.

What We Carried

"What We Carried: Threads," photographs by Jim Lomasson of objects and writing carried by immigrants to the United States, will be exhibited through Nov. 16 at PLACE, 735 NW 18th Ave. This image is a holy pouch called the Bukhechick made in Iraq and blessed with holy water. The exhibit is presented by TextileX Month and The Immigrant Story. For an appointment, contact atsuko.komoto@place.la.

Pittock Christmas

Tickets for Pittock Mansion Christmas Critters Make Merry, an exhibit running Nov. 22-Jan. 4, are on sale. To order, visit pittockmansion.org/events. Admission is \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors, \$9 for youth and children 5 and under are free.



Closings & Opening

DARSALAM, a small chain of Iraqi restaurants, permanently closed its Pearl District and Hawthorne Boulevard locations in October.

"The family has really struggled with coming to an agreement but after looking at the num-

bers we just can't keep going," the Instagram announcement reads.

SKYLINE TAVERN PROJECT at 8031 NW Skyline Blvd., closed temporarily earlier this year. The phone number is not being answered.

VIVACE, the coffee shop at 1400 NW 23rd Ave., has been closed for months without notice or indication of future plans. The phone produces a perpetual busy signal.

CURI & DOMAINE fine wine merchants will open at 1723 NW 24th Ave. next month.

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4th Saturday CleanUp
Nov 27, 9am - 10am: help pick up litter in our neighborhood; sponsored by SOLVE. Check out our website for more info or email mikayla@nwportlandhostel.com.

NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 27, No. 11 "News You Can't Always Believe" NOVEMBER 2021

Bomb Cycle Bombs

Ever since Ron survived the legendary Columbus Day storm as a teenager, the Nob Hill Bar & Grill has never heard the end of it. So when the recent news was full of bomb cyclone updates, Ron dawned his swim goggles.

Well, we all know the "bomb" was more of a dud. Nevertheless, Ron is still wearing the goggles. Despite the nickname, Aqua Boy, Ron insists he won't be caught off guard again.

Ron has never missed Nobbys Thanksgiving and is determined to keep his streak alive.

The Nob Hill Bar & Grill will be serving a traditional Thanksgiving meal, complete with all the fixin's, starting at 12 noon Thanksgiving Day.

So plan on being there. As Aqua Boy says, come hell or high water.

BURGER COUNT
1,273,570

Enter your name for a monthly drawing.
This month's winner is Dennis Short

Nob Hill Bar & Grill

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WALLACE PARK CENTENNIAL



The centennial celebration of Wallace Park was held last month under sunny skies. The event, which drew hundreds of neighbors to an afternoon of music, family activities, food and a dog parade, was organized by Friends of Wallace Park. Five speakers reflected on the park's role in their lives.

For information on Friends of Wallace Park and its ongoing efforts to enhance the park, visit wallaceparkpdx.org.

Biggest fan gives thanks

Wallace Park, what a wonderful and better-than-perfect place. Wallace Park is the nexus of our terrific neighborhood and culture in beautiful and beloved Northwest Portland. I was a young man when I found Wallace Park 47 years ago, or maybe its magnetic force found me. I was in need of many things, and I found them all. Parks are where communities come together in many ways.

Wallace Park has everything—open fields, basketball courts, dogs, a school, trees, grass, nature, water fountains and sky, and the nicest and coolest people in the world, and that's just for starters. We would come to play, to learn, to grow, to find peace, solitude, fresh air and clear skies. We did it all, right here at our glorious Wallace Park. Wallace Park made me the person I am today.

I'm eternally grateful to the city of Portland for this magnificent treasure and for the people of this most special neighborhood and community. Northwest Portland and Wallace Park, the foundational pillars of the best that life has to offer. I was there then, and I'm still here now, and I'm proud, loyal, and grateful to be a part of something so special.

Thank you, Wallace Park. Thank you, Northwest Portland. Thank you, for the memories, the dreams and my life.

