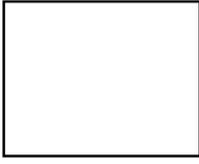


“Digging deep,
Shining a light”

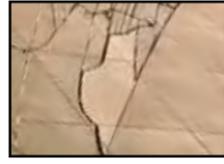
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MARCH 2021/ VOLUME 34, NO. 7

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

Compassion and Order



Stephanie Hansen and Debbie Poitra serve coffee to unhoused residents in Downtown Portland. Photo by Wesley Mahan



Homeless people receive \$1 a bag to pack up trash, a program of the Goose Hollow Foothills League underwritten by donations of recyclables to BottleDrop. A total of 36 bags were collected one day in late February. Photo by Matt Erceg

Neighborhood associations blend supposedly incompatible themes

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Louis Wilhelms was not the kind of man who ordinarily merits a newspaper obituary. His date of death was unknown. No survivors have been identified. His closest associates didn't know his date of birth. His estate, if there was such, was insufficient to cover a write-up in the daily paper.

Wilhelms lived across the street from the First Unitarian Church in a tent. He had been homeless for 25 of the last 30 years and got around in a wheelchair after his legs were amputated due to diabetes.

His homeless neighbor, Charles White, described him as a “hippie with a big beard and a big belly who everybody liked.”

Another friend, Margaret Jessie, said he was “a good person who would let people into his tent to get out of the rain.”

With those sketchy generalities, Wilhelms' death was commemorated Jan. 13 in a singular service officiated by a rabbi, a Unitarian minister and an interfaith officiant, perhaps the first memorial in which the clergy outnumbered the guests

who knew the departed.

The fact that Wilhelms at last got his due owes to the organized compassion of Downtown Neighborhood Association volunteers who launched the Good Neighbor Program last year. Teams of residents regularly walk the sidewalks, greeting unhoused people and offering

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Neighborhood president quits



Ciaran Connelly could not advance his positions on transportation issues

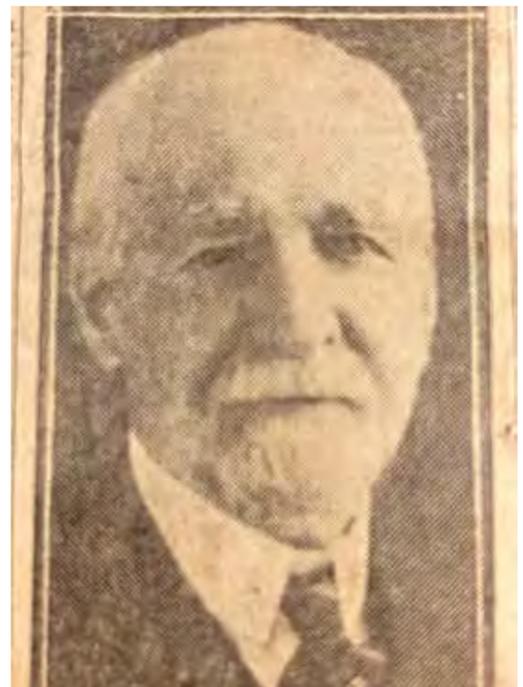
BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Ciaran Connelly resigned as president of the Northwest District Association last month, the latest in a spate of resignations that has reduced the 15-seat board to nine members and depleted its Transportation Committee.

Connelly ended his third term as president prematurely after being directed by the board to send a letter he found objectionable.

“I am not willing to volunteer my time to oppose initiatives that I wholeheartedly support,” he wrote in a Feb. 24 email.

Cont'd on page 12



William Hugh Wallace

The man behind Wallace Park

Story on page 11

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— Kimberly and Christian Buss

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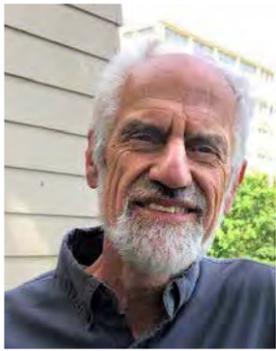


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Is it all for nothing?

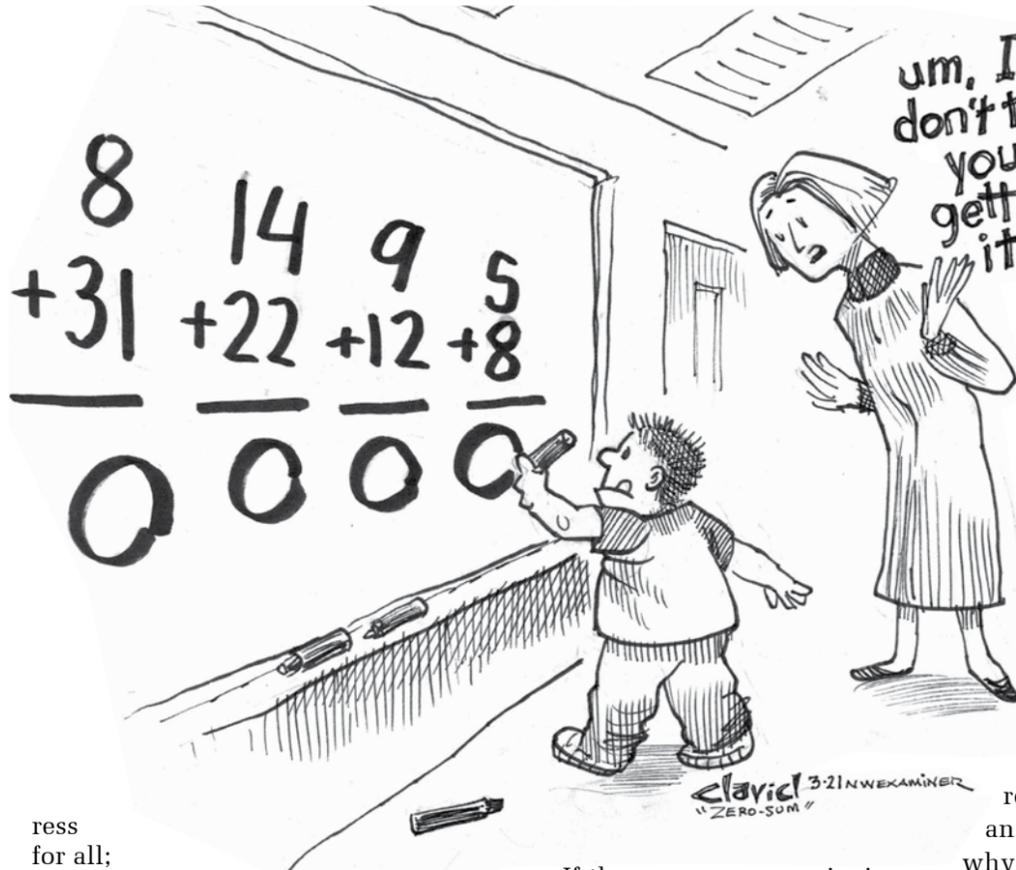
A few years ago, I began having trouble “reasoning together” with some fellow Portlanders, particularly some with whom I share many political values.

