

# Examiner

"Digging deep, Shining a light"



Do homeless sweeps work?



lusta Pasta and



p. 15 Post office branch closed

AUGUST 2022/ VOLUME 35, NO.12

SERVING PORTLAND'S NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOODS SINCE 1986



Current and past Elysian Garden residents commemorate a way of life they do not expect to replicate. In front of wall (L-R): Lane Allen, Mike Taylor, Rachel Washington and Troy Erickson. Sitting on lower steps: Ronni Teicher and Julie Liddick. Behind the wall: Alfred Austin, Jill Ohle, Linda Wojtowick (front), Vimala Nichols, Chris Mitchell, John MacBride, Meredith Christian and Cathryn Cooper. Photo by Julie Keefe

Demolition looms for Elysian Garden apartments, where tenants dreamed of returning BY ALLAN CLASSEN

onni Teicher knows what home means. It's the place you want to return to. Since 1990, Teicher has lived at Elysian Garden, a 36-unit courtyard apartment complex at 2631 NW Upshur St. built in the 1920s. She was gone for two years while studying in Paris but returned to the place she was always considers home.

"I just love living here," she told the NW Examiner. "It's peaceful. It feels safe."

Teicher can recall three or four other tenants who couldn't stay away. Lane Allen first moved here in 1980 and came back after a 14-year absence. His 28 years at Elysian Garden put him second to Teicher on the seniority scale. Many more have moved within the complex to units better fitting their needs.

Several former tenants, feeling a connection to people and a place they have not been able to duplicate, joined in a mini-reunion and photo shoot for this

Cont'd on page 11

### Charter reform and the minority voter



Charter Commission Chair Melanie Billings-Yun insists the package of novel voting mechanisms must be adopted as a package or they will fail to achieve their purpose.

### Complex voting mechanisms obscure a debate that never happened

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

estside neighborhood association leaders are in the forefront of controversy over Portland charter

A political action committee formed to oppose the ballot measure, Partnership for Common Sense Government, is headed by Vadim Mozyrsky, Chuck Duffy and Steven Moskowitz, all board members of neighborhood associations in the Northwest District or Goose Hollow.

On the other side of the divide is Melanie Billings-Yun, the chair of the Charter Commission and president of the Southwest Hills Residential League.

The reform package to be considered by

Portland voters in November aims to better represent constituencies not part of majority voting blocs. The Charter Commission adopted the goal that "smaller communities have the power to elect their preferred

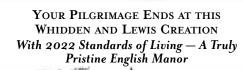
Neighborhood associations, formally recognized by the city of Portland since 1974, also seek to raise the voice of citizens on highly local concerns in which the affected parties are a small fraction of the city's population.

Just as "minority voter" has two meanings, the commission and neighborhood associations have different ideas about which population sectors need accom-



Charter Commission member Vadim Mozyrsky was unable to persuade his colleagues to simplify their proposal, so he has formed an organization to defeat it.

Cont'd on page 6





#### 1942 SW Montgomery Drive

Perfect privacy and understated elegance offers the finest in residential living to be found in Portland Heights. Once you've reached the gate and the front door comes into view, you feel you've entered a very private world that is serene and beautiful. New infrastructure, systems and surfaces blend harmoniously with the classic design style of 1900 Portland Heights. Four recently refinished floors of impeccable craftsmanship flow seamlessly together, offering a modern, carefree living

5 bedrooms,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  baths, 6,424 Sq. Ft., two-car attached garage and wine cellar, ADU with I bedroom, I bath with private laundry and separate entrance.

II,200 Sq. Ft. lot with private auto access, heated pool, outdoor kitchen and easy access to downtown and NW. RMLS #22618716



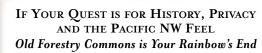
EXPLORE BOISE ELIOT AND THE GARDENS SURROUNDING A Detached and Charming Craftsman Home



### 32 NE Graham Street

One of four detached craftsman homes sited on a lot at the Graham Street Commons. The essence of this home unfolds as you meander the garden path lined with perennials, vines and roses. A covered front porch, a great room living room that opens to the easy-to-use outdoor space with rock fire pit, covered patio and deck. 3 bedrooms up and a versatile lower level that has potential for ADU, art studio, study or good old fashioned family room.

4 bedrooms, 21/2 baths, 2,535 Sq. Ft., off-street parking, RMLS #22286609 \$699,000





#### 2815 NW Upshur Street, Unit B

A two-level unit at the Old Forestry Commons Condominiums offers the feel of being far away from the bustling city, but is an ideal location for transportation corridors. This top floor, corner unit is tucked away from the street and features 3 walls of windows and 2 skylights, plus an inviting deck looking out to mature leafy trees Surrounded by more than 100 trees (some were here when the Old Forestry Building stood here), the convenient location allows you to leave the car in the carport and stroll to nearby amenities. Common gazebo & fire pit, dog walking areas, guest parking, carport and storage closet. 2 bedrooms, 1½ baths, 1,158 total Sq. Ft., RMLS# 22148635 \$350,000.

> "We just wanted to send a wholehearted thank you for guiding us through the home buying process. The experience was top-notch from start to finish, especially as first-time home buyers in this crazy market. We absolutely love the house and definitely feel like we got the perfect spot for us! Thank you!!"

— Luke & Anna





### SW Chesapeak Avenue

Plan to live in one of SW Portland's captivating neighborhoods with its winding wooded streets, territorial views and mix of architectural styles. This vacant lot is between addresses 403I and 3921 SW Chesapeak Avenue. Its private nature lends to a perfect site for building. Lot and tree surveys, Geo & Soils reports and completed easements are available for review. Rieke Elementary, Robert Gray Middle, Ida B. Wells High School

FAIRCREST, LOT 18, 0.18 acres (7,940 Sq. Ft.) per Portland Maps. RMLS #22485410 \$247,000.

Specializing in Historic & Architecturally Significant Homes

# The Dan Volkmer Team

DAN VOLKMER PRINCIPAL BROKER Burdean Bartlem, Kishra Ott, Mardi Davis & Fritz Benz brokers LICENSED IN THE STATE OF OREGON



503-781-3366



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

See our website at www.danvolkmer.com

HAVENT YOU HEARD?
"SWEEPING"
DOESN'T
WORK!



### To sweep or not to sweep

e are hearing from many sources that sweeps of homeless camps do not work. Trouble is, not sweeping homeless camps does not work either.

Allowing clusters of tents to become hardened as mini societies on their own terms is not sustainable. Violence and predation flourish without social controls. Gunplay, after all, was what finally persuaded the city to break up camping in Laurelhurst Park.

Life on the street is, to quote Thomas Hobbes, "nasty, brutish and short." It is unhealthy in myriad ways and for many compounds their addictions and mental illness. The "new" meth and fentanyl can be lethal, and those who manage to get clean may suffer brain damage that makes full recovery more than difficult. Typical estimates suggest homeless people have 20-25 years shorter lifespans than the general population.

There is a broad consensus

that moving people into shelter, social services and recovery programs should be the goal. But how do we persuade homeless people to voluntarily accept that path? Most targets of sweeps in Portland have refused to accept shelter for various reasons. We hear of resistance to being separated from their belongings, pets, mates and aversions to enclosures and congregate shelters. All of these obstacles may be real. But there could be another factor not so readily admitted to those doing the polling: fear of not knowing where one's next fix is coming from. What is addiction if not the inability to forswear short-term relief for long-term betterment?

A trusted human connection can sometimes break through barriers to seeking help. Programs like We Heart Portland involve qualified workers getting to know people on the streets by name, sitting down daily with them, learning their backgrounds and the people closest to them. It is not a rapid or surefire process. But fast-tracking the outreach effort does not work. Hardened homeless people are wary of strangers and often hostile

to initial approaches by traditional social workers, who in turn are taught to keep their distance when they meet hostility or feel unsafe.

After city sweeps of encampments, news media often report that most of the homeless say they were not offered alternative shelter or had no contact with a social worker. I doubt that these reports are literally true. Outreach to campers is part of the city's Homeless and Urban Camping

Reduction Program, which carries out sweeps. But it may be that such outreach has been so stiff and brief that no relationships are formed, merely business cards and lists of shelter addresses handed out and discarded.