— Bill Walton

Last story

Soon after moving to the neighborhood in 1981, I learned that Wallace Park was the place to play pickup basketball. That led to meeting Rich Philofsky, who also liked to play ball there. He and others soon filled me in on what I had missed in the 1970s, when Trail Blazer star and Northwest Kearney resident Bill Walton often played hoops with neighborhood guys just for the fun of it. No one recalled the scores or who won; all were simply honored that Walton played with them. They retold stories of those days at Wallace Park the rest of their lives.

Years later, Rich got ALS and in time lost the ability to speak. He could only communicate through use of an alphabet board that someone would slowly move their finger along until it touched the right letter. Then he would blink his eyes. The process was so painstaking that all soon learned to guess the rest of the sentence after learning the first few letters.

The last time I was able to communicate with Rich in this manner he began with the letters W-A-L, to which I blurted, "Bill Walton." He blinked. Then I guessed the story he wanted to tell, one of his favorites that I had heard before. I said a few words and he blinked again.

This was the story: Walton told him to pick up his prescription at the Irving Street Pharmacy, where he would say that Bill had asked him to deliver it to Memorial Coliseum before the game. Once at the coliseum, he should go to the service entry and tell them he was delivering drugs for Walton for the Irving Street Pharmacy. Then he should bring the drugs to Walton in the dressing room. After that, he could go into the arena and watch the game because no one would check for a ticket.

So he did, and he saw the game. He didn't mention who won the game, but he never forgot the day he had the best seat in the house: a standing-room-only spot on the concourse at the special (if illicit) invitation of the Big Kid on the Block, Bill Walton.

— Allan Classen



The long-anticipated Wallace Park centennial, postponed more than a year due to COVID, brought neighbors together for a day of fun and reflection.

Photos by Katie Rowe and Matt Erceg



In Wallace Park

There is a place,

Where swifths divebomb, while children slide down a hill on cardboard sleds,

Where parents are begged for just five more minutes, then five minutes later, for five minutes more.

Where we liveandplayandlaughandlove and everything in between.

A place where we take care of the days and the years take care of themselves but the park still stands, waiting for you to come and play.

This is Wallace Park.

Some of my earliest memories are my stroller route through the park, climbing the monkey bars, and my dad pushing me on the swing saying don't go too high, little mouse! Watch out for the trees! Watch out for the planes! Watch out for the sky!

With no idea things wouldn't stay like that forever.

It's where I come now, without a thought of strollers or monkey bars or swings.

Yet, the park made change feel like home.

Which is the mystery of Wallace Park. How everything changes but everything stays the same.

Generations have hunted for the bronze sculptures scattered about, have had picnics on the grass when portland wasn't being portland. The world dies and is reborn every time a clock ticks and the park remains immortal. It's a part of everyone who visits's story, no matter how different they may be.

Because the park belongs to all of us. To the young, who will flock back with their kids someday. To the old, who swing and slide and become a child again. To the dreamers who will go from Wallace's courts to stadiums. To the birds and squirrels and trees that have always been here before us, and will be after.

And to you. You are part of the park's story, whether it be for a walk or a lifetime. You, who cemented its legacy not in stone but in action, for a hundred years now, and for a hundred years more.

There is a place,

Where time is well spent no matter how we spend it

Where our nature is one with nature

Where we simply exist, together.

We are Wallace Park.

— Frankie Beardsley

Wallace's vision

I am grateful to be with you today as we observe this 100th anniversary of our beloved park, although it isn't merely the longevity of this picturesque place we celebrate, but rather what it represents and what it provides.

As a member of the Wallace family, I laud not merely the man who was my great-great-grandfather. Instead, I invite you to join me in considering the values we share with Mr. Wallace.

More than 100 years ago, Councilman Wallace, an immigrant in search of kinship, reflected on how a supportive community shaped his life, and he worked to ensure the city of Portland could rely on green spaces to foster that community. As our city and surrounding municipalities experienced huge industrial and residential development, Mr. Wallace recognized that thriving, public, universally accessible parks cultivate connection between neighbors in a way nothing else can.

