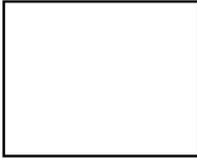


"Digging deep,
Shining a light"

INSIDE



p. 3
Land prices
doing us in



p. 9
New rules for
Café Nell?



p. 13
Inside a "direct
action" march

JULY 2021/ VOLUME 34, NO. 11

FREE

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

Where's street response?



Pearl District Neighborhood Association board member David Dysert sees disorder and livability problems all around him and believes the time to merely study the problem passed long ago.

As disorder swirls out of control, core neighborhoods wonder why mental health project is relegated to city's edge

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Pearl Neighborhood Association activists do not consider themselves to be in the "belly of beast" in terms of crime, trash and disorder.

While things may be worse in Downtown and Old Town, they've seen enough to test their tolerance. Last month, they ripped into the City Council for brushing off a plausible remedy to the social debility at the urban core.

Cont'd on page 12

Suburban slough-off



Parked cars on Southwest 58th Avenue clog a commuter shortcut through the Sylvan-Highlands neighborhood. Parking and traffic congestion have increased as apartment projects are constructed with insufficient parking. The Southwest 58th and Montgomery intersection handles 3,700 cars a day.

City commissioner trivializes woes in Sylvan heights

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

As the new city commissioner of Portland's neighborhood system, Jo Ann Hardesty has made the rounds to inner Westside neighborhood groups. In addition to such appearances in May and June, she held a citywide town hall meeting in March. No city commissioner in recent memory has been more available to neigh-

borhood associations here.

It could hardly be called a goodwill tour, however, as Hardesty dishes out harsh medicine as often as words of support.

For instance, Hardesty trivialized a Sylvan-Highlands man's concerns about downtown sidewalks blocked by homeless campers.

"So what I hear you saying

is that you are a little inconvenienced," she told Tim Hutchinson at a Zoom meeting.

To a description of rampant graffiti described by Sylvan-Highlands Neighborhood Association land-use chair Rick Kneiven as "death by a thousand cuts" Hardesty responded bluntly, "I think we've got the wrong focus. Graffiti is the least of our problems."

Cont'd on page 6

Assault on the South Park Blocks



Vicky Zimmerman was one of several local artists commemorating South Park Block trees that may be removed under a pending Portland Parks & Recreation master plan to be heard by the City Council on July 7. The Paint to Save the Trees event was organized by the Elisabeth Jones Art Center.

Story on page 10

**TEA AND STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE
IN THE LIBRARY
PART OF CAPTAIN COUCH'S LEGACY —
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1735 Irving Street

This 1884 Victorian tract home was built to last and is in the Historic Alphabet District. One of four remaining Painted Ladies, this house on the corner has bayed windows that flood the house with light and show off the myriad of architectural details. Updates are period-appropriate and bring modern living to historic beauty. 4 bedrooms, 1½ baths, bonus room, 11' ceilings, gas fireplace. RMLS #21344524 \$795,000.

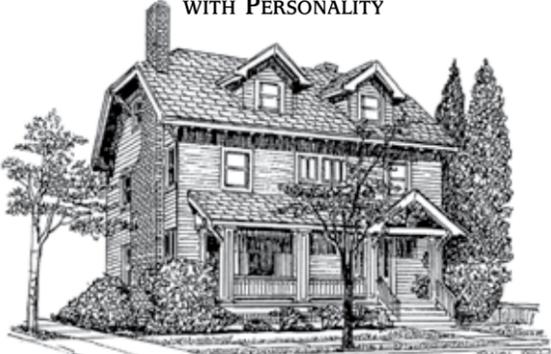
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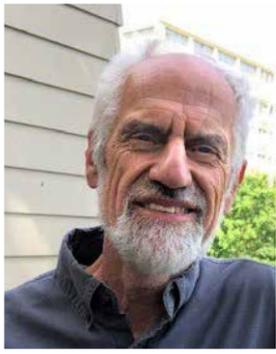


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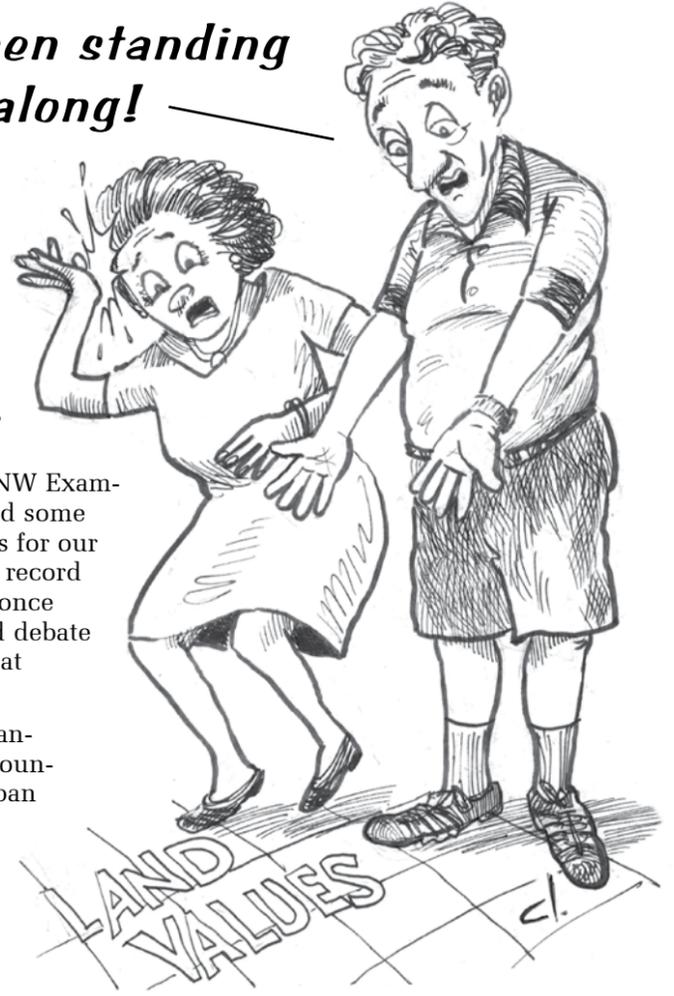


The Dan Volkmer Team:
Dan, Kishra, Mardi, Fritz and Burdean



Why aren't we there yet?

We've been standing on it all along!



You can't say Portlanders are not giving their all to address the housing crisis.

Voters have passed three bond measures to build more housing, shelter the homeless and provide social services to aid the path to independence. A \$258 million affordable housing bond measure passed in 2016, followed by a \$653 million Metro bond in 2018 and another city bond for supportive housing services last year.

