

“Digging deep,  
Shining a light”

INSIDE



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# Food Front running on empty

## General manager says must turn it around by early May



Food Front's dairy case has often had empty sections.

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Food Front Cooperative Grocery will drain its remaining \$112,000 cash reserves in about nine weeks if current operating losses continue on course.

The co-op's general manager, Michael Balanof, made the grim announcement at a March 21 board meeting attended by about 40 members. The abnormally large turnout was driven by signs of trouble ahead, most obviously empty shelves.

Balanof said the store is losing \$12,000 per week.

“Do the math,” he said. “If we don't cut back ... we know the outcome.”

The general manager, who was hired last October, becoming the sixth general manager in four years, estimated that the co-op has seven weeks to reach the break-even level in cash flow. That window ends May 4.

Board Chair Raphael Ortega emphasized the board's “open-

book communication” philosophy while welcoming member concerns and ideas at the two-hour meeting held at Friendly House.

“The elephant in the room,” Ortega said, “[is] why are the shelves empty?”

Balanof explained that he is increasingly replacing the major vendor supplying products to co-ops across the nation with local, independent sources, which are in many cases cheaper, more flexible and do not require upfront payment. Finding new suppliers in some categories has not been easy, particularly for ice cream, which has been under-stocked for weeks.

Several members underscored the negative impression generated by barren shelves.

“I see these empty shelves and I'm terrified,” said one member.

“When you come into the store, it looks like you're going out of business,” said George Wright, a 33-year member of the co-op.

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## Food Front's forgotten founder

### Linda Funkhouser never got the credit she yearned for

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

As dire reports of Food Front Cooperative Grocery's dwindling future surface, a long-forgotten

account of its formation has come to light. An obituary for Linda Funkhouser last year noted that she founded Food Front in 1972, but even several veteran co-op mainstays asked to corroborate the claim had no memory of her.

Although Funkhouser's vision and sleeves-rolled dedication to the task were indispensable, her time at the helm was brief. The store opened at 1616 NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. in July 1972, and by the time corporate documents were filed with the state in November, she was gone, called to Florida abruptly by a family emergency.

But while she was living and working in Northwest Portland, she was all in.

Her contribution might have been forgotten but for her emails to Andrea Uehara, a longtime Food Front employee who was working on a commemoration of the co-op's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Funkhouser's foundational role was corroborated by an August 1972 story in the Oregon Journal.

“Perhaps I can finally clarify a few things today,

although I had no official diary or log of how things occurred back then,” Funkhouser wrote, “probably because I was so young (barely 21) and had zero time to do so. Also, I had never started or run a business.

“I just listened/learned at home from my dad, who started Custom Aluminum, a manufacturing plant, in Vancouver, Wash., where I was born and grew up.

“But also, I had no time for diaries or logs because I was the organizer/founder/leader and did everything with volunteers. It was a fantastic group of people.”

It all started with her idea of a co-op in Northwest Portland.

“She was the spark, the idea that got it going,” said her sister, Sherrie Funkhouser, who also lived in Northwest Portland at the time.

Linda brought together a nucleus of people who met in her home in the spring of 1972. They worked out the core mission for a store operated by the people, democratically governed and selling healthy food.

“I was living in a second story apartment on Northwest Upshur with my boyfriend, Peter,” Linda Funkhouser wrote. “My income was only \$250 a week in unemployment benefits. This is how I supported myself during the start-up of the store. I grew an organic garden in the backyard,

Cont'd on page 7

## Wallace saved from parks 'lights out' plan

### Parks bureau says 239 concrete poles must go before they fall on someone

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Wallace Park neighbors were surprised to learn via a late February news release that four concrete light poles in the park would be promptly removed and possibly not replaced.

“Portland Parks & Recreation is removing a portion of light poles in 12 city parks that have been identified as having structural anchoring issues that could pose life and safety hazards to the public,” stated the release.

Dismantling of the vintage concrete poles was to begin on the day of the announcement, which gave no details on the dangers suddenly discovered or the possibility of less drastic measures.

