

“Digging deep,
Shining a light”

INSIDE



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Vision with
no strings



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COVID meets
high-rise



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Life assignment

JANUARY 2021/ VOLUME 34, NO. 5

FREE

SERVING PORTLAND'S NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOODS SINCE 1986 [nwexaminer](#)

Pearl volunteers find ever-smaller ways to help

Cigarette butts collected, counted, turned into household products

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Portland's “city that works” slogan may draw more scoffs than salutes these days, but one corner of the dominion is doing its part. The Pearl District Neighborhood Association has been picking up trash, painting over graffiti, providing pet waste stations and patrolling its streets on its own dime for more than a decade, and its mission keeps expanding.

The association's latest livability initiative—collecting cigarette butts—may be the purest example to date of identifying a problem, crafting a solution, raising private dollars and then creating an ongoing program to fix it. To top it off, the used butts are shipped off to a plant in Chicago, where they are remanufactured into backpacks for children, shopping bags and other

household products.

The program was launched by Pearl resident Dave Mitchell, who saw a cigarette receptacle in a freeway rest stop in California in 2016 and thought something like it was needed in his own neighborhood. His research eventually led him to a New Jersey firm called TerraCycle, which not only sold receptacles but operated a comprehensive program employed in Seattle, Pittsburgh, and other cities around the United States and Canada.

Mitchell was off to a good start, but the city that works didn't make his job easy. It took almost a year to get approval from the city to mount the receptacles on sidewalk sign posts. The receptacles aren't cheap—\$100—so PDNA had to raise about \$10,000 to spread



Linda Witt (L-R), Chris Mackovjak, Tom Biller, John Gillette and James Gulick ready for duty. Other regulars on the Pearl District Neighborhood Association Cigarette Butt team not pictured are Walter Kuncio, David Mitchell and Judie Dunken. Photo by Nathan Jundt

100 of them across the district.

Progress stalled when it was learned that it would cost \$25,000 a year to have Central

City Concern workers empty the bins on a weekly basis.

PDNA's broad shoulders came to the rescue. The association



Continued on page 6



Bridge to Forest Park appeals to Montgomery Park developer

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Pedestrian bridges are big in Portland these days. A year ago, the Barbara Walker Crossing taking the Wildwood Trail over West Burnside Street was dedicated with dancers, dignitaries and music. Crowds are expected to watch cranes raise the span of the long-awaited Flanners Crossing over Inter-

state 405 later this month.

And developers of Montgomery Park envision a pedestrian bridge over Northwest Wardway Street to connect residents, workers and tourists to a promised urban hub near the Forest Park entrance at Lower Macleay Park.

“We understand the real benefit to creating a public gateway to Forest Park that

Continued on page 5

Fryer's Quality Pie Shop - circa 1980s

Of Characters and Cream Pies -When Salvation Was Just Down the Street

BY HARRY CUMMINS

In 1992, despite a fevered cult-like following, Fryer's Quality Pie Shop on the corner of Northwest 23rd and Marshall, shuttered its doors forever. Once a neighborhood's all-night therapy and redemption emporium, it has remained vacant ever since. Some say society's current ills can be directly traced to its demise, and to places just like it all across America.

To true believers and searchers alike, this brightly lit coffee shop with the rotating sign out front was a spellbinding beacon in the Northwest night, a veritable lost and found department for the human spirit. For over 50 years, the “QP” was a place where people found much more than the marquee or menu claimed.

What follows is a retelling of a true account, first appearing in the pages of the NW Examiner 33

years ago. It describes an all-night odyssey, an assignment filled with characters and cream pies, and if it weren't for my stained reporter's notebook in front of me, I could not actually swear it really happened in just the way I am about to tell.

8:30 P.M.

I walk through the front door and notice a man with a flashlight peering into a plastic cage. Like

Continued on page 14



 SW Park Place Victor Noble Jones Architect	 SW Fairview Circus Marvin Witt Architect	 NW 22nd Ave 1910 Craftsman Duplex	 NW Thurman St Frank Blachly Architect	 SW 18th Place David Giulietti Architect	 NW Thurman St Emil Schacht Architect	 NW Vaughn St Roberts and Roberts Architects					
 SE Franklin St Richmond Mid-century Ranch	 SW Cheltenham Ct 1861 The Governor Curry House	 SE 25th Ave Lady Grace	 NW Thurman St Emil Schacht Architect	 NW Savier St Jamieson Parker Architect	 NW Thurman St Thurman Street Lofts	 NW Cornell Road John Virginus Bennes Architect					
 NW Roosevelt St 1904 Slabtown Victorian	 NW Raleigh St Sean Becker's House	 NW 27th Ave Rooftop Rowhouses	<p>If you got a new neighbor on your street in 2020, chances are The Dan Volkmer Team found them.</p> <p>“The top 10 list for why working with The Dan Volkmer Team is the right choice:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. You guys know what you're doing and it shows 9. You inspire confidence that the house will sell successfully as a result 8. You push on things that you know are important and let go of things that are less so 7. You know how to listen 6. You do your homework and present the data, not the dream (i.e., pricing, realistic assessments, etc.) 5. You set a strategy and execute accordingly 4. You like to win 3. You know the market and you convey its advantages, disadvantages with honesty and integrity 2. You have a well-oiled machine, working together to bring the deal home 1. You had my house under contract in 10 days with a bidding war as you said you would when you presented the strategy <p>In short, you and your team made selling my house an easy process, and it was a pleasure working with you. You said what you were going to do, you did it, the house sold, and we are all happy!</p> <p>Many thanks, Dan! Happy Holidays to you and your team. Best regards, Jill”</p>			 SE 35th Place Hawthorne Rowhouse	 SE Rex St New 2008 - 100% Recycled Materials				
 SW 58th Ave Sylvan Crest Townhomes	 SE 29th Ave 1910 Sunnyside Craftsman	 NW Cornell Road 3.2 Acre Forest Park Retreat				 NW Seblar Terrace Orgo & Olson - Street of Dreams Architects	 NW Hoyt St Herman Trenkmann House restored by William Jameson	 NW Thurman St 1906 Once Home to Michelle Russo & Sally Haley	 SW Highland Pkwy 1970s Pacific NW Contemporary	 NW Johnson St 1904 Whidden and Lewis Architects	 NW Wilson St 1906 Slab Town Dutch Colonial
 NE 18th Ave Meticulous Restoration of an Irvington Craftsman	 NW 32nd Ave William Christmas Knighton Architect	 NE Tillamook St Yellow Diamond in Eliot				 NW Aspen Ave Green Gables Design	 SW Scenic Drive Vista Hills Modern	 NW Northrup St 1907 Craftsman in The Golden Triangle	 SW Westwood Dr Jack P. Reverman Built on Terwilliger Heights		
 NW Hoyt St 1885 Joseph Bergman House - Bosco Milligan	 NE Graham St 1905 Irvington Victorian	 SW Davenport St 1964 Contemporary Portland Heights				 SE Grant St Richmond Craftsman Revival	 NW Marshall St Alphabet District Brownstone	 NW Johnson St 1907 Cohn-Sichel Residence	 NW Johnson St Tanner Place Condominiums		
 NW Westover Terrace Westover Terraces Condominiums	 NW 12th Ave The MacKenzie Lofts	 NW Monte Vista Terrace 1938 French - Normandy Keppinger Restoration				 NW Flanders St The Embassy Condominiums					

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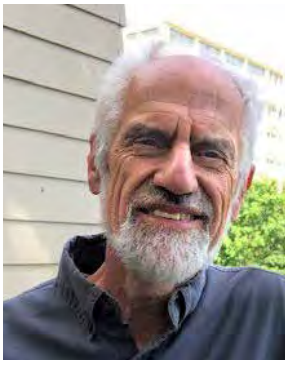


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A vision for sale

Former City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly tried to wipe out Portland's neighborhood system. She lost the battle, despite fighting feverishly through her last month in office. Still, she may have won the war.

Portland's neighborhood associations will continue to exist, just as they did before the city inaugurated the pioneering Office of Neighborhood Involvement in 1975. But the unique mechanism and culture whereby the city funded the associations' work at arm's length to preserve their political independence has largely collapsed.