There is a place for wholesale sweeps when encampments and trash undermine the safety and livability of public space. These sweeps do not solve homelessness, but they do provide an opportunity for social intervention, for presenting campers a carrot-andstick choice between a dire status quo and a possible way out. Living under the perpetual threat of eviction certainly causes stress to people living on the edge, but does the removal of such stress lead to better lives? I do not pretend there is a simple answer. Asking the right questions may at least be the beginning of wisdom.

Sweeps do not solve homelessness any more than sweeping a floor puts an end to all dirt. Assuming that sweeps must be a full solution or

be discarded as a failed strategy is a false dichotomy, though one frequently used for polemical purposes. Complex problems call for comprehensive strategies that are measured and adapted accordingly.

The fullest application of our minds as well as our hearts is demanded.

I mentioned We Heart Portland because I know of its work firsthand. Loving One Another, a spinoff recently created by the private security company, Pacific Echelon, also "gets it." And Bybee Lakes Hope Center is taking people to the next stage of transition into employment and independent living.



# 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.

### **Charter confusion**

I very much appreciated your editorial, "Charter reform poison pill," [July 2022]. I am truly dumbfounded by the Charter Commission's proposal. The majority of the commissioners who voted for it must have a lot of faith in the ability of the average Portland voter to understand all of the changes being proposed so we feel comfortable voting for them as one

complex initiative. I say good luck with that.

### Finally disagrees

This is the first time ["Charter reform poison pill"] I remember disagreeing with you on much of anything.

The purpose of ranked-choice voting is to make sure that the least favorable candidate doesn't win by making sure that other more preferable candidates

don't dilute the vote of the majority. In ranked-choice Diane Perry voting, if Luke Skywalker is running against Darth SW Harrison St. Vader, but then Han Solo decides to run, the majority can rank them their first and second choices and thus won't get Darth Vader instead. If the whole country had ranked-choice voting in 2000, Ralph Nader would not have been so reviled, and maybe we could break away from the duopoly strangling our political

I thought that, instead of top-down autocratic rule

Cont'd on page 5

# ımıner

VOLUME 35, NO. 12 // AUGUST 2022

EDITOR/PUBLISHER..... ALLAN CLASSEN GRAPHIC DESIGN ..... WESLEY MAHAN ADVERTISING......JOLEEN JENSEN-CLASSEN CONTRIBUTORS......GERRY GREEVE JEFF COOK **AWARD-WINNING PUBLICATION** 







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. ©2022 allan@nwexaminer.com www.nwexaminer.com



### Michael Kennedy



Michael Kennedy, a Northwest Portland resident since 1983 and longtime teacher at Sylvan Middle School, died June 16 at age 70 after a debilitating illness. Kennedy was born Sept. 9, 1951, in Gardena, Calif., where he attended Junipero Serra High School. He graduated from California State University Dominguez

Hills and received a master's in education at the University of Portland. He married Libby in 1983, and they moved to Willamette Heights, where they raised four children. He retired in 2012 after teaching math in Portland Public Schools for 30 years, most of them at West Sylvan and East Sylvan schools. He is survived by his wife, Libby; children, Ana, Sandy, James and Liam; two brothers; and two sisters.

### Millard McClung



Millard Haldon McClung, a longtime resident of Portland Heights, died June 3 at age 94. McClung was born July 28, 1927, and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1945. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1951 with a bachelor's degree in history and earned a master's degree in library science from

the University of Portland. He married Mary Lou Nash in 1951. He served in the Marine Corps for 21 years. He was associate director of the Oregon Historical Society for 25 years. He served on the boards of the Portland Youth Philharmonic, the English Speaking Union, the American Association of State and Local History and the Geographic Names Board. He received the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Award and was a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club. He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou; children, Douglass and Leslie Costandi; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

### Linda Funkhouser

Linda Rae Funkhouser, who founded Food Front Cooperative Grocery in her Northwest Upshur Street apartment in 1972, died May 27 at age 75 of duodenal cancer. Funkhouser was born in Vancouver, Wash., on March 3, 1947, and graduated from Hudson's Bay High School in 1965. She received a bachelor's degree in engineering from Rutgers University and worked for Chubb Insurance as an underwriter for several years. Though

### We Digitize Everything

Think heaps of photos but don't stop there:

Color Slides & Negatives Photo Album Flip Books LP's & Audio Cassettes Video Tapes in Any Format 8mm & Super 8 Film Classic Reel-to-Reel Audio Tape Ephemera, Documents & Letters Photo Gifts for the Holiday Season Learn more and contact us through our website:

www.dradigitalpdx.com

We'll organize your old media into one tidy digital folder.





We're located in your NW neighborhood.



not officially acknowledged as the co-op's founder, her diaries and a 1972 newspaper account identifying her as the coordinator indicate she assembled co-founders, engaged an attorney, wrote the founding documents and leased a storefront at 1616 NW 23rd Ave. She left Portland later in 1972 due to a family emergency, and Rich Philofsky took over her role as the primary manager. She moved to Tampa Bay, where she worked as a paralegal and rented several houses she had renovated. She is survived by her sister, Sherrie.

### **Richard Ford**



Richard Charles Ford, a former Sauvie Island resident, died unexpectedly at his home in Nehalem on July 9. Ford was born Feb. 13, 1951, in Wilmette, Ill., and graduated from New Trier East High School in Winnetka, Ill. in 1969 and the University of Denver in 1973. In 1981, he moved to Portland, where he founded RC Ford

and Co., a commercial real estate firm heavily involved in Pearl District projects. His other business ventures included a sandwich café, producing hard apple cider and raising beef cattle for Portland-area restaurants. He is survived by his wife, Kristin; daughter, Anna; sons, Jake; Tucker and Cody; brother, Steve; sister, Mary Pulsifer; and stepbrother, Trent Rhyne.

### Harvey N. Black Jr.



Harvey N. Black Jr., a Lincoln High School graduate and former resident of the Legends Condos, died June 30 at age 89. A third-generation Portland resident, he was born Oct. 29, 1932, grew up in Portland Heights and attended Ainsworth Elementary School. He graduated from The Hotchkiss School in 1951 and Yale

University in 1955. After two years in the Navy, he received a law degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law in 1963. He had an office on Northwest Thurman Street. He married Nancy Salt, who died in 2020. He is survived by his son, Harvey III; daughters, Anne Dokken and Caren Deardorft; stepson, Charles Jagger; sister, Nancy Bryan; and five grandchil-

### Harold 'Bill' Keil



Harold "Bill" Keil, a 1944 graduate of Lincoln High School and caretaker of Forest Park, died June 16 at age 96. He was born April 11, 1926, in Portland and grew up in Multnomah. He served in the Army in the Philippines during World War II. In 1950, he graduated from Oregon State University, majoring in forest manage-

ment and journalism. He worked as a publicist for Timberline Lodge. He later became park forester of Forest Park, where he built trails and fire lanes. He later was a writer and editor for the Bureau of Land Management and trade organizations and wrote freelance articles and broadcast pieces with local media. He married Gloria Trantanella in 1959; she died in 2015. He is survived by his sons, Dick and Greg; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

### Judith M. Yamauchi

Judith Michie Yamauchi, a 1956 Lincoln High School graduate who lived in the Pearl District in recent years, died June 12 at age 83. Judith Sakurai was born July 15, 1938, in Portland. From ages 3-6, she and her family were interned in World War II concentration camps. She attended Reed College, the University of Oregon and Stanford University and received a Ph.D. at UC Berkeley. She worked as a chemist in the patent section for Shell Development Corp. in Emeryville, Calif. She was a professor of natural resource conservation at the

University of Hawaii for 30 years until her retirement, when she returned to Portland. She married Dr. Hiroshi Yamauchi; he died in 2014. She is survived by her daughter, Kara Mie Williams; and one grandchild.

### Carolyn S. Reynolds



Carolyn S. Reynolds, a longtime resident of Sauvie Island, died June 24 at age 73 from thyroid cancer. Carolyn Douglas was born Feb. 4, 1949. She was valedictorian of her class at Scappoose High School and graduated from Oregon State University with bachelor's degree in botany in 1971. She married Mark Reynolds in

1970. She was an administrator at Westridge Elementary School for many years. She was a founding member of The Resurrection Parish in Tualatin. She is survived by her husband, Mark; son, Clark; daughters, Beth and Heather; and two grandchildren.