Most notable was my first conversation with Suk Rhee in 2017, early in her tenure as director of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. We sat down for an hour-long conversation that was cordial throughout, as well as confounding. Although she was unfamiliar with Portland neighborhood associations and their history, she was utterly uncurious about what she did not know. Nothing of past neighborhood association victories, pitfalls or lessons I had drawn seemed to matter to her. She brought a different point of view that she never modified that day or at many subsequent public speaking appearances.

Rhee was not the only one with whom I seemed to have lost the capacity to engage fruitfully. Was it something in the water? A new package of views and arguments was rising among local activists and people in city hall. It was also mirrored in the national media.

The social goals advocated were familiar to me, but we parted on the means to get there. My faith in democratic processes, free speech, compromise, cooperation and “the best ideas” leading to progress were passé to this new way of thinking.

What was I missing? It began to make sense when I realized that they lived in a zero-sum reality. There was no such thing as prog-



ress for all; the gains of one group depend on equivalent losses by another. Competition and conflict are what matters, and the niceties of rules and deliberation are just covers for raw self-interest.

This is my interpretation, anyway. Advocates of the new way do not apply the zero-sum metaphor.

Which is not to say there were no clues. A member of the citizen advisory body Rhee appointed to oversee the transformation of the old neighborhood association program into a social equity agency said Rhee explained why neighborhood associations were not invited to participate in the pro-

cess: If the same groups enjoying power and privilege were included, they would again dominate the discussion. To bring about equity (the new term for equality), those on top would have to be held back so those on the bottom could gain ground.

I-win-you-lose is an ancient approach buried under centuries by progress owing to classical scholarship, The Enlightenment, science and other modern concepts such as individual liberty and democracy. Zero-sum thinking describes prehistoric tribes endlessly raiding each other's wealth or nations warring to

conquer territory.

How is the Neanderthal eye-for-an-eye mentality overcoming progressive minds in places like Portland? That's too big a topic for this space, but the charge that stumps liberal Portlanders today is that American founders were wealthy, slave-owning white men and therefore hypocrites whose writings were merely justification to hold onto power.

It makes perfect sense from a zero-sum perspective.

If, however, imperfect people create structures to balance self-interests,

resolve differences peacefully and promote the common good, why not apply them? I don't care if the inventor of the wheel lived a pure life.

When “I win, you lose” thinking is applied to groups, the ideas from another population sector or identity group must be distrusted. Outsiders can offer help only by listening and saying amen.

Zero-sum situations exist, but as a theory on how complex modern societies work, it fails. It has short-term utility for shaming tolerant people of goodwill, but it leads to conflict and division. Is it any surprise that Portland has arrived at such a place? ■

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.

Café Nell an oasis

I've always loved the NW Examiner, even when it didn't love me. But I do have to comment on your most recent article on Café Nell [“Café Nell crushes COVID,” February 2021], the oasis that Vanessa Preston has created in her neighborhood. The idea that friends can connect with other friends and/or family members and have found a safe

place to do this in their own neighborhood is a gift. The money spent on this endeavor was significant and the benefits ripple throughout the whole neighborhood.

I find interesting the comments about loud music because I can't even remember music playing when I've been there, though maybe I'm getting a little hard of hearing. I think it would be wonderful if every neighborhood in this city had

a safe place for residents to gather in these trying times.

Homer Williams
NW 13th Ave.

City quiet on violations

I know of no other restaurant that has used the pandemic as an excuse to expand their 49-seat indoor restaurant to a 70-seat outdoor,

semi-permanent tented space using a parking lot that is zoned residential. Not to mention that all the diners who used to park in the lot are now parking on the already crowded streets of Northwest Portland.

Vanessa Preston is not just a bad neighbor, as this article and her neighbors so clearly show; she is breaking the law. Her COVID-era

Cont'd on page 5

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Thane W. Tienson



Thane Walker Tien-son, a longtime resi- dent of Northwest Irving Street, died of a heart attack at age 74. He was born Aug. 22, 1946 in Astoria and moved

to California before his high school years. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and was twice wounded in combat. After the war, Tienson received a degree in history at Santa Clara University and a law degree from Lewis & Clark College. He worked for decades at the Portland law firm Landye Bennett Blumstein. In 1998, he negotiated a landmark water-quality settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency, compelling the EPA to consider cumulative impacts when issuing permits for new water pollution sources in Washington state. He also worked on a case that made the people of Oregon owners of the John Day River. In 1994, he co-founded the National Fisheries Conservation Center. He chaired the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies and was on the board of the Portland Urban League in the 1980s. He is survived by his brother, John; son Erik; daughter, Julia; former wife, Jann Tienson; and one grandchild.

Joyce Nelson



Delores "Joyce" Nelson, a member of the Lincoln High School class of 1954, died Feb. 8 at age 86. Delores Culbertson was born Feb. 4, 1935, on the

Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana. She and her family moved to Portland in 1944. After attending Lincoln, she graduated from Haskell Indian National University, in Lawrence, Kan. In 1957, she married John Nelson and they moved to Portland, where they became leaders in several Native American service organizations. She worked at Native

American Rehabilitation Association and later served on its board. She is survived by her husband, John; daughter, Valerie; son, Sam, brother, Harold Culbertson; sisters, Jo Zollinger, Karen Harvey and Gloria Culbertson; and 30 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her son, John; and daughters, Joanne and Jeanine.

Stanley E. Sharp



Stanley Edward Sharp, who attend- ed Couch and Cathedral schools, died Feb. 6 at age 84. He was born in Seattle on Feb. 25, 1936. He graduated

from Lincoln High School in 1954 and the U.S. Naval Academy in 1958. He practiced law in the Port- land area. He served in the Naval Reserves for 29 years. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Neta; daugh- ters, Kelly Schoen and Becky Over- beck; brother, Hadley Robbins; and five grandchildren.

Leland 'Bud' Lewis



Leland "Bud" Lewis, the "Mayor of the MAC" (Mult- nomah Athletic Club), died Feb. 20 at age 100. He was born in Mayton, Alberta, on Aug. 8,

1920. His family moved to Portland, where he attended Benson High School. In 1936, he joined the Ore- gon National Guard and saw combat duty during World War II. After his discharge, he was an officer with the Portland Police Bureau and then commanded the Sunshine Division from 1963-73. He then worked as head of security for ESCO another 10 years. He was a member of the Mult- nomah Athletic Club, where he led the annual blood drive that now bears his name. Last summer he raised more than \$125,000 for the

Sunshine Division by completing many miles around the Duniway track with his walker. He was prede- ceased by his wife of 67 years, Janet Spenser; son, Doug; and daughter, Diane.