The idea that public funding could come without strings was dicey from the start. Like parents underwriting a college education for their offspring while telling them they can be anything they want to be, the line can be crossed before either side realizes it.

Portland's noble experiment in promoting grassroots democracy failed, in my view, when hardly a remnant remembered what a fragile concept it was.

It was done in by the philosophy of "Think globally. Act locally," an anodyne slogan not actually applied in this instance but one that I'll use to make a point.

Thinking globally is about addressing the great issues affecting all people—world peace, racial justice, inequality and climate change. A global perspective leading to personal action on these earth-changing challenges should be each of our responsibility.

Ironically, it may also be a recipe for dysfunction when applied to the more mundane, practical purposes of neighborhood associations, which are at their best when they unite folks around common concerns and community building activities. Discussion of partisan loyalties is the last thing they need.

Eudaly injected divisive global-scale rhetoric into the equation but could not convince voters that the neighborhood activists doing little things to make their communities safe, clean, aware and connected were the bad guys.

Despite this, staff at coalition offices are carrying on as if she had won the election and that they should continue to take marching orders from her. Neighbors West/Northwest staff initiated

a visioning process involving representatives of the 11 neighborhood associations in the coalition. A summary of a board retreat held last January listed the need to "focus on the bigger picture" rather than being "neighborhood association focused."

The document emphasized collaborating with other kinds of organizations and adding board seats for those not representing neighborhood associations.

One suggested goal for the coalition was to "reappropriate your privilege to benefit others." The staff also recommended "center[ing] indigenous knowledge."

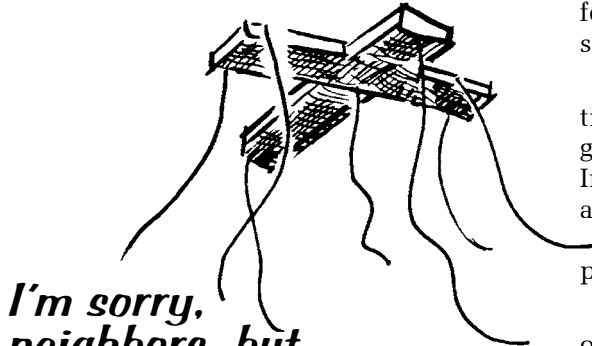
These were presented as discussion items, not approved policies, but the direction is clear. Importantly, the thinking came from NWNW staff. The visioning project manager wrote of the need to "give them [Visioning Committee members] the extra buy-in that is needed to sell this all to the board."

Portland neighborhood leaders are mostly liberal, tolerant folks who take seriously charges of exclusivity and of not involving enough minorities. They accept this line of criticism and vow to work harder to overcome racism and inequality.

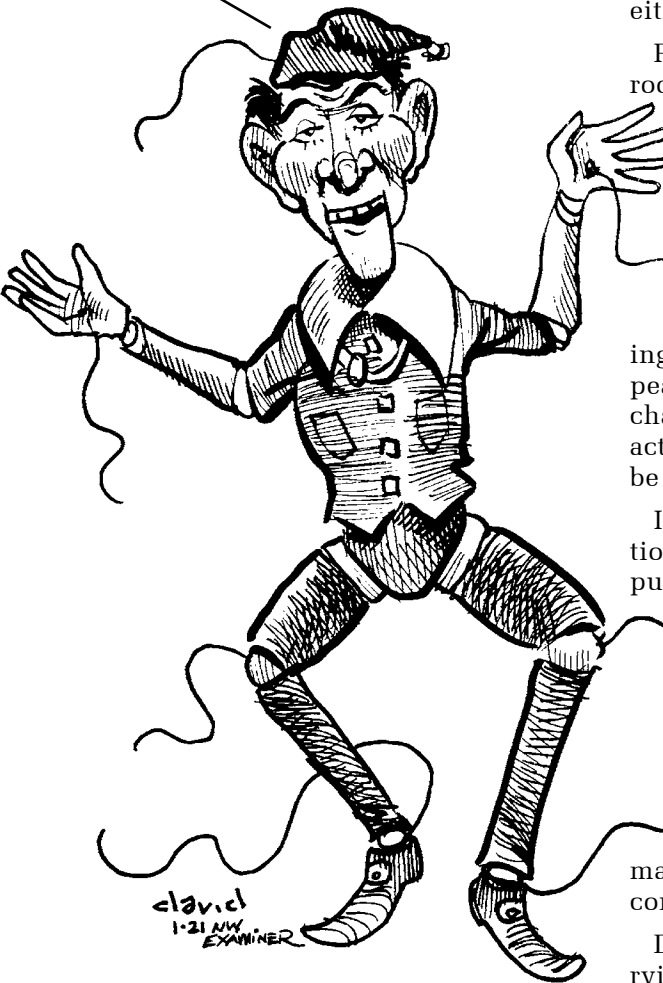
These values embody the right way to behave and to conduct business, but they are not the central mission of the coalition. The legal duty of the coalition board is to represent the interests of the neighborhood associations who are its members. That's what a coalition is. And the primary duty of each association in the coalition is to represent its citizen members and amplify their voice in raising agreed-upon concerns.

I am not expressing anything original or controversial. These bedrock principles are not dressed up in cutting-edge rhetoric, nor do they need to be. Revising mission statements should not be about selling the notion that an organization is something other than what it is.

Turning an organization inside out, spinning it around and sending it off in a new direction is what Eudaly tried to do with Portland's neighborhood system. There is no call for another spin cycle at the local level. We could use some balance and clear thinking. If you don't know who you are, you don't know where you are going. ■



I'm sorry, neighbors, but my hands are tied.



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.

COVID cases questioned

Gov. Kate Brown's mid-November "freeze" shutting down Northwest restaurants cited a shortage of intensive care beds at Oregon Health Sciences University. The governor claimed the ICU was at "90 percent capacity."

This is highly misleading. Per an earlier directive, every ICU in Ore-

gon was supposed to reserve beds for corona patients, and the reservation requirement was about 30 percent and completely arbitrary. In other words, 90 percent capacity of the reservation.

The reality is, most Oregon ICU beds are empty. Moreover, Medicare pays \$13,000 for a corona patient and \$4,000 for a non-specific pneumonia patient, but a hospital admission can be based on pre-

sumptive corona without a test, so what is an OHSU hospital administrator going to do?

Perhaps we need a freeze on the statistical voodoo.

Thomas J. Busse
NW Flanders St.

Editor's note: An OHSU spokesperson said, "At OHSU, patients are admitted based on urgency and medical need, with those requiring

life-saving interventions receiving first priority. Reimbursement is not a factor in determining whether a critically ill patient should be admitted to OHSU. ... A hospital's capacity is not determined by physical infrastructure or number of beds; rather, capacity is determined by the number of clinicians a hospital has available to care for patients in those beds."

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Barbara Council

Barbara Jean Council, who grew up in Northwest Portland and attended local schools, died Sept. 17 of liver failure at age 70. Barbara Peterson was born June 3, 1950, and attended Chapman Elementary School and Lincoln High School. She attended Chabot Community College in Hayward, Calif., and the University of California, Santa Barbara, majoring in political science. She married Michael Council in 1975; they divorced. She returned to Portland in 1987. She worked for A. G. Edwards Investments. She was active in community and political groups and volunteered for SMART Reading. She is survived by her daughter, Michelle Council; sister, Audell Osgood; and brother, John Peterson.

Joan B. Cutting



Joan Browne Cutting, a teacher for many years at Ainsworth and Chapman schools, died Oct. 30 at age 99. Joan Chrystall was born Oct. 21, 1921, in Portland. She attended Lincoln High School, Reed Col-

lege, Smith College in Massachusetts, Columbia University in New York and the University of Oregon. She married Lt. William Browne in 1942 and joined him in the Philippines after World War II. After the war, they moved to Oregon and bought a home in West Slope, where she lived for over 60 years. In 1983, she married Donald Cutting. They were avid travelers and outdoors people who volunteered for the Mycological Society, which studies fungi. She is survived by her sons, William Browne and Gordon Browne; and two grandchildren.