### Mary J. Sikorski



Mary J. Sikorski, a former Northwest District resident and hospital worker, died June 19 at age 100. Mary Martin was born Sept. 1, 1921, in Cavour, S.D., and grew up in Boise, where she attended St. Teresa's Academy, Boise High School and Boise Junior College. At age 21, Mary moved to Portland and lived in the

residence at the old St. Vincent Hospital on Westover Road. She worked at St. Vincent for more than 40 years. She married Edward Sikorski in 1947, and they lived in the Laurelhurst neighborhood. She was a member of All Saints Catholic Church for more than 70 years.

### **Death notices**

MICHAEL W. DOHERTY, 1956 graduate of Lincoln High School.

PETER J. RAZ, 1952 Lincoln High School graduate.

ALICE TURTLEDOVE MEYER, 92, member of Congregation Temple Beth Israel.

CRAIG A. HILL, 73, manager at Norm Thompson Out-

SYLVI LARSEN, 82, former president Portland Garden Club.

ALEXANDRA J. SCHILLER, 87, 1952 graduate of Lincoln High School.

JOHN SOUTHER, 89, 1950 graduate of Lincoln High School.

BENJAMIN 'CORKY' MARKIN IV, 88, coached at Lincoln High School.

RICHARD J. DIVINCENZO, 90, born in Linnton.

IONE (GUNDEL) DOOLITTLE, 95, 1945 graduate of Lincoln High School.

JOHN FREED, 71, 1969 graduate of Lincoln High School. PAUL HOGE, 89, attended Lincoln High School.

MARK McFarlan, 62, graduate of Ainsworth Elementary School and Lincoln High School. NANCIE S. (STEVENS) McGraw, 93, attended Catlin Hill-

side elementary and high schools. VIRGINIA E. ROSE MILETTA, 99, employed at Stadium

Fred Meyer. HOWARD W. PURVIS, 86, retired from Lincoln High

JAMES E. REEDER, 92, resident of Sauvie Island.

School in 1994.

BRENDA RUSH, 85, Multnomah Athletic Club member.

RICK SPIELMAN, 76, co-founder of Spielman Bagels & Coffee.

MARTIN WEINSTEIN, 62, member of Temple Beth Israel.

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.

from city hall, you were for bottom-up, neighborhood-based democracy, which is what we can get closer to by having a larger number of city councilors voted in by residents in districts in which they live rather than a small number voted in city wide who are vulnerable to special interests, such as developers, who have no stake in the communities they delight in razing.

My only hesitancy about the latter part of the charter reform proposal concerns having the city divided into only four districts with three representatives from each. This will serve as a back door to continued concentration of power in the hands of the few, which would be far less possible with 12 districts each having one representative. And I see zero practical reason for having only four districts instead of 12.

Perhaps you can enlighten me and your readers if I am missing something here. M. Scott Jones NE Cleveland Ave.

### Hits mark

Spot on editorial. We have a lot of educating to do to prevent this travesty from happening.

Stan Penkin NW Northrup St.

### Chance for democracy

Typically, the somewhat curmudgeonly views you espouse mirror my own and often bring a smile to my face. Not so with your "Charter reform poison pill" column. You are technically correct that with charter reform "smaller communities have the power to elect their preferred candidates." And you are correct about democracy being about majority rule in the United States. But otherwise, your head appears to be in a dark place.

Let's look how democracy works in many other countries. In Germany, for example, their legislature (Bundestag) uses a mixed member proportional system, assuring that the membership is fairly apportioned amongst the parties based on the percentage of votes received by each party. The Greens, while never in the majority, are given real voice. They have real power in the alliances they create. This gives minorities power in fact, instead of just in word. And at this point it is pretty obvious that their system is working better than ours. And let's also remember that this proposed 12-member commission is a legislative body.

This proposed charter reform, while imperfect, possibly brings us a bit of that very same kind of democracy to our poor city. And that is a good thing. If you want to understand this issue at a deeper level, I would refer your readers to the book written by Kristin Eberhard of Sightline Institute "Becoming a Democracy: How We Can Fix the Electoral College, Gerrymandering, and Our Elections." She has a chapter on just this subject.

> Jim Kelly Kimberly, Ore.

### Thanks for train story

Your article on the zoo train ["Rail dreams," July 2022] was very well done, telling the story of the volunteers who are trying to get the Washington Park portion re-opened. Your details about all the involved government agencies and the zoo with respect to their positions and what is being done or not done is also very informative. Thanks for this information and all the excellent

Also, your editorial about the proposed city charter reform is spot on and I couldn't agree more with your points.

Keep up the good work.

Dick Wegner NW Portland

### Standing tall

I am heartened to learn that Steve Pinger stood up to the bullies of the Northwest District Association ["Marked Man," June 2022] and did not submit to the Maoist, self-criticism flagellation session. Was he required to beat his breast and beg forgiveness for a sin so secret that he was unaware of his transgression? Should he abase himself and sob with shame for unknown and unknowable crimes? I stand in admiration of Mr. Pinger for enduring this Kafkaesque nightmare.

Gail Cronyn NW Luray Terrace

### Wrong calls

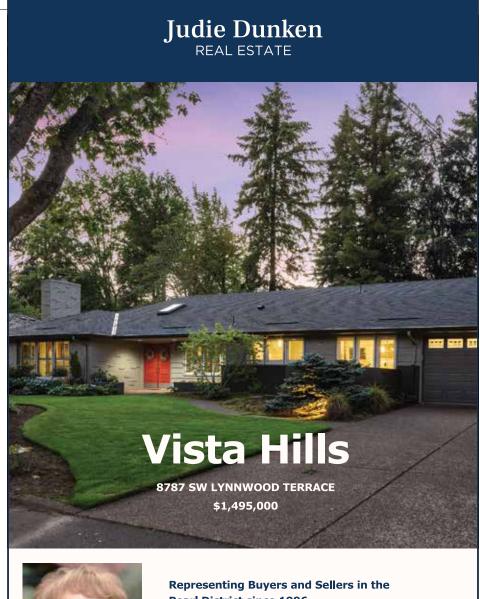
Regarding the Page 1 article on the Safe Rest Village proposed on Northwest Naito Parkway ["Proposed homeless village perplexes Pearl neighborhood," July 2022]: The Pearl District Neighborhood Association was a huge catalyst and advocate not only for the Navigation Center but also for City Commissioner Dan Ryan. They made the wrong calls. The Navigation Center has proved to be a magnet for trash, tents and crime, and Ryan hasn't made the smallest dent in the homeless crisis. As a result of those wrong calls—and despite years-long efforts by volunteers to clean the streets—livability in the entire neighborhood is suffering.

I suggested that the PDNA use its power to organize a town hall meeting so that city leadership can understand that the long-simmering frustration and rapidly building anger of the residents in our once-beautiful city has hit an all-time high. But it looks like the PDNA might iust stand by and watch all of us walk away from the sinking ship that is Port-

Yesterday, a retailer in the Pearl closed her shop because she no longer felt safe. Today, the operators of a small medical practice in the Pearl told me they feel their patients are no longer safe in coming to the neighborhood. And of course, no one can safely park on the street in the Pearl. The curbs are perpetually lined with broken glass from car breakins. Summer sun may temporarily dull the damning image painted here, but the clock is running out.

Linda Witt NW 11th Ave.







**Pearl District since 1996** 

- PDNA BOARD MEMBER LIVABILITY & SAFETY CHAIR
- NW EXAMINER "2018 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT" AWARDEE
- PEARL DISTRICT RESIDENT SINCE 2000

JUDIEDUNKEN.COM 503-849-1593







1231 NW Hoyt Portland, OR owned and operated







David Chen (left) and David Knowles joined the Charter Commission too late to influence the final proposal.

modation. The Charter Commission tipped its hand in a list of "desired outcomes" that included "commitments to anti-racism and equity." In contrast, neighborhood associations are organized upon the principle of representing all people within geographic boundaries as the bedrock of democracy.

Threading the needle in favor of one subgroup and not the other would seem a formidable task. Discussions at commission meetings never spelled out a process to "separate sheep from goats," but there are clues to their way of thinking.