Gretchen Mills



Gretchen Mills, who grew up in Portland Heights, died Feb. 11 at age 68. Gretchen Chil- ton was born Aug. 5, 1952, in Portland. She grew up in the

Southwest Hills and attended Ainsworth Elementary and Catlin Gabel schools. She graduated from the University of Oregon in 1974 with a degree in art. She worked for several art galleries, including 10 years at the Lahaina Galleries in Hawaii. Later, she worked for Ore- gon Parks and Recreation as a reser- vation specialist. She married Tim Mills. She is survived by her hus- band, Tim; stepson, Jim; and sister, Robin Holm.

Jack W. Thurber



Jack William Thurber, a resident of Cedar Mill, died Feb. 16 at age 85. He was born in Port- land on Nov. 7, 1935. In 1937, the

family moved to Albany, where he graduated from Albany Union High School in 1953. He graduated from Oregon State University in 1961. He served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers until his discharge in 1963. He returned to Portland in 1971 to work in market- ing for ESCO. He later founded Thurber Advertising. He co-founded the Cedar Mill Community Library and served as president of the library association. He was scoutmaster for Cedar Mill Boy Scout Troop 207. He was honored for volunteer service

within the Cascade Pacific Council of the Boy Scouts. He is survived by his wife, Georgianna; son, Bradley; daughter, Andrea Surfleet; sister, Janet Brooking; brother, James; and three grandchildren.

Death Notices

JOYCE A. ANDERSON, 94, Multnomah Athletic Club member.

JOHN COOK JR., 94, Multnomah Ath- letic Club member.

JEFF CULLY, member of Lincoln High School class of 1969.

JANET H. HANSON, 1953 Lincoln High School graduate.

SHEILA "PATTY" (LANGFITT) LORANCE, 73, member of Lincoln High School class of 1966.

SALLY (MENEFFEE) MOORE, 71 attend- ed Catlin Gabel High School.

RAY K. O'DELL, 95, 1947 Lincoln High School graduate.

JOHN A. SCHNELL, 88, Consolidated Freightways employee.

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

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Readers Reply
continued from page 3

dining space is not in the on-street parking area, as is the case with other restaurants under the Healthy Businesses program, but in a lot that is zoned for residential use. She did not apply for a zoning variance before building this dining space.

What has the city done about this brazen move? Not one thing. In fact, Café Nell appears to be one of the mayor's favorite dining spots. I hear there is an effort underway to pass a new ordinance that allows for non-conforming uses, such as Café Nell, to be made conforming, all by the stroke of a pen.

She has consistently violated noise ordinances, which neighbors have complained about since June to no avail. And her dining tent has never had a use permit. On all of these violations, the city has remained deafeningly quiet. I can imagine no other reason for this refusal to cite her business for ongoing violations of all sorts than the possibility that she has important friends at City Hall.

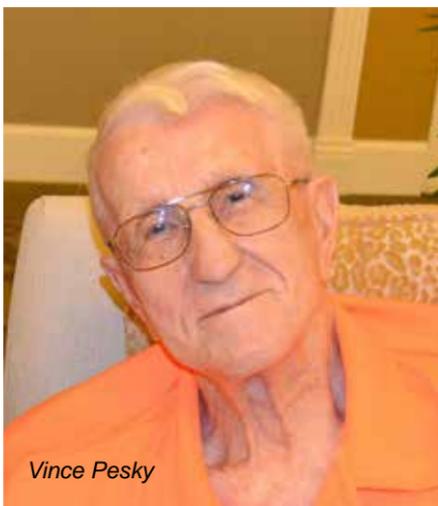
Jan Newton
NW 12th Ave.

Awesome success story

Regarding your cover story, it is awesome that they have somehow managed to navigate this incredibly difficult pandemic. While most restaurants are suffering, they have adjusted their business so they can serve their customers.

With regard to Rene Mercado's comments, if she doesn't like it, she should move to the country. She lives in a city. There are noises in the city. While your article is clearly slanted toward the residents, I find that disturbing. So often we hear people talk about unity, but it's only unity as long as it doesn't affect us. I have no sympathy for these residents. If you choose to live in an urban area, there is going to be additional noise. I found your article very slanted and unfair. I hope Café Nell continues its practices.

David Klein
SW Ravensview Drive



Vince Pesky

Pesky tribute

In about 2012, a man in the Walgreen's parking lot asked me about my Boston Red Sox license plate frame. Soon another man joined the conversation and offered to show me his Red Sox memorabilia. How could I say no?

So began my relationship with Mr. Vince Pesky. The three of us chatted in the parking lot for more than an hour. My husband is a Boston native and ardent Red Sox fan. We went to many games and saw amazing ball. We took our grandkids to Seattle for a Red Sox game and talked with players at third base during pregame.

Mr. Pesky and I spoke a handful of other times about setting up a date for him to speak to our grandson's fifth grade class at Chapman Elementary School. While it was never finalized, all the encounters with Mr. Pesky were amazing. The enthusiasm for baseball, community and life were without bounds and inspire me to this day. Mr. Pesky was kind and had amazing knowledge of Red Sox baseball and, of course, his brother Johnny [a player and coach known as "Mr. Red Sox"].

While not a close friend, Mr. Pesky fills a special place in our hearts through his generosity of personality and kindness to a fellow Red Sox fan.

Cherie Appleby-Lannan
SW Evergreen Lane

Willamette Heights to get separate bus line

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

TriMet plans to serve Willamette Heights with a mini-bus on a special bus line, obviating the difficult turnaround for full-size buses at the western terminus of Line 15.

The new line could be operational in September unless opposition is brought to bear on the TriMet board. The normal public comment period ended Feb. 17.

TriMet Outreach Services Director Clay Thompson said the turnaround at Northwest Thurman and Gordon streets requires backing 40-foot buses on a narrow street, which has caused damaged mailboxes and safety complaints from neighbors. TriMet's 29-foot buses can make a U-turn there without backing up.

The new line would run twice in the morning and twice in the afternoons on weekdays, a schedule tailored for Lincoln High School students. Line 15 currently provides the same frequency of service to Willamette Heights, which is one of three alternative endings of the line today.

It would layover and turn around at Southwest 18th and Morrison streets.

One drawback of the new line would be loss of a direct connection



from Northwest Portland to Line 15 Belmont.

The Northwest District Association Transportation Committee expressed no objections to the proposal, but the Downtown Neighborhood Association sent TriMet a letter of itemized concerns, including moving the Line 15 Belmont route through downtown northward from Southwest Salmon Street to Alder Street and farther from City Hall, Portland State University and museums. DNA is also asking Portland Transportation Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty to intervene.



