

"Digging deep,  
Shining a light"

INSIDE



p. 3  
The Great  
Cause



p. 6  
City celebrates  
Bud May 15



p. 9  
Examiner  
endorsements



The interim director of the Office of Community & Civic Life has a strategy for all seasons

BY ALLAN CLASSEN  
Michael Montoya, interim director of the Portland Office of Community & Civic Life the past 12 months, seemingly would like to make the title permanent.  
(For the record, he said "no comment" to such speculation.)  
To be successful in that quest or in at least restoring legitimacy to OCCL, he knows he must rebuild trust with

the neighborhood associations that were once the focus of what until 2018 was the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.  
Former OCCL Director Suk Rhee, who headed the bureau's name change, resigned in 2021 amid scandal after a city-hired consultant reported widespread dysfunction and bullying.  
"I understand that you don't have trust," Montoya told the board of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association last September.  
His plan is to hire consulting firms "with experience working with the city" to plumb the needs and strengths of neighborhood associations and then "create a process."  
"I'm looking for firms that instill trust," he said.  
He intended to take the next 12 months to gather information in this manner, fol-

Cont'd on page 7

Cultural Center members vote decisively to sell landmark

BY ALLAN CLASSEN  
The proposed sale of the community-owned Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center to a Las Vegas developer for \$4.75 million was approved by a 53-3 vote of NNCC members last month.  
Founders Developments Inc. plans to begin interior renovation of the 1909 National Register landmark at 1819 NW Everett St. and construction of a five-story hotel on the adjacent parking lot next spring, with completion

expected by about the end of 2024.  
Tanya Toby, managing partner of Founders Developments, described the project as a 98-room "high-end hospitality product." The existing building will have 18 of the guest rooms plus spa and fitness amenities for the hotel as well as a restaurant/bar serving the general public.  
"We are contractually committed to preserving the façade," Toby told members.  
"We don't know what we will do with the interior," she added, noting that images shared at the meeting were "only conceptual."  
To a more pointed question as to whether the entire shell or merely three street-facing walls will be retained, Toby replied, "The entire envelope will be preserved."  
The sales agreement includes a deed restriction in which the buyer "agrees not to demolish, destroy or materially

Cont'd on page 14



Tanya Toby, managing partner of Founders Developments Inc.

Does Seattle have answers for Portland's homeless issue?



Kevin Dahlgren (left) of We Heart Seattle and Matt Bordonaro of Harbor of Hope lug trash from encampments along Northwest 16th Avenue. Photo by Wesley Mahan

BY ALLAN CLASSEN  
Some Pearl neighbors are looking to Seattle for a strategy to clean up Portland.  
Representatives of We Heart Seattle, a citizen-funded organization founded in 2020, led a work day along Interstate 405 on May 1 and posed a different approach to the problem overwhelming Portland and many other cities.  
"If what we're trying isn't working, try something different," said Kevin Dahlgren, a Portland resident who volunteers for We Heart Seattle.  
Andrea Suarez, executive director of We Heart Seattle, said her organization has regained order in 30 parks and green spaces around the city, including the one most overrun—Denny Park in downtown.  
"Civic engagement is the missing link to restoring our cities to a more humane, safe and livable community for all," she said.  
Suarez refers to a "homeless industrial complex" that churns through enormous resources even while failing to meet the needs of unshel-

Cont'd on page 13



STAINED GLASS RAINBOWS AND A  
MONKEY PUZZLE TREE  
1894 Queen Anne — *The Historic  
A.J. Armstrong House*



509 NE Prescott Street

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4 bedrooms and 2 full baths, 3,466 total Sq. Ft., 3-car driveway. RMLS #22326759 \$875,000.

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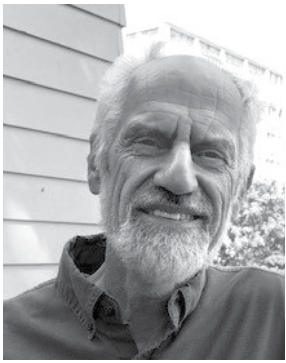
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# Government and the great cause

You can count on Portland voters to do the right thing. Just as importantly, they accept the cost of their beneficence.

When the homeless crisis grew out of control, they overwhelmingly passed huge bond measures to “get to the root of the problem” and shelter the destitute. When police misconduct without accountability contradicted their values, 82 percent voted for a new independent citizen review system, and 77 percent voted for a reform-minded district attorney who promised less punitive and more racially sensitive prosecution.

Portland voters reliably boost their taxes to maintain parks, upgrade libraries and underwrite election campaigns to minimize the influence of big money. When casting their ballots, they are compassionate to the dispossessed, farsighted toward investment in infrastructure for future generations and dedicated to extending the benefits of democratic participation to all.

So why is our city such a mess? Once ranked among the most livable, Portland now flunks even the safe and clean test.

Is it our antiquated commission form of government? That’s a big factor, certainly, but I think it’s more than that.

Gearing up for the great moral cause—taking the long-range view—triggers a farsightedness that can miss the little things in front of us that trip up grand gestures. If one is committed to saving humanity from poverty, injustice or environmental destruction, no complaint about the details of the plan carries



ries comparable weight. Naysayers can be written off as petty, selfish, uneducated or bigoted and in all ways lesser than the great cause.

For example, the Portland Bureau of Transportation would save us from our auto addiction by installing street barriers to favor walkers and bicyclists. Exactly which streets must be blocked off and in what manner, and how to later measure the efficacy of these “trial” barriers, were dictums of PBOT planners, who listen only to alternative transportation advocates pleading for ever-more auto impediments.

There is a sure sign that zealotry on high has overtaken pragmatic, responsive governance: Plans are not modified one iota despite recommendations from affected parties or diverse “outsiders.” Even prudently prepared plans benefit from independent scrutiny. When government officials refuse

to consider other ideas, it may not be because nothing can improve upon perfection. Invested in their own omniscience, they would deny any hope of influence to voices considered disloyal to the cause.

That was the explanation given by a former director of the Oregon Zoo for not taking evidence of elephant mistreatment to heart. The group raising the concerns was “anti-zoo.”

Government should not be in the business of pursuing absolutes, even virtuous ones. Democracy requires compromise on every great matter, keeping the discussion alive so today’s “losers” can see a path to eventual success if they hone their message and address its weaknesses. A democratic society that adapts in increments can advance toward “a more perfect union” without utopians in charge.

Portland’s tendency toward uncompromising radicalism was demonstrated by a woman aiming to be our next governor. In 2017, Oregon Speaker of the House Tina Kotek from Portland excoriated opponents of a measure expediting housing construction.

“House Bill 2007 would get rid of some of the loopholes that allow NIMBYism to block development when wealthy neighborhoods simply want to self-segregate and prevent affordable housing development in their communities,” she said at a senate hearing.

Kotek did not see in her constituents the tolerant, generous, community-minded forces evident in past voting patterns. In her mind, only a scolding and a harsh lesson in who holds power could clear the path toward her higher vision.

The great urbanist Jane Jacobs, who had heard that type of self-righteous denunciation of neighborhood activists from the early days of urban renewal, wrote:

“Communities that want a certain thing are derided for saying ‘not in my back yard.’ If you listen to ‘not in my back yard’ people, their objection is often to something that shouldn’t be in anybody’s back yard. What has been proposed should be done differently.”

When those holding government power sufficient to crush their critics crusade onward, their victories are temporary while the damage to our democracy is deep. ■

## Readers Reply

Letters can be sent to: [allan@nwexaminer.com](mailto: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.