At a charter reform forum attended by about 50 people at a Willamette Heights home last month, Charter Commission member Andrew Speer was asked why the commission recommended only four voting districts across the city. Speer replied that larger districts mute the power of NIMBYs.

The coded message was that residents, usually homeowners in more prosperous neighborhoods, rally against development projects in their backyards that would not matter to them were they a few blocks away. NIMBYs are assumed to be outspoken but with too few followers to hold sway across a quadrant of the city.

The sweet spot in which racial and ethnic communities get a boost without simultaneously empowering homeowners was apparently judged to be less than citywide but larger than a neighborhood or cluster of neighborhoods.

Commission member Candace Avalos was more explicit in an interview posted on Rose City Reform last month.

"Portlanders overwhelmingly want geographic representation," Avalos said. "That was an important goal for us, but we also wanted to avoid creating tiny little slices of the city that people could take control over and then block progress."

The proposal embodies a means to give smaller voting blocs the ability to elect their favored candidates. By combining multimember districts with ranked-choice voting, candidates can gain seats while garnering as little as 25 percent of the vote. Ranked-choice voting rewards the forming of slates to maximize second-, third-, etc. choice votes, making it possible to best candidates with more first-choice votes.

Avalos, a former City Council candidate, believes new political strategies will be rewarded in the new system.

"If I had run my 2020 campaign under the proposed system, I would have wanted to band together in groups. I could see several of us banding together to say: Here are the values we all share.

"It's really hard to run in our current system. When you run citywide, you have to reach so many people and try to meet all the different needs of all the different neighborhoods."

Attempting to serve the needs of the full range of constituents has been described in political sciences classes as the unifying strength of American democracy. That view received little attention from the Charter Commission.

### **Novel** combination

Duffy called the combination of ranked-choice voting and multimember districts untried, untested and extreme.

"It creates factions," Duffy said. "It creates mini political parties. It accentuates the power of special interest groups. This proposal wants to take us from a government that nobody in the country is still using to a government that has never been used anywhere in the country."

Billings-Yun insists the proposal is a package that would not achieve its purpose if separated.

FairVote, an organization advancing voting reform, reported that New York, Cincinnati and Cleveland were among two dozen cities that adopted ranked-choice voting since 1941. These cities did not enact multimember districts.

"Many of the cities that adopted RCV in that era did away with it due to changes in voting technology and the increased ability of racial minorities to get elected under RCV, but the system remains in Cambridge, Mass.," Fair Vote concluded.

Mozyrsky said ranked-choice voting could be workable standing alone, but not within multimember districts. Multimember districts have been tried and rejected in several U.S cities, he said, including Baltimore, where a two-thirds majority voted out such a system in 2002.

Two years ago, Cambridge refused to add multimember districts to its ranked-choice system, Mozyrsky said.

Eastpointe, Mich., adopted rankedchoice voting in 2019 to "enhance the ability of minorities to have a minority elected." Despite a 49-percent Black electorate, Mozyrsky said white candidates captured both contested seats in the 2019 council election.

Palm Desert, Calif., was set to implement ranked-choice voting in a multimember district in 2020, then delayed. A ballot measure to be decided later this year will consider switching to single-member districts.

### Three oppose

Mozyrsky was one of only three commissioners who voted against the reform proposal. The other two were David Knowles and David Chen, who were added in February in the final stages of an 18-month process.

### **Italian Language Immersion**

### **Adult Classes**

Beginner - Advanced level language classes Various culture classes - wine, conversation, film, history, music

### Children's Classes & Camps

"Voters are looking for

better government, not

more government.."

charter commissioner

David Knowles.

Summer culture camps Preschool, Weekend & Afterschool Classes Mommy & Me Playgroup



Authentic Italian language & culture education since 2006

info@scuola.us · (971) 270 - 0470 · http://scuola.us

### MARSHALL UNION MANOR

RETIREMENT LIVING FOR SENIORS 62 YEARS OR OLDER



AFFORDABLE QUALITY RETIREMENT LIVING
STUDIO & ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENTS

No Costly Buy-Ins or Application Fees Rent Subsidies Available/Income Limits Apply

2020 NW NORTHRUP STREET PORTLAND, OREGON 97209
503.225.0677

WWW.THEUNIONMANORS.ORG

Marshall Union Manor has been part of Northwest Portland for more than 40 years. Our residents enjoy the ease and diversity of urban living. For residents with cars we have off street parking, but many of our seniors prefer to utilize the city bus or the street car which stops just outside our building. We offer a beauty/barber shop, community vegetable garden, in-house library, and numerous clubs and activities. Enjoy Retirement to its fullest!

Enjoy the Convenience of Senior Living!

OFFICE HOURS:
WEEKDAYS 10:00am - 4:00pm
Appointments Gladly Scheduled!

Knowles, a former Metro councilor and director of the Portland Bureau of Planning & Sustainability, has practiced law and consulted throughout the Pacific Northwest on land use and transportation. Chen, a business attorney, worked for an international law firm. He co-founded a bioinformatics startup and served in the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice litigating employment discrimination cases.

"It was like a breath of fresh air when they came on," Mozyrsky said, noting that the two brought experience and administration backgrounds to the discussion.

But even Chen and Knowles could not open a wider debate on the underlying assumptions and ramifications of the draft proposal; they were told that voting mechanisms were settled topics. Their frustration came out when they explained their votes at the final commission meeting.

"I really believe voters are looking for better government, not more government," Knowles said. "I'm not persuaded that multimember districts, a council size of 12 and the new voting method that would be used in multimember districts is going to accomplish [the commission's] objective."

"The election method for multimember districts is flawed. I've been very concerned that it won't achieve the objective of diversity and increased representation. I think it's going to dilute accountability.

"Am I wrong about all of this? Maybe I am, but on the other hand, I could very well be right, and the problem is there's no data to show that I'm right or wrong because this has never been done in the U.S. before. It's an experiment, and I'm very concerned that at this point in our city's history we shouldn't replace a form of government unique in the country with a form of government that is unproven. I just think it's a mistake.

"I wish the commission could have said at the beginning of this process that we're really going to work hard to get a consensus recommendation in front of the voters. ... I am really worried that, based on the public testimony that we heard in May, there will be significant opposition. My guess is that it's going to pass or fail by a few percentage points. Either one of those outcomes is a lose-lose situation because we'll continue to have deep divisions about the way in which we ought to govern our city."

Chen was briefer.

"I have several concerns about the proposed charter amendments, but I'll mention just two," he said.

"First, multimember districts with ranked-choice voting: There's a lot of risk here with protecting incumbents, with potential extreme candidates, with diluting accountability and with voter confusion.

"We have to get the charter recommendation right. We are making decisions that could persist for generations. We need more time to consider feedback, to refine the language, to think about related laws and practices and even unexpected consequences."

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

# Commission ignores evidence of dysfunction in touted voting system

The Portland Charter Commission counted examples of voting reforms employed around the world and declared them the wave of the future. Various forms of ranked-choice voting and multimember districts are used in more than 40 jurisdictions in the United States and in almost all European countries, according to Charter Commission Chair Melanie Billings-Yun.

The commission often blurred distinctions between the two systems, which have been separately adopted in a growing number of jurisdictions though never in combination in the United States.

Portland attorney Terry J. Harris served on the charter commission in Baltimore before voters there ended the city's multiple-member council districts in 2002. He began following the Portland Charter Commission last September after it circulated a draft calling for both ranked-choice voting and multimember districts.

He was surprised at the naiveté of the commission and its lack of curiosity to get beyond slogans.

Andrea Jenkins, president of the Minneapolis City Council, was invited to share her city's experience with voting reform with the commission. Harris said she was taken aback to learn her local audience assumed Minneapolis was using both ranked-choice voting and multimember districts when only the first was true.

Harris tried to deflate the commission's faith in multimember districts. He attended every commission meeting as well as all meetings of the voting structure and form of government subcommittees since September and spoke at every opportunity when the public was permitted to make three-minute statements. Harris estimated that he spoke out nearly 10 times, following up with written statements. Not once did commission members or staff respond or ask questions of him, he said.