Marilyn M. Divine



Marilyn Marie Divine, owner and stylist at Leepin' Lizards Hair Place in Goose Hollow, died Nov. 28 at age 61. She was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho. She attended Idaho Falls High School and Idaho State University before moving to Eugene in 1981. The salon opened on Northwest 21st Avenue in 1997 and moved to Southwest 19th Avenue in 2012. She per-

formed improvisation comedy at the Brody Theater in Northwest Portland and at the Portland Underground Graduate School. She volunteered at the Displaced Pet Rescue shelter in Vernonia. She is survived by her sister, Kathy Strahm.

Eric Hoffman



Eric Howard Irwin Hoffman, Hillside neighborhood resident, died Dec. 7 at age 63 of multiple myeloma. He was born April 22, 1957, in Portland, the grandson of Lee Hawley Hoffman, who founded Hoffman Construction Co. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1975 and received a bachelor's degree in construction engineering management at Oregon State University in 1979 and an MBA at Dartmouth University. He married Janice Kelleher in 1983, and they moved to Portland in 1984, where he worked at Hoffman Construction for 36 years. He oversaw construction of Park Avenue West, Twelve 1 West and the Portland Art Museum North Wing. He was a member of the Oregon State University Foundation board as well as the Portland Racquet Club, Mount Bailey Boys ski group and the Skyline Trail Riders. He is survived by his wife, Janice; daughter, Karine; son Brennen; mother, Jean Irwin Hoffman; sisters, Joan Hoffman, Susan Hoffman and Sally Miller.

She graduated from Alvernia High School in 1946 and attended medical business college. She worked at Loretto Hospital as a medical stenographer. She married Angelo Colasurdo in 1951, and they moved to Portland in 1955. She was president of the Portland Opera Guild and sang in the choirs at St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher Catholic churches, where she was a member. She was also a member of St. Birgitta and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic churches. She is survived by her husband, Angelo; daughters, Jeanine Ierulli and Elizabeth Colasurdo, Marita Ingalsbe, Terese Stassinis, Celeste Colasurdo, Christine Colasurdo; sons, John, Bernie and Michael; sisters, Barbara Boril, Josephine Lopez, Anne Macalik and Gerry Bandera; 21 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Death Notices

JAMES A. SCHLUETER, 87, 35-year employee at Consolidated Freightways.

GLORIA BACHARACH, 96, manager of the Judaica Shop at Neveh Shalom for 20 years.



Cultural Center Annual Membership Meeting Slated for February 16, 2021

The Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center (NNCC) will hold its annual membership meeting at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Because of COVID related restrictions, the meeting will take place as a Zoom hosted teleconference. Members of record as of January 16, 2021 who wish to attend the meeting will need to register in advance. Please watch our web site www.nncpdx.com for more information about this meeting and the advance registration process.

Directors for the term beginning in 2021 will be elected. Louisa McCleary, Juliet Hyams and Tavo Cruz, all incumbent Directors, have announced that they will stand for re-election.

If any member of the corporation wishes to nominate for Directors persons other than those proposed by the Nominating Committee, said member shall do so by delivering to the Secretary not less than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting a petition signed by at least ten (10) members naming the nominee or nominees and stating that each nominee has agreed to serve if elected. The Secretary shall state at the Annual Meeting, prior to the election of directors, the names and qualifications of those nominated by petition. Nominating petitions may be delivered to the NNCC Secretary by US Mail at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center, P.O. Box 96116, Portland, Oregon 97296-6116.

Marie Louise Colasurdo



Marie Louise Colasurdo, who ran a bed and breakfast on Sauvie Island, died Dec. 9 at age 91 of COVID-19 at a Beaverton care home. Marie Louise Boril was born in Chicago on Dec. 12, 1928.

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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Architectural images depicting a trailhead lodge and pedestrian bridge to nearby Forest Park were prominent features in initial plans to redevelop the Montgomery Park site.

Source: Unico Properties' Montgomery Park Master Plan, May 2020.

"Bridge" cont'd from page 1

doesn't currently exist," said Cody McNeal, development manager for Unico Properties.

A trailhead lodge at the east end of the bridge, where the current parking lot would be replaced by midrise housing and shops, was also pictured in a presentation released last June.

"We'd like to help establish a pedestrian bridge that offers direct linkage to the incredible natural resource that is Forest Park," McNeal said.

The project may depend on public funding.

"We feel the best way to deliver that bridge is a public/private partnership," McNeal said. "We have no other details or updates on the bridge at this time, but we look forward to working with public organizations and agencies to explore this concept."

Portland Parks & Recreation is aware of the scheme, which was discussed at the July meeting of the Parks Board.

"There are plans introduced for a new entrance to Forest Park, but it may be years off," minutes of that meeting state. "The new streetcar expansion from the Hollywood District to Montgomery Park would increase transit access to Forest Park. [PP&R Capital Planning Manager] Lauren McGuire clarified there are no plans yet within the bureau to support that plan."

Last month, PP&R spokesperson Mark Ross confirmed that the bureau "has not made any commitments regarding any potential future change to nearby properties of the park. PP&R will evaluate and prioritize investments through many lenses, including equity, environmental impact, funding, capacity, and the nature and scope of any ongoing care which would be needed, including traffic and usage patterns involving people and/or vehicles."

Unico spokesperson Erica Perez would not even confirm that the bridge is part of the company's current thinking. She called the May renderings "very outdated and highly conceptual."

The bridge may go the way of the Con-way canals, which were prominently featured in initial renderings of Con-way Inc.'s redevelopments plans centered at Northwest 21st and Raleigh streets in 2007. The canals promptly disappeared from future documents.

Though neighbors share Unico's appreciation of the 5,200-acre semi-wilderness park, they worry that Unico wants to turn it into a marketing asset while diminishing its fragile ecosystem.

Janet Schaefer, a co-founder of Friends of Wallace Park, is concerned about possible overuse of Forest Park.

"Because of the increase in numbers of people, what is needed far



more than a bridge to Forest Park is dedicated land for a park where there's play structures and people can sit on the grass," Schaefer

said. "There's not much chance of that in Lower Macleay." ■

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Far left: David Mitchell (left) and Chris Mackovjak make the rounds regularly to check on and repair broken receptacles.

Left: James Gulick (left) and John Gillette empty a receptacle.

Photo by Nathan Jundt

"Pearl volunteers" cont'd from page 1

that had acquired, placed and raised \$25,000 annually for hauling of refuse from public trash cans in the Pearl for seven years (until persuading the city to take over the service in 2019) was not going to be tripped up by tiny cigarette butts.

With about 90 volunteers already picking up trash as part of PDNA's Clean Teams and serving on foot patrols, Mitchell found a handful ready to add cigarette butts removal to their resumes. Soon they divided the district into the Northern 24, the Central 16 and the Parks 20.

Jim Gulick and Walter Kuncio tackle the 24-block northern zone, Linda Witt is in charge of the Central 16 and John Gillette covers the Parks 20.

Gillette, 81, a retired psychiatrist from California, makes his rounds along the Park Blocks once every six weeks, filling bags with smelly refuse and keeping a log of his findings. It takes him an hour to 90 minutes each time, and he comes away with a couple of pounds of dirty, often wet, butts.

The program began last December, and through October, 125 pounds (125,000 butts) have been collected and shipped to Chicago. That includes some picked up by Clean Team members on their regular routes. Bags of butts are then shipped to TerraCycle, which reprocesses the cellulose acetate filters into consumer goods.

Gillette cheerfully completes his rounds despite its foul nature and even danger.

"It's pretty smelly," he said. "Cigarette butts are not pleasant to deal with."

Recently he reached into a receptacle and nicked his finger on an uncapped hypodermic needle, necessitating a visit to an urgent care center and follow-up tests for HIV and hepatitis.

Why does he do it?

"I'm pleased with the results," he said. "It gives me a certain degree of pleasure to walk it and see that it looks nice."

Judie Dunken, chair of the PDNA Livability Committee, said, "People are just mad to pick up trash these days. A couple of these guys are scientists and they just love this. It may seem menial to some, but I think it's meaningful."

The cigarette project and other programs under her purview have replaced Polish the Pearl, a semiannual cleanup day that, although popular, wasn't up to the task. Periodic graffiti mitigation work days had the same limitation. Greater frequency was needed to stay ahead of the problem, and Pearl neighbors were ready to pick up the pace.