### Streetcar route questioned

The quote from the Portland Bureau of Transportation project manager [Two-way streetcar may squeeze parking on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, April 2022] is my favorite: “A streetcar is ‘cheaper’ and could ‘flow pretty well through the district.’”

In my opinion, it is the perfect example of bureaucratic indifference and arrogance toward comments by the public, including impacted businesses and the

neighborhood association. Put another way, it is an example of the incompetent telling the unwilling to do the unnecessary.

It would be cheaper to have electric buses shuttling between Montgomery Park and the Northwest 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue streetcar stop. And better for traffic flow.

Bob Weinstein  
NW Raleigh St.

### Vibrancy threatened

Thanks for your coverage of the streetcar proposal. Northwest 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue has barely made it through COVID. Though many courageous restaurants have found ways to survive, not all did, and many small and mid-sized businesses have been forced to close. This neighborhood’s signature vibrancy depends on

Cont’d on page 5





## David Clark



David Thomas Corlett Clark, who grew up on Northwest Northrup Street, died Jan. 16 at age 61. He was born on Oct. 23, 1960 to Sigrid and Tommy Corlett, and was adopted by Bud Clark at age 5 after he and Sigrid married. He attended Maplewood and Chapman elementary schools and Lincoln High School. He received a GED and training in masonry from the Columbia Basin Job Corps. As an adult, he lived in Oregon House, Calif., where he worked as a carpenter, tile worker and mason.

## John ‘Bud’ Clark



John Elwood “Bud” Clark, former Portland mayor and bar owner who lived in Northwest Portland most of his life, died Feb. 1 at age 90. He was born Dec. 19, 1931, in Nampa, Idaho, and moved to Portland with his mother in 1938. He attended Couch and Glencoe elementary schools and Lincoln High School. He attended Portland State University and Reed College and served in the Marine Corps. He owned and operated the Spatenhaus and Goose Hollow Inn taverns. He served on the boards of the Northwest District Association and Goose Hollow Foothills League and founded The Neighbor newspaper. He was mayor of Portland from 1985-92. He married Joanne Walker, who was killed in a car crash, and then Sigrid Fehrenbacker, who died in 2000. He is survived by his sons, Jason and Nicolas; daughter, Rachel; seven grandchildren; and girlfriend, Norma Heyser. A public memorial will be held at Pioneer Courthouse Square on Sunday, May 15, 1 p.m.

## Susan Desmond



Susan Desmond, a resident of the Gregory Condominiums in the Pearl District since 2001, died April 11 at age 78. Susan Wolff was born Nov. 21, 1943, in Aberdeen, Wash. She graduated from the University of

Washington in 1965 and received a master’s degree in special education from Boston University. She moved to Portland, where she had a long teaching career. She was on the board of the Portland Center Stage, where she volunteered many years and guided tours of the remodeled Armory. She married Milton Lavin; they divorced. In 1994, she married Thomas Desmond. She is survived by her husband, Thomas; son, Joel Lavin; daughter Emilie Bennett; brother, George Wolff; and four grandchildren.

## Beverly Galen



Beverly Galen, a Lincoln High School graduate, died Feb. 11 at age 94. Beverly Weiner was born Feb. 27, 1927, in New York and grew up in downtown Portland. She received a degree in fine arts at Portland State University in 1969. She moved back to downtown in about 2005. She volunteered for many organizations and was on the boards of the Portland Art Museum, Portland Opera and Oregon Symphony. She married Bill Galen in 1946; he died in 2020. She is survived by her children, Lindsay, Edward, Christie and Davis; brother, Howard Weiner; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

## Donald Simon



Donald Martin Simon, who had a long career in advertising and printing, died March 22 at age 92. He was born April 1, 1929, and grew up on Northwest Quimby Street. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1946 and from the University of Oregon in 1950. He served in the Army Reserve for 30 years, retiring as a colonel. He was regional sales manager for Graphic Arts Center and vice president of Paul O. Giesey/Adcrafters, both located in the Northwest Industrial Area. He was a member of Congregation Beth Israel. He was preceded in death by his wife, Harriet Simon, and long-time companion, Delores Hovey. He is survived by his brother, Howard J. Simon; daughter, Roslyn; son, Alan; and three grandchildren.

## Marilyn McIver



Marilyn McIver, a Portland Heights resident and member of the Multnomah Athletic Club, died at age 89. Marilyn Jorde was born Aug. 12, 1932, in Mandan, N.D., and attended Mandan High School. In 1954, she graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. She moved to Portland, where she taught first grade at Buckman Elementary School. She married Douglas McIver in 1956; he died in 2004. She was active in Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland Garden Club and Women of Good Samaritan. She and her husband were founding members of St. Catherine’s Episcopal parish in Manzanita. She is survived by her sons, Christopher and Malcolm; daughter, Mary Dolich; and four grandchildren.

## Lee Kelly



Lee Kelly, whose large-scale sculptures are fixtures at many educational institutions, including Pacific Northwest College of Art, died March 29 at age 89. He was born May 24, 1932, in McCall, Idaho, and lived most of his life in Portland. He attended Portland State University from 1949-51, served in Korea with the Air Force from 1951-55 and graduated from Pacific Northwest College of Art in 1959. He taught at Reed College and Mount Angel College. He is survived by his daughter Kassandra. His first wife, Jeanette Bernhardt, died in 1960, and his second wife, Bonnie Bronson, died in 1990. His companion in later years, Susan Hammer, died in 2020. His son, Jason, died in 1978.

## Death Notices

**DOREEN HUNE**, 84, nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital.

**GLENN NICKOLAS TRI**, 78, worked for Radio Cab.

**DELBERT W. WELLS, JR.**, 73, 1967 Lincoln High School graduate.

**JAN HUTCHINSON THOMPSON**, 86, 1954 Lincoln High School graduate.

**GRANT BECKMAN**, 24, 2016 graduate of Lincoln High School.

**ELIZABETH P. LEE**, 72, graduated from Catlin Gabel High School.

**DONNA WINKLER**, 89, member of Shaarie Torah.

**LORRAINE IRWIN**, 92, member of the Multnomah Athletic Club for 50 years.

**ALICE MCKILLOP**, 89, member of the Multnomah Athletic Club.

**KATHERINE ‘KATIE’ B. FOEHL**, 78, vice president at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center.

**LAURIE A. MARLTON**, 63, Multnomah Athletic Club member.

**DAVID LOGSDON**, 70, managed Providence Park for city of Portland.

**THEODORE H. RIEWER**, 98, worked for Consolidated Freightways.

**JOHN ‘BILL’ BERGER SR.**, 79, attended Ainsworth School and Lincoln High School.

**MARLIS RAYE MILLER**, 70, member of the Multnomah Athletic Club.

**FRANCES HEITKEMPER LOVE**, 86, 1954 graduate of Lincoln High School.

**GEORGIA KOTCHIK**, 68, 1971 graduate of Lincoln High School.

**WILLIAM “WILSY” NELSON**, 68, 1971 graduate of Lincoln High School.

**RICHARD J. PAXTON**, 62, 1977 graduate of Lincoln High School.

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street-level businesses as its ground cover. It is hard to imagine a streetcar construction project not interrupting that. The transit needs that this project are said to serve seem accessible through simply changing transit routes.

So what is really afoot in this proposal? Why does this neighborhood have to face this obstacle after it has made it through so much? I feel grief-stricken by this kind of development as it occurs over and over in so many parts of the city. This way of thinking has turned downtown into a dust bowl, and I am afraid for the rest of the city.

Jen Peterson  
NW Upshur St.