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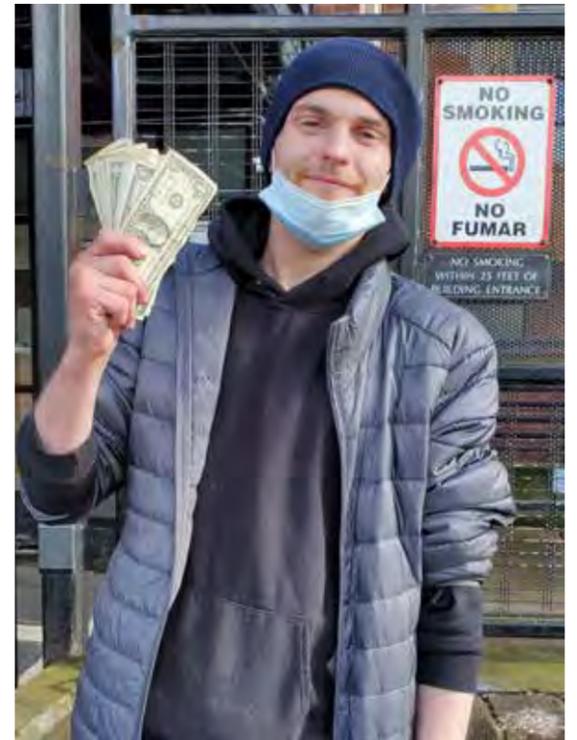


Left: Louis Wilhelms, called a “hippie who everybody liked,” lived on the streets of Portland for 25 of his last 30 years.

Lower left: A poetry reading by Street Roots vendors last March drew a full house of Pearl District Neighborhood Association members. Photo by Stan Penkin

Top: KATU news filmed David Dickson (right) preparing a cup of coffee as part of the Good Neighbor Program in January.

Right: Liam LostBourne, a musician living on the street, was delighted to collect pay for filling 10 large trash bags in Goose Hollow.



“Compassion” cont’d from page 1

water or perhaps coffee and warm gloves.

“We know we need to build relationships to help get people off the street,” said Darlene Garrett, co-chair of the DNA Homeless/Houseless Committee, believed to be the first committee devoted to this purpose among Portland neighborhood associations.

“One of the themes of the memorial for me was Louie’s invisibility to the housed community,” said David Dickson, co-chair of the committee. “A man with no legs in a wheelchair living outdoors in a tent. He was invisible to us.”

Members of the committee learned about Wilhelms’ death from White and shared the idea of a service with staff at the Unitarian Church, which has fully supported the committee’s work and hosted the memorial service.

The church also hosted DNA’s watershed forum on homelessness in 2019, an all-day event that brought together 19 housed and unhoused speakers and 200 participants to explore solutions to

the seemingly intractable issue. About 360 ideas were put in writing, including public toilets and hygiene facilities, outreach strategies and employment opportunities.

The event was so inspiring that Mayor Ted Wheeler, who made opening comments, “amazed us all by staying for the entire meeting,” Dickson said.

Wheeler took it as a model for “conversations” he held in neighborhoods across the city. Garrett believes the DNA forum marked a shift in public opinion that “worked to change people’s attitudes about homelessness.”

The city responded to several ideas raised at the forum, placing 25 portable toilets around the city and fast-tracking the opening of the Bybee Lakes Hope Center and the shelter at the Greyhound Bus Station.

Dickson has come to believe that the housed and unhoused in his neighborhood share values. He reflected on answers to two questions posed at the forum:

- Do you believe homeless people are our neighbors?

bors?

- Do you believe homeless people should live by rules?

Almost every respondent, whether housed or not, agreed with both precepts, he said.

“There is a thin line between fear and compassion when it comes to our unhoused neighbors,” Dickson said, “but we are all neighbors, and the only way we survive this crisis is to work together.”

The Good Neighbor Program was developed by, among others, Stephanie Hansen, a formerly houseless woman who serves on the DNA board. Hansen recommended supplying cold-weather items such as hats, gloves and scarves.

Thirty-six volunteers go out in teams of two or three to each of 22 four-block sections of downtown. They recently completed an inventory of 141 tents and 183 individuals camping in the area.

Neighborhoods unite

Working together also describes a movement among Central City neighborhood associations that are sharing ideas and resources on homelessness. DNA leaders see a model in the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, which has about 70 volunteers regularly patrolling the streets, picking up trash and generally being good neighbors.

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Alex Rodriguez (left) and Mort (no last name given) bag trash at Southwest 14th near Lincoln High School. Photo by Matt Erceg

The association raised \$5,000 for masks and donated them to residents of low-income buildings. After initial misgivings, PDNA fully supports the Harbor of Hope Navigation Center on Northwest Naito Parkway.

PDNA President Stan Penkin is partnering with Harbor of Hope founder Homer Williams on a pilot project to bring low-cost shelters and mini-houses to managed sites around the city.

Penkin was touched by poetry readings last year at which Street Roots vendors shared their writings with PDNA neighbors.

“That was probably the most heart-warming event that I’ve ever been involved with,” he said.

Penkin is also committed to public safety, law enforcement and keeping order in the public realm. He recently completed a term as chair of the Portland Public Safety Action Coalition, a citizen group working closely with the Portland Police Bureau.

How does he hold together two sets of values reflective of Portland’s great divide?

He offers no grand synthesis, just a feeling that “we just have so many compassionate people” and “keeping things clean” is a big part of improving the neighborhood for everyone.

A buck for trash

Tiffany Hammer, an Old Town business owner also active in the Goose Hollow Foothills League, became known as the Rose Lady in 2019 when she planted rose bushes to discourage camping along an Interstate 405 entrance.

Her latest endeavor is paying homeless people \$1 for each trash bag they fill while cleaning up blocks in Old Town, where disorder has gotten out of control, boarded windows abound and tents jam sidewalks, and Goose Hollow.

Hammer helped clean up Collins Circle, a rockery filled median at Southwest 18th and Jefferson streets, where she posed another deal to campers: if you bag up your trash, the city will pick it up and be less likely to target the area for a city sweep.

Hands-on encounters like these, which Hammer, a former mental health nurse, does not recommend for general volunteers, put her in touch

with street life and what it might take to get people connected to services and shelter.

“Get to know your unsheltered,” she advised. “We have to advocate for them.”

Hammer does a regular census of tents and occupants in both Old Town and Goose Hollow while mapping chronic hot spots. Old Town has had up to 275 tents, with about two occupants in each. A recent count found 68 in Goose Hollow clustered at three sites.

Raven Drake, manager of the Ambassador Program for Street Roots, turned to local government and social agencies for campsite data in an effort to get people sheltered at the Convention Center during a recent cold snap. They had none, she said.

“Tiffany’s information on the number of tents was invaluable,” Drake said. “We have found more accurate information from dealing directly with the neighborhood associations and houseless persons than we have from official sources at this point.”

Drake is noticing “amazing changes” in the involvement of inner Westside neighborhood associations. While she had heard negative stories about such groups, “I’ve actually found it to be the complete opposite.”