With greater frequency came stricter protocols. The Clean Teams have seven zones, each with a leader responsible for training and managing their crews. Members get a vest and an extension grabber stick. While the total Clean Team participation has dropped in half since the pandemic, the Cigarette Butt Program is ramping up. It started with four vol-

unteers and now has eight.

Volunteers learn about the lives of fellow community members and notice when normal rhythms change. They know where smokers gather and often get thank yous from smokers who appreciate the receptacles.

"We know our neighborhood so well," Dunken said.

The program provides rare insights into another side of life in the Pearl. The butt receptacles are sometimes stolen or vandalized, a puzzling finding that has led team members to suspect that desperate smokers are extracting the remaining tobacco in the stubs for a few truly recycled drags.

While the livability programs were built mostly on retirees, Dunken said younger people and those from diverse backgrounds are joining in.

Though Mitchell no longer chairs the Cigarette Butts Program, he remains its primary ambassador. He and Clean Team volunteer Chris Mackovjak repair and replace receptacles as necessary.

It goes beyond litter. The chemicals in cigarette butts are so toxic that a goldfish placed in a liter of water with one butt will die within one hour, Mitchell said. If not removed from streets and sidewalks, they will be washed into nearby rivers and the ocean. The national Surfrider Foundation deems them poisonous to fish and birds, one reason many beach towns ban smoking.

"It's a serious environmental issue," he said. "To me, it's a natural for the city of Portland to take on."

Pearl volunteers may be winning the day in their corner of the city, but Mitchell believes it should become a citywide taxpayer-supported program, as it is in at least one North American city (Vancouver, B.C.). ■

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Coalition stumbles in search of vision

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The coalition of Westside neighborhood associations kicked off a visioning process at a retreat last January. But instead of engendering unity and clarity, the process has stumbled, leaving many coalition board members in the dark and asking basic questions about how their organization sets its course.

None of the three original members of a Visioning Committee formed last May responded to requests from the NW Examiner to be interviewed for this story. Neighbors West/Northwest Executive Director Mark Sieber said he was on vacation until Jan. 4 and would not comment.

Notes from the retreat, obtained through a records request, are sketchy, consisting mainly of bullet-point phrases without attribution. Two coalition board members who attended the retreat told the Examiner the notes reflect things they never heard at the retreat while leaving out important things that were mentioned.

Three “concerns and suggestions” head the official summary of the retreat, which was written by NWNW staff.

- A need to “focus on the bigger picture and be coalition-facing, not neighborhood association-focused.”
- “Coalition of groups coming together,” which seems to be merely a description of NWNW.
- An apparent caution against being “reactionary,” instead of “forward-looking.”

More specific hints of a new direction may be found in a “next steps” section. The top points were to examine the board structure and “expand the criteria for board membership with intentionality.”

These cryptic references can be fleshed out by those having attended coalition meetings in recent years. The board has moved toward assigning seats to organizations other than neighborhood associations. In fact, the board already includes a non-voting business association representative.

Progress reports on the work of the Visioning Committee have been brief and sporadic. The body met two or three times but did not keep minutes. After raising concerns about the committee’s direction, Tracy Prince joined the body in mid-year. Committee chair Kristin Shorey apologized to the board in December for “dropping the ball” and promised to make better progress in 2021.

The committee’s lethargy did not



Tracy Prince has written five books, including three on Portland history. She is a research professor at Portland State University’s American Indian Teacher Program and recently completed a term as president of the Goose Hollow Foothills League.

prevent the staff from hosting a “board orientation and systemic racism training” session via Zoom on Sept. 23.

In October, staff presented for board adoption a “land acknowledgment” statement affirming that the community exists on ground stolen from a list of Native American tribes. Their plan was to discuss the statement and approve it the following month. That still has not happened, though board deliberation on the matter continues amid calls for further research. Nevertheless, the statement was

posted at the top of the NWNW webpage and included in its electronic newsletter.

Board member Steve Pinger questioned Sieber’s authority to publish the statement, given that it had not been voted on by the board. Sieber defended his control over editorial content but removed the land acknowledgment. It was replaced with

a different statement—likewise unapproved by the board—condemning police killings of Black Americans and describing the nation as “deeply rooted in white supremacy.”

Prince, a Native American and a historian of local native peoples, supports a land acknowledgement and is working to correct inaccuracies in the tribes identified.

“I don’t object to anti-racism,” Prince told the Examiner. “What bothers me is that staff took these steps without a vote of the board telling them to take these steps.”

“All of a sudden, programming was coming to us as oppose to coming from us.”

The organization will hold another retreat in February, when board and staff will take another stab at “the vision thing.” ■

“I don’t object to anti-racism. What bothers me is that staff took these steps without a vote of the board telling them to take these steps.”

— Tracy Prince

Goose Hollow Foothills League president

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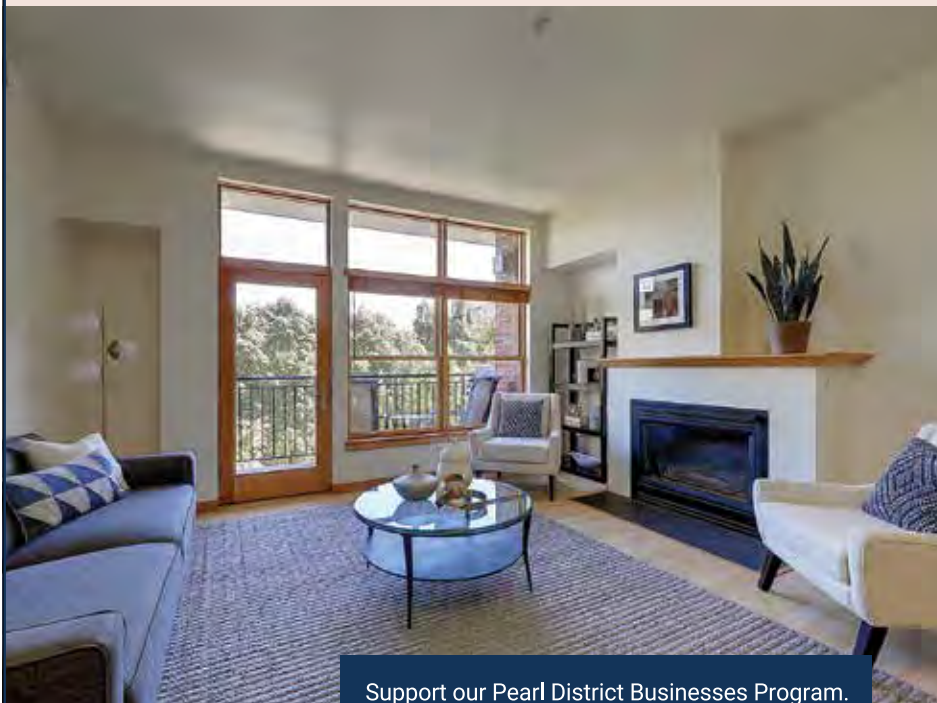
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NW PORTLAND / PEARL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MAP

LINNTON MILL OFFICE

The Linnton Mill Office Restoration Group, a non-profit formed two years ago to turn the vacant Linnton Plywood office building on St. Helens Road into a center for Superfund and environmental research, may see its efforts go for naught. The building's owner, RestorCap, which earlier applied for a demolition permit in 2019, recently listed it for \$895,000. LMORG contributed about \$40,000 in labor in hopes of getting the building donated or sold at a reduced price.



MEDALLION APARTMENTS

Renovation of the Medallion Apartments, a 90-unit residential building for seniors and people with disabilities at 1969 NW Johnson St. operated by Home Forward, was completed last fall after nearly two years. All units received new floors, ceilings, finishes, plumbing and electrical fixtures. The exterior and common areas on the ground floor were redone and reconfigured.



FREMONT PLACE APARTMENTS

Foundation work is underway on the 17-story Fremont Place Apartments in the shadow of the Fremont Bridge. Piles were being set by the quieter auger method, but soil conditions require an impact hammer to finish the job. Work will resume in mid-month. The project was appealed to the Portland City Council by the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, leading to a settlement that increased the width of the public walkway along the river.



2820-2824 NW UPSHUR ST.

Plans to demolish a 1950 triplex on Northwest Upshur Street and replace it with a five-unit apartment building have been changed. New plans submitted late last year involve conversion of a basement garage into additional living space for the existing apartments. The property was purchased in 2018 for \$935,359 by Jude Baas and Jane Boyd of Southeast Portland.