The city is also turning its zoning code inside out to spike housing construction and allow shelters across the metropolis.

Six years after Portland first declared a housing emergency, our eyes and our politicians warn that things are getting worse and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Even neighborhood associations are putting homelessness at the top of their agendas, helping fill the gap we once assumed social service agencies were taking care of. The Rose City has become Tent City.

Whatever we're doing, it isn't enough. Or perhaps it's too much. When a prescription warns the user to stop taking the medicine if certain side effects occur, we tend to believe it. Perhaps we have ignored the figurative warning label regarding our housing malady.

That's how I feel after reading the recently released "Sick City" by Patrick Condon, a professor at the University of British Columbia's School of Architecture. The 152-

page book asserts that urban land costs—rising 12 times faster than annual wages—make it impossible to keep housing prices within the reach of many city residents:

"[B]elief in the 'invisible hand of the marketplace' and the 'law of supply and demand' have held sway in the planning discourse since at least the '80s, and those who argue otherwise are dismissed as NIMBYs or worse. Only in the last decade has widespread allegiance to free market ideals eroded. The commonly accepted theory of supply and demand has been undercut by the observed reality; i.e., that no matter how much a metropolitan area adds new housing units, housing prices continue to rise."

Condon believes the core problem is soaring land values, which he separates from the value of buildings on the land. Buildings themselves depreciate year by year as their components wear out and become obsolete. But because real estate values link the value of land and improvements into one number, the illusion is that housing by necessity must appreciate too. The result is a super-heated housing market drawing speculative investment from around the globe. If Vancouver, B.C., is the prime example of this phenomenon, Portland is not far behind.

Condon says urban land values—which flow primarily from government-provided public services and infrastructure—should be controlled by taxation and regulation.

Density bonuses, now handed out like candy, could be limited to non-profits building affordable housing, for instance.

In an email to the NW Examiner, Condon shared some thoughts on lessons for our city. "I have a long record with Portland and once did a well-attended debate with Gordon Price at Metro."

Price is a former Vancouver, B.C. City Council member and urban planner frequently cited by Portland officials.

"I must admit that my diagnosis is not widely accepted," Condon wrote.

"Most of my peers in the urbanist community are aligned with Price: Density is always good, opposition is always NIMBY, and neighbors should have no (or much less) influence on what happens in their area."

Price believed that citizens should limit their political engagement to voting while otherwise leaving their representatives space to exercise their judgment on matters coming up between elections. Perhaps that explains the attitude adopted

by many in Portland's City Hall that neighborhood associations are a nuisance that should butt out and stick to their knitting.

So far, Portland has followed the path blazed by Price. But is it not time to consider what might have been—and still could be—were we to consider a path less traveled? ■

Condon's book is available for free through: justicelandandthecity.blogspot.com

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.

Green Loop not green

Answers to two basic questions give reasons to oppose the South Park Blocks Green Loop Plan:

Who needs the changes?

Are people who live and work downtown clamoring to trade trees for asphalt? Are visitors complaining? Business owners? How about Portland State University students and staff? The bureaucrats and lobbyists asking to cut trees and pave grass represent vocal but small groups with limited visions.

What Portland values does the plan represent?

Landmarks such as the South Park Blocks elms symbolize the greatness of Portland's civic vision. Portland's urban forest frames Tom McCall Waterfront Park, the Halprin Sequence, Pioneer Courthouse Square, Holladay Park, the Plaza Blocks and the Park Blocks.

Portland is not alone in revering trees that take decades to mature. Great parks from coast to coast, such as Golden Gate Park and Central Park, become more sacred as both trees and populations grow. And, as climate change increases the value of shade and clean air, their trees and ours form monuments to foresight and certify claims to status as major cities.

Portland leaders whom our history cherishes worked hard to leave us the South Park Blocks. Let's not use chain saws to destroy their legacy.

Lloyd D. Lindley II and Mark Beach

Lindley is an emeritus Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and a former member of the Portland Design Commission and Portland Urban Forestry Commission. Mark Beach is a historian and author. Both are former Portland residents now living in Manzanita.

Cont'd on page 5

The NW Examiner

VOLUME 34, NO. 11 // JULY 2021

EDITOR/PUBLISHER..... ALLAN CLASSEN
GRAPHIC DESIGN WESLEY MAHAN
PHOTOGRAPHY..... JULIE KEEFE, MATT ERCEG
ADVERTISING..... JOLEEN JENSEN-CLASSEN
CONTRIBUTORS..... FRED LEESON, JEFF COOK

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Published on the first Saturday of each month. Annual subscription \$50.
CLR Publishing, Inc., 2825 NW Upshur St, Ste. C, Portland, OR 97210, 503-241-2353.
CLR Publishing, Inc. ©2021 allan@nwexaminer.com www.nwexaminer.com

Denise Vetterlein



Denise Renee Vetterlein, a longtime resident of Sylvan Highlands, died May 30 at age 57. Denise Sachs was born Dec. 20, 1963, in Eugene and moved to Portland. She attended West Sylvan Elementary School and Lincoln High School, where she was a member of state champion cross country and track teams. She earned a degree in art history from the University of Colorado. She married Andrew Vetterlein in 1988 and in the 1990s, they moved to Taiwan, where she worked at the National Palace Museum. After returning to Portland, she became a member of the Northwest China Council and Multnomah Athletic Club. She was president of the Portland Art Museum's Asian Arts Council. During her long fight with Alzheimer's disease, she found sanctuary running the trails of Hoyt Arboretum and Forest Park. She is survived by her husband, Andrew; sons, Olin and Aiden; parents, John and Virginia Sachs; sister, Alicia Fecker; and brother, David Sachs.