The four light standards in question follow the arced path near Northwest Raleigh Street. Two newer steel poles at each end of the basketball courts are not affected.

Janet Schaefer, co-founder of Friends of Wallace Park, communicates regularly with Jennifer Trimm, maintenance supervisor for inner Westside parks. But even Schaefer was not alerted of the imminent action. Nor was she aware of any safety concerns regarding the poles.

“It's irritating when the information pre-

Cont'd on page 8



*"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain." – Dolly Parton*

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FAIRCREST, LOT 18, 0.18 acres (7,940 Sq. Ft.) per Portland Maps. RMLS #22485410 \$225,000.

*"Some people walk in the rain, others just get wet." – Roger Miller*

**RECREATE REFINED LIVING IN A PIECE OF PORTLAND HISTORY IN THE HISTORIC ALPHABET DISTRICT**



**2344 NW Irving Street**

This is the home where Doug Lynch used his creative spirit to design the Oregon State Flag. In the same family for over 65 years, it is a blank slate, a perfect opportunity for the rebirth of its extant architectural details. The main floor has 10' ceilings, old growth fir floors, pocket doors, leaded and stained glass windows. There are 4 bedrooms on the second floor and an ensuite setup on the main floor. The covered front and back porches lead to the spacious yard on the 6,000 Sq. Ft. lot with mature flowering landscaping. From the home it is easy to explore one of the City's favorite streets, NW 23rd with Washington and Forest Parks just a stone's throw away. 4 bedrooms + bonus, 2 full baths, 1,964 finished Sq. Ft., 1,005 Sq. Ft. unfinished basement, 6,000 Sq. Ft. lot, built 1906, MLS #23691540 \$695,000.

*"A rainy day is a special gift to readers." – Amy Miles*

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**224 NW 20th Avenue**

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3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, built 1903, 2,355 finished Sq. Ft. + 893 unfinished Sq. Ft. in basement. RMLS #22478689 \$780,000.

*"The nicest thing about the rain is that it always stops. Eventually." – Eeyore*

**LIGHT FILLED 1909 ARTS AND CRAFTS NEAR WALLACE PARK**



**2463 NW Quimby Street**

An Arts and Crafts home built in 1906 in Goldsmith's Addition is so close to Wallace Park that you can get to the park between spring showers and hardly get wet. The graceful arch framing the covered porch calls you to stop and relax while watching neighbors and their dogs stroll eagerly to the park. Inside and out you find the Arts and Crafts style apparent in the handmade aesthetics of a wood-burning tile and stucco fireplace, millwork, period hardware and lighting fixtures, cedar shakes siding and the original wood front door with wrought iron hinges and beveled glass. Updated kitchen with lots of north light and a spacious backyard with room for a vegetable or cutting garden.

5 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, off-street parking and a 2-car garage, 3,708 Sq. Ft. RMLS #23694933 \$1,250,000.



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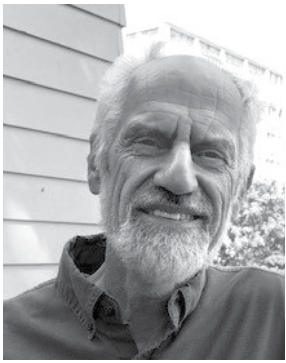
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# Turn lights out until they pay

Plans to remove most of the lights in Wallace Park and many other city parks had the taste of extortion—withholding a popular and irreplaceable asset to extract payment.

Portland Parks & Recreation has used this stratagem for decades. About 20 years ago, then Parks Commissioner Jim Francesconi canceled trash removal service in parks, asking citizens to carry other people’s garbage to their home receptacles. The backlash was so strong, he quickly reversed the decree. Still, the gesture may have succeeded. Voters later approved by a major bond project for parks upgrades.

Over time, other commissioners have fallen into the same rut, as if PP&R’s slogan were “millions for replacement but not one cent for maintenance.” Rotting wood in a Couch Park play structure about 10 years ago resulted in the removal of the structure, followed by a multiyear, \$500,000 public/private campaign to design and build a new playground. The accessible Harper’s Playground may be a worthy upgrade, but demolishing first and using pent up demand to motivate fundraising is government acting against, not for, the people.