FLANDERS CROSSING

Installation of the Flanders Crossing Bike and Pedestrian Bridge was again postponed and is now scheduled the weekend of Jan. 8-10. Interstate 405 will be closed in both directions from Friday at 10 p.m. until Monday, Jan. 11, at 5 a.m. Two cranes will lift the span, currently stored on the 1400 block of Flanders, into place on Saturday.

 Proposed
  Under Review
  Under Construction

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

Stoicism marks the season



A bar called Stoic will open in the former Muu-Muu's space at 612 NW 21st Ave.

BY MICHAELA BANCUD

Northwest Portland streets are stoically quiet. Stoicism is a theme that permeates this space and these times. Even this Going Out space might best be called *Staying Home For Now*.

STERLING COFFEE ROASTERS has decorated its entry and counter area with cedar garlands. Get a coffee, but keep moving.

M BAR draped natural holiday swag and lights to make a welcoming outdoor space. Strangers exchange rueful smiles under their masks.

Nail salons are open here and there, but we've all begun chewing our nails again. **TRADER JOE'S** sold out of holiday cookies. And if you are in the market for a building that looks like London after the Blitz, call Jim Gillespie, the realtor who has listed the battered Northwest 21st Avenue building where **WIMPY'S** and **O'BRIEN'S** once operated.

Nearby, there's a coming soon sign papered to the window of the restaurant space last occupied



Sterling Coffee Roasters, 518 NW 21st Ave., was decorated for the season.

by **MUU-MUU'S** and—I'm dating myself—**CASA U BETCHA** long ago. Muu-Muu's, a once lively bar and restaurant, closed in May. The new bar planned there will be called—you guessed it—**STOIC**.

A key tenet of stoicism, explains Wikipedia, is accepting the moment as it presents itself. **CINEMA 21** next door is closed. I accept this but look forward to a different moment, where seeing a movie is a possibility, and I keep moving.



The former Acapulco's Gold building on Northwest Vaughn Street has been remodeled. The tenant hopes to be selling pizza later this month or in February.

Coming Soon

PIZZA THIEF

A new pizzeria is coming to 2608-2610 NW Vaughn St. where Acapulco's Gold served massive margaritas and mediocre Mexican food for decades. All the pizza ingredients will be locally sourced, and fresh salads and sandwiches made with house-made bread will be on the menu.

Pizza Thief will begin selling whole pizzas to-go beginning in January

or February. The owners are Tony Pasquale, an Adidas exec who always wanted to open a pizzeria, and Darby Aldaco, a veteran baker with pastry and pizza experience in Los Angeles and Portland. Aldaco got his start rolling dough at downtown Portland's Great Harvest Bread Co. in the early '90s.

When the pandemic ends, the owners plan to open Bandit, a premium bar and lounge adjacent to Pizza

Continued on page 10

NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 27, No. 1 "News You Can't Always Believe" January 2021

Identity Crisis

Our newly covered and heated outdoor seating area is proving a hit with customers.

The heating units itself sort of looks to some "like a bug-eyed old guy."

This wouldn't be a problem except for the fact that Jerry, our house juggler, also appears to some "like a bug-eyed old guy." Jerry seems to be taking this in stride, though he's never seen sitting close to the heater.

So please, stop by the newly covered and heated outdoor area and take in the 23rd Avenue street scene. Don't



worry, that's not Jerry. That's our heater.



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"Coming soon" cont'd from page 9

Thief. Just as with Acapulco's Gold, the restaurant and lounge will be connected by an interior door.

"Neither of us had ever been there, but you can guarantee there will be an Acapulco's Gold margarita on the menu," Pasquale said, "just probably not one quite that big!"

The plan was to open Pizza Thief last summer.

"We are eager to at least get pick-up and delivery going for now," Pasquale said with measured optimism.

Pasquale's ideas about pizza were formed at Porky's Pizza in San Francisco. After moving to Portland, he loved going to Mount Tabor's Baby

Doll Pizza, where bar and pizza restaurant co-exist. "I've always wanted to do a pizzeria, and everyone at Adidas always said that there's nowhere to go to eat nearby."

Most of the approximately 500 Adidas staff working nearby at Montgomery Park will be moving back to the North Portland campus as a major remodel and expansion begin. The Adidas employee store will remain at Montgomery Park.

URBAN PANTRY

As we stay home and make runs to the grocery store to make sure we can do it again tomorrow, Urban Pantry, 1128 NW Lovejoy St., offers some relief for those sick of cooking while wanting something finer than a grocery store deli.

Owners Treaver Lavigne and Stuart Ticknor, who live in Slabtown, bought Urban Pantry from Karen Page a year ago. The new owners bought her recipe book and have kept her comfort food dishes for good reason: Page won a Bon Appétit award for her recipes and her grab-and-go model. When they closed at the beginning of the pandemic, they took the time to refine their branding and expand their kitchen.

"It feels nicer than a grocery store," Lavigne said. "All of our dishes have a shelf life of approximately two days."

Most dishes feature a protein served over rice or potato and a vegetable. Think shepherd's pie, bourbon chicken casserole or salmon.

"We love Elephants Deli, and well, imitation is the highest form of flattery," Lavigne said. "When we first bought the business, we had some catering going in the nearby offices and were really leaning into the model of fast meals for the neighborhood."

The expanded kitchen allows two people to work safely, and they added pantry staples, such as pasta, beer, wine, condiments, in what was once a seating area. They serve Mount Hood's Moby Roasters coffee and Portland's Shrub's natural balsamic soda.

"We want to make it one-stop, with options for breakfast, lunch and dinner," he said. ■

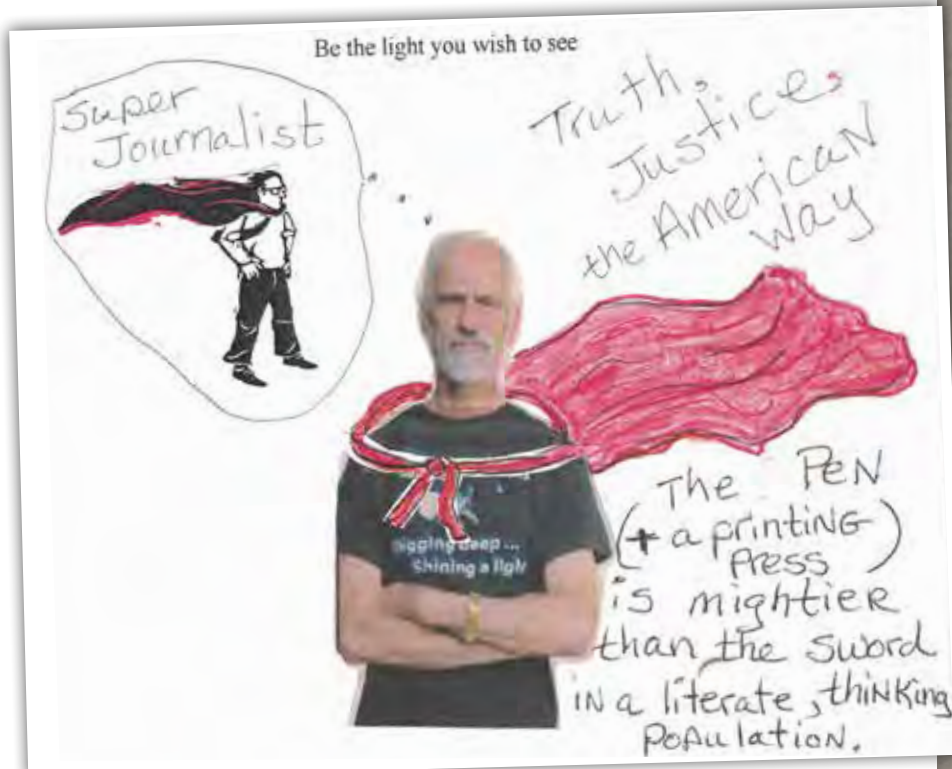
2020 was a memorable year

for the NW Examiner. With all the pandemic-related adversity, we found a financial model that works, and it should continue to do so even if the retailing and economic recovery remains far off.