Jerry J. Schneider



Jerry J. Schneider, a KGW-TV news photojournalist and producer for 14 years, died June 10 of pancreatic cancer at age 79. He was born Oct. 16, 1941, in Hillsboro. His family moved to Portland, where he attended Cathedral Elementary School and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1960. In 1968, he went to work for KGW, and in 1982, he began a 23-year career with Tektronix. He produced sales, new product and training tapes, one of which won a

New York Film Festivals award in 1993. He also managed the Tektronix trade shows and exhibits division. He retired in 2003, but two years later founded Northwest Professional Video, producing television spots. He married Julie Staudmier in 1962; she died in 2009. He is survived by his son, Dan Schneider; daughter, Debra Cox; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Richard H. Savinar



Richard H. Savinar, a former resident of the Vista St. Clair, died June 8 at age 96. He was born in Portland on Oct. 15, 1924. He graduated from Grant High School and the University of Oregon. He worked for the family business, Portland Ice and Cold Storage, before forming Savinar Travel Service. He led travel tours on several continents. He was a member of Temple of Beth Israel and served as president of the Temple Brotherhood. He was a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club for more than 50 years. He married Adele Zavin. He is survived by his sons, David, Tom and Andy; daughter, Judy; 10 grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Howard Shapiro



Howard Melvin Joseph Shapiro, a longtime Northwest Portland resident, died June 16. He was born on April 14, 1931, in Los Angeles and grew up in Seattle. He attended the University of Washington and served in the United States Coast Guard. He worked in Seattle as an advertising executive until moving to Portland in

1973. In the early 1980s, he cofounded SRI Northwest, a pioneer in socially responsible investment. He helped found Albina Bank, McKenzie River Gathering (now Seeding Justice), Food Front and the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art. He chaired the board of Housing Authority of Portland (now Home Forward) for many years and served on the Portland Bureau of Planning & Sustainability Commission as well as the boards of Oregon Food Bank, SAIF, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Pacific Northwest College of Art and Camp Caldera. He married Myrna Poll in 1957. He is survived by his son, Mark; two grandchildren; and his partner of 10 years, Karen Beal. His daughter, Annie, died in 2016.

Richard 'Deke' Olmsted Jr.



Richard "Deke" Olmsted Jr., a longtime Northwest District resident and 1965 graduate of Lincoln High School, died Dec. 13, 2020. He was born in 1947 and attended Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1969 and studied public administration at George Washington University. From 1983-87, he was the director of justice services for Multnomah County. In 2021, he was inducted into the Portland Interscholastic League Hall of Fame. He married Shirley Mason Ryerson in the late 1980s; they divorced after four years. He lived in Old Forestry Commons condominiums before moving to adult foster care. He is survived by his brothers, John and Tim; and sister, Jill Sydnor.

Death Notices

AARDYS (WARDIN) BRAIDWOOD, 85, graduated from Lincoln High School.

JERRY LAMB, the longtime owner of Jerry Lamb Interiors and Antiques.

ANDREW LOCKERT, 72, a graduate of Lincoln High School.

ELIZABETH (BURNHAM) WENDLANDT, 90, media specialist at Ainsworth and West Sylvan schools.

FRANK N. YOUNGMAN JR., 97, attended Lincoln High School, member of St. Thomas More Church.

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Readers Reply

Remove Hardesty

Keep posting the baloney City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty espouses in the hope we can rid her from City Hall in the same way we did Chloe Eudaly, thanks in large part to your vigilant monitoring.

Hardesty is a danger to this city, so those who see through her need to unite against this demagogue. Her attempt to wrest control of the Police Bureau from Mayor Ted Wheeler was an attack on our city under siege. It proved her utter disregard for the greater good of this town. Assaulted by our homegrown lunatic fringe on the left and Donald Trump on the right, Wheeler needed council members to have his back. She was a traitor to him and to Portland.

Portland has always struck me as a naive place. I've lived here since 1987, but I'm from Chicago. This past year Portland barely made it through an incredibly adolescent period in our history. I really want this city to grow up and get real, but first we need leaders who care. I believe some do.

Karla Powell
NW 11th Ave.

Café Nell an oasis

As the world shrank during our pandemic shutdown, I found solace in our community. Usually I looked forward to receiving the monthly issue of the NW Examiner ["A variance of Vanessa," June 2020] but the June issue has changed my view.

In the early days of the lockdown, the neighborhood lost its vitality and sense of safety with

eerily quiet streets. As a neighbor, business owner and landlord, I was excited and comforted to see businesses show resilience, creativity and reemerge.

Café Nell has been one of those creating a welcoming community. They thoughtfully recreated a safe and pleasant oasis, one where I could comfortably take clients and friends for a sense of normalcy. When I walk by, the hosts and servers are friendly and professional. I've been walking this neighborhood for several decades and the noise from Café Nell does not compare to the noise generated by the streetcar nor the rowdier bars and restaurants on Northwest 21st Avenue.

That this story continues to dominate the paper confounds me. It is not journalism. It is personal, and does not reflect the inclusive values I've appreciated from this neighborhood and the paper in the past.

Kori Allen
NW Johnson St.

Geofencing for e-scooters

Portland's Bureau of Transportation has had great difficulty enforcing no-rider areas for e-scooters. However, there is a technology that is self-enforcing and has been evaluated in the pilot programs: geofencing.

Using GPS technology, the location of an e-scooter can be determined while it is in motion. The GPS-determined location of an e-scooter can be constantly compared with an electronic map with city-defined areas where e-scooters are prohibited. When in such areas,

an e-scooter can be automatically and safely slowed to a stop. The rider can walk the e-scooter to an approved area where it will be automatically enabled to power up and move on again.

Geofencing must be a required capability to be considered for a city permit. In evaluating proposals, weight must be given to the response time when crossing into a prohibited area. This can range up to tens of seconds, giving e-scooter riders time to travel the length of a city block, weaving through pedestrians, attempting to avoid them, before some geofencing systems kick in and stop the e-scooter.

Using this latest technology, Portland can be kept safe from rogue e-scooter riders.

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The median on Southwest Skyline Road at the Sylvan interchange was landscaped by Sylvan-Highlands residents who donated time, plants and equipment, including ongoing watering of the median.

"Suburban slough-off" cont'd from page 1

Hardesty was no less gentle on Kneuve's wife, Sally, the association's vice president, who listed routine city services once delivered in the area that are now provided by neighborhood volunteers.

"We're putting up signs, we're picking up our trash, we're cleaning up our graffiti, we're cleaning up our sidewalks and we're planting our flower beds because the city has abdicated on medians that have gone to pot. There's just no maintenance anymore," Sally Kneuve said.

"We have a lot more people that live here now, Sally," Hardesty replied condescendingly, "so I'm not surprised that the same amount of resources does not go as far as they used to when there were fewer people living here."

Rick Kneuve was disappointed in Hardesty's lack of preparation for

her talk. He estimated that neighbors had invested 1,000 hours in documenting livability problems related to rapid development and cut-through commuter traffic.

"Because there's no traffic enforcement and because development is accelerating, particularly on Southwest 58th, the limited infrastructure is significantly overtaxed."

The situation was apparently news to Hardesty, who advised neighbors to work with her policy director, Derrick Bradley.

"I had already worked with Derrick extensively on this," Rick Kneuve told the Examiner later.

He and neighbors met with Bradley two weeks prior and expected Hardesty to come to the meeting with possible solutions.

Instead, the commissioner had

an off-the-cuff reaction: "Isn't that what systems development charges are for, so developers pay for the improvements that are necessary?"