Major capital investments should not be allowed to fall into such disrepair that disruptive emergency solutions are offered as the only answer. Yet Portland Parks & Recreation announced in February that 243 light poles in 12 parks must start coming down the same day for safety reasons: Their anchoring did not “comply with current code for wind nor seismic lateral loading,” according to a parks official.

I cannot imagine a wind that could blow down thin concrete pillars or that any test was made to see what gales they might endure. A photo of one discarded pole from Irving Park showed five pieces of embedded steel rebar, which should have been enough to prevent sudden toppling from any cause. If there has been expert analysis or consideration of how the poles could be reinforced, the city is not sharing it.

Nevertheless, the poles had to come down ASAP even though replacement would take 16 months if it happens at all. Replacing all 243, at a cost of \$15 million, depends on City Council approving new funding.

Wallace Park got a reprieve; PP&R announced on March 9 that all of its light fixtures would stay. While welcome news, the abrupt reversal raises skepticism. Did engineers truly find a mistake in their earlier calculations or did the bureau simply cave in to rapidly rising complaints from our sector of the city? And why are almost all of the other removals across the city going forward?



Consider this matter of timing: House Bill 3515, sponsored by Rep. Travis Nelson, would allow Portland to create a special taxing district for parks, supposedly enabling the parks bureau to get ahead of a \$600 million maintenance backlog. What better evidence of financial need than being unable to afford lighting in parks?

I blame a series of parks commissioners for mismanagement, but the problem is systemic. In an effort to avoid the compromising inevitable in the city’s general budgeting process, high-visibility bureaus are tempted to seek dedicated funding streams that do not have to compete with other programs or endure revenue fluctuations. But bonds and system development charge revenues are limited to capital expenditures, creating an incentive to let existing equipment rot and replace it with new facilities, even though the total cost is greater.

This is one of the issues the City Auditor’s Office has criticized PP&R for mismanaging over the past 10 years.

Voters are generous to their parks, reliably approv-

ing special funding by wide margins. Bond measures are even touted as maintaining our parks when the real intent is for new construction, but that nuance is lost on voters, especially in the absence of organized opposition and counter arguments. Newspapers seldom come out against these ballot measures.

In that voters may not appreciate the difference between \$50 million and \$500 million, proponents have little incentive to keep the proposals lean. I suspect bureau chiefs ask department heads for a wish list of projects, add them up and then declare the package necessary to remedy a soaring maintenance backlog.

It may be a sloppy way to run an agency, but it appears to work. The money comes in. There is no need to jawbone or negotiate against other priorities in the city. But the stress bureau directors and commissioners endure is on behalf of taxpayers, citizens and the welfare of the city. It is part of their job, and this is how a democracy provides accountability.

The new City Auditor needs to be watching. When the lights go out, it is never a good sign. ■

## Readers Reply

Letters can be sent to: [allan@nwexaminer.com](mailto:allan@nwexaminer.com) or 1209 NW Sixth Ave., #303 Portland, OR 97204. Letters should be 300 words or fewer; include a name and a street of residence. Deadline: third Saturday of the month.

### Echelon after dark

I live in the Honeyman Hardware Co. Building and have occupied two corner units here having a broad scope of view into the Pearl. Echelon Protective Services [“Private protection,” March 2023] currently provides the security for this building, and I assure you that their public image and their after-dark interactions with unhoused citizens are jarringly different. If you would like evidence, I am happy to re-position one of my security cameras to collect it.

I would also suggest some investigation into the relationship between Echelon and Bybee Lakes Hope Center.

Sarah Clymer  
NW Park Ave.

### Police necessary

This is the first time I have responded to the editor of any newspaper in all of my 86 years. I am responding to the well-written article, “Private Pro-

tection.” Bravo Allan.