Streets for everyone

Neighborhood streets are about much more than a place to park your car. The proposed extension of the streetcar along the north end of Northwest 23rd Avenue is an opportunity to make that portion of 23rd a special place for pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders—and perhaps most of all—for engaging with neighbors and friends. Popular street-seating structures have already displaced much on-street parking. That parking could be relocated off-street and in shared use lots associated with redevelopment.

The reconstruction of the north end of 23rd with inclusion of a streetcar extension would create a pleasant environment for everyone. On-street dining, relaxation and conversation could be accommodated with an integrated streetscape. It is not essential that we access businesses with a less-than-20-foot walk from one’s car.

Driving or walking across 23rd today provides evidence that the street needs to be reconstructed, regardless of a streetcar extension. City design standards already call for wider sidewalks that would be built as the street is reconstructed.

We need the streetcar extension to knit redevelopment of the Montgomery Park/ESCO properties to the north with the fabric of the Northwest neighborhood. Merging these projects would greatly reduce construction costs and help leverage federal funds for a streetcar extension. An extended streetcar line along Northwest 23rd Avenue would continue to provide a visible, convenient and direct means for getting around in our community.

We should be open to new ways of thinking about how we use our streets.

Phil Selinger  
Northwest Active Streets

False alarm

Good job getting the non-transit-using public all worked up over the possibility of a two-way streetcar on Northwest 23rd Avenue, robbing the public of the scant parking available.

As a citizen who moved to Portland specifically for transit that makes Portland the urban envy of America, I remind you that the Portland Streetcar uses only two blocks on Northwest 23rd (from Northrup to Lovejoy streets).

Brent Yonkovich  
NW 12th Ave.

*Editor’s note: The proposed streetcar extension involves nine blocks of two-way service on 23rd Avenue.*

Baffling answer

As a neighbor of Tanner Springs Park, I’ve spent many an hour there, especially during the pandemic shutdown.

One day I spoke to their current horticulturist, not knowing his role but knowing he worked for Portland Parks & Recreation. I told him that the bush that attracted our swallowtails each year was looking poorly. Then I said I hadn’t seen any swallowtails that year.

His response was some nonsensical observation about butterflies facing extinction because they didn’t evolve to become larger. And he’s in charge?

Karla Kruggel Powell  
NW 11<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Support park volunteers



Thank you all for your support to keep our parks pesticide-free. You are all critical to changing how Portland Parks & Recreation cares for our parks.

The Friends of Tanner Springs abided by a memo of understanding from 2015-21 and donated more than 7,000 hours to this unique prairie in the Pearl. They edged pathway cobbles, hand-weeded invasive plants and cultivated 72 native species. They transformed the park from 75 percent nonnative plants to 95 percent native plants—a tribute to the imperiled Willamette Valley oak prairie and the resources of a volunteer group extending PP&R’s capabilities.

In 2021, this collaboration came to an abrupt end. PP&R sprayed Roundup. They chose not to respond to the letter from the Friends board laying out concerns about the use of Roundup. And they delayed for seven months a promised resolution meeting. Their message is clear: The FTS organization is nonessential, volunteers’ health expendable and the health of the park and visitors inconsequential. In response, the Friends board, including three members (cancer survivors) resigned in protest; these members ran the program—grant writing, botanical identification, coordination and website curation. The FTS no longer exists as an organization.

PP&R Supervisor Jennifer Trimm and Horticulturist Neil Olson are continuing the spraying along all pathways and possibly the slough edge along the pond. PP&R knows Roundup is dangerous. It has a policy that prohibits the use of Roundup on turf grass or bark chips in children’s playgrounds. Shouldn’t the children at Tanner be protected?

The volunteers should be protected too. PP&R Volunteer Coordinator Steve Pixley needs to be held accountable for his volunteers. What better way to recruit and incentivize volunteering than a sign reading: “Thanks to volunteers, this park is pesticide-free. Volunteer with us.”

Michele Shapiro  
NW Marshall St.

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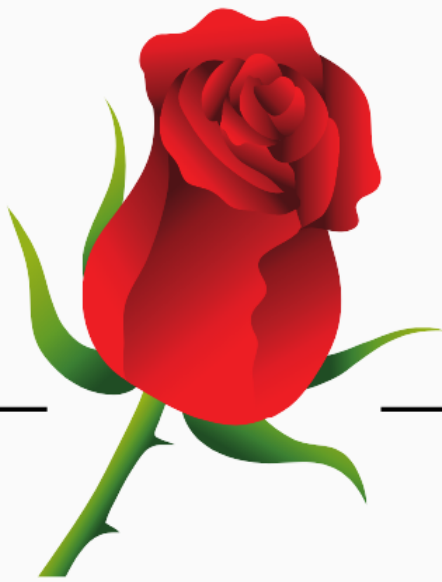
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- NW Examiner “2018 Civic Engagement” Awardee
- Pearl District Resident since 2000

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*Graphic Design courtesy of Laura Spidell*



"Office of Consultants" cont'd from page 1

lowed by two years implementing the consultants' recommendations.

"My plan," he continued, "is a series of consultant firms to [address] long-range chronic incapacity of Civic Life to meet Portlanders where they are and [promote] a responsive society."

Former Civic Life Neighborhood Program Coordinator Paul Leistner, who attended the Pearl District meeting, was not impressed with the consultants-first approach.

"We've been working on these issues before," Leistner said. "We have detailed information on this already. You need to reach out to us, to honor the wisdom in the community."

Leistner and others have suggested a citywide conference of neighborhood activists to drive a new vision. Montoya had not publicly mentioned this course until asked about it for this story. He said he will be working with the Portland State University Hatfield School of Government Center on a national/international summit tied to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Portland's neighborhood program in 2024.

Big visions aside, the audiences at Montoya's September appearance in the Pearl and one the same month before the Downtown Neighborhood Association focused on more immediate things. They were peeved at unresponsive and disrespectful treatment by city offices. They spoke not of "chronic incapacity" but of getting the bureaucratic runaround. If Civic Life does not make their organizations stronger, they at least expect some help in finding people in City Hall who can handle requests about daily livability concerns.

"We have approached city commissioners and their staffs, and we seldom get answers," said Walter Weyler, president of the Downtown Neighborhood Association.

"We welcome your attitude that neighborhoods matter," Weyler told Montoya, "but I'm not seeing very much of that from the bureaus."

PDNA board member Diana Stuart sketched out the Portland Bureau of Transportation's dismissiveness last year after a detailed letter about a massive development in RiverPlace was ignored by PBOT and city commissioners. Six weeks later, Weyler followed up, again getting no response.

"We finally got brushed off to a lower-level staffer with no background or capacity," Stuart said. "The more we get involved, the less we see they want our involvement."

"It was to my way of thinking, a classic put-off," Weyler said.

"That's not the first time I've heard such things," Montoya admitted.

His solution? Montoya promised "a warm handoff" when citizens call Civic Life about issues beyond its scope.

"My hope—and I don't control any of this—will be a response, hopefully the right response."

Montoya further lowered expectations by casting himself as a newcomer to Civic Life.

"I'm new to the bureau and the city," he told Pearl neighbors.

In fact, he then had 21 months experience as Civic Life's strategy, innovation and performance manager. Under former Director Rhee, who had no history with neighborhood associa-

tions or Portland government, he was often the behind-the-scenes fixer.

Montoya was Civic Life's point person on the internal investigation of a "glitter bomb" prank against the NW Examiner by a bureau employee in 2018. When Civic Life's livability supervisor left in 2020, Montoya stepped in to address concerns that noise code enforcement disproportionately affected African American music venues.

One broad critique Montoya is comfortable making without the input of consultants is that "the bureau suffers from chronic use of political rather than professional solutions."