When it was explained that the development charges are not tied to the vicinity where they are generated, Hardesty admitted, "I am not as knowledgeable as you are about how those dollars are utilized."

Hardesty dismissed neighbors' pleas for more responsiveness from City Hall by pitting their needs against those of homeless persons, whom she mentioned 16 times during the hour-long discussion.

"I hope that we are just not pretending that we have fixed the houselessness problem by sweeping people out of downtown," she said. "We can't build [housing] fast enough for the need that we have. I take this very seriously, and peo-

ple who want to be snarly about it just frustrate me. It's going to take all of us and it's going to take all of us being out of our comfort zone because people will be houseless because it's too expensive to live in the city of Portland."

When asked what they could do about the problem, Hardesty suggested, "Maybe your neighborhood adopts a camp. Once or twice a week, you take food and check on them to make sure that they're OK."

When Rick Kneuve expressed fears that campfires set by homeless people in wooded areas near homes could engulf the neighborhood in flames, Hardesty replied that the camps would not be swept away, but a Street Roots ambassador program might check on the campers to see what they needed.

"She was so dismissive of our

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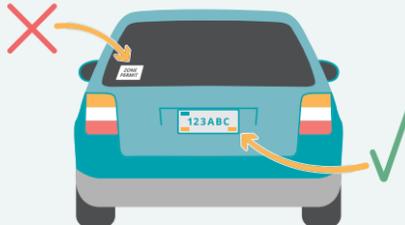


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Rick and Sally Kneuve, mainstays in the Sylvan-Highlands Neighborhood Association, were disappointed in Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty's responses to their concerns.

concerns as a neighborhood," Rick Kneuve reflected later. "She showed complete indifference and guilt-tripped us for asking for change."

Association Treasurer Dave Malcolm was more subdued in his assessment of the commissioner's presentation: "At times it seemed she was defending her perspective more than listening."

Core mission

Commissioner Hardesty has laid out a difficult path for white, middle class neighborhoods.

At the Neighbors West/Northwest coalition meeting in May, she answered a question about how the Office of Community & Civic Life could help neighborhood associations seeking to become more diverse. Hardesty offered not assistance but rather a standard she expected of them.

"If your neighborhood association does not reflect all of those constituents [renters, people of color, non-English speakers, homeless people] then that means that you have some work to do to actually recruit, mentor and support their development within your neighborhood association group."

While candid at personal appearances, Hardesty attempted to bury an independent assessment of Civic Life revealing widespread dysfunction, autocratic leadership and abuse of employees. Hardesty had stood by Civic Life Director Suk Rhee through what others deemed firing offenses, but when the Multnomah County District Attorney ruled that the report—calling for the removal of Rhee—must be released to the public, Rhee at last was let go.

Hardesty's plans for Civic Life are vague. She elevated former manager Michael Montoya to interim director and predicted a year-long sorting out period.

"I think we have to get back to our core mission, and that core mission is civic engagement—working with neighborhood associations and others—making sure that people have access to City Hall," she said.

Hardesty's general descriptions of Civic Life's role and that of neighborhood associations leave her grasp of its core mission open to speculation. When she publicly praises associations, it is typically for removing litter, holding concerts in parks or "the mutual aid you provided for community members during COVID," as she did at the start of her remarks at Sylvan-Highlands.

In May, she thanked Westside neighborhood representatives for having "stepped up to provide community care in ways that are pretty phenomenal."

An appreciation of neighborhood association's substantive role in local governance, however, is another thing. The Office of Neighborhood Associations was created in 1975 partly to institutionalize the citizen involvement element of the statewide land-use planning system. Without permanent neighborhood bodies committed to regular oversight of city programs and decisions, local governments would have had to establish citizen panels in each section of their jurisdiction and trust they could offer relevant and representative views on behalf of their communities.

Holding local government accountable is another essential role fulfilled by neighborhood associations, though one less appreciated by elected officials. Because neighborhood activists may have a stake in public decisions and administrative outcomes, they pay attention to rules and their application, details beyond the attention span of most citizens. At times, this leads to official appeals, which the council is obligated to hear.

Instead of spelling out Civic Life's core mission, Hardesty announced broadly at a citywide forum for neighborhood activists in March, "I want to make government accessible to people."

What the people want, on the other hand, may involve something more specific. In the past, the city has convened conferences that fostered higher visions for the role of neighborhoods in Portland's future.

When interviewed by the NW Examiner in February, Hardesty was asked about calling a citywide summit of neighborhood associations, a tradition discontinued 25 years ago. She expressed no interest in such a gathering.

She has also been steadfast about leaving city code language defining the purpose of Civic Life as is. Although the bureau's name was changed in 2018 to reflect social goals beyond the realm of neighborhood associations, a project to revise the code accordingly faltered the following year. Defenders of the old way and advocates of the new thus can claim authority for their opposing visions for the city that works ... but increasingly does not work together. ■

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Another stab at legalizing Café Nell



Café Nell owner Vanessa Preston, in pink, and staff members in a photo taken before the COVID pandemic.

In early May, the Portland Bureau of Development Services supposedly abandoned plans to prepare an ordinance legalizing restaurant seating in residentially zoned parking lots, a measure that would have benefited Café Nell at Northwest 20th and Kearney streets.

“This matter is not expected to come before the City Council in the foreseeable future,” BDS Supervising Planner Mike Liefeld advised the NW Examiner.

But in June, BDS proposed sweeping measures to temporarily lift regulations affecting businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The council heard a staff summary of the proposed ordinance June 16, but the presenter ran out of time before getting to Page 6 of the eight-page document. For that reason, there was no discussion of a provision to allow all retail and service businesses to operate in parking lots they own or lease through March 31, 2023. Another provision exempts new or existing non-

conforming uses from existing regulations.

Nothing in the ordinance or council discussion mentioned Café Nell, but the amendments would provide complete relief for the restaurant for nearly two years. Before the ordinance was proposed, Liefeld said Café Nell had 60 days to seek approval for the outdoor seating and temporary structures covering the 50-by-100-foot parking lot it leases next to its building.

The ordinance was introduced by City Commissioner Dan Ryan, whose office had been working with BDS this year on more limited measures that would have legalized Café Nell’s noncompliant outdoor dining area.

After the presentation to the council last month, Ryan acknowledged that commissioners Mingus Mapps and Jo Ann Hardesty raised “a lot of concerns.”

Ryan said at least some of the proposed amendments may need to be reconsidered before moving forward.



In other news . . .

Pergolas on 13th

Five pergolas (above) have been installed on Northwest 13th Avenue between Everett and Glisan streets to serve as booths for artists and other vendors. The structures were donated by Capital Lumber through Parr Lumber and were erected by neighborhood volunteers.