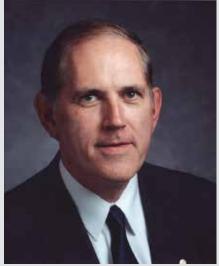
"They announced [their plan] and defended it for months," he said. "They didn't engage with the community or counter viewpoints. I would have hoped they would have been more thoughtful."

The commission relied on polling conducted by GBAO Strategies of Washington, D.C., concluding that about 70 percent of Portland voters supported ranked-choice voting and slightly more supported a system combining multimember districts and ranked-choice voting.

The commission heard presentations from advocates and consultants favoring these voting systems but did not give agenda time to contrary experts, said Vadim Mozyrsky, a member of the Charter Commission who has co-founded the Partnership for Common Sense Government PAC to oppose the ballot measure.

"The push for an election system overhaul mostly came from the Coalition of Communities of Color, which was contracted by the city to provide community outreach, and Building Power for Communities of Color, the (advocacy) arm of the coalition, which helped coordinate the polling," Mozyrsky said.

Harris was not an invited expert, but he knew



Terry J. Harris

something about Baltimore, which introduced multimember districts in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Weaknesses of the system grew increasingly evident, resulting in a voter initiative dismantling the system by a two-thirds majority.

"The problem was accountability," Harris said. "You had six three-member districts with candidates running as a slate or each voting the same way."

As a result, council members would "hide behind each other" to excuse unpopular votes or would neglect constituent service, passing the buck to other council members who had equal responsibility to provide assistance.

"They were never really accountable to the voters," he said. "They focused on the voters who elected their slates.

"Some were there for decades. There was lots of dead wood, lots of inaction. They didn't return phone calls."

Harris said there "aren't any good examples" of multimember districts in the United States, and international cases involving parliamentary systems do not apply to Portland's situation.

"The idea behind multimember districts and ranked-choice voting is you get a lower threshold to win a seat," he said.

The corollary is that those elected by a non-majority slice of the voters can remain in office by satisfying only that segment of the constituency.

"Under my theory, representatives are accountable to everybody," he said. "They're supposed to represent the whole district."

The fear of being removed from office is largely muted in multimember districts in which almost any incumbent has enough name recognition to finish within the top three candidates in a district, he said.

"Making getting someone in easy makes getting someone out hard," Harris said. "I honestly don't think they thought about that until I brought it up in September."

Allan Classen









# Justa Pasta . . . and a lot more

BY GERRY GREEVE

The more than a dozen Italian restaurants and trattorias within a 20-minute walk of our Pearl condo, my wife, Margo, and I eat a lot of good Italian meals.

How do we decide which one to choose on a given day?

Two of our favorites are Trattoria Gallo Nero, which I wrote about last month, and this month's subject, Justa Pasta. The food at both is terrific—creative, well executed and often surprising. While Gallo Nero has a few more salads and Justa Pasta a wider selection of daily specials, I would say the primary difference is ambiance.

Justa Pasta is informal, and the large patio is comfortable in summer or winter. By contrast, the dining room in Gallo Nero is elegant, and the enormous wine list would impress your boss or cosmopolitan friend from New York.

Justa Pasta founder Roland Carfagno headed west in 1990 for the fabulous windsurfing in the gorge and ended up creating a thriving trattoria on an industrial flavored stretch of Northwest 19th Ave-

Carfagno absorbed the art of cooking at the elbow of his grandmother Rosina, who lived in a hill town in southern Italy. Her touch is reflected in the meatballs he serves at Justa Pasta. He doesn't claim it is her recipe.

"My cooking is instinctual," he said. "The ingre-

dients talk to me, and it happens naturally. For me, it is an art form.

"People ask me what type of Italian cooking I do. I tell them, 'Philly Italian.'"

His customers have a less modest assessment.

"Many people tell me our chicken parmigiana is the best they've ever had," he said.

The lunch and dinner menus on a recent day (July 8) included 39 dishes using 18 different types of pasta. I don't like overly spicy meatballs so Justa Pasta's meatballs are right up my alley—rich but not overwhelming.

Becoming a restaurateur was not Carfagno's goal as a young man. After studying English literature at Connecticut College and taking courses at the Goethe Institute in Munich, he took to windsurfing with his uncle in the Greek islands. The renowned winds of Hood River beckoned him to Oregon. To pay his bills, he started a wholesale business making fresh pasta and ravioli from a commercial kitchen in Northwest Portland.

By 1998, he began selling lunches to go. In time, he remodeled the space, added a dining room and bar. His product line was no longer "just pasta," but the original name had a ring to it and has endured.

Chatting with Carfagno in the kitchen—a room deep in the aroma of fresh basil as Mariel stripped the stems out from the stack of fresh leaves.

"Always put in the pine nuts," he reminds the staff.

# NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 28, No.8

"News You Can't Always Believe"

August 2022

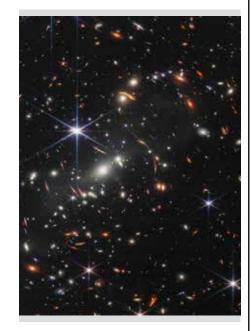
### What a tangled Webb we weave

Hurtling through space at the speed of light, images from the James Webb space telescope are arriving on Earth. Astronomers are astounded that through the eons, the Nob Hill Bar & Grill has remained prominent on the Earth's land-scape.

For example, about the time single-cell organisms appeared, Nobbys was open seven days a week, 365 days a year.

When early man first dragged his knuckles from the cave, Nobbys was featuring Monday night tacos. As the pyramids rose, the Nob Hill Bar & Grill was offering drink specials and microbrews.

And before the printing press, Nobbys was putting out a delicious burger featured on our hand-carved menus.



So come into Nobbys and ask for Jerry. He'll be sitting on his stool by the window, which he has been doing since returning from the Civil War.

BURGER COUNT 1,284,588

Enter your name for a monthly drawing.

This month's burger winner is Monica Guzman.

Nob Hill Bar & Grill 937 NW 23rd Avenue • 503-274-9616



Large groups can be accommodated in one of the dining rooms or on the patio.



### Timbers & Thorns Viewing Parties

Games are shown in the Commons and Courtyard

Great scratch made menu, and 12 local beers, ciders and kombucha on tap

7am – 11pm every day www.hostelcafepdx.com

1810 NW Glisan St 503-417-8143 #pdxhostelcafe



### **Escape to Nature on Mt Hood**

Yurts & Camping 2-bedroom cabin

1-hour drive from Portland, near hiking trails www.zigzagmountainfarm.com 503-922-3162 #zigzagmtnfarm

### 4th Saturday CleanUp

Aug 27, 9am–10am: help pick up litter in our neighborhood; sponsored by SOLVE. Check out our website for more info or email <a href="mailto:mikayla@nwportlandhostel.com">mikayla@nwportlandhostel.com</a>.

Next to him, Yeni Martin, who has taken over his role as pasta pro, separated angel hair for one of the six to eight entrees for the day. She saves time every couple of days to bake mouthwatering cheesecake.

Carfagno's partner, Keema Kiewel, is in charge of the wine. They live just up the street. Carfagno's daughter, Mary Alice, helps with service when not in school. Sometimes his brother comes out from back East to run the bar.

The space is perfect for a summer afternoon or evening. A cool bar indoors, surrounded by two dining rooms and the kitchens, opens onto a large patio seating 50. The patio is totally covered, and the breeze wafts the aroma of cooking round your shady table.

So where does Carfagno go when he wants a good meal when not on the job? His favorite restaurants are in Northwest Portland; Trattoria Gallo Nero, Caffe Mingo, and Nuestra Cocina.

Carfagno was poetic on the virtues of

Sicilian wine.

"The Carricante grape wines from the Mount Etna region are full of unique character," he said. "They are largely ignored in the USA, but for me they are the best Italy has to offer-full of rich complexity and distinctive flavors—but not for everyone's palate."

Fortunately, he has a few bottles in stock so you can put your own palate to the test.

Justa Pasta 1326 NW 19th Ave 503-243-2249



Roland Carfagno, his pasta maker and some of his favorite ingredi-



# Food News

### **Prominent trio opens two restaurants**

Two new restaurants by MMMco. opened last month in Northwest Portland. MMMco. was founded by Micah Camden (of Little Big Burger), NFL star and Grant High School graduate Ndamukong Suh and Craig Peterson, a third-generation owner of RingSide Steakhouse.