He described political solutions as "quick and serving a smaller group," while professional solutions take longer but produce broad benefits.

Montoya is turning to a professional consultant in hiring the permanent director. Last month, the Office of Community & Civic Life issued a request for proposals to "scope the new OCCL director position."

Selection of the applicant (to assist in hiring the director) will be made in June, and the work is to be completed by Aug. 15. No date for hiring the permanent director has been set.

That two-step hiring process struck one local consultant as odd.

"[I am] surprised they are doing a formal RFP process just to develop a job description," wrote Heather Flint Chatto, owner of Forage Design + Planning in Southeast Portland. "However, given recent internal challenges raised in the audit, etc., I am very appreciative that they are seeking to engage the community in the process." ■

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

## History with Examiner

Michael Montoya was a high-level manager at the Office of Community & Civic Life for nearly two years as the bureau descended into chaos and division culminating with the resignation of former Director Suk Rhee. He handled the investigation of a "glitter bomb" sent to the NW Examiner by a bureau employee in 2018.

Montoya obtained a confession from Noise Control Program Coordinator Katherine Couch and wrote a disciplinary letter emphasizing the harm done to the bureau and the fracturing of public trust.

"Needless to say, it is unacceptable for a city employee to send a member of the media anything as a form of retaliation for an unfavorable story," Montoya wrote in a letter filed as a private entry in her personnel file.

These actions were not publicly known until the Examiner uncovered them through a public records request. Montoya never contacted me or apologized on behalf of Civic Life and would not comment on the matter later.

As interim director, Montoya was also silent on my banishment from meetings of Neighbors West-Northwest last November and December. Under its annual operating grant from Civic Life, NWNW is required to hold open meetings.

"The NWNW issue is between you and them," Montoya explained. "As I understand, your ban was rescinded after NWNW consultation with many people, including Civic Life. We regularly remind district offices that we encourage them to abide by all state and federal laws. We also adjudicate appeals neutrally when asked to do so. This did not come to our office for appeal. The matter resolved as it should have, without the heavy hand of government."

— Allan Classen



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Steve Pinger has been cleared off all misconduct charges brought against him by staff members of Neighbors West-Northwest, for which he has served a board treasurer for more than a year.

# Misconduct charges against board member dropped

Misconduct charges against Neighbors West-Northwest board member Steve Pinger were dismissed by a 6-1 vote of the coalition’s board last month.

NWNW staff members, including former Executive Director Mark Sieber, alleged last August that Pinger had “created a hostile work environment” for former Communications Specialist Rhys Ornstein-Hawes. It was further asserted that he had disrupted board meetings by “relitgating” matters already decided.

With no effort to bring the affected parties together to talk through or mediate differences, the coalition hired a succession of four lawyers and a human resources consultant to investigate the matter. Before the array of accusations was resolved, Sieber added another one: Pinger (who was board treasurer) had sought to have his name added as a signatory to the coalition’s bank account without obtaining an authori-

zation letter.

An ad hoc committee composed of four board members, including President Rick Kneuve, reviewed the charges and recommended that all be dropped.

Two weeks later, the entire board deliberated in a closed session before voting to clear Pinger.

Kneuve thanked Pinger for enduring an eight-month ordeal without an opportunity to speak in his own defense.

“For a man to have his reputation questioned as his has been ...” Kneuve began before shifting to a more upbeat vein. “I look forward to moving forward.”

The sole vote against the motion was by Forest Park Neighborhood Association representative Les Blaize, who resigned from both the coalition board and his neighborhood board on April 14. ■

# Another monument needing help



Photos: Wesley Mahan

BY FRED LEESON

Don Porth, a retired, 28-year veteran of the Portland Fire Bureau, is on a mission. He wants to restore the David Campbell Memorial at Southwest 18th Avenue and Alder Street and erect a wall honoring 34 other Portland firefighters who lost their lives on active duty.

Simple though it sounds, Porth’s vision calls for a complex restructuring of the little triangle that bears the name Portland Firefighters Park. He would relocate a restored Campbell Memorial to the southern tip of the triangle, which would require relocation of a gazebo that holds a 4,200 pound antique fire alarm bell.

The large bell, used for nearly 40 years until 1913, reportedly could be heard as far away as Oregon City when it was used to alert fire crews.

According to Porth’s hand-drawn sketch, the memorial wall would be placed on western side of the triangle adjacent to Southwest 19th Avenue. The names of those firefighters



are currently located on the floor of the memorial below the now-unused fountain.

Porth wants an accurate and professional restoration of the Campbell Memorial, which dates to 1928. The fountain and pool were designed by Paul Cret, an architect who was a professor for 34 years at the University of Pennsylvania, and a major figure in American Beaux-Arts designs of the era. Campbell, who was killed fighting a fire in 1911, is memorialized in a 5-foot tall bronze bas-relief by sculptor Avarad Fairbanks. ■

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8 Northwest Examiner, MAY 2022 / nwexaminer.com



# NW EXAMINER ENDORSEMENTS



## Vadim Mozyrsky



Last month, I endorsed Vadim Mozyrsky for City Council Position 3 over Rene Gonzalez and incumbent Jo Ann Hardesty. My thinking has become clearer after reading The Oregonian’s endorsement editorial, which praised both Hardesty and Gonzalez for their issue advocacy. While Hardesty was disparaged for villainizing the opponents of her reforms, Gonzalez was exalted for his “proven ability to corral public sentiment into productive action on targeted priorities.”

Stripped of the bias, these are two ways to describe the same political strategy: building political alliances to overcome opposition. This approach is woven into public affairs at every level, but is it the best way to govern our currently fragile city? Do we want champions of conflict as our lawmakers and administrators?

Mozyrsky has been a champion of good government; making public bodies work better and respecting differing viewpoints. He has been a neighborhood association officer, leader of a public safety group, serves on a police accountability panel, advocates for immigrants and the disabled and is a member of the Charter Commission.

There is a place for promoting causes, but seats of power should be for those who seek compromise and effective representation for all.

The NW Examiner endorses Vadim Mozyrsky for City Council.

\*\*\*

The NW Examiner also endorses Sharon Meieran for Multnomah County chair.

## Sharon Meieran



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**FOR METRO PRESIDENT**





# Are modest street-dining regulations up to the task?

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The city's Healthy Business program allowing restaurants and retailers to operate in the street was an emergency response to the COVID pandemic.

As the health emergency wanes, the program endures, in part because the Portland Bureau of Transportation sees benefits in extending community life into the right-of-way. But even defenders of the program concede that it should be tightened up.

"Many installations in the public right-of-way are not following the conditions and guidelines established in 2020," read a PBOT announcement.

By the end of May, revised design guidelines and ADA requirements will be disseminated to all sidewalk permit holders. Site inspections will be completed by the end of June. All current permits expire Aug. 31.