Killer Burger

Killer Burger, with 12 franchises in the metropolitan area, is opening at 1620 NW 23rd, the former home of Tap and Table and Lompoc Tavern. Killer Burger features one-third pound burgers made with natural beef priced at \$12-\$14.

Pizza Thief

Pizza Thief and the adjoining Bandit Bar opened last month in the former Acapulco’s Gold location at 2606 NW Vaughn St. Partners Darby Aldaco and Tony Pasquale oversaw the total rebuilding of the space, which now has high, exposed wood ceilings and murals by Eric Junker.



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NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 27, No. 7 “News You Can’t Always Believe” July 2021

Jerry rigged

When the manager of the Nob Hill Bar & Grill was seen ripping the outside menu board from Nobbys’ front wall, it was obvious that something was amiss.

It seems assistant fry boy and twerking coach Jerry had reengineered Nobbys’ BLT sandwich to include garlic and quince.

He proudly updated the sign to read, “Now serving LGBTQ!”

For some reason, the limited supply of the new sandwich soon ran out.

So Jerry, in his wisdom, strode outside and added “Not,” so the board now read, “Not now serving LGBTQ!”

Thankfully, Greg, the manager, was returning at that very moment, and



with a fury not seen since he lost so miserably in the March Madness pool, the offending sign was ripped down

Peace still reigns along Northwest 23rd Avenue, although there are reports that late at night, wailing screams of “Quince!?! Quince!?!” can be heard emanating from the manager’s office.

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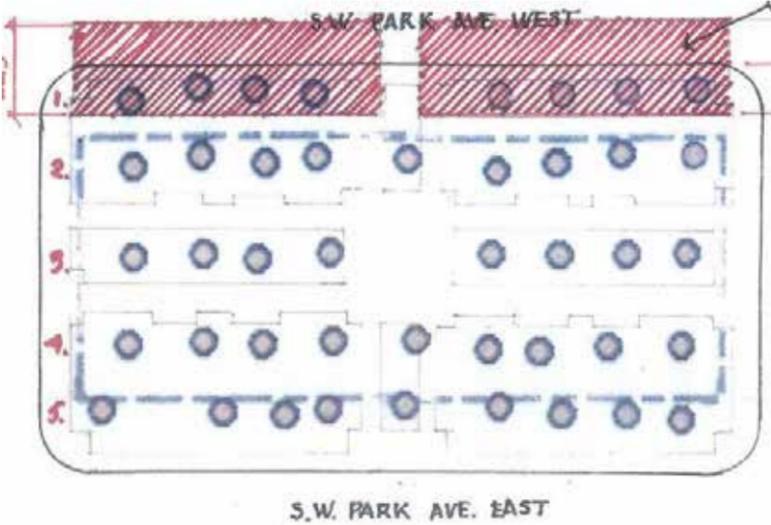
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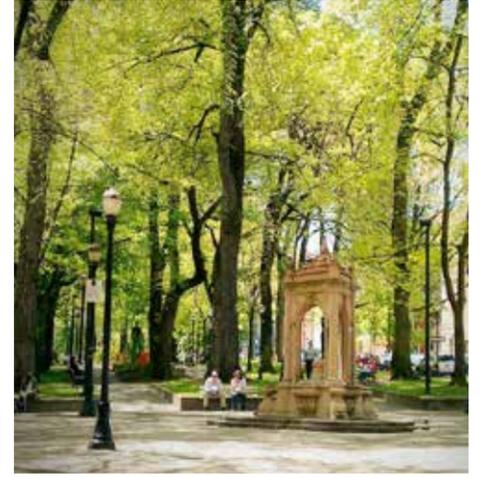
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Drawing by William J. Hawkins III shows bike lanes in red; blue dotted line is how the Parks Bureau interprets the park's boundaries. Black line shows current boundaries.



Yellow ribbons indicate some of the trees that would be removed in the new plan. Black lines on the right shows location of bicycle lanes. (William J. Hawkins III photo)



The 1926 Shemanski Fountain between Southwest Salmon and Main streets.

BY FRED LEESON

The Portland City Council will be asked on July 7 to degrade the boundaries and historic landscape of the South Park Blocks, a strip of 12 narrow blocks that represent one of the city's oldest and most beloved parks.

The proposal from the Portland Parks & Recreation is expected to draw substantial criticism, including from a heavyweight group of concerned citizens that counts among their number former City Commissioner Mike Lindberg and many others with political and reputable connections to Portland history.

A detailed study by these citizens suggests that the plan would eliminate 86 of the park's current 325 trees, a 26-percent reduction, removing the central aisle of trees on several blocks. Many would be sacrificed to make way for the Green Loop two-way bicycle lanes along 10 of the 12 blocks. From its earliest planting of deciduous trees in 1877, the park has never been considered as a thoroughfare for any kind of vehicles.

The bicycle lanes would reduce the width of 10 blocks by about 15 feet, decreasing the park by 17,400 square feet. The plan's map, shown below, makes it difficult to reconcile with the following statement in the plan: "While this master plan does not advocate removing any mature healthy trees, it is understood that all trees have a life span and that over time existing trees will need to be replaced when they become hazardous or simply reach the end of their lives..."

Ironically, the Parks Bureau contends that the bike lanes fall within the right-of-way of Southwest Park Avenue West and thus do not impinge on the park's dimensions. However, the current blocks measure 124 feet wide; if the Parks Bureau is correct about the right-of-way, then big trees and grass have lived there for many decades.

"There is a striking difference between what the Master Plan says narratively and what it entails," according to the citizens' report. "The plan works to convince the reader that trees will not be removed, but in fact the plan will hasten their demise in multiple ways."

The Master Plan does not specify a new planting plan, but urges the addition of at least some conifers that would infringe on wintertime sunlight in the park.

The blocks were planted in 1877 with five axial rows of deciduous trees, mostly elms. The plantings created a "cathedral" of trees over grass and pathways for pedestrians. The plan created view corridors between the rows and offered a canopy of shade in the summer and daylight during winter. The simplicity of its design and the flexibility of activities the design allows have been long-cherished.

Another sticking point is a proposal to displace trees to add an architectural canopy over a block within the Portland State University campus. PSU originally welcomed the Park Blocks as public space for its dense urban campus, but now the university seems intent on using the blocks

for its own purposes.

"Whose park is it?" asked Wendy Rahm, land-use chair for the Downtown Neighborhood Association. "Is it the people's park or is it PSU's?"

Rahm said one good element in the Master Plan is a triangular plot near the Native American Student & Community Center that would be planted with native plants selected by indigenous people.