We were heartened to learn that many readers are willing to pay substantially for subscriptions—and even make substantial donations beyond—to see that the paper continues. The added revenue has more than offset declines in advertising sales.

But may no mistake, advertising remains the primary income source for the NW Examiner. The companies below advertised every month last year, and some have done so for most of the years since our founding in 1986. We thank every one of them deeply for standing with us and supporting our neighborhood.

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Subscription Goal



The subscription drive continues. Our goal is 1,000 subscriptions in the first year. We have about 350 to go.

COVID case meets high-rise

Will City Council consider disease transmission in evaluating 23-story Pearl hotel?

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Portland residents opposing development projects in their backyards have limited ground to stand on.

Objections to height and scale inevitably collapse in the face of zoning rules. Design standards involve more latitude, but architects who make adjustments as advised by the Design Commission eventually get approval. Concerns about insufficient public infrastructure are difficult to sustain when the impacted city bureaus assert that they see no limitations.

Patricia Cliff, a member of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association board and resident of a condominium tower next to the proposed 23-story Hyatt Place and Allison Residences at Northwest 12th and Flanders streets, has run the first three arguments up the flagpole and gotten little beyond delays to show for it.

Cliff formed the nonprofit Pearl Neighbors for Integrity in Design and successfully appealed the project to City Council last fall, forcing reconsideration by the Portland Design Commission. The commission, however, was satisfied by minor adjustments and the project goes back to the council Jan. 14.

What arrows does she have left in her quiver?

The COVID-19 pandemic, perhaps. COVID-related distancing protocols are not in existing regulations, though experts in many fields speculate how this and future pandemics may transform future construction. Cliff raised the issue before the council and again at the Design Commission in November.

“Potential serious health dangers that have become apparent ... were not foreseen and addressed in the 2035 Central City Plan, with its stated goal of ‘increased height and density’ in the Central City,” she wrote.

Cliff called for consideration of “the intensity of use and overcrowding of the Hyatt project and all new develop-

ment proposals.”

Dr. Ezra Rabie, a Pearl resident and physician practicing preventive and environmental medicine for more than 30 years, also testified at the design hearing in November.

“Climate change, urban crowding and loss of wildlife habitat resulting in greater human-to-animal contact will all combine yet again to create similar if not worse contagion havoc,” Rabie said.

“Society can and must plan for yet another catastrophic viral pandemic by setting new construction regulations and codes for new buildings to mitigate preventable illness and death.”

Rabie cited World Health Organization recommendations for a “multi-sectoral, all-hazards, health-in-all policies and whole-of-society approach to preparedness.”

Such considerations might involve enlarging spaces where strangers pass, such as elevators, bathrooms and hallways, as well as expanded public areas in the immediate area.

“It’s not rocket science,” Rabie continued, “the more people crammed into a confined geographic space, the greater the risk of spreading airborne and contact diseases such as COVID-19.”

He faulted the commission for offering “the bureaucratic excuse that intensity of use is not within their purview.”

Planners weigh in

Staff at the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability are looking at the future ramifications of pandemics.

“The biggest impact could be on the demand for office buildings for the next few decades, and probably a permanent shift in telecommute rates,” Principal Planner Eric Engstrom said. “I think the reduced demand for office space will be an issue we grapple with.”

“We can’t underestimate the value of public open spaces that allow folks to breathe fresh air while safely distancing from their neighbors,” urban designer Lora Lillard said.

A draft of proposed Design Overlay Zone Amendments states:

“In addition to encouraging more outdoor areas, many incentivized building features are well-adapted to accommodate recent pandemic responses for businesses and residents. These incentives include: balconies and a greater amount of operable windows, which allow fresh air to circulate; residential stoops allowing direct access to the outside; and oversized street-facing operable doors and weather protection, which better accommodate outdoor tables and chairs.”

Morgan Tracy, project manager for the Residential Infill Project, is not convinced that sprawling indoor space is the answer. “Today’s pandemic could be tomorrow’s energy crisis, and compact space and energy-efficient living will be more desired,” she said.

The winner of a worldwide COVID-19 architecture competition won by a Barcelona firm, however, proposed mid-rise structures interwoven with open space, gardens and green roofs. Self-sufficient four-block clusters obviated the need for high-density urban cores.

Future vs. now

What does such long-range thinking have to do with the immediate decision City Council faces this month?

Carrie Richter, an attorney with Bateman Seidel, which represents Pearl Neighbors for Integrity in Design, is not relying on the COVID argument to win the appeal at council. She is focusing on ways in which the Design Commission misapplied existing rules and guidance from the council.

But the COVID case could make a difference.

“The design guidelines provide



The latest version of the Hyatt Place and Allison Residences was tweaked to satisfy the Portland Design Commission, but its height and bulk were not affected.

the City Council with a great deal of discretion as they relate to the pedestrian realm, including the location and number of building access points, overall building circulation and development intensity,” Richter wrote the NW Examiner. “Designing for adequate accommodation during a pandemic could play a factor in this evaluation.”

Tom DiChiara, principal in Cairn Pacific LLC, the primary Slabtown developer, told the NW Examiner that the pace of new development proposals is slowing down.

“Projects that are already financed are moving along, but anything not financed is struggling,” DiChiara said. “I suspect that will be the case for hospitality especially, as that sector is likely to be the last to recover from COVID.”

“Sadly, all the unrest and rioting/destruction downtown—and the failure of the city really doing anything about it—have chased capital from the Portland market. That is having a much bigger impact to the development/real estate market in Portland than the virus, and certainly will affect housing production over the next few years.” ■

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Hardesty, not Mapps, gets oversight of Office of Community & Civic Life

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The Office of Community & Civic Life was assigned to City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty late last month, shattering expectations that incoming Commissioner Mingus Mapps would be put in charge of the bureau that once fired him.

“I was surprised by that,” Mapps said of not getting Civic Life after running a campaign calling for overhaul of the bureau.

Hardesty could not be reached for comment, but Mapps said she had not asked for the assignment and was surprised to get it.

“I’m still fully invested in helping Civic Life,” said Mapps, who pledged to push for a citywide neighborhood association summit conference.

He said Hardesty told him she was open to working with him on issues related to the bureau.

She has made no announcement of her plans for OCCL and will not be available for comment until Jan. 4.

Some indication of her attitude regarding diversity goals and neighborhood associations was revealed at a November 2019 council hearing on changes to the city code controlling OCCL’s mission and purpose. Former Commissioner Chloe Eudaly proposed the revisions, which died for lack of support from any other

members of the council.

At the hearing, Hardesty pooh-poohed claims that the code changes would “build community power to rectify the causes of hunger.”

She pushed Moira Bowman, director of advocacy for Oregon Food Bank, as to how putting various organizations and populations on a par with neighborhood associations would make a difference.

“When the voices of people who are food insecure are at the table, I do believe it will lead to different policies,” Bowman replied.

“There’s nothing preventing us from having conversations with people who are food insecure today,” Hardesty replied. “There’s nothing preventing us from creating tables where they would be welcome.”

Summarizing her philosophy at the end of the hearing, she said, “I wish it was not as divisive as it’s turned out to be.”

Hardesty said no organization fully represents any group of people and that she is looking for solutions that don’t devalue anyone in the community.

“How do we build power together?” she asked. “I won’t support anything that divides our community any further.” ■

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Community Small Grants

Applications Open Until Jan. 29

Are you looking to build community, create lasting partnerships, or make an impact on your neighborhood? NWNW Community Small Grants program is more accommodating than ever, and we're looking for new projects to fund. All community-focused groups in or serving NW Portland are welcome to apply and we strongly encourage submissions that support underrepresented Portlanders. Funds are available for projects taking place from now until June 2021, and grants range from \$300 to \$3,000.

Projects that fall within any of these categories will be considered:

- Community Building
- Communication/Outreach
- Neighborhood Care, Cleanup or Resiliency
- Civic Engagement or Social Justice-Focused Project

The deadline to apply is January 29th at 5pm. Learn more and complete an application at NWNW.org/grants.

Grant Review Committee

NWNW is looking for new members to serve on the grant review committee. The commitment is usually between 10-15 hours and consists of 2 (virtual) meetings. Required tasks include reading all submitted applications, scoring them, and providing feedback and recommendations regarding funding. This is a great opportunity to learn more about community building efforts in the area, and have an impact on future projects!