This pandemic is not entirely dissimilar to the flu pandemic the Wallace family endured just prior to the dedication of this park. Today, as it was then, community feels elusive and critically important. What better an antidote to separateness than a park in which to gather.

I suggest the most significant purpose of a park—this park—was, and is, to see one another. Not to be seen in a high society sort of way, or be seen for one's business acumen or status. Rather, to assemble in one another's company, regardless of who has the most money, fame or social prowess. Of course, in this park we can, and we do play, talk, educate, bask in the sunshine and cool down in the shade—together, but in so doing we become more humble and compassionate. As Coretta Scott King said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

I share my great-great-grandfather's belief that the compassionate acts of our community can begin right here, and extend far beyond the borders of this park. I welcome every one of us today to help fulfill Mr. Wallace's vision of not enjoying this park merely for our own sake, but to catapult the experiences we have here to a higher empathy for our neighbors. Be here today for yourself and for one another. Find the dignity and the best in your fellow citizens, and take that knowledge out into the world to do good work. Then return here, for a picnic, a baseball game, a walk with your dog ... and say hello to your neighbors.

— Elizabeth Sabin Rouffy

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A dog parade and judging had prizes for dogs in categories not generally recognized in the canine circuit.

Photos by Katie Rowe



My Wallace Park

My path as an adult has taken me to a place that on the surface appears very different from this spot. I flew up last night from Los Angeles, where I've lived since the 1980s. It's a very complicated urban environment, where every social, economic and cultural issue is amplified a thousand times, and I've spent much of my time there writing about all that, working to gain proximity to the people and places that allow us to understand what's really going on—to not shy away or recoil or think any portion of that big messy place is off-limits.

So what does that have to do with this lovely park? Back in the 1960s and '70s, Wallace Park was the first environment that I had an opportunity—a license—to explore, to immerse myself in, to take chances in, to stumble and fall and test myself in, to gain some confidence from and at a very young age, to think of as my own. In my park.

We lived on 25th Avenue in an apartment building that's still there, where my mom's political career was born at the kitchen table. This was like our backyard. My dad—the artist Mel Katz, who's here with us today—first brought me here to throw the ball around, tossing me grounders and pop flies while reciting the names of the baseball heroes of his youth in New York. A hard chopper off the bat of Joe DiMaggio! A towering blast smacked by Duke Snider! Soon enough, I was an official Wallace Park Little Leaguer, playing for the minor league Tigers on the smaller field and then the major league Cubs on the main diamond. It was the beginning of a lifelong love affair with baseball. But more than that, it was thrilling to put on my uniform—made of the thickest, heaviest flannel, with a hand-embroidered logo—and be part of something: a team, a league, a neighborhood, a community. Wallace Park offered that gift.

And it didn't stop there. We used the park for everything: monkey bars, swings, teeter-totters. We had water balloon fights, did after-school crafts, played hide and seek in the bushes. I broke my finger playing shortstop on that field. I took a snowball in the eye at the edge of 26th. It was a place of true freedom.