“I believe these people do want to help,” she said. “These neighborhood associations that do outreach are trying to help.”

Garrett, after retiring from a career as a community developer, “building the capacity of communities to take care of themselves” around the world, moved to Downtown six years ago and immediately got involved.

Garrett noted the large expenditures on housing and social services.

“It’s an economy in itself,” she said. “I do question the amount of money being spent. The problem does not seem to be getting better.”

“For me, working at the neighborhood level seems to make the most sense. We’re doing it one by one by building relationships. ... It’s a beautiful thing.”

Garrett recently turned down a professional assignment in Appalachia.

“I would much rather be working right here as a volunteer right here in my neighborhood.” ■

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Microgreens thrive under pink heat lamps and a drip irrigation system at The Soop. Photo by Michaela Bancud

Hydroponic farm makes fresh local produce an understatement

She has had to learn quickly. Vertical white trays are installed over a counter where young plants, such as calendula, pansies, borage and strawberries grow in shallow rows, each watered by small drip hoses and warmed by pink heat lamps.

“Because they have to hang on in this way, they develop very strong roots,” Lee said.

Seeds germinate in a plexiglass cube nearby. In time they are transplanted and become full-blown spinach, sorrel, arugula and cherry tomatoes.

All of the greens tended here wind up in dishes, such as bibimbap, kimbap and japchae, a traditional Korean stir fry. Most are served over white or brown rice and generously garnished with the microgreens, which are flavorful and packed with nutrition.

“I always ask if I can add microgreens, and the next time they come in they usually ask for them again,” Lee said.

Bibimbap is a traditional Korean rice dish. Often prepared and served in a warm stone pot at The Soop, which means forest in Korean, it is filled with seven kinds of vegetables and served at room temperature. Beef, pork or shrimp can be added.

Introducing people to this concept is fun, said Lee, adding that Elon Musk’s brother (Kimbal) is very interested in hydroponic farming and that countries like Saudi Arabia are “already hugely into it.”

Global warming has driven such innovation,

and new farming methods where light and heat are controlled and little water is needed could be standard in coming years. In South Korea, said Lee, underground farms as vast as subway system already exist.

Full-spectrum pink light glows within a larger room adjacent the dining room. Trays of stacked microgreens (beets, sunflowers and crispy head lettuce) sit in neat pods. In a corner, tomato plants grow out of deep water tubs connected to a small oxygen tank.

The Soop also sells spicy kimchi in jars made using Lee’s mother’s recipe. The traditional Korean side dish is rich in probiotics.

“Her kimchi recipe is so special to me,” Lee said. “Anytime I had stomach trouble she would tell me to eat it. I make batches every month. Any time I have stomach trouble from too much greasy stuff, I clear it out with kimchi.”

Homeless men often sleep in doorways along this block of West Burnside Street, but Lee has not found them to be a problem.

“The first couple of weeks, many of these people came in,” she said, “and I just offered them food. They are mostly really nice and not violent. When it’s time to start business, I ask them to move on.”

Current COVID restrictions allow up to 12 people to dine indoors at The Soop. Takeout orders can be ordered at the counter and online at thesoopportland.com. It’s open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. ■

BY MICHAELA BANCUD

THE SOOP, a new Korean restaurant in The Civic Condominium building at 19th and West Burnside, grows its own produce hydroponically on site.

Owner Ann Lee, a former accountant, originally wanted to buy a close-in five-acre farm and use traditional growing methods, but competition from cannabis growers made such plots rare. So Lee researched alternatives.

“I didn’t even know anything about all this, but I started looking into it because I couldn’t find a farm,” Lee said.

NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 27, No. 3 “News You Can’t Always Believe” March 2021

The Ancient Mariner

When the catch is in, the hold full and the boat’s docked, he appears. Our own ancient mariner. His quest is simple. He craves the nob hill bar and grill fish and chips. One would think, after such an arduous time at sea, he would order a Nobby’s Burger, but he always pipes us with, “I fish and chips, matey.”

He sits contentedly and downs his meal along with more than a few pints of grog, the sailor home from the sea.

Some regulars say he brings the brine of the ocean on a sea breeze. Others think he just stinks.

Nevertheless, when he finishes his meal, he always leaves with the same refrain, “I must go down to the sea again.”



We watch him slowly walk west on Lovejoy Street, a yellow fisherman’s slicker growing ever smaller towards the horizon.

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In other news . . .



Heavy snow in February felled the shelter at G-Love on Northwest 21st Avenue, but new tents should be in place for a reopening March 17. Photo by Michaela Bancud

G-LOVE, 1615 NW 21st Ave., will re-open mid-March, said owner Garrett Benedict, who is ready to put winter weather behind him after recent snowfall collapsed this outdoor dining tent.

“Luckily, we were already closed for the winter so there were no additional financial losses caused by the storm,” Benedict said. “Our tent setup cost \$3,000 the first time around. We’ve already ordered replacement tents and will have a new setup ready to go for our reopening March 17.”

Most of the previous staff will return, he said.

“It will be our absolute pleasure to hire back staff members that had been laid off due to the pandemic,” Benedict said. “It’s been a rough year to say the least, but we are filled with hope, energy and optimism about the years ahead.”

The tent at **MEDITERRANEAN EXPLORATION COMPANY**, 333 NW 13th Ave., also caved in. “It was unfortunate,” MEC’s Jamal Hassan said. “We were just glad that no one was around and that no one was hurt.”

While there was some minor dam-

age to the MEC setup, a rental company put up another one within days, he said.

“We’re back in action and plan on continuing to have the heated tent available for guests to enjoy limited service for the foreseeable future.” MEC is not offering indoor dining and remains focused on making its outdoor dining experience as comfortable and safe as possible for staff and guests.

New York chef Danny Meyer’s **SHAKE SHACK** will open across from Powell’s on West Burnside. The New York City-based company offers American-style roadside food, such as hamburgers, shakes and crinkle fries.

The owner of Stem Bar, **VERITAS WINES LLC**, has applied for a liquor license at 2764 NW Thurman St., the longtime home of E-san Thai.

RINGSIDE STEAKHOUSE, 2165 W. Burnside St., has reopened for indoor dining Wednesday-Sunday.

BEETROOT MARKET & DELI at 1638 NW Glisan St. has closed.

Ordinance may legalize Café Nell parking lot dining

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

City Commissioner Dan Ryan’s office considered the livability impacts of Café Nell’s large outdoor dining space in a residential zone, the focus of a February NW Examiner cover story, and decided the problem is the zoning code.

Existing restaurants in residential zones, such as Café Nell at 1987 NW Kearney St., are allowed to continue operating there as long as they do not expand or intensify their activities. Both of those things happened last year when Café Nell converted its former parking lot into a covered dining area to compensate for COVID-related restrictions on indoor seating.

nance to allow all parking lots to be used to support temporary business operations,” Liefeld wrote in a Feb. 10 email. “I know that is not the information you were hoping for.”