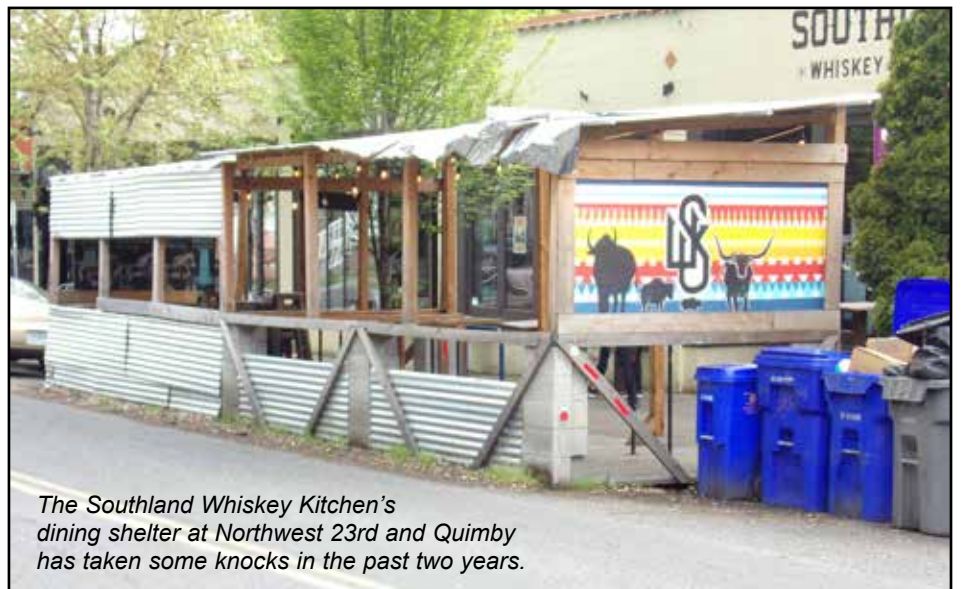
Considerable latitude will be granted to noncompliant operators.

"Some installations may need to resize, relocate, be redesigned or be removed between September 2022 and December 2023," PBOT announced.

Dennis Harper, a longtime resident of Northwest 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and until recently a member of the Northwest District Association Planning Committee, does not believe the city is making a sufficient response to the situation.

**"I see no concern about the crappy construction of most dining shelters. Most are lean-to shacks. They are eyesores. Some are coated in graffiti."**

**— Dennis Harper, NW resident**



*The Southland Whiskey Kitchen's dining shelter at Northwest 23rd and Quimby has taken some knocks in the past two years.*

In a letter to Transportation Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, he wrote:

"Yes, the dining shelters helped save many restaurants from going out of business. Yes, they were popular with patrons who were sick of staying home and wanted to meet safely outside for drinks and dining with friends and family.

"But most of the shelters are really ugly shacks, often marred by graffiti. Almost all of them block the view of the sidewalks when one is walking on the opposite side of the street or when one is driving by. They eliminate 'eyes on the street' from outside the shelter zones, creating less safe sidewalk conditions during hours when restaurants are closed. Many times one cannot even see what businesses are there because of the

view-blocking shelters.

"Many of the shelters are so opaque that they create a safety hazard near intersections. Pedestrians and drivers trying to enter an intersection cannot see beyond them. I have had some dangerous close calls with approaching vehicles that I could not see.

"If the city is to make the outdoor dining shelters permanent, then please implement strict design guidelines that assure beauty and function while also requiring transparency through the structures. They should not just be lumber and corrugated plastic picked up at Home Depot."

Harper found PBOT's plans to deal with the program's unforeseen conse-



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Shelters along both sides of Northwest 21st Avenue force buses to cross the centerline.  
Photo by Wesley Mahan

quences inadequate.

“I see no concern about the crappy construction of most dining shelters,” he said. “Most are lean-to shacks. They are eyesores. Some are coated in graffiti. Please address the need for carefully designed shelters with better finishes of the construction materials and more transparency.”

The NWDA Planning Committee put the issue at the top of its May 5 agenda.

Similar concerns have gained traction around the country. A guest essay in The New York Times last summer by Daniel L. Doctoroff, deputy mayor of the city from 2002-08, was entitled: “Tear Down the Restaurant Sheds Before It’s Too Late.”

“Like most everyone, I love New York City’s Open Restaurants program. Started in June 2020, it allows restaurants to serve customers on sidewalks and in the street without having to pay rent or fees,”

Doctoroff wrote.

“The dining sheds look charming and quirky today, but they were built hastily and vary in quality and design. In another year or two, they are going to start looking shabby. Some of them will be unsafe, others abandoned. Some will be damaged by snow plows and garbage trucks. City government, consumed with bigger problems, won’t have the will or desire to put real regulations in place or, more significantly, to enforce them. Over time, the sheds will become eyesores.

“But before it is too late, we need to take these temporary structures down. In their place, we should install a more flexible system that could meet our city’s changing needs — whether that’s upgraded dining sheds, freight zones, community gathering spaces or more we haven’t even dreamed up yet.” ■

COMMENT ON NWEXAMINER.COM  
or email: [allan@nwexaminer.com](mailto:allan@nwexaminer.com)

# Food News



## Slabtown Outdoor Market

Slabtown Outdoor Market (above) resumes this year with monthly events on the second Sundays of the month beginning May 8, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., on the Carson building plaza at Northwest 21<sup>st</sup> and Xavier streets. The project is a collaboration of farmers, artists, makers, local businesses, restaurateurs and community leaders.

## Afuri Slabtown

A “ramen lab” where diners can watch chefs make noodles and broth will open this spring at 1650 NW 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. Afuri Slabtown is part of a Tokyo-based ramen chain whose first U.S. location was Afuri Izakaya in Southeast Portland. Afuri Slabtown will be the company’s fourth Portland-area restaurant. Ramen chefs from around the world will make appearances and test recipes.

## Hostel Cafe

Northwest Portland Hostel Café, 1810 NW Glisan St., hosts live entertainment every Monday 6:30-10 p.m. The featured artists play two sets, and the remaining time is available for open mic performers.



- May 9**  
**The Roses**, a four-member teen rock band; and **Niamh**, an Irish fiddling band.
- May 15**  
**The Kaeley Stephans Trio**, featuring the folk songwriter and stringed accompaniment.
- May 23**  
**Whole Grain Loafers**, a fiddle, guitar and accordion trio featuring Karin Guenther, Albert McDonnell and Olivia Horgan.
- May 30**  
**Richard Melling and Karen McCracken, the Ross Island Ramblers**, play old-time, bluegrass and early country traditional music.

# NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 28, No. 4 “News You Can’t Always Believe” MAY 2022

## Tee Time Returns

With people starting to gather again, the Nob Hill Bar & Grill decided to take the Golden Tee golf machine out of mothballs.

Its legion of fans has returned. Known for their eccentricities or general weirdness, they are not letting us down.

As expected, Jerry brought the new sock-puppet head covers he makes at home for his club heads. It should be noted the machine requires no clubs.

Joey Styx is demanding to be called Tiger Styx while playing. K.Mann proudly parks his golf cart at the curb in front of Nobbys on tournament days. He



doesn’t play but sits at the 19th hole for the entire tournament, contentedly sipping beer.

Holly must still wear a surgical mask to help muffle the stream of expletives that flow from her mouth when her shot goes awry.

So hit the links and join us for a round of golf, or just a round, at Nobbys.

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### 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday CleanUp

May 28, 9am–10am: help pick up litter in our neighborhood; sponsored by SOLVE.  
Check out our website for more info or email [mikayla@nwportlandhostel.com](mailto:mikayla@nwportlandhostel.com).



# NW PORTLAND / PEARL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MAP

## AMERICAN CAN BUILDING

The 1921 American Can Co. building on the 2600 block of Northwest Wilson Street has been used for accessory parking for decades. Unico Properties LLC intends to convert the National Register structure primarily into offices. "It's a diamond in the rough," Unico Development Manager Cody McNeal said.