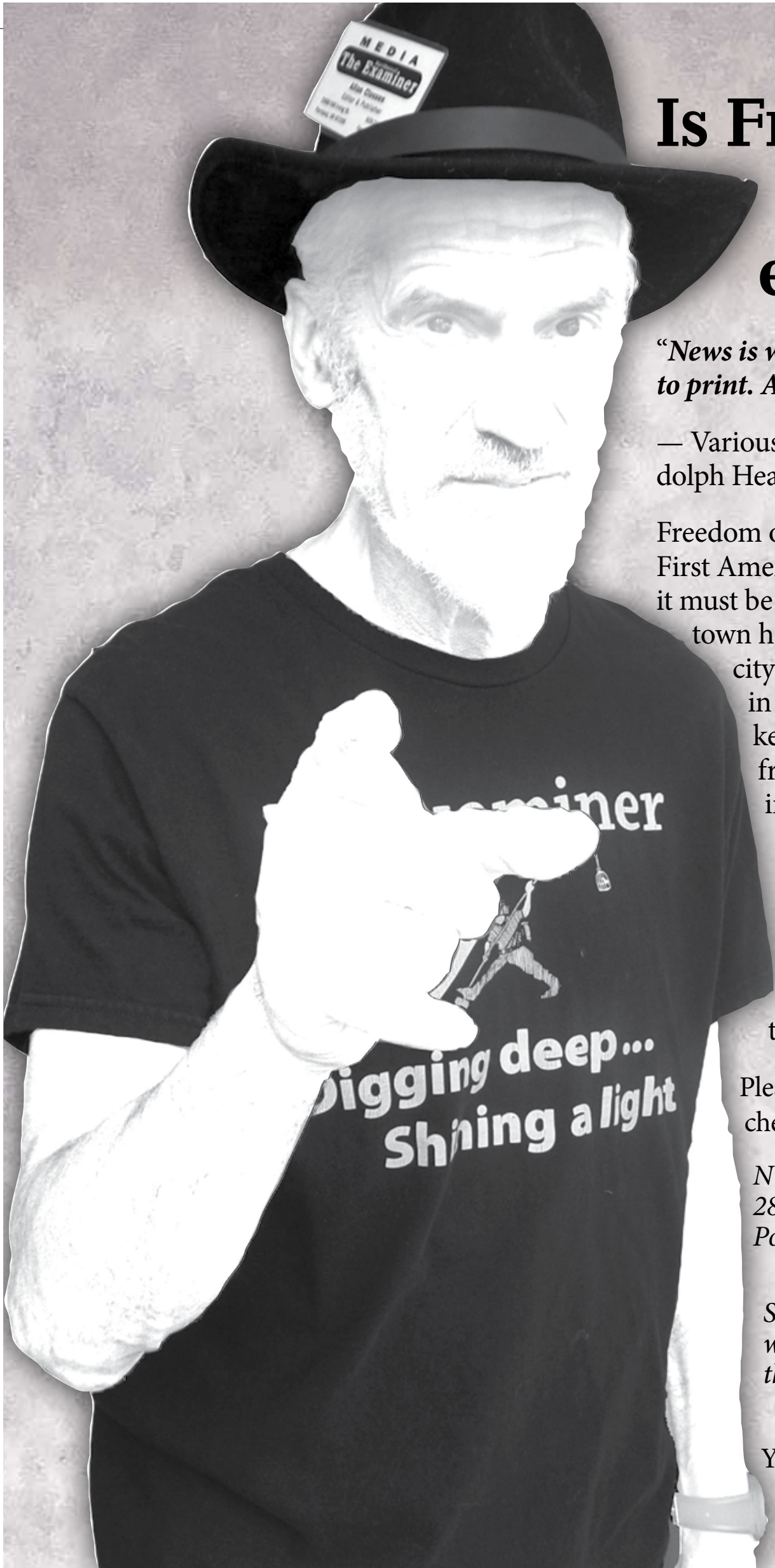
I wanted to share a Bill Walton story of my own. The year I turned 12, the Trail Blazers signed Bill as the number one overall pick in the NBA draft, and some of you remember what a huge deal that was. The Blazers had been around for four years and had finished in last place every single season, and now we had this monumental talent who would soon lead the city to its first and only NBA championship. What I remember most is that we'd see Bill Walton playing pickup ball right on that slab of concrete there—headband on, long red ponytail flopping around. It was kind of amazing and yet also perfectly normal. He lived in the community; this was his park too.

When I was in seventh or eighth grade right there at Chapman and we decided to start a school newspaper, my first idea for a story was to interview Walton. Why not? He was a celebrity but also just a guy from the neighborhood. And because I'd seen him at the park, I somehow believed that I could just go knock on his door—totally unannounced, uninvited. It was a simpler time, but still that was kind of crazy.