For Small Grant application assistance or to get involved with the Grant Review Committee contact Anastasia, 503.823.4288 or anastasia@nwnw.org.



Forest Park Neighborhood Association Annual Elections

Voting will begin online on Tuesday, February 9 and remain open until 8pm on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.



The annual FPNA election of members of the Board of Directors will be held **online** from Tuesday February 9 to 8 pm on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 to fill two positions with expiring terms. The two candidates receiving the most votes will be elected to 3-year terms. If necessary, a tie will be resolved by lots or agreement of the subject candidates. The link for voting will be publicized closer to the election. Voting will only be available online due to Covid-19.

Qualifying nominations submitted by member of the association will be accepted if received on or before January 21, 2021. Candidates must be FPNA members. To submit nominations, join the association, or for additional information, contact mark@nwnw.org or president@forestparkneighbors.org.

Nominations must be submitted by the person nominated or accompanied by written consent of the person. Each candidate's name, home address, phone number and any other preferred means of contact must be included. A candidate's statement of up to 200 words may be submitted with a nomination. Names, statements, the starting and ending dates and times and a link for voting will be published in the February 2021 edition of the Neighborhood Activist. If fewer than two nominations are received by January 21st the President may nominate additional candidates.

Forest Park Neighborhood welcomes everyone all races, religions, countries of origin, sexual orientations, genders and abilities. Our neighborhood is enriched by the diversity of our residents and community members. Each individual has dignity and the potential to contribute to our community as a whole. We embrace and respect one another first as neighbors, and we strive to look out for each other. We encourage everyone to engage with our neighborhood to create a welcoming and safe place to live, work and recreate. Hate has no home here

Building Diverse Communities

Neighbors West-Northwest is excited to announce Building Diverse Communities, our new educational series! These roundtables, workshops, and lectures are designed to empower you to be the change you want to see in your communities. Together we will learn more about increasing diversity, developing equitable practices, and creating more inclusive spaces. The series will kick off in early January, so check out the schedule below and go to our website to sign-up at NWNW.org/building-diverse-communities/.

Community Café Conversations (C3)

Grab a cup of coffee and sit down with your fellow NWNW neighbors to chat about what diversity, equity and inclusion means to you! Join us on the 2nd Fridays of the month at 11:00 am or the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 pm over Zoom. Each discussion topic will be held twice a month for greater participation. Feel free to attend both sessions if you want to delve deeper into the topic!

- **What does diversity mean to you?**
Fri., January 8 (11am) & Thur., January 21 (5:30)
- **What does it mean to be an active ally?**
Fri., Feb. 12 (11am) & Thur., Feb. 18 (5:30pm)
- **What do inclusive communities look like?**
Fri., March 12 (11am) & Thur., March 18 (5:30pm)
- **What does equity look like in our neighborhoods?**
Fri., April 16 (11am) & Thur., April 22 (5:30pm)
- **What is the difference between tokenization and inclusion?**
Fri., May 7 (11am) & Thur., May 20 (5:30pm)
- **How can we spark diversity conversations in our neighborhoods?**
Fri., June 4 (11am) & Thur., June 17 (5:30pm)



Active Allies Workshops

Whether you're an inclusivity pro or just getting started, these monthly workshops will help you build your diversity skills, start conversations, and be the change you want to see in your neighborhood! These workshops will be held on Thursdays, 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

- **The ABCs of Inclusion**
Thursday, January 28 (5:30)
- **Stating Your Pronouns, and Other Small Things to Promote Inclusion**
Thursday, February 4 (5:30)
- **Let's Talk Microaggressions!**
Thursday, March 4 (5:30)
- **Calling-In: Approaching Equity with Empathy**
Thursday, April 8 (5:30)
- **Introduction to Intersectionality**
Thursday, May 27 (5:30)
- **Creating an Equity Framework**
Thursday, June 24 (5:30)

Unpacking Oppression Lectures

Attend educational lectures, conversations, and events from community partners! This quarter's workshops are brought to you by Portland United Against Hate (PUAH) and funded through the City of Portland, Office of Community & Civic Life, Civic Dialogues Workshops. Join us on the 4th Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 pm for this amazing series.

- **Transgender in America**
Weds., January 27 (5-8pm)
- **Hate, Housing and the Landscape of our City**
Weds., February 24 (5-8pm)
- **Understanding and Addressing Islamophobia**
Weds., March 24 (5-7pm)
- **The Trauma of Hate Incidents: Impact and Intervention from a Trauma-Informed Perspective**
Weds., April 28 (5-8pm)

Learn more and sign-up at NWNW.org/building-diverse-communities

Neighborhood Association Board Meetings

NWNW Coalition	2nd Wed., 5:30 pm
Arlington Heights	2nd Mon., 6:00 pm
Downtown	4th Tues., 6:00 pm
Forest Park	3rd Tues., 7:00 pm
Goose Hollow	3rd Thurs., 7:00 pm
Hillside	2nd Tues., 7:30 pm quarterly
Linnton	1st Wed., 7:00 pm odd months
NWDA	3rd Mon., 6:00 pm
Old Town Board mtg	2nd Wed., 11:30 am
Community mtg	1st Wed., 11:30 am or 6:00 pm quarterly
Pearl District	2nd Thurs., 6:00 pm
Sylvan-Highlands	2nd Tues., 7:00 pm

See NWNW.org/calendar for details.

Contact Neighbors West-Northwest 503.823.4288
NWNW.org ~ coalition@NWNW.org



The exterior of the Quality Pie building looked worse for wear when this photo was taken in 1978, but the business carried on another 14 years.



No one was out of place at QP. A satirical art piece entitled "Queen Elizabeth dines at the QP" captured that idea. Photo by Herb Swanson

An active Facebook page fed by former patrons keeps memories alive: www.facebook.com/groups/59025722653/

"Fryer's Quality Pies" cont'd from page 1

Binx Bolling in Walker Percy's "The Moviegoer," I know straight off that I am onto something. "What are you looking for?" I ask. "Plastic balls," says a guy named Joe. "Find the little ball and win the big bear," he says, already holding an armload of stuffed animals.

I ask what he plans to do with them.

"I've got over 200 of them at home. See that cab outside? I've been driving it for 20 years now. I keep these animals in my cab for my fares. Kids mostly. This time of night they are usually going to the hospital. It brings a little comfort to them.

"Me too," he says.

9:15 P.M.

I find a table near the back of the restaurant. Buffy, my waitress, pours me a cup of coffee. "Heard you were coming. You're gonna have a good time tonight," she says. Later, during a lull, Buffy slides into my booth and talks a bit about herself.

"Been waitressing for 27 years, all over—California, Texas, Oklahoma. This is the best job of the bunch. It's my whole life right now. I'm glad for this job. I'm recently divorced and this Thanksgiving will be my first without family. I just hope I get to work. It will be better if I do."

I ask Buffy about her children. "Have two of them, Paris and London."

I ask why she picked those names.

"Heck, I had to name them something, didn't I?"

Buffy moves on and I am left imagining nights of passion in a pair of European cities. Or Paris, Texas, perhaps.

9:35 P.M.

Bert is sitting at the counter, munching slowly on a bright orange muffin. He lives in the neighborhood and drops by twice a day. Sometimes more. He talks openly about his bouts with alcoholism and mental

illness. "I don't have another recovery in me," he shares. "Nice meeting you, but it's past time for me to go. I have no business in here during the peak stress periods."

Wondering about those "peak periods" ahead causes me an apprehensive moment.

10 P.M.

Mike and Kenny are playing table hockey in a nearby booth using two spoons and a quarter. They are part of a large group of adolescents clustered around the restaurant. "We are all recovering alcoholics, this is our clubhouse. Right now Kenny and me are just looking to meet some nice girls in here. Maybe you know some?"

They say they want women who demonstrate non-addictive behavior, carry large amounts of credit cards, wear Ralph Lauren glasses and don't have a mother.

I wish them good luck.

10:09 P.M.

Maurice Shahtout, one of the owners, drops by my table and talks of better days. He tells me he has just given chase after two drunks fled in tandem toward Wallace Park with an oversized tray containing 20 dozen of his cookies.