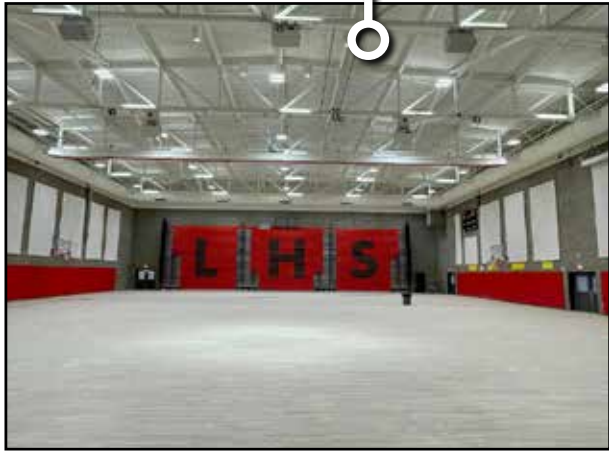
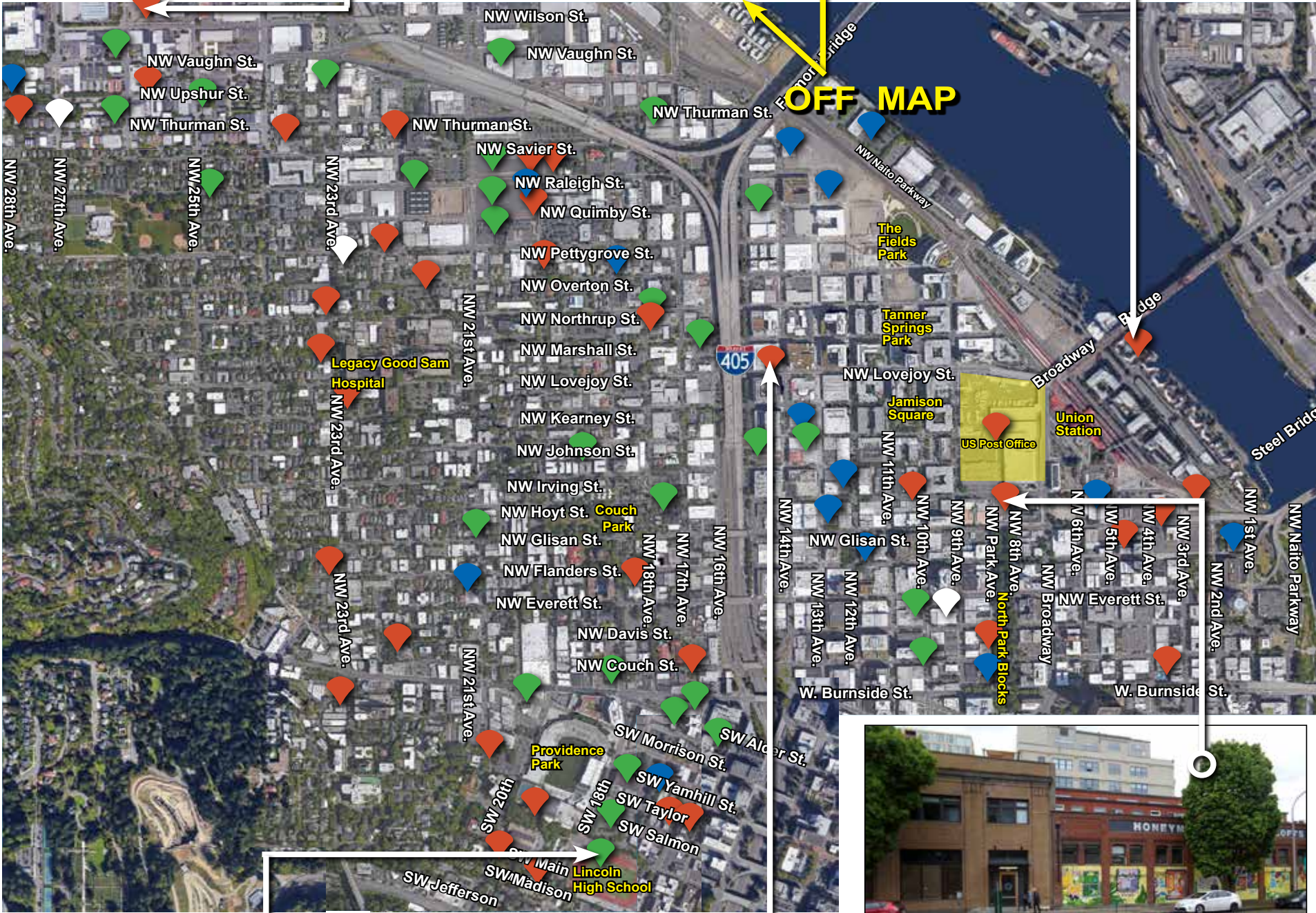
## TERMINAL 2

About 5,000 modular housing units will be manufactured yearly at Port of Portland's Terminal 2 by Hacienda Community Develop Corp., according to CEO Ernesto Fonseca. The Oregon Legislature appropriated \$5 million for the project. A \$60 million federal Economic Development Administration grant is also in consideration.



## SAFE REST VILLAGE

The city of Portland intends to locate a temporary Safe Rest Village outdoor shelter at 1100 NW Naito Parkway next to the Harbor of Hope Navigation Center. Case management and mental health services are to be provided on site. John Hollister, who is representing the Pearl District Neighborhood Association in talks with neighbors and city officials about a possible good neighbor agreement governing its operation, has expressed skepticism about the city's adherence to such agreements in the past.



## LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

The interior of the new six-story Lincoln High School building is nearing completion. This image of the gymnasium was posted early last month. It will have 60 percent more space than the existing building. Completion is set for this summer. For a free tour of the old building Wednesday, May 25, 4-5:30 p.m., RSVP by May 17 to [lincolnalum.org/event-4760376](http://lincolnalum.org/event-4760376).



## THE WELBY

The Portland Design Commission held a hearing May 5 on revised plans for The Welby at 1325 NW Kearney St. The 21-story mixed-use building will have 280 residential units. The project, earlier intended to use mass timber and provide sidewalk and bike lane improvements along Northwest 14th Avenue, has been through substantial revisions and cutbacks in its budget.

## PHILIP TOWER

A 23-story tower with 327 apartments is being explored by developers of the east half of block surrounded by Northwest Ninth, Park, Hoyt and Glisan streets. Because it would replace the historically significant circa 1900 Metro Building and half of the Bindery Building now on the site, an extended city review process is expected.



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





"Does Seattle have" cont'd from page 1

tered people or the wider community.

"Social workers perpetuate the problem," she said, for which she blames the "culture of the system" rather than the caseworkers themselves.

Suarez said that daily contact between an outreach worker and an unsheltered person is needed to build trust and form a relationship that can lead to life-changing behavior.

Suarez and Dahlgren prepared for

the May 1 event, which involved 15 volunteers from the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, with regular visits to people camping along both sides of the freeway.

They got to know Jacob, a man who came to Portland three years ago from Louisiana because he heard the city provided good opportunities for homeless people.

"You can't really be homeless in the South," he said.

In one way, he found the promise of Portland to be real.

"It's easy to sell drugs here," he told the NW Examiner.

But his contact with We Heart Seattle has him reconsidering his future.

"They have a good attitude and don't down-talk," he said.

PDNA board member John Hollister, who organized the May 1 event, said, "We cleared nearly a ton of trash on only two square blocks."

"We are calling our effort a smashing success. As a result, We Heart Portland was officially started," he said. ■

Clockwise from upper left: Kevin Dahlgren, Portland resident who volunteers for We Heart Seattle; Andrea Suarez, executive director of We Heart Seattle; Pearl volunteers get to the bottom of things; Matt Bordonaro, Jim Rice and John Hollister load up some trash. Photos by Wesley Mahan



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Lacey Beaty, Beaverton Mayor







### Project Timeline



Above: A timetable by Founders Developments envisions the completion of construction in late 2024. Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center President Dan Anderson expects the sale to close by early October.

Left: A rendering of a rejuvenated Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center and a new hotel building was presented by Founders Developments Inc.