MMNco., based in Southeast Portland, also operates Baes Chicken, Boxer (Northwest 23<sup>rd</sup> and Savier), Kevin & Frankys, Snappy's, SuperDeluxe and Yaya Canto BBQ.

ROCK PAPER FISH, a fish-and-chips restaurant opened at 2309 NW Kearney St. The menu includes calamari, shrimp, oyster po'boys and Alaskan halibut fish and chips. Rock Paper Fish is open 11 am-9 pm daily.

KINNAMONS, a bakery named for the Greek word for cinnamon, opened at 1241 NW Johnson St. on July 19. Cinnamon rolls baked daily are the only edible item on the menu, which also includes beverages such as espresso and flavored coffee. Kinnamons is open from 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. daily.

### Manzanita NW coming

A wine bar and winery tasting room in the Carson South building at 2121 NW Savier St. opens Aug. 3. It will feature Oregon and Washington wines, craft beers and ciders. Hours are 2-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday and noon-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

### Alouette closes abruptly

After opening at 2764 NW Thurman St. in May, Alouette closed in July for repairs. Owner Wei-En Tan said the closure had nothing to do with an effort by employees to unionize.

"I do not believe in unionization being used as a weapon against small business owners who are in debt and literally opened the restaurant six weeks ago-especially when no open communication was attempted before the union organizing effort," Tan wrote employees, as reported in Eater Portland.

Workers have filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board.

### Briefly

Rick Spielman, co-founder of SPIELMAN BAGELS & COFFEE, died last month of complications of Parkinson's disease at age 76.

SIP CITY SPIRITS+WINE+BEER has replaced the former Goodwill Industries store at 2215 W. Burnside St. Sip City is owned by Bruce Randall and Randall Family Enterprises Inc., which also owns Uptown Liquor. Uptown Liquor is temporarily closed as plans are made for a wine-focused reopening.



The Overton Center 1308 NW 20th

503.223.2200 Jim Brunke

**Real Estate** 

### **HISTORIC** OFFICES FOR LEASE



The Gadsby 1306 NW Hoyt Street

### Featured 937 Glisan Condo For Sale Unit 1431 | 2 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | 1498 Square Feet | \$849,900



Offered by Chris Mackovjak, Real Estate Broker Specializing in Condominiums & Downsizing 541.579.0532 | Chris@chrismackpdx.com | Chrismackpdx.com



# NW PORTLAND / PEARL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MAP

#### 2892 NW UPSHUR ST.

Plans for a five-story condominium building facing Northwest Thurman and Upshur streets involve demolition of a 1925 office building at Northwest 29th and Upshur. A historic plaque on the building commemorates its former resident, Jesse Still (1881-1981), called one of America's first documentary filmmakers. The building is not listed as a historic resource.

# ers. The building is not listed as a historic resource.

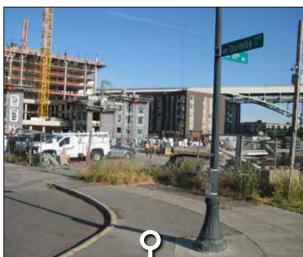
### 1708 NW 25TH AVE.

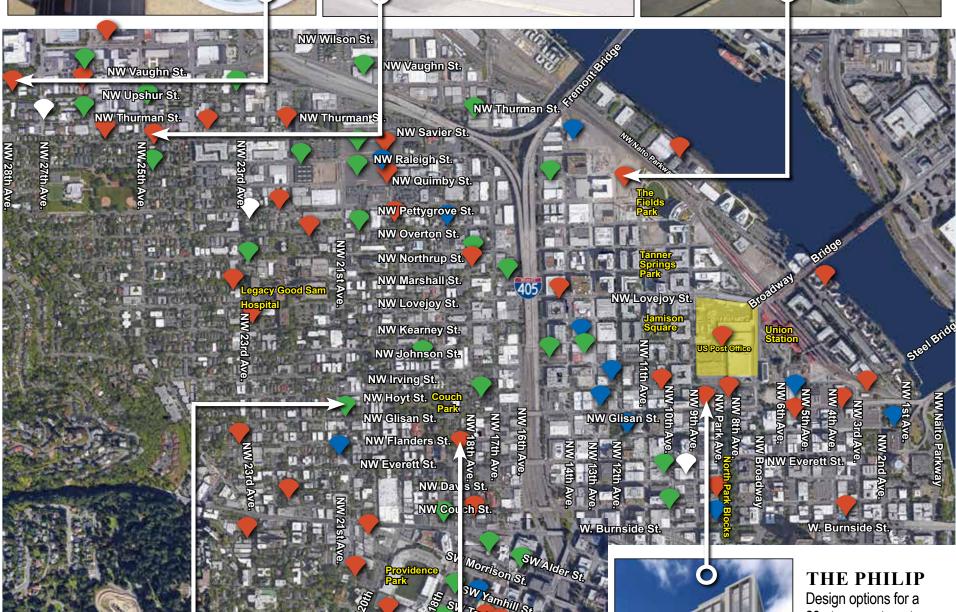
Units in a 1926 apartment building at 1708 NW 25th Ave. are being cleared by Legacy Property Management in preparation for remodeling. Sixteen-year tenant Don Stone said he got a 90-day eviction notice this summer. The property was purchased in March by a company located at 2284 NW Thurman St., but Michael Feves, who heads Circum Pacific Properties at 2284 NW Thurman, told the NW Examiner he does not own the building at 1708 NW 25th Ave. and could not say who does.



### **NW 12TH AND QUIMBY**

A pre-application conference was held in May for a 20-story tower at Northwest 12th and Quimby by GBD Architects on behalf of international developer Greystar. A self-storage project by Hoyt Street Properties on this site was approved in 2016.





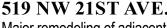


### 1819 NW EVERETT ST.

Founders Development Co. of Las Vegas has submitted preliminary plans to remodel the historic Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center at 1819 NW Everett St. as part of a two-building boutique hotel complex. A five-story hotel is planned for the current parking lot. A design-advice hearing is anticipated this month.

Design options for a 23-story apartment tower proposed on the quarter block occupied by the historic Honeyman Hardware Co. building were discussed by the Portland Historic Landmark Commission last month. Pearl District Neighborhood Association planning chair David Dysert said finding sufficient space

for underground parking while not overshadowing the historic resource may jeopardize the project.



Major remodeling of adjacent spaces once occupied by Wimpy's and O'Brien's taverns on Northwest 21st Avenue is underway. Portlandmaps.com indicates showers, restrooms, treatment rooms and a tea bar are being installed for "21st Ave. Fitness." The property is owned by Clackamas Investment Co. LLC, which was registered with the Oregon Secretary of State by Ronald L. Laughlin.









Proposed Under Review In 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



Courtyards running the length of the property allow plenty of sunlight to reach the rose bushes and other landscaping.

Lower left: Judith Ford (right) was heavily made-up to play a witch in a 1999 Disney film shot in St. Helens.



Photo by Julie Keefe

"No going back" cont'd from page 1

story. Mike Taylor, a tenant here from 2005-14, came back with a painting of Lola, his Staffordshire bull terrier, who died in 2013. Many remembered her well.

But the right of return is slipping away for Teicher and all who have called Elysian Garden home over the years.

Ethos Development LLC closed a \$6.6 million deal on the property on March 24, and the Northeast Portland developer plans to level the low-lying structures to maximize the development potential. In June, Ethos President Paul Del Vecchio showed the Northwest District Association preliminary plans for two five-story buildings containing up to 170 apartments.

Del Vecchio met with the residents and encouraged them to stay until construction begins. He even suggested that they could move into the new building in a few years when it's completed. But the cost per square foot would be much higher (Elysian Garden studios rent for under \$1,000 and two-bedroom units for about \$1,400), and anything new will not have the qualities that have made Elysian Garden, named for paradise in Greek mythology, their little corner of heaven.

It starts with the garden, or at least the opportunity to be gardeners. Rose bushes and lawns lining the walkways running the length of the property between Upshur and Vaughn streets are well tended by the residents. Some have introduced their own lavish plantings.

Safety owes in part to the configuration. Any stranger wandering through can be seen from many units. Theft and vandalism are beyond rare.