No amount of security, including Portland Police, could stop mobs of window-smashing anarchists and thugs under the guise of Black Lives Matter. Hundreds of them, armed with baseball bats and steel bars entered the Pearl from the Eastside over the Broadway Bridge and onto Northwest Lovejoy Street. Thus began their evening of terror. Safeway, Starbucks, restaurants and every bank had their windows deliberately smashed.

In four months, the vicinity of Lovejoy Street was attacked viciously by these malicious deadbeats,

Cont’d on page 5



## Walter W. Cole Sr.



Walter Willard Cole Sr., the boy from Linnton who became a legendary drag queen, died March 23 at age 92. Cole was born Nov. 16, 1930, attended Linnton School and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1950. After serving in the Army in Italy, he returned to Portland, where he managed a Fred Meyer store and then opened Caffè Espresso near Portland State University. In 1967, he bought Demas Tavern in Old Town, which in 1974 became Darcelle XV Showplace, now the oldest operating drag club west of the Mississippi River. In 2020, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places as Darcelle. In 2016, Cole was recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest drag queen performer. In 2003, Cole received the Spirit of Portland Award from Mayor Vera Katz for his charity work related to AIDS. He married Jeannette Rosini in 1951; they divorced in 1969. He and Roxy LeRoy Neuhardt became life partners. He died in 2017. He is survived by his son, Walter Jr., and daughter, Maridee.

## Sylvia Nemer Davidson



Sylvia Nemer Davidson, a Kings Hill resident who was prominent in civic and political affairs, died Feb. 22 at age 100. Sylvia Schnitzer was born in Portland on April 14, 1922. She served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and graduated from Reed College in 1947. Her first husband, Norman Memer, died in 1964. She married C. Girard Davidson in 1966; he died in 1996. She was coordinator of the John F. Kennedy presidential primary campaign and chaired the Oregon Adlai Stevenson presidential campaign. She was president of the Northwest Oregon Health System Agency from 1980 to 1987 and chaired two Oregon State Health Commissions. She served on the Multnomah County Planning Commission, the Multnomah County Home Rule Charter Commission and the Metropolitan Arts Commission. She chaired the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and served on the boards of the Oregon Symphony Association and the Oregon World Affairs Council. She received the Harry S. Truman Freedom Bell Award and the Forrest E. Rieke Achievement Award in Community Health Planning. She is

survived by her sons, Jerry Nemer and Philip Nemer; and six stepchildren.

## Frank J. 'Jimmy' Billington III



Frank James 'Jimmy' Billington III, who graduated from Lincoln High School in 1960, died Feb. 11 in Tacoma, Wash., at age 80. He was born Aug. 6, 1942, in San Francisco and in 1952 moved to Portland, where he lived in Portland Heights and attended Ainsworth Elementary School. After high school, he served four years in the Marine Corps. He worked 34 years for Tacoma Power as a substation operator for many years, retiring in 2005. He married Pat Carmony in 1970; they divorced. In 1979, he married Laura Smith. He is survived by his wife, Laura; sisters, Dr. Evelyn Billington and Barbara Stickler; brother, Kenneth Shirk; children, Nancy, Susan, Karen, Frank IV, David, Lisl, Allyson, Robert, Mallory, Kaaren, Brian, Daniel, Alicia, Meredith and Holly; and many grandchildren.

## Marilyn J. Becic



Marilyn Becic, who attended the Good Samaritan School of Nursing, died Feb. 8 at age 87. She was born Sept. 23, 1935 in Kearney, Neb., and moved to Oregon after high school. She worked as a registered nurse. In the 1970s, she helped establish the Portland chapter of Mother and Child, an agency serving unwed mothers. In 1957, she married Tom Becic; he died in 2016. She is survived by her brother, Richard Burman; sons, Tom Jr. and Steve, daughter, Anne Marie Rosa; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

## Kevin J. Freeman



Kevin Freeman, a 1959 Lincoln High School graduate who represented the United States in three Olympics, died March 20 at age 81. He grew up in Portland and attended St. Thomas More Catholic School. He graduated from Cornell University and received an MBA from Wharton School of Business. He worked with his father and two brothers at J.A.