Mercado told the Examiner that Liefeld said he knew of no other restaurant that would be affected by the proposed policy.

Ryan’s office told the NW Examiner that the ordinance Liefeld referred to is not moving forward, though another one “to help businesses in the downtown core open safely is being finalized” for council consideration in February.

That timeline has been extended



Café Nell’s expansion into a rambling tent complex violates its residential zoning, but enforcement is on hold while an ordinance is prepared to make it legal.

Café Nell constructed a complex of tents and lean-tos with about 70 seats and installed an industrial-grade outdoor heater that exceeded the legal noise limit for residential zones. Amplified music also generated complaints from adjacent neighbors.

Neighbor Renee Mercado took heart when the Bureau of Development Services acknowledged the apparent zoning violation and invited her to file a complaint, to which the agency promised it “is initiating a thorough investigation.”

“It does not seem sensible to allow the continued use of a dangerous, combustible industrial equipment in a residential area for an illegal, non-permitted outdoor establishment,” Jill Grenda, supervising planner for BDS, wrote Mercado in a Jan. 12 email.

Mercado’s hopes for a positive resolution were dashed in February, when another BDS planner, Mike Liefeld told her of a new direction.

“The city is still developing an ordi-

indefinitely.

“This issue is still in the concept stage,” Ryan aide Gwen Thompson told the Examiner. “We don’t believe this one café would be the sole beneficiary of any potential allowance to temporarily allow the expansion of a nonconforming use.”

Café Nell was granted a noise variance last month to allow the heater and speakers to exceed the 55 decibel limit in residential zones.

“Both sound sources were found by the noise control officer to be only slightly over the city’s daytime noise code,” wrote Noise Control Officer Paul van Orden.

The noise variance expires April 30.

Café Nell received a second forgivable loan of \$246,344 from the federal Payment Protection Program in January to keep 35 workers on the payroll. The restaurant received \$183,280 from the program last year for 20 workers. ■

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NW PORTLAND / PEARL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MAP

NORTHBOUND 30 COLLABORATIVE

A cluster of eight five-story residential buildings at Northwest 30th and Nicolai streets has been approved by the Portland Design Commission, which praised the “unique checkerboard” configuration that maximizes open space and creates usable courtyards. The structures will be framed with cross-laminated timber. It will have a total of 145 apartments. A separate row house project, also by Cairn Pacific, is under construction on adjacent land on Wilson Street.



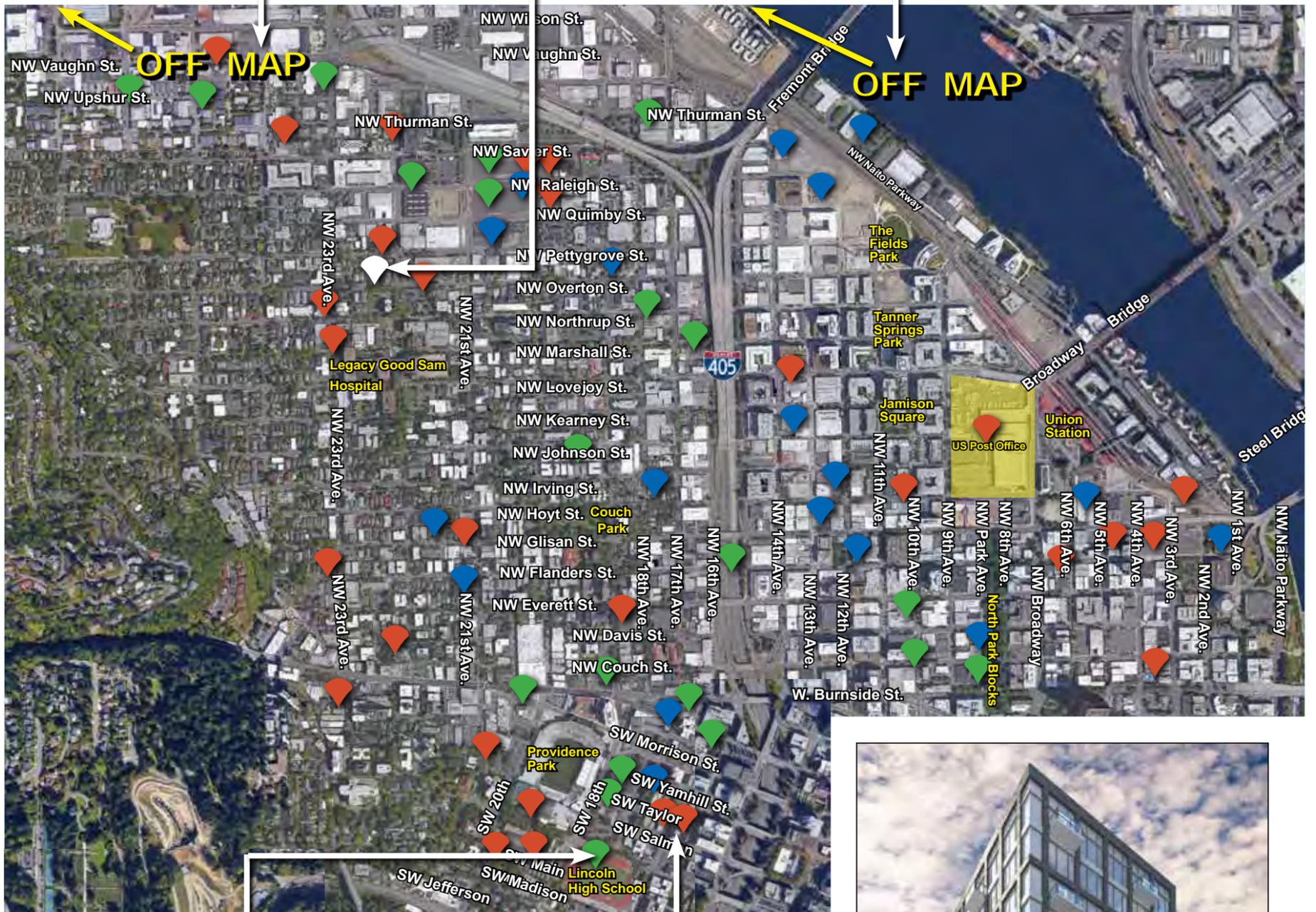
2245 & 2255 NW OVERTON

Owners of two duplexes built in about 1900 are removing them from the city Historic Resources Inventory in anticipation of a new city code that could restrict their demolition. Members of the family estate believe they can get a higher sale price if the properties are sold as is and without restrictions on the potential buyer/developer.