Members of the concerned citizens who oppose the plan include former Commissioner Mike Lindberg; David Judd, a former deputy director of the Parks Bureau; Stephen Kafoury, a former state representative, state senator and Portland School Board member; William J. Hawkins III, architect and park historian; Kit Hawkins; Rahm and Walter Weyler, Downtown Neighborhood Association president.

Citizens who wish to save the South Park Blocks are encouraged to write to the Portland mayor and city commissioners. Their email and street addresses are below. Citizens should submit their own reasons for opposing the Master Plan, recognizing that officials discount boilerplate letters.

Writers could include one or more of the following reasons, or create their own:

- 1) The park should retain its historic block widths of 124 feet and the deciduous tree scheme for the environmental and social benefits the park has represented for many decades.
- 2) It ain't broke, so don't try to fix it. There is no need to spend \$23 mil-

lion-\$47 million to ruin a park that is beloved as it is.

3) The park was never intended to be a thoroughfare for vehicles of any kind.

4) Larger and noisier active uses are antithetical to the residential neighborhood that the city has encouraged along the park for at least 70 years.

5) Portland State University must restate its willingness to maintain the six blocks adjacent to its campus as green space for the use of all citizens, rather than being dominated by the university.

6) No plan for the park is acceptable without a detailed description and locations of additional trees to be planted.

7) Planting conifers would add unnecessary shade in the winter and interfere with the historic north-south view corridors.

8) The plan should be suspended until a result is determined from a pending application to the National Register of Historic Places.

Email addresses:

- Mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov
- CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov
- Joann@portlandoregon.gov
- Mappsoffice@portlandoregon.gov
- Comm.Rubio@portlandoregon.gov

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The Westside Watershed Resource Center (WWRC) inspires awareness and action on behalf of watershed health in Northwest and Southwest Portland neighborhoods. We provide outreach and education to the community through workshops, volunteer planting projects, field trips, online and print publications, and technical assistance site visits for residents, schools, places of worship, businesses, and community groups.

We've been busy this past year working with neighbors and community groups to enhance watershed health around Portland. These activities have seen 108 volunteers share their time to plant over 1,000 native plants and enhance over 7,000 square feet of landscape by restoring soils, removing invasive weeds, and improving wildlife habitat!



WWRC has been active in SW Portland for over 20 years, but has only been serving NW Portland since the summer of 2019. We are currently looking for community groups, project sites, and individual volunteers in NW Portland to partner with on projects to reduce water pollution, create wildlife habitat, and provide education and engagement opportunities for the community. If you have ideas for a project or partnership, please contact us!

Project partners, like City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Portland Parks & Recreation, West Willamette Restoration Partnership, natural area Friends groups, and many others play a key role in helping us achieve our goals. We'd love for you to get involved too!

Visit westsidewatersheds.org to learn about all the resources WWRC has to offer, and check out upcoming community events.

We're here to help you! Connect with us to share questions, thoughts, or concerns about water quality or stormwater in your neighborhood:

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- Manager@westsidewatersheds.org
- Facebook.com/Westsidewrc
- **Instagram:** @watershedresourcecenter
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Partner Spotlight

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Find out more about projects in your neighborhood at: portland.gov/bes/improvements/find-sewer-and-stormwater-construction-projects

Below: Volunteers at Stormwater Stars Workshops get hands-on practice in small scale stormwater management techniques. Learn more about these free workshops at stormwaterstars.org (photo credit: Lorena O'Neill)



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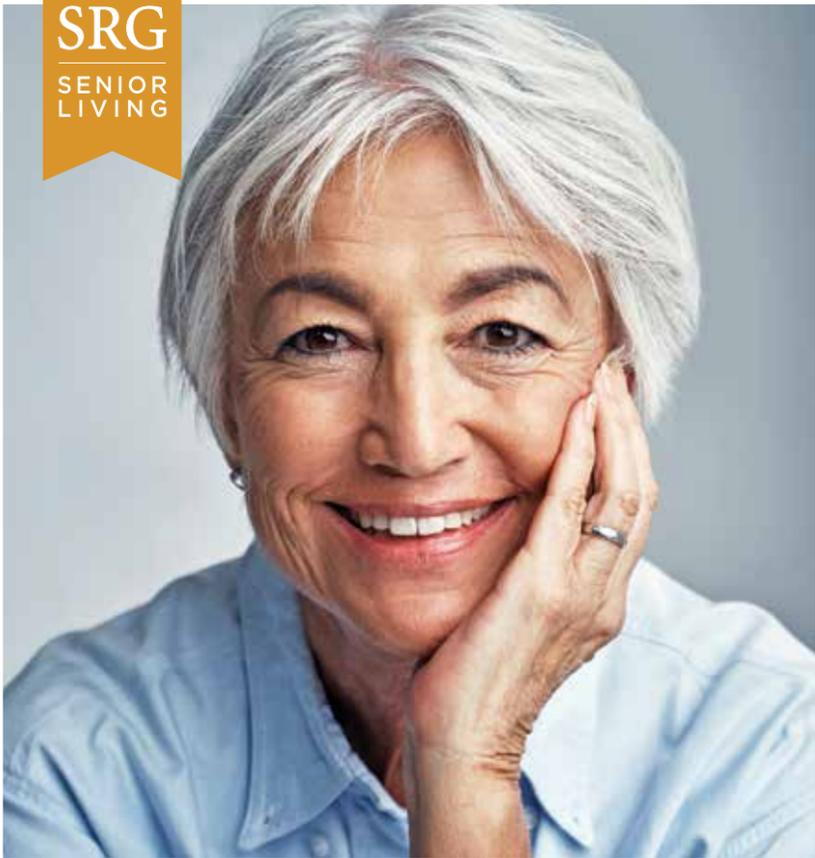
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Judie Dunken, who chairs the Pearl District Neighborhood Association Livability and Safety Committee, believes action is needed for the entire Portland downtown.



Mary Sipe finds the city's failure to expand Portland Street Response teams "just plain stupid."

"Street response" cont'd from page 1

In response to Portland City Council's refusal in May to expand the pilot Portland Street Response program into the central city, PDNA board members added their passion to a chorus of Westside neighborhood associations pleading for reconsideration.

"The optics of this are terrible," PDNA board member David Dysert said. "We've got a crisis in this city, and we're going to study this for a while?"

The council voted 3-2 against City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty's amendment to release \$3.6 million in PSR reserve funds to extend service citywide, including the multistressed downtown. The amendment would have established six teams of mental health and emergency medical technicians instead of the one now restricted to a single southeast neighborhood. The expansion was nixed to give a Portland State University team 15 months to collect data and evaluate the program.