"People told me I should close that door to that truck," he says. Shahtout is clearly a man who can take things in rapid stride. He works 15 hours a day, overseeing a combined bakery and coffee shop operation that turns out over 1,000 pies and 2,000 cookies a day, employs 72 people and operates 14 vehicles.

"We never came here to operate the most sophisticated establishment in Portland," understates Maurice. "We've been successful because we leave our customers alone to do their own thing. If they want to eat with their fingers, there is no pressure here. People come here looking for certain things."

11:10 P.M.

"People call this place lots of

things, but dull isn't one of them," says Lea, a waitress at QP for the past five years. "Look at this, would you," she implores, waving what looks like a .38-caliber pistol in my face.

"I was at the cash register just now and this guy comes running out of the restroom pointing this thing at me. Turns out he had found it in there. It's only a cap pistol, but you could have fooled me."

11:30 P.M.

A man who tells me he owns the entire earth is sitting at the counter, looking a little disheveled for someone with such vast holdings. "Must have taken you quite a while to acquire the whole earth," I say.

"Let's just say I'm older than Mother Nature," he deadpans, rubbing the stubble on his cheeks.

Back in my booth, Lea pours me my third cup of coffee.

"He's not so strange. A while back, a lady was in the outer lobby with her bags packed waiting for her spaceship to come pick her up. I've been waitressing for over 40 years and haven't seen no place as crazy as this."

MIDNIGHT

By now, I am losing my tenuous grip on reality. Truth has now become a tease. Searching the coffee shop for a way to get back in touch, I strike up a conversation with a woman wearing heavy makeup. She immediately starts talking about nasal sprays and cobra snakes. I go back to my table and order a piece of coconut pie.

We are entering the "high-stress period" that Bert had warned me of earlier.

12:20 A.M.

I step outside for some fresh air, perhaps now looking for my own spaceship. A young man eating from a pint of Ben & Jerry's White Russian ice cream asks me to follow him home for "philosophical studies." I thank him and decide I have had

enough fresh air.

Back inside, a man with a black cape has just launched a paper airplane. It lands close to my coconut pie. "Viking Jet, it flies," says the pilot who has come to retrieve his projectile.

By now, I am convinced this whole place could fly if there were only a way to get it off the ground.

12:45 A.M.

A large group moves through, heading toward the rear of the dining room. They are led by someone named Kingdom Herald, who is clothed in full-length garb, a sack of stones tied to his waist. He is followed in order by Lady Pegasus and another woman named Ya Leah.

Ya Leah says she is the group's medium to the mundane world.

She thus agrees to talk with me. The conversation centers on gold keys and black kettles. My mind races to keep up.

1 A.M.

QP is standing room only. A line is forming at the front door as it often does once the area bars have closed. I am sitting next to a woman who is wearing a braided headband decorated with huge fake pearls. She tells me she is taking voice lessons, karate and sign language.

"You can never learn too much," she says.

I tell her that I think some nights you can.

2:30 A.M.

Three young men—Shawn, Kip and Byron—enter arm in arm. Kip has dozens of buttons pinned to his jacket. I look out the front window and see a striking young woman in formal dress standing guard in front of a white Cadillac limousine. I go outside to meet Dawn. She is chauffeur to these three young men inside.

"These nice boys have rented this limo for five straight nights," says Dawn. "Last night, we were at



Above: The no-nonsense wait staff was half the fun at QP.

Right: Memorabilia available online keeps the legend alive.



the coast.”

Inside the limo, I notice a computer dashboard, VCR and phone. It costs \$50 an hour for a ticket to ride.

The three men return to the limo and ask if they can take my picture with Dawn. “Fine with me,” I say, giving the chauffeur a little squeeze. “I used to work for the feds,” Dawn informs me.

I loosen my grip slightly.

3:20 A.M.

I say hello to Victoria and Wanda, two art students from Portland State who are sketching together in a booth. I notice the black swirls on their pads. They say they are doing loose drawings.

“Perfect place to do it,” I reply. “Plenty loose in here.”

4:45 A.M.

I am sitting with Jack at the counter. He tells me he’s past his 80s already and afflicted with sore feet. Jack has trouble sleeping. Maybe two hours a night is all he gets, he reckons.

“I got jungle rot in WWII in the jungles of Panama. I’ve had my toenails removed lots of times but they just grow back worse. I worked all my life ‘till recently. Sometimes it hurts a man worst not to work.”

Jack tilts his head and sighs heavily. “The doctors tell me there is no cure for what I got. Can you believe it, that in all of medical history no one has found a cure for jungle rot?”

6 a.m.

Outside I can hear the whirl of a street sweeper and see the first TriMet bus of the day stop in front. A vacuum cleaner hums as a busboy has started his side work.

A friend walks through the door and finds my table. “So you survived the night, huh?” Her familiar face renews me.

IT IS TIME TO LEAVE.

This night of preposterous and compelling encounters is swaddled in the soft glint of a new day. Walking the deserted sidewalks home, I think about Bert and Buffy. Lady Pegasus and Dawn. And about the Man Who Owned The Earth. I wonder more about their lives. About lovers who have left them. Sons and daughters that had made them proud. Regrets they could not speak and places in the night where they sought refuge.

Tough and tender get inexplicably mixed up in some people. So, too, in some places. ■

COMMENT ON NWEXAMINER.COM
or email: allan@nwexaminer.com

State official supports South Park Blocks historic status



BY FRED LEESON

Oregon’s state historic preservation officer, Robert Olguin, supports inclusion of the South Park Blocks on the National Register of Historic Places.

He accepted a 100-page nomination submitted by the Downtown Neighborhood Association, and the process next goes to the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation in February. If also supported by the Portland Landmarks Commission, the U.S. Department of Interior would probably give final approval.

“This park is such an obvious landmark for Portland, it is long overdue to correct an obvious oversight,” said Story Swett, a Portland architect who with Brooke Best were the primary writers of the nomination. “A formal designation may help motivate retention of this valuable public space.”

The 12 blocks from Southwest Salmon to Mill streets between Ninth and Park avenues are among the oldest public spaces in Portland. They were donated by pioneer entrepreneur Daniel Lownsdale in 1852, and were landscaped in 1877 under the direction of horticulturalist Louis Pfunder.

Pfunder’s basic design, still clearly evident on many of the blocks today, included five parallel rows of deciduous trees—mostly elms—above a carpet of grass and flower beds. Although the Portland Parks & Recreation had recommended a national listing for the South Parks Blocks in the past, the bureau now wants to delay that process so it can first adopt a master plan. The draft master plan involves removal of a row of elm trees, altering a key element of the historic nomination.

A cadre of volunteers conducted 10 months of research in preparing

Highlights of nomination:

“The South Park Blocks (as a single park) is defined by its restrained simplicity and simple, direct material palette. Louis Pfunder’s original design intent is visible in the promenade plan and axial planting layout, featuring a unifying canopy of mature, deciduous trees.”

“Another defining characteristic of the park blocks is the paved plaza areas that provide a place for communal gathering and private contemplation. Public monuments, artwork, plaques and memorials, and bench seating have been added over the years.”

“Overall, the South Park Blocks retains its original shape, much of its historic pedestrian circulation pattern, significant public monuments and sculptures, as well as its major character-defining features.”

the nomination, which highlights the history of Portland parks, the role of the South Park Blocks in civic life and the significance of Pfunder’s landscape design. In addition to Swett and Best, major research was contributed by Roberta Cation and Leslie Hutchinson.

Citizens have until Jan. 15 to submit comments in advance of the State Advisory Committee’s hearing. Comments can be submitted by mail to:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,
State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

or by email to: ORSHPONationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

Comments to the Portland Landmarks Commission can be sent to: Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov

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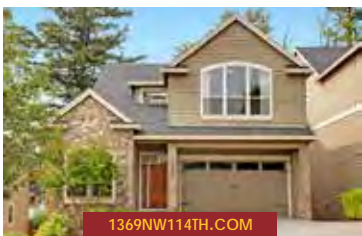
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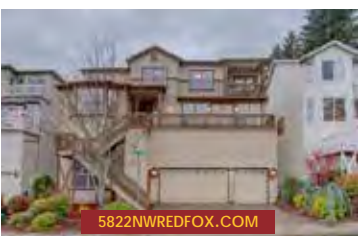
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