PORTLAND DIAMOND PROJECT

The Portland Diamond Project has let an option with the Port of Portland on Terminal 2 lapse. The option, initiated in December 2019, was costing PDP \$37,500 per month. PDP spokesperson John McIsaac said the action says little about the prospects for bringing major league baseball to Portland. “We have a couple of other sites identified,” said McIsaac, noting that there may be an announcement “in a couple of months.”



LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

Framing of the six-story replacement for Lincoln High School is complete, and windows are being installed. The \$187 million project is set for completion in the summer of 2022. The following year, the current building will be demolished and replaced by an athletic field.



1500 SW TAYLOR ST.

The 1892 Holman House was demolished in 2016 despite community protests, but the 11-story building approved the following year has not yet broken ground. The Nevada-based developer, Molasky Group, did not return inquiries as to their plans for this site or 1440 SW Taylor St., where another mixed-use building was planned.



- 
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



Above: The Wallace home on Northwest 20th between Johnson and Kearney streets in 1898. It was demolished long ago.

Right: Hugh Wallace (center), with his granddaughter, Catherine Russell, and son-in-law Lewis Russell in about 1904.



Below left: Catherine Russell with her grandfather, Hugh Wallace, in 1900.



Below right: Catherine Barclay Wallace holds her granddaughter Catherine Russell Sabin in 1896.



Above: Hugh W. Wallace in 1905



Above right: Knapp, Burrell & Co. office. Portland Archives 2004-002.3622

Personal journal entries of Hugh W. Wallace, 1890-1914

“And certainly men that are great lovers of themselves waste the public. And certainly it is the nature of extreme self-lovers, as they will set a house on fire, and it were but to roast their eggs.” (Francis Bacon, “Essays, Civil and Moral”)

“The first test of a truly great man is humility. I don’t mean by humility, doubt of his power. But really great men have a curious feeling that the greatness is not of them, but through them. And they see something divine in every other man and are endlessly, foolishly, incredibly merciful.” (John Ruskin)

“An effort made for the happiness of others lifts us above ourselves.” (Lydia Marie Child)

William Wallace died in Tacoma, in 1926 at the age of 92. He was buried in Portland’s Riverview Cemetery alongside his wife and three of his children.

I never knew him, of course, but I was close to my grandmother, Catherine Russell Sabin, who died in 1986. She lived with Hugh Wallace (her grandfather) from the time she was five and was very close to him. Learning about his life helps me know and stay connected to her. ■

BY ELIZABETH SABIN ROUFFY

Wallace Park was named for my great-great-grandfather, Hugh William Wallace, a Scottish immigrant who championed the establishment of city parks as a member of the Portland City Council. Wallace Park was christened in 1920, six years before he died at age 92.

Born in Ayrshire, Scotland in 1833, Wallace was the third of nine children born to Dr. John William Wallace and Agnes Craig. Ayrshire is the birthplace of renowned Scottish poet Robert Burns and Sir William Wallace of “Braveheart” fame, the chief architect of the Scottish resistance to King Edward I. Hugh Wallace was a 14th generation descendant of William Wallace.

In 1843, Wallace moved with his parents and six siblings to Detroit, where he met Catherine Emma Barclay. They married in 1861, and in 1875 moved with their five children to Portland, where their sixth child was born. Hugh spent the rest of his life in Portland, dedicating himself to the development of the fledgling city. His home for over 50 years was at 195 20th Street in Northwest Portland (between Johnson and Kearney west of today’s Northwest 20th Avenue).

Upon arrival, he went to work at the firm of Knapp, Burrell and Co., wholesale dealers of agricultural equipment. The firm’s office was downtown on Southwest Front and Ash streets, where the fire station stands today. Wallace retired in 1898, after 23 years with the company.

Public service became his next career. Wallace was elected to the Portland City Council shortly after his wife’s death. He served two four-year terms from 1905-1913, under mayors Harry Lane, Joseph Simon and Allen G. Rushlight just before voters approved the commission form of government by referendum.

As a registered independent, he worked with councilmen of both parties to enact legislation. He chaired the Ways and Means Committee, served on the Sewage and Drain Committee and addressed such issues as the sale of unused city property, liquor licenses and creation of roads and streets on both sides of the river.

He supported a 1907 ordinance authorizing the issuance of bonds for the purchase of both large parks and smaller neighborhood parks. Thirteen years later, Wallace was responsible for the allocation of 5.38 acres for the city park that bears his name.

Wallace had a passion for the role of art in the life of a city. In a 1912 journal he wrote, “We must encourage interest in the art of the region by stimulating collections of art, building museum memberships at modest cost, broadening artist viewpoints and solidifying our relationships with artists.”

Decades later, his granddaughter, Catherine Russell Sabin, promoted the work of prominent Oregon painters Louis Bunce, Martin Wilson and Helen Savier DuMond.

Wallace’s diaries also included learned quotations on the virtues of modesty and a sense of purpose.

Surrounded by his family, Hugh

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A concept image shows planters blocking northbound access to Northwest 24th Avenue at Westover Road. Installation is planned this month.

"Neighborhood president" cont'd from page 1

The letter criticized the Portland Bureau of Transportation for failing to initiate additional research and public outreach pertaining to three of the 17 diverters in the NW in Motion project.

The NWDA board approved the letter Feb. 22 by a 6-2 vote.

At a Portland City Council meeting last October, Mayor Ted Wheeler promised that extra consideration and public outreach would occur before the project was finalized.

NWDA representatives testified in support of the plan while urging additional "outreach, analysis, monitoring and contingency planning" to ensure that diverting traffic would not clog adjacent streets.

In response to those concerns, PBOT Project Manager Zef Wagner told the council, "It's totally appropriate for them [NWDA] to hold our feet to the fire and to tell us loud and clear that we need to be engaged with them, not just now, but going forward for years to come, and we commit ourselves to that."

That satisfied the mayor.

"Why don't we do this," Wheeler said. "It sounds like you are willing to make the commitment on behalf of PBOT to continue to work with NWDA. And it sounds like the implementation is going to be an interactive process, that you will continue to engage the community. That makes a lot of sense, and I am appreciative of that."

But four months later, no special outreach, data collection or contingency planning had occurred. Wagner has met with the NWDA Transportation Committee and answered

questions, but nothing beyond that.

Efforts to create an ad hoc committee to work with PBOT on implementation languished. Instead, a flood of grievances, recriminations and resignations erupted over the organization's City Council presentation, which members of the Transportation Committee felt was too critical of NWiM. Five members of the committee have resigned since October.

Meanwhile, steps to install the diverters by mid-year have advanced unabated. The first diverter, at Northwest 24th and Westover, will be installed this month.

Instead of gearing up to play its role, a divided NWDA delayed until it was too late.

Board member Steve Pinger, who delivered the official testimony to the council, warned that the city's commitment to work with the neighborhood is meaningless without a mechanism to oversee implementation. At the December board meeting, Pinger expressed his impatience.

"This needs to move forward," he told the board. "The mayor encouraged us to engage with PBOT on implementation. Too much time has passed."