"Portland is in an existential crisis," continued Dysert, holding the floor for two minutes. "People feel their city is going off a cliff, and they need to see signs—concrete tangible signs—that the garbage is being picked up, that homeless people are getting services, that there's people on the street doing things."

"I feel as passionate as you do about this, and I want to congratulate you for articulating it so well," added PDNA board member Patricia Cliff.

"This is just a no-brainer," board member Mary Sipe said. "If they're only going to two calls a day in this little designated area, why can't we utilize what we have and allow them to go to calls in other parts of the

city? It's just plain stupid."

"We've got to do something for the downtown core," PDNA Livability and Safety Committee Chair Judie Dunken said.

"The way I read the room, the tide has turned," PDNA President Stan Penkin concluded in calling for a motion sending that message to the City Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Cautioned that the Pearl's problems are not as dire as elsewhere, Penkin agreed that the expansion should not include his district "for now."

The problem at Portland's core is hidden from no one. Local business interests took out a full-page ad in the New York Times on June 20 acknowledging the blows to Portland's image while vowing to overcome it all in the Portland way.

"It seems that almost overnight, the city's downtown, which has been a model for much of the country, is the national poster child for dysfunction and decay," stated a letter to the City Council from the Downtown Neighborhood Association.

The disorder is related to growing populations of homeless people, many suffering from mental illness and addictions, in an environment rife with crime and predatory behavior. Sometimes the social breakdown spills out in the form of anguished screams in the night waking nearby apartment-dwellers.

Stories of haywire happenings circulate among what has become known as the "Six Core" neighborhood associations, whose safety and livability committees meet jointly.

The reports may be conflation of Portland Police Bureau Flash Alerts

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and word of mouth accounts, but they tend to reinforce the presumption that a Portland Street Response team could have made a difference.

A suicidal man apparently on heroin knocked over display cases and caused such disruption in Nordstrom on Southwest Broadway on June 5 that dispatchers believed a shooting was underway. A screaming man terrorized patrons dining *alfresco* at a downtown restaurant and then burned a camper's tent pitched on the sidewalk. Two young men with knives chased an elderly man in downtown Portland and broke a window of his car as he tried to drive away. Thugs forced their way into a downtown restaurant and threatened the owner at knife-point.

Sgt. Matt Jacobsen, who works with Central Precinct neighborhood associations, agrees. Speaking unofficially, he gushed about the "astronomical" potential of the new program.

"I am 100 percent rooting for Portland Street Response," Jacobsen told PDNA members. "Portland Street Response stands to serve the community far better than we are able to simply because we are the police. Our main focus is law enforcement."

The latest addition to the Six Core coalition, the Southwest Hills Residential League, sent a letter to the

City Council urging expansion of Portland Street Response to the city's inner core.

"These neighborhoods are key to our city's economic, tourism and cultural revitalization in the post-COVID era. Yet, any progress toward revival is being undercut by the epidemic of crimes and social disturbances brought on by drug addiction, mental health emergencies and the trauma of living on the streets," wrote SWHRL President Melanie Billings-Yun.

"From April 2020 to April 2021, no other area of Portland registered more assaults, vandalism or theft—not to mention the flood of reported incidents of threatening or disturbed behavior, which shows no sign of abating.

We can't help to stem this wave by relying solely on methods that have proven to be ineffective.

"I understand that PSR is still a pilot program. However, I believe that expanding Street Response to the inner city would give you the deep pool of data you need to assess, refine and build a broader program going forward. Equally important, it will show the city's residents that our elected leaders are taking action, giving people the confidence to return downtown."

"The optics of this are terrible. We've got a crisis in this city, and we're going to study this for a while?"
— David Dysert, Pearl resident

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In the Dark Night



BY STAN PENKIN

Clad in black from head to toe with some carrying black umbrellas, the "direct action marchers" gathered at Fields Park

in anticipation of another night of vandalism and mayhem. The Portland Police Bureau's Rapid Response team having resigned the day before, Pearl neighbors feared the reduced police presence did not bode well.

Neighbors of Fields Park gathered on surrounding streets, some in lawn chairs, and not merely to watch. A few attempted friendly conversations with the throng in black, hoping to better understand their cause, though largely to no avail.

Some said they came out in support of Black Lives Matter, though signs of that conviction were lacking. We questioned some about why they covered their faces, but they did not engage. Most appeared to be young white people taking direction from one or two older, vocal men. As the marchers slowly left the park, there were only about 25 or 30 of them, many less than at previous direct action marches. The energy level was also lower.

The marchers headed directly toward one of their favorite targets, The Fields Bar & Grill. But this time a large number of neighbors stand-

ing in front of the restaurant created a human barrier around it. So the group steered down Northwest 11th Avenue, overturning e-scooters and A-board signs, which were quickly returned to their places by neighbors following closely.

The marchers continued aimlessly and without their usual chanting, perhaps deterred by neighbors at their heels. The apparent leader of the marchers tried to energize them. When they reached another favorite target, the Homeland Security offices on Northwest 14th Avenue, they caused no damage.

The marchers circled back to The Fields Bar & Grill, where a noisy confrontation with neighbors ensued. The tension was palpable. But angry shouts and blinding lights aimed in the faces of neighbors failed to clear the human barrier shielding the restaurant's windows.

In time, calmer heads on both sides prevailed and shouts turned to conversations. De-escalation won out. Ultimately, some marchers joined community members inside the restaurant, sharing drinks and conversation.

There is power in community, and for one night a disparate collection of people found dialogue and listening preferable to impersonal anger. This all happened without a police officer in sight. Perhaps it represents a new beginning or at least hope of one.

Stan Penkin is president of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association.

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Neighbors take case against diverters to Commissioner Hardesty

The Northwest District Neighborhood Association, rebuffed in efforts to gain accommodation from the transportation bureau City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty oversees, has written the commissioner an open letter asking for a meeting.

"We asked that PBOT (Portland Bureau of Transportation) defer installing three of the 17 planned traffic diverters ... in the interior of the Northwest District," the letter,

sent June 21, stated.

The diverters are part of NW in Motion, a project managed by Zef Wagner.

"City code has not authorized neighborhoods or district coalitions for oversight over city bureaus or projects," Wagner told NWDA in February, advising that no further engagement with the association was necessary until the project's annual review in November or December.

"We are writing this 'open letter' to you to express our profound disappointment in the Bureau of Transportation's refusal to consider our very modest request made to City Council in October 2020, during the testimony on the Northwest in Motion project," stated the letter, signed by NWDA President Parker McNulty.

NWDA also contends that PBOT is violating the 2003 city-adopted Northwest District Plan, which

discourages interruptions in the street grid.