**“We are contractually committed to preserving the façade. We don’t know what we will do with the interior.”**

**— Tanya Toby, managing partner, Founders Developments**

*“Cultural Center members” cont’d from page 1*

modify the external structure of the building ... visible to members of the general public from” the surrounding streets.

Paul Alessandro, a partner in Harts-horne Plunkard Architecture of Chicago, representing the developer, said, “The intent is to preserve the dome and oculus” above the third-floor auditorium.

Alessandro said much of the auditorium will be converted into hotel rooms with the possibility of retaining some public space at its center under the dome.

Mark Tobin, a principal at KPFF Consulting Engineers, spoke of making seismic upgrades to preserve the building “for the next 100 years.”

The developer’s plans hinge on satisfying the panoply of city building codes and historic guidelines related to recognized landmark structures and to all buildings in the Alphabet Historic District.

Brandon Spencer-Hartle, manager of

the city’s historic resources program, said that if only exterior walls are retained, the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission and City Council would have to determine if that constituted an unallowable demolition. Treatment of the landmark structure could also jeopardize a 10-foot height bonus for the new hotel structure that was assumed in the developer’s five-story rendering.

NNCC President Dan Anderson said the organization is losing its only tenant, Northwest Children’s Theater, in September and would run through its reserves for taxes and maintenance within a year if the sale is not completed.

Anderson referred to past estimates exceeding \$10 million to meet seismic standards and long-needed structural repairs.

Roger Vrilakas, a former president of the NNCC who had entertained much smaller offers for the property in earlier decades, called the Founders Developments offer “a stunningly good idea. The buyer’s plans surpass my fondest dreams.”

Toby said that only a hotel could generate sufficient revenues to fund the substantial seismic retrofit and remodeling necessary to make the venture profitable. Furthermore, she believes there is a market for this use. “High-end hospitality is lacking in Portland,” she said.

The purchase price will endow a community fund managed by the Oregon Community Foundation. The funds are to be distributed annually for projects in the six surrounding neighborhoods that:

- Promote neighborhood civic engagement.
- Support cultural, educational and recreational opportunities.
- Support citizen engagement with neighborhood public health issues, including air quality and traffic safety.
- Preserve the natural environment and foster interaction with it. ■

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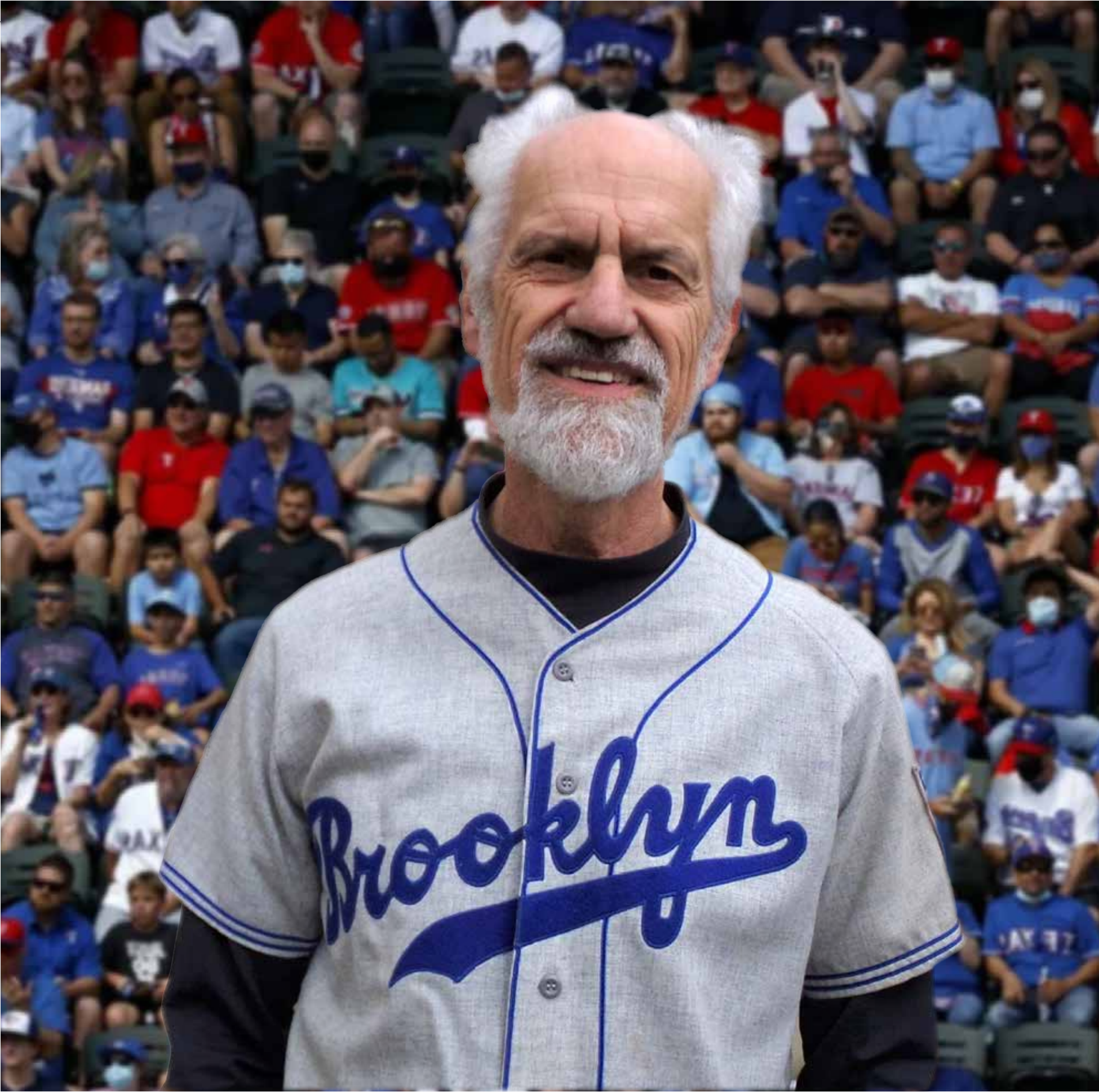
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While spring is a time of renewal, as I reminded you last month, nothing lasts forever. My favorite team left Brooklyn for Los Angeles, where fans tend to lose interest and leave after seven innings.

The subscription drive that saved the NW Examiner from a daunting precipice in 2020 has been a stunning success, but we continue to depend on renewals and new subscriptions to carry on. So take a stretch and a bow, and help us carry on with purpose, strength and independence.

*An image can be created overnight. Building a reputation takes longer.*

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## Going Back



A view north from Northwest 26th Avenue between Uphur and Vaughn street in 1938. City of Portland Archives, A2001-059.160.



Men line up at Northwest Fourth and Flanders for beans, bread, butter and coffee at Blanchet House in 1952, the year the agency was founded. It served primarily unemployed and underemployed transient workers and immigrants. The Oregon Historical Society has an exhibit of Blanchet House history through June 5.



An aerial view of the Northwest District and Northwest Industrial Area, including the Montgomery Ward building, in 1971. The site of the former Forestry Building is near the lower edge. City of Portland Archives, A2011-015.164.



The Fairmount Hotel opened at Northwest 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Vaughn Street in 1905 for the Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition. At the time of this circa 1951 photo, it was known as the Leonard Apartments. It is now named the Historic Fairmount Apartments. City of Portland Archives. A2001-025.83

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- Department of Community
- Lift Urban Portland
- New Expressive Works
- Pixie Project
- Rose Haven
- Self Enhancement Inc
- Society Nine
- BTS Creative Services
- Quaintrelle
- Abbey Road Farm







Little remains from this 1921 scene of Northwest 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, though the cobblestones and streetcar rails may lie buried under pavement. The Bjelland Apartments at Lovejoy can be seen faintly in the distance. City of Portland Archives.