Jeanne Harrison, a former PBOT planner who now serves on the NWDA Transportation Committee, saw it differently. She said her committee had not yet discussed plans for an implementation committee.

"This is so premature," Harrison said. "There is not that much of a big fricking hurry. Nothing happens over the holidays anyway."

The exchange spurred talk of hiring an outside facilitator to help the board work through its internal strife,



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“I don’t see why we should slam our heads against a wall if PBOT says they aren’t going to do it.”
— Jeanne Harrison, Neighborhood volunteer

but no calls for haste regarding NWiM.

In January, progress on NWiM came before the board again.

The problem, as Harrison saw it, was the “overreach” of the Planning Committee into the domain of the Transportation Committee. The lack of PBOT outreach to the community regarding the timetable and sequence of proposed diverters was not the board’s concern, she said.

“I don’t see why we should slam our heads against a wall if PBOT says they aren’t going to do it,” she said, satisfied with the assumption that “PBOT will post information on the website for the public.”

Connelly “echoed Jeanne’s comments” and recommended following her advice.

In early February, Harrison told the Transportation Committee that Mauricio Leclerc, a PBOT planning manager, had no intention of halting any elements of NWiM. Funding was in place and the plan was going forward. The time for reconsideration and adjustments was over.

“I was clear that none of the projects would be deferred,” Harrison said.

Pinger objected, saying the NWDA board had come to an agreement on NWiM, the mayor agreed with it and PBOT had promised its commitment to that end.

“I get what you’re saying,” Harrison said, “but PBOT staff had a different take on what happened at council. I don’t know what I can do but throw myself in the middle of the street.”

Wagner clarified that different take in

a 1,200-word email to NWDA Feb. 12.

“City code has not authorized neighborhoods or district coalitions for oversight over city bureaus or projects,” Wagner wrote, noting that the City Council did not amend NWiM as a result of NWDA’s testimony.

Wagner promised no evaluation of diverter installations outside of annual reports beginning in November or December. That time is needed to allow drivers about six months to adapt their routes and for new traffic counts to be conducted.

The problem with that timetable and sequencing, several NWDA board members have pointed out, is that it provides no baseline measurement from which to assess the success of particular diverters.

“Once a diverter (even of interim materials) is installed,” wrote Larry Kojaku, a member of both committees, “traffic will be blocked so subsequent recorded traffic volume will inevitably decrease, which can only demonstrate its effectiveness. However, subsequent data can never show that the diverter’s installation was not justified in the first place.”

Mike Stonebreaker, a member of the NWDA Transportation Committee, took the Planning Committee’s side on the impasse with City Hall.

“Our testimony requested interaction with PBOT and the neighborhood before implementation,” Stonebreaker told the board in February. “PBOT heard that and chose not to, so as a board, how important is that? We have to reinforce that or it doesn’t matter what we’re saying.”

With only Connelly and Harrison opposed, the board approved a letter to

What’s at stake?

NW in Motion involves diverters at eight intersections (in Phase I of the project, 17 including Phase II) in the Northwest District. The NWDA board approved testimony to the City Council in October calling for updated traffic counts and further engagement before installation of three of the eight. The three singled out are at

- Northwest Johnson and 18th streets.
- Northwest Pettygrove and 18th streets.
- Northwest 24th and Lovejoy streets.

PBOT stating that “NWDA’s support for NWiM was based on this interactive process, but we feel that our specific request has not been reasonably considered by the NWiM team.

“We, therefore, now respectfully ask for your help in directing the installation of the interior traffic diverters at the three locations noted to be deferred until the other perimeter installations are completed and their effect is able to be measured and more clearly assessed.”

Connelly disagreed with the decision.

“If we’re to err, we should err on behalf of alternatives to automobiles,” he said, adding that increasing urban density demands a transition to more compact modes of transportation. ■

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A presentation on redevelopment plans for Montgomery Park will highlight the Tuesday, March 9, 7-9 a.m., virtual meeting of the Northwest Industrial Business Association. Cody McNeal, development manager for Unicorp Properties, is the guest speaker. Visit www.nwindustrial.org for a link to the meeting.



A large tree blocked Northwest Vaughn Street near 26th Avenue for several days after the February snowstorm. A powerline suspended the trunk several feet off the ground, preventing serious damage to a parked car.

(Far left) Snow and ice brought down a major limb in Wallace Park last month. The storm halted TriMet bus and light rail service Feb. 13 and knocked out power to much of the metropolitan area. Photo by Matt Erceg

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Snapshots



Greg Gorski photographed this bobcat near his home on Northwest Miller Road last month, apparently drawn in by the smell of bacon and pancakes on Super Bowl Sunday. "This beautiful animal apparently lives in the forest between Miller and Skyline," Gorski said.

About 150 protesters responded to a flyer calling for a direct action march from The Fields Park the evening of Feb. 27. During two hours of disruption, windows were broken at Starbucks, Umpqua Bank, Urban Pantry and other businesses, and graffiti was sprayed on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services building and other buildings. A 31-year-old man and a 17-year-old youth were arrested. The following morning, volunteers with the Pearl District Neighborhood Association cleaned up the mess. The association has asked for a meeting with Portland Police Bureau Deputy Chief Chris Davis to discuss how such events may be prevented in the future.



Douglas Rosling II was killed Feb. 8 when his vehicle crashed and rolled over on Northwest Yeon Avenue near Nicolai Street. It was the third fatal crash in Portland within 31 hours and the eighth of the year.



Congregation Shaarie Torah at Northwest 25th and Lovejoy streets installed a metal fence with a FEMA grant for sites deemed at high risk to terrorist attack. The Portland Bureau of Development Services is investigating a complaint that the fence was installed without a permit or the required setback from the sidewalk. BDS opened the investigation Feb. 11 but has not revealed its findings.



Mark Janes is Oregon Youth Soccer Association's Volunteer of the Year Award recipient. Janes is president of Hillside Soccer Club, a Lincoln Youth Soccer board member, benefactor to Hillside Community Center, caretaker of the Chapman field and a coach to several LYS teams.



The West Portland Lincoln Youth Baseball select team will compete in the American Youth Baseball Hall of Fame Tournament in Cooperstown, N.Y. this summer. The team participated in a SOLVE litter pickup "volunteer-a-thon" at Wallace Park on Feb. 27 to raise money toward the \$30,000 cost of the trip. Donations may be made to [gofundme.com/e4de07fe](https://www.gofundme.com/e4de07fe). Team members are: (front row, L-R) Kenji Elerick, Henry Vanderhoff, Caleb Kahn, Jimmy Tilles, Reed Eldridge, Lucas Marr; (back row) Ronan Flinchpaugh, Griffin Nichols, Hank Whitworth, Charley Chipps, Grady Wilmot, Quinn Alexander. Jack Aleskus is missing from the photo.



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