The letter was approved by a 6-1 vote of the NWDA board.

Supporters of PBOT's handling of NW in Motion have resigned from the board and its Transportation Committee over the past year, and the five remaining members of the committee stepped down after the recent letter to Hardesty. ■

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Snapshots



Windermere brokers took off from the office June 11 and joined SOLVE in removing trash in the Pearl and Northwest districts for the company's annual Community Service Day.

The Portland Bureau of Transportation will replace all 42 existing public trash receptacles on Northwest 21st and 23rd avenues and replace them with ones of a different design and twice the capacity. The \$100,000 project was funded from parking meter revenues generated in the area at the recommendation of a neighborhood advisory committee.



Flanders Crossing, spanning Interstate 405 with an earthquake-resilient pedestrian and bicycle bridge, was dedicated last month. The \$9.5 million project, funded by Connect-Oregon and city transportation system development charges, completes a vision by former City Commissioner Sam Adams in 2006 to install the decommissioned Sauvie Island Bridge here.



Oregon state Sen. Betsy Johnson and Rep. Brad Witt will cut the ribbon to an ADA ramp at the Linnton Community Center, 10614 NW St. Helens Road, Friday, July 9, at 2 p.m.



Volunteer Opportunities



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Total Appreciation in 7 Years: 47.7%



Cannon Beach \$4,995,000
3,348 SF • Amazing Ocean Views & Access • Glass House
Dirk Hmura | Jessica Corcoran 503.740.0070



West Haven \$1,795,000
5,554 SF • 4 BD • 3 1/2 BA • Stunning Coastal Range & Sunset Views
Dirk Hmura 503.740.0070 | Josh Gainer 503.805.3600



Helvetia Contemporary Estate \$1,785,000
5,025 SF • 4 BD • 3 Full BA • Privacy Abounds on 14 Acres
Call Lee Davies, Jennifer Holland, Harrison Whitmarsh 503.468.3660



Cresap Summit \$1,350,000
4 BR • Stunning Modern • Highest Quality • Serene Private Views
Call Lee Davies, Jennifer Holland, Harrison Whitmarsh 503.468.3660



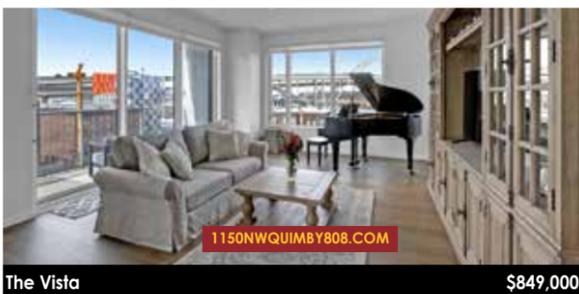
Dunthorpe \$1,349,900
4,018 SF • 4 BD • 3 Full BA • Gourmet Kitchen walks out to NEW Deck
Kristen Bier 503.734.7560 | Cathi Render 971.806.2408 | Jeremiah Branch 971.806.2769



Ironwood Traditional \$1,150,000
4,103 SF • 5 BD • 3.5 BA • Ideal Floorplan w/Room for All • Outdoor Living Room
Call Lee Davies, Harrison Whitmarsh, Justin Nelson 503.468.3660



Overlook \$950,000
3,292 SF • 4 BD • 2.1 BA • 2013 Built Craftsmen Style • Open Floor Plan • Fenced Backyard
Stacy Butchart 503.407.7525 | Wednesday Wild-Wilson 503.287.3869



The Vista \$849,000
1,460 SF • 2 BD • 2.1 BA • NW Corner Unit • 1 Deeded Parking Spot
Brian Budke 503.310.5252 | Ginger Gregory 503.333.1390



Willamette Heights \$839,900
2,204 SF • 2 BD • 1.1 BA • Level Private Backyard
Dirk Hmura 503.740.0070 | Cathi Render 971.806.2408



Bauer Woods \$819,000
2,926 SF • 4 BD • 2.5 BA • Beautifully Updated on 1/3 Acre Lot
Dirk Hmura 503.740.0070 | Cathi Render 971.806.2408



Cedar Mill \$729,900
2,504 SF • 3 BD + Den • 2.5 BA • Light Filled Home
Dirk Hmura 503.740.0070 | Cathi Render 971.806.2408



Burton Road \$695,000
19,186 SF Lot • Rare Opportunity to Build Your Dream Home!
Lee Davies 503.468.3660



South Cooper Mountain \$600,000
2,078 SF • 3 BD • 2.5 BA • Open Floor Plan
Sam Vu 503.701.4773 | Apa-Clarke Team 503.809.4663



Forest Heights \$549,999
2,192 SF • 3 BD • 2 1/2 BA • Townhome Style Condo
Chris Kuehl 503.407.2414 | Kristen Bier 503.734.7560



West Haven \$498,000
1,791 SF • 4 BD • 2.5 BA • Newer Kitchen
Dirk Hmura 503.740.0070 | Cathi Render 971.806.2408



NW Portland \$485,000
1,608 SF • 2 BD • 1 1/2 BA • NW Condo with Views
Bob Harrington 503.913.1296 | Jason Cassell 503.953.5444



Tigard \$449,900
1,808 SF • 3 BD • 2.5 BA • Charming Craftsman, Ideal Starter Home
Brody Cannon 503.901.3658 | Josh Gainer 503.805.3600



Stonewater \$409,888
1,580 • 2 BD + Office + Loft • 2.5 BA • Updated Townhome
Renee Harper 503.317.7691 | Michelle Scott 503.737.4940



Riverhouse \$399,900
1,816 SF • 3 BD + Den • 1.5 BA • River Views & Pool
Megan Westphal 971.998.3071 | Wednesday Wild-Wilson 503.287.3869



Hillsboro Ranch \$335,000
1,432 SF • 30 BD • 1 BA • Large, Level Lot
Ryan Garrick 971.506.6942 | Kevin Sutherland 971.371.0833



The Pearl \$335,000
707 SF • 1 BD • 1 BA • Deeded Parking
Stacy Butchart 503.407.7525 | Josh Gainer 503.805.3600



Pearl District \$339,900
Urban Loft • 702 SF • Deeded Parking Space
Kristen Bier 503.734.756 | Kim Williams 503.502.3573



The Quintet \$329,900
1,097 SF • 2 BD • 2 BA • 2 Deeded Parking Spaces
Bob Harrington 503.913.1296 | Jason Cassell 503.953.5444



The Pearl \$299,900
732 SF • 1 BD • 1 BA • Pearl District Loft
Bob Harrington 503.913.1296 | Jason Cassell 503.953.5444

CONTACT US

503.292.1500
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