Mostly, the sense of home comes from connections with other residents. It's no wonder that people keeping coming back, said Teicher, a former writer and photographer for an Intel in-house publication who also had an antique business for 18 years and for a time drove a taxi.

"You don't have to go anywhere to see your friends," she said. "This place is a neighborhood."

Teicher does not expect to find another place like it.

"I am devastated at the thought of it being demolished," she said. "I feel like we're losing something that's precious. We all feel that way."

"I have lived at Elysian Garden for a little over 10 years and love living here," wrote a resident who asked not to be named. "There are many tenants who have lived here for many years and take pride in trying to keep the beautiful roses and flowers healthy and alive for all to enjoy. It's always had a community feel to it. I have built friendships with several current and past neighbors.

"Many summer evenings, you'll find neighbors sitting out on their stoops chatting with others, sharing a beverage and getting to know each other while their dogs play. It's so nice to feel safe and know that if you needed anything, your neighbors would be there to help.

"Nowadays, it seems hard to find that type of living environment, especially in a multistory complex. It's just very sad that the owner and city would rather force good, long-term tenants out for a large complex that most can't afford to live in."

Judith Ford, who lived at Elysian Garden from 1990-2008, said, "I knew many of the old interesting residents that the Coleman family (former landlords)

Cont'd on page 12



Eduardo Holeman

(503) 403-9566

Eduardo@maidinoregonstate.com www.MAIDINOREGONSTATE.com servicing the Pearl District area

The Law Office
of Harris S. Matarazzo
is proud to support the work of the
NW Examiner in our community.

Harris S. Matarazzo 121 SW Morrison, Suite 1015 503-226-0306







# **503-286-1291** LinntonFeed.com

Also visit us at Dekum Street Doorway! dekumstreetdoorway.com

10920 NW Saint Helens Road Portland, OR 97231







"No going back" cont'd from page 11

"They provide already-built affordable housing in a city too expensive for many." – Drew de Man

was kind to. There were many alcoholics, drug users and mentally ill, but we were all a caring community."

"I lived at Elysian for about a year and a half," wrote Drew de Man. "Loved the place. We need more density, yes, but those garden apartments should be maintained as 100-year-old historic architecture. They are also green and provide a pleasant, serene ground level space for residents, as well as an unpaved area that at least absorbs some measure of rainwater runoff that otherwise chokes the overtaxed storm water system.

"Elvsian was a haven for me. Close to the AA clubhouse, I could walk and bike to meetings, and my time there provided a safe and comfortable place to find serenity in recovery. They provide already-built affordable housing in a city too expensive for many."

5th ANNIVERSARY SALE! August 26th 2-7pm Enjoy hors'devours while you browse the entire MODO collection. Bring. your eyeglass prescription to purchase glasses and receive FREE anti-reflective coating, a \$130 value! **Buy Local Help Local** Your purchase provides vision services to Oregonians in need through the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation. www.eyepromiseoptical.org 1010 NW 22ND AVE., #144 503-413-6201 PORTLAND, OR 97210 Each eyeglass purchase enters you into a drawing for a free MODO frame and lenses, a \$1,000 value!

Elysian Garden neighbors often gather on their communal deck in summer months. Troy Erickson (L-R), Lane Allen, Mike Taylor, John MacBride, Ronni Photo by Julie Keefe Teicher and Julie Liddick.

### 'Nonsensical to me'

Neighborhood representatives, acknowledging that there are no legal barriers to demolition, nevertheless had some critical words.

"Removal of what's there is nonsensical to me," NWDA Planning Committee member Roger Vrilakas said. "What's there is perfectly fine, and I cannot understand why the city encourages this."

Committee co-chair Greg Theisen encouraged members to look at the property before it reviews the redevelopment application.

"It's a really sweet little development, and it will be missed," Theisen said. "I was really struck by the rose bushes and the open grassy area."

Del Vecchio said the buildings "are near the end of their lifespan" and do not support the cost of repairs needed. Three other developers interested in the property all intended to raze Elysian Garden, he said.

"As a region, we have decided we aren't going to build out [but rather to build up]," he said.

If such a decision has been made, it did not involve conferring with the kind of people who consider Elysian Garden the ideal—if dying—form of urban architecture.

"Nobody in the neighborhood wants a looming structure in that location," Taylor said.

Each unit has its own front and back door, making each trip an opportunity to encounter a neighbor. Natural light reaches every room, perhaps a reason many artists have lived here. A communal clothesline, erected long before it was eco-correct, divides the brick buildings nearest Upshur from the plaster-coated ones along Vaughn

It has no parking lot and many tenants have no cars. A photo from almost any angle, especially those showing an old water tower north of Vaughn Street, reveals nothing that would have been out of place a century ago.

Time, however, has not stood still in paradise. The complications of deferred maintenance, old plumbing and sagging foundations are evident.

"As apartments were cleaned and repaired between tenants, there were opportunities to step in and have a look around," said Taylor, who keeps a thick file on the property with thoughts of turning it into a book.

"Every one of them was slightly different. Various oddities caused their "nicknaming." One had a small deep sink in the kitchen which was dubbed 'the kitten-drowning sink.' Another one had a handmade tie rack inside a closet door capable of holding over 100 neckties.

One unit had "a floor so slanted that you felt as though you were in the Mystery Spot in southern Oregon," he said.

"Yes, the building was physically on a downward trajectory, a resource allowed to go to seed," he said, "and a lot of that happened because the earlier owners did not have deep pockets."

Real estate speculation has also been

"I think that George Hale [a prior owner whose grand development plans died about a decade ago] didn't believe he had to worry about the condition of the property, given that his plan was to raze it and build his award-winning 'Borg cube' design," Taylor said.

"Then he thought he could reroof and advertise on Craigslist to out-oftowners on the strength of the location. What happened was heavy turnover with some tenants leaving in the middle of the night."

Carl and China Ageros were the resident managers from 2007-13, when the property sold. Carl said there were serious structural problems that had gone unaddressed for years as later owners applied only cosmetic improvements.

"I loved that place," Ageros said. "I loved living there. It was a lovely community, and we loved our neighbors."

The Ageroses have had nine years to adjust to life after Elysian Garden.

Teicher still faces the abyss.

"We feel so helpless," she said. "We see the wrecking ball, and there is nothing we can do about it."

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



PearlHealthPartners.com

- Gastroenterology Ear, Nose and Throat
- NW Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Pearl Women's Center
- Nerve and Pain Institute
- Transform Weight Loss
- Foot and Ankle
- **Pearl Medical Center** 140 NW 14th Ave. Portland, OR 97209

503.771.1883 503.771.0438 fax



### Why stay up all night?

Most of our colonoscopy patients can have a low-volume, same day preparation.

Your colonoscopy journey with us is private, with your own room Pre- and Post-procedure, using the newest imaging

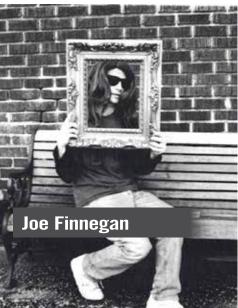
If you or your family/friends are average risk for colon cancer and between the ages of 45 and 76, our team of highly experienced doctors and staff are ready for your visit.

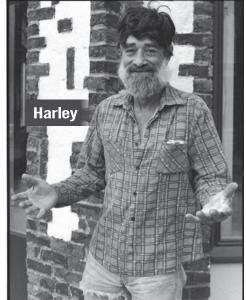


FIRST 10 GUESTS RECEIVE A FREE PAIR OF SUNGLASSES!

# People who made Elysian Garden memorable

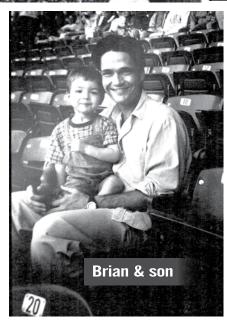




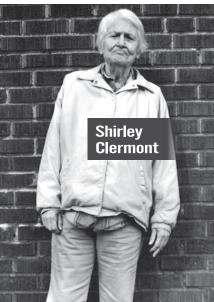












All black and white photos by Ronni Teicher

### In her 30 years at Elysian Garden, Ronni Teicher got to know many of its unforgettable characters, some of whom she photographed

**GAYLE HAMMOND** lived at Elysian Garden for 38 years and for many years tended the roses at Chapman School as a volunteer. Her rent was increased from \$415 to \$715 by new landlord George Hale in 2007 and she moved out.