Freeman and Son, a farm-implement manufacturing company on Northwest Wilson Street founded in the early 20th century. After selling the company in 2004, the brothers created the Freeman Group, a commercial real estate company. He competed on the 1964, 1968 and 1972 Olympic equestrian teams, each of which won silver medals. He also trained riders at his farm in Molalla. He was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in 1991 and into the United States Eventing Association Hall of Fame in 2009. He married Barrie Hallinan. He is survived by his wife, Barrie; sons, Eric, Peter and Kevin; daughter, Wendy Gallo; brother, Perk; sister, Laurie Freeman; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

## Richard C. Stetson Jr.



Richard C. Stetson Jr., who owned Flowers Tommy Luke in the Uptown Shopping Center, died March 10 at age 87. He was born Sept. 11, 1935. After graduating from Stanford University, he worked as a lumber broker. Later, he and his wife, Jane, purchased the flower shop. He volunteered for the Rose Festival, Portland Garden Club and Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jane. He is survived by his daughter, Anne Haverkamp; son, Richard C. Stetson III; brother, Tim; and two grandchildren.

## Jean Ann Cheshire



Jean Ann Cheshire, a teacher, coach and athletic director at Lincoln High School for 26 years, died Feb. 13 at age 83. She was born April 24, 1939, in Welch, Okla., and graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a master's degree in education. She was a physical education teacher at Roosevelt High School in 1961 and in 1965 began at Lincoln, where she coached teams in swimming, volleyball, tennis, basketball, golf and track. In 1977, she became one of the first female athletic directors in Portland Public Schools. She retired in 1991. She was inducted into the Portland Interscholastic League Hall of Fame the following year, and in 2022 was named to the Lincoln Hall of Honor. She married George Cheshire; he died. She is survived by her stepson, Gary Cheshire. She is survived by her brothers, Richard Lemler, Wayne Lemler; stepson, Terry Cheshire; and two grandchildren. A celebration will be held Saturday, May 20, noon-3 p.m. at Lucky Labrador Brewing Co., 1945 NW Quimby St. Former students, athletes, coaches and colleagues are invited. Contributions to the Jean Ann Cheshire Scholarship Fund may be made at [lincolnalum.org/Donation-page](http://lincolnalum.org/Donation-page).

## George Marshall



George Marshall, a lifelong Northwest Portland resident, died March 6 at age 89. He was born in Portland on March 1, 1934, and grew up in the West Hills. His great-grandfather was the namesake of Northwest Marshall Street. He attended Ainsworth Elementary School and Lincoln High School and graduated

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causing more destruction and graffiti. Portland Police sensibly declined to intervene because of extreme danger.

This private protection service is no match for the mob mentality that exists in Portland. This specter of rage and discontent could re-emerge any time. Our Disneyland world evaporated years ago and now “bizarro world” rules our realm. The smart people have fled the Pearl.

I hope no one will be dumb enough to vote for this expensive plan, unless, of course, that person lives in an ivory tower with a goose that lays golden eggs. Our last resort should be a well-armed National Guard that is funded by us.

Brian L. Westwood  
NW Lovejoy St.

Damsels in distress



There was another disheartening episode at Tanner Springs Park, a haven for so many lifeforms on many ecological levels. Before frequenting this park, I never even knew what a damselfly was. But these impossibly fragile relatives to dragonflies are magic to behold. I’ve even been one of the lucky few to witness their renowned mating ritual, in which these tiniest of bodies form a veritable heart’s shape while in coitus. Wildlife photographers love to capture this precious sight.

But about two weeks ago, Portland Parks & Recreation completely drained the man-made pond that is habitat for dragonflies and damselflies as they lay eggs in the underlying mud, which then release in spring. The park comes alive with flame skimmers, as well as endangered damselflies.

So what I learned today through another casual naturalist and parks regular is distressing. By choosing this time of year to drain all water (and likely excavate the mud that houses eggs), PP&R has doomed these miraculous creatures who’ve found sanctuary there for many years.