Walton himself opened the door that day, looked down about a foot or two at me as I tried to explain who I was and what I was doing there, and then incredibly, he guided me to the dining room table where he was eating dinner—I remember a towering mound of brown rice—and invited me to sit down. I'm not exactly sure what we talked about or how skillfully I scribbled down his words, this totally wet-behind-the-ears kid from Chapman Elementary and the soon-to-be MVP of the 1977 NBA Finals. But it changed the course of my life. I didn't know it then, but Bill Walton, this park—because none of it was off-limits—started me on my career as a writer.

That memory was the first thing that popped into my mind when I learned about this special event, and I was so pleased to be able to come here and share it with you today. I'm so grateful to the Friends of Wallace Park for the spirit of care and community they've reawakened here. And I'm hopeful that in another 100 years—or even just 50 years—some young girl or boy who's here right now will have a story of their own to tell.

— Jesse Katz



Is Freedom of the Press being erased?

“News is what somebody does not want you to print. All the rest publicity.”

— Various attributed to William Randolph Hearst, George Orwell and others

Freedom of the press is guaranteed by the First Amendment. But it is not guaranteed; it must be defended daily in every city and town hall. Today, the fight is against a city-funded neighborhood coalition in Northwest Portland seeking to keep me and the NW Examiner from attending their public meetings.

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The subscription drive continues. Our goal is 1,000 subscriptions in the first year. We have about 200 to go.



Portland Police booked Michael S. VanDomelen, 45, of Portland on two counts of first degree murder. The victims in Oct. 24 the double homicide were Daniel C. Davis, 47, and Ashlie D. Walker, 37, (left) both of Portland. Police responded to a report of shots heard inside an apartment building in the 300 block of Northwest Sixth Avenue and found their bodies.



A neighbor captured video of a vehicle fleeing the scene after crashing into a car near Northwest 25th and Westover streets last month. Another witness commented on NextDoor.com, "There seemed to be three vehicles all working together, one of which hit our car. Sounds like a group doing car prowls, thefts, catalytic converter thefts."

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Greenbrier Marine launched Crown Point, a 315-foot dredging barge, from its Northwest Portland dock Oct. 23. Greenbrier-Gunderson is the leading manufacturer of this type of barge. It has built or is under contract for 13 of them.
Photo by HH Click Photography



Portland Pearl Rotary Club honored 17-year-old Lincoln High School senior Nitsa Kehoe as its student of the month for October. Kehoe plays in the school's wind ensemble and pep band and is a member of MVP Dance Elite.



A large fire ignited by an exploding propane tank in a homeless camp at Northwest 23rd and York streets Oct. 21.



Goose Hollow Days took advantage of one of the last good weather days of the season for a street festival featuring live music, history tours, children's activities and food.
Photo by Steve Salomon



A burglar filmed by a security camera as he rappelled from the roof into Pearl Hardware Oct. 21 has been arrested by Portland Police officers. Joseph Reynolds, 31, had previous charges related to burglary and possession of a firearm as a felon. Reynolds and accomplices allegedly stole about \$5,000 in merchandise from Pearl Hardware.

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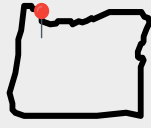
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James N.



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Bill A.



Julie Williams and Eleete Real Estate did a wonderful job guiding me through the process of selling my home. From providing the free use of a moving van to prepping the property, staging, taking professional photos, and posting to the appropriate sites. I received daily updates on viewings and interest and accepted a multi-bid offer above asking in less than 2 weeks of being on the market. I could not be happier!

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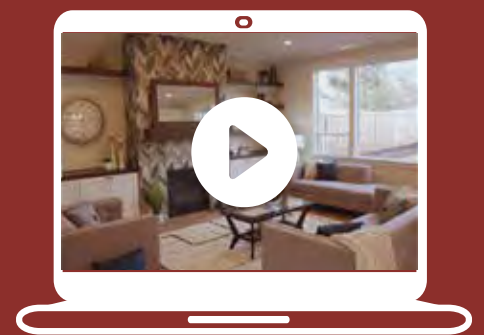
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