NITA JACURA managed Elysian Garden several years for Emerald Property Management before Ronni Teicher and Bev DeMarco became co-managers. Nita died July 18 from a heart attack.

**BEV DEMARCO** has lived at Elysian Garden about 18 years, several as co-manager.

HARLEY (photo) lived with his buddy from Vietnam, Bill, and their friend Bob. Each slept on their own sofas and watched different channels on their own televisions, which were always on. All were alcoholics. Their bathtub was filled with concrete for some unknown reason.

**LONNIE** and **SCOTT**, a gay couple, lived directly across the courtyard from Harley, Bill and Bob, who grew irritated by their walking naked with the drapes open. Lonnie and Scott were evicted for not paying their rent.

**BRIAN** (photo) was a writer and painter who moved to Los Angeles to study acting. His son, Westin, sometimes stayed with him. KOIN 6 News featured him on a piece on the Northwest lifestyle.

**JULIA** (photo), always wearing a turban and red-painted cheeks, could be seen at all times of day or night pushing a shopping cart filled with new socks and other gifts for store vendors along Northwest 21st and  $23^{\rm rd}$  avenues.

STELLA (photo), loved her cats and smeared them with Vaseline as a flea deterrent. She spoke with a squeaky cartoonlike voice and would hum loudly while hanging her undergarments on the clotheslines

JOE FINNEGAN (photo), an artist and collector, moved out of Elysian Garden to help care for his ailing father in Lake Oswego. For decades, he sold vintage merchandise at the House of Vintage.

EVA LAKE (photo), who became close friends with Teicher at the University of Oregon in the mid-1970s, became an accomplished artist whose works have been shown at the Museum of Modern Art and around the world. She lived at Elysian Garden in 2012-13 but moved because bus service to downtown was too unreliable.

**SHIRLEY CLERMONT** (photo), a good friend of Trudy, rarely left Elysian Garden except to take a shuttle bus to Fred Meyer.

TRUDY (photo), was resident manager during the Coleman family's ownership from about 1962-1999). She had a wire-haired Terrier her son gave her while serving in the military in Germany. A pitcher of her special iced "tea," Coca-Cola mixed with vodka, was always in her fridge.

After Trudy retired and moved into a smaller apartment, FRANK and LENA moved in as resident managers. Frank met Lena while he was serving in the army in the Philippines.

Frank and Lena were followed by **CARL** and **CHINA AGEROS** and their two young boys, **INDI-GO** and **TRUE**. Carl was a talented painter in acrylic and oil

JUDITH FORD was a television and movie actor who played a witch in a 1998 Disney film, "Halloween Town," filmed in St. Helens. She remains active in the Screen Actors Guild. She lived at Elysian Garden in the 1990s with her malamute, Augie, and her parrots.

**BILL FRENCH** was an artist and longtime resident who got breaks on his rent from the former landlord. He gave art pieces to his Elysian Garden neighbors when a new landlord hiked rents, forcing him to leave

Bill's friend KYLE, a cook in a strip club who died









### Elysian Garden recent owners

? Marie Masters

1967 David and Rose Fertig
/ Bertha Gevurtz

1993 William Coleman

2007 George Hale

2022 Ethos Upshur

This site was within the grounds of the 1905 Lewis & Clark Exposition.



But to fix it, we need to dig into the details, find out what has gone wrong and why.

# **NW** Examiner

Working from the ground up to get the details you need to know since 1986.

Name	
Street	
City/State/Zip Code	
Email	
Mail \$50 check to NW Examiner, 2825-C NW Upshur St., Portland OR 97210.	

OR sign up at Patreon.com/northwestexaminer and pay through PayPal

# **S**napshots



Friends of Wallace Park volunteers held a cleanup event in the park last month. Their next work day will be in October. See wallaceparkpdx.org/ for details.



The new Forest Park entrance and parking lot at Highway 30 and St. Helens Road is complete. A nature center is considered Phase II of the project, but no specific plans are in place. Photo courtesy of Portland Parks & Recreation



Patrick Burnite (left) and Ken Thrasher of We Heart Portland helped spread bark mulch along Interstate 405 medians on a recent Saturday morning. The organization has spread 150 bags of mulch on NW 15th and 16th Avenues in preparation for fall planting.





Last month's cover story about a citizen campaign to restore the full route of the Washington Park railroad included a photograph of eight volunteers who helped remove overgrowth and rubble along the tracks. Unfortunately, there was no caption. Those workers are (L-R): Ron Waterman, Cathy Waterman, Melissa Darby, Bill Burgel, Jim Scanlon, Gerald Fox, Jay Shoemaker and Peggy Alter. For information or to get involved, email: ZooTrain@arlingtonheightspdx.org.



Streetcar rails buried under Northwest 16th Avenue for about a century were removed during construction of street improvements between Burnside and Davis streets. The Oregon Department of Transportation archaeology department documented the discovery and saved the materials. The Portland Bureau of Transportation will reuse the cobble stones on new projects. (Photo on left by Jacob Kovalchik, Archaeological Monitor)



# EETE REAL ESTATE

### PORTLAND LAKE OSWEGO



5,098 SF (Including 1,147 SF Barn) • 3 BD • 4.1 BA | ML# 22379896 Pat Bangerter 503.803.6269 | Jeni White 503.964.0576



3,165 SF • 4 BD • 2 ½ BA | ML# 22340422 The Dirk Hmura Team 503.740.0070



3,615 SF • 3 BD • 3 ½ BA | ML# 22577448 The Kendall Bergstrom Team 971.356.6085



4,957 SF • 4 BD • 4.5 BA | ML# 22112067 Lee Davies | Jennifer Holland | 503.468.3660



3,191 SF • 3 BD • 2 1/2 BA | ML# 22017415 Lee Davies | Jennifer Holland | 503.468.3660



2.000 SF • 2 BD • 2 1/2 BA | ML# 22684765 Lee Davies | Jennifer Holland | 503.468.3660



2,625 SF • 3 BD • 3 BA | ML# 22362723 Lee Davies | Jennifer Holland | 503.468.3660



4,314 SF • 4 BD • 3 1/2 BA | ML# 22426738 The Apa-Clarke Team 503.806.9773



3,488 SF • 4 BD • 4 BA | ML# 22023607 Shelly Brown 971.221.2641 | Beth Flora-Horton 503.706.6849



1,539 SF • 2 BD • 2 ½ BA | ML# 22086829



3,448 SF • 3 BD • 2 1/2 BA | ML# 22377624 Jeremiah Branch 971.806.2769 | Caitlin Mitchell 503.459.2528 Coleen Jondahl 503.318.3424 | Debbie Walker-Quintana 503.820.1626



2,952 SF • 5 BD • 3 BA | ML# 22649375



2,412 SF • 4 BD • 2 ½ BA | ML# 22523118 The Apa-Clarke Team 503.806.9773



2,706 SF • 3 BD • 2 BA | ML# 22034551 Shelly Brown 971.221.2641 | Beth Flora-Horton 503.706.6849



1,414 SF • 2 BD • 2 BA | ML# 22611278 The Apa-Clarke Team 503.806.9773



1,608 SF • 3 BD • 2 BA | ML# 22390601 Diana Erickson 503.319.5544 | Nicole Jochum 503.894.6650 | Jason Cassell 503.953.5444 | Bob Harrington 503.913.1296



1,022 SF • 1 BD • 1 BA | ML# 22550778



1,121 SF • 1 BD • 2 BA | ML# 22153011 The Kendall Bergstrom Team 971.356.6085



1,202 SF • 3 BD • 2 BA | ML# 22494544



975 SF • 3 BD • 1 BA | ML# 22154057 Brian Budke 503.310.5252 | Harrison Whitmarsh 503.432.5556 | Amanda Rust 503.830.7249 | Kate Mitchell 503.318.4800 | Ginger Gregory 503.333.1390 | Nicole Jochum 503.894.6650



702 SF • 2 BD • 1 BA | ML# 22648031



707 SF • 1 BD • 1 BA | ML# 22401161 Bob Harrington 503.913.1296 | Jason Cassell 503.953.5444