These consequences may not be as inevitable as they were described to me, but what else do we park users have but hearsay? PP&R is pretty much AWOL at most of their locations. When is the last time a staffer was anywhere to be seen? It’s only the volunteers who maintain our parks, and even they are left to their own devices, with virtually no support or communication.

I’m no biologist and I dearly hope I’m mistaken that countless damselflies and dragonflies will be destroyed by this hapless act on the part of so-called professionals. I hope I am wrong. Above all, I’d like to be heard.

Karla Powell  
NW 11th Ave.

(Editor’s note: The pond was refilled in late March after this letter was written)

Avoidable crashes

In 2016, I was visiting relatives at Northwest 24th near Northrup. We were sitting on the front steps when we heard a crash and saw a pickup tumbling toward us after being struck by an SUV traveling west on Northrup, presumably the pickup in a photo featured in “Are four-way stops the answer?” [March 2023]. I ran over, got the passenger door open and helped the miraculously uninjured driver out of the vehicle. He said he had not seen a stop sign while driving north through the intersection. I checked, and sure enough, the stop sign was completely obstructed by a tree.

The police arrived, heard my account and agreed that there was no way a driver could have been expected to see the sign.

A number of neighbors on the scene told me they had been trying to get PBOT to make that a four-way stop after years of accidents and near accidents. They said their concerns had been rebuffed by PBOT.

I took my concerns about the dangerous intersection and need for a four-way stop to PBOT, but was told that PBOT engineers did not feel there had been enough collisions at the intersection to justify a four-way stop.

That was my first experience with PBOT’s unresponsiveness to a real public safety concern, although unfortunately not my last. Until PBOT puts public safety first in their planning and decision-making, we will continue to see avoidable crashes and preventable deaths and injuries.

Bob Weinstein  
NW Raleigh St.

Can Bottle Bill

The Oregon Bottle Bill has been connected to increasing rates of recycling, but the business side of managing the redemptions seems to be failing. The bill has served its purpose to make recycling a habit for us and it’s time to end it.

As the NW Examiner reported last month [Snapshots], Fred Meyer has removed the self-service return machines. Food Front is small enough that it can choose to not accept returns. A large truck efficiently comes to my house every week to pick up my recyclable pasta sauce jars and wine bottles, but I am encouraged to transport my beer bottles and soda cans, for which I paid an extra 10 cents somewhere to recover up to \$2.40. A single ride on TriMet to do this task would be a money losing trip. Let’s end the deposits and treat all bottles, cans and jars equally.

Stephen Duke  
NW Thurman St.

Climate measure

Life-threatening global warming is caused by burning coal, oil and gas with the release into the atmosphere of carbon dioxide. This release must be reduced rapidly and be stopped by 2050 if we are to survive. Our state of Oregon Treasury can help by rapidly reducing state government investment in the fossil fuel industry to zero. Besides helping with global warming, public funds will not be invested in the declining value of fossil fuels.

Ask our legislators, Sen. Elizabeth Steiner, Sen.ElizabethSteiner@oregonlegislature.gov, and Rep. Maxine Dexter, Rep.MaxineDexter@oregonlegislature.gov, to support and vote for House Bill 2601 the Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act.

Bill Harris  
NW Cumberland Road



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Right: General Manager Michael Balanof.

Below left: The March board meeting, the first held in person since the pandemic, was well attended.

Below right: Food Front employee Lisa Bogar assures members that things can be turned around.



"Food Front headed" cont'd from page 1

Wright recommended bold signage explaining the stocking problem while emphasizing clear plans to address it and rebuild the business.

Earlier in the week, Balanof told the NW Examiner of tempers flaring over inventory gaps.

"I've had people throw items at me personally because items were not on the shelf," Balanof said. "Members sometimes scream at me or the staff because products are not available. It makes for an incredibly stressful environment."

Asked how often such tantrums have erupted and if he was sure they were members, he said more than one person has done this and he knows they are members.

Those incidents were not shared at the March 21 board meeting, at which members cloaked their complaints in sympathy for staff members and love for the co-op.

Several members offered to volunteer at the store, an option quickly nixed as