The Thompson Elk Fountain was blanketed in snow on a December day in 1964. City of Portland Archives, A2012-005.



The George Lawrence house on the northeast corner of Northwest 23rd and Flanders in 1919. City of Portland Archives, A2004-002.642.



Northwest Wilson Street, looking west from Northwest 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue toward Vaughn Street Ball Park and Montgomery Ward in 1939. City of Portland Archives, A2009-009.4194.

# O.A.S.I.S. Old Town Alternate Safe Sleeping Initiative



## Who:

Committed residents, businesses, social service agencies and other stakeholders **partnered** to create a safer neighborhood for everyone. The Old Town alternate safe sleeping initiative. Also known as OASIS, aims to raise funds to help unsheltered people who need immediate help, and want to relocate safely to places that provide refuge, relief and essential resources.

## When: 24 Hours/7 Days

OASIS volunteers provide support 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

## How To Help:

Make a donation!

Mail: Old Town Community Association  
c/o OASIS

220 NW 2nd, Suite 104  
Portland, OR 97209

PayPal:



SCAN ME

## What:

100% of OASIS donations to toward:

- Taxis to shelters
- Bus tickets home
- Mobility supplies (wheelchairs, walkers)
- First aid and sanitation supplies
- Socks, shoes and clothing

## Where:

OASIS work is provided to houseless individuals throughout the Old Town neighborhood boundaries.

## More Information:

Email: [oasis@pdxoldtown.org](mailto:oasis@pdxoldtown.org)

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# Parking advisers resist city imposition of term limits

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Tensions between city officials and citizen advisory groups sometimes erupt in moments of clarity.

The Portland Bureau of Transportation's stewardship of the Northwest Parking Stakeholders Advisory Committee triggered one such moment last month.

Committee chair Rick Michaelson, himself a veteran of decades in City Hall as a staff member and later chair of the Portland Planning Commission, made a stand over composition of the 14-member citizen body.

Recognizing that term limit rules written by PBOT could result in vacating half of the seats this year, board member Karen Karlsson proposed eliminating the rule.

Rae-Leigh Stark, a PBOT employee who staffs the committee, reminded Michaelson that the policy had been settled months ago by two bureau chiefs.

"We don't care," he retorted, before insisting that topic be on the May agenda.

Three board members said they also wanted to discuss the city's term-limits assumptions.

PBOT Parking Program Coordinator Kristan Alldrin, who began attending SAC meetings two years ago as resistance to PBOT dictates hardened, then took an oblique shot.

"Last year, we asked if anybody wanted to step aside so that it wasn't this mass exodus," Alldrin said, "and nobody took us up on that, so I'm just wanting to remind you."

Of course, committee objections ran deeper than the timing of terminations. A 2013 city ordinance dedicates four seats to both the Northwest District Association and the Northwest Business Association, and those

organizations want to fill those slots without city interference.

Three business association members, in addition to Michaelson and Karlsson, have been on the committee since its formation. They represent not only institutional memory but a balance between commercial and residential interests upon which the 2013 ordinance was based.

Two years ago, Michaelson and Karlsson temporarily resigned over PBOT and the Office of Community & Civic Life filling at-large seats without SAC input.

"Legally, of course, governments can select who they wish as advisers," Michaelson told the NW Examiner later, "but that advice will not represent the views of the public at large or the affected interest group unless the advisers are appropriately selected."

"The Parking SAC is different because it was created by the mutual agreement of NWDA, the business association and the city with the clear decision that members would be selected by each of the groups."

Michaelson supports the mix of SAC membership derived from blending organizational representatives with others who "bring a broader perspective with perhaps different histories and experiences."

Michaelson does not expect "the old guard" to remain in place indefinitely.

"The term limit issue has really arisen because of COVID, which slowed the completion of the SAC work and makes it important that the original members participate for another year or two before stepping aside for new NWDA and Northwest Business Association representatives," he said.



Rick Michaelson, who has chaired the Northwest Parking Stakeholders Advisory Committee since its formation in 2014, wants to discuss the Portland Bureau of Transportation's expanding role in selecting its members. Photo by Wesley Mahan



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Thirty-five years after Ben Linder, who grew up in Northwest Portland, was killed while on a mission building a small hydroelectric plant in Nicaragua, his brother John is keeping his story alive. Today, about 55,000 people receive power from plants built by ATDER-BL (Association of Rural Development Workers—Benjamin Linder). A tree and bench in Ben's honor are installed in Wallace Park.



The Balch Creek Trash Rack project in Lower Macleay Trail was completed and the trail reopened last month.



Lincoln High School students won awards at the Future Business Leaders State Conference last month. They include (not all pictured) Angel Liu, first place in advertising and UX design; Riley Yoo, fourth place in business law; Dilan Fein, first place in introduction to business communication and fifth place in securities and investments; Susanna Kramer, second place in business ethics and fourth place in introduction to business communication; Ronan Duke-Martin, fifth place in graphic design; Ava Delaney, third place in public service announcement; and Alyssia Menezes, first place in sales presentation and fourth place in impromptu speaking.



Lincoln High School senior Sebastian Kinzie (with Tara Mussulman of Portland Pearl Rotary), was named student of the month for April by Portland Pearl Rotary Club. He is co-president of the school's National Honor Society and co-leader of the Arab Student Union and Arab Honor Society. He is a sprinter and jumper on the Lincoln track and field team. He also helped raise funds for the Palestine Children's Relief Fund and to help individuals prepare for the U.S. citizenship test.



Law enforcement agencies at the state, local and federal level are investigating anti-Semitic graffiti and burn marks discovered at Congregation Beth Israel, 1972 NW Flanders St. May 2, a few days after Holocaust survivors were honored there in a special service.



Street trees were cleared at Northwest 19th and Pettygrove streets in preparation for expansion of Dove Lewis Emergency Veterinary Hospital with a second building. Photo by Scott Kocher

A foreboding statement faced drivers under the Interstate-405 ramps along Northwest Thurman Street, a perpetual site of homeless encampments. The sign was soon removed.



Sandy Moore (L-R), Angel Stech and Kyle McAvoy of Friends of Wallace Park, were part of an Earth Day cleanup coordinated by SOLVE.



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Over the last 8 weeks our listings have received an average of 5 offers and sold for an average of 10% over asking price. Here are some of our more exciting examples around town:



11 OFFERS 40.1% OVER LIST PRICE  
LIST: \$1,185,000 | SOLD: \$1,660,000



4 OFFERS 10.8% OVER LIST PRICE  
LIST: \$1,895,000 | SOLD: \$2,100,000



6 OFFERS 16.7% OVER LIST PRICE  
LIST: \$630,000 | SOLD: \$735,000



7 OFFERS 18.2% OVER LIST PRICE  
LIST: \$499,000 | SOLD: \$590,000



7 OFFERS 15.2% OVER LIST PRICE  
LIST: \$1,085,000 | SOLD: \$1,250,000



7 OFFERS 15.5% OVER LIST PRICE  
LIST: \$1,385,000 | SOLD: \$1,600,000



14 OFFERS 24.2% OVER LIST PRICE  
LIST: \$499,900 | SOLD: \$620,650



8 OFFERS 22.2% OVER LIST PRICE  
LIST: \$818,000 | SOLD: \$1,000,000



16 OFFERS 16.6% OVER LIST PRICE  
LIST: \$669,000 | SOLD: \$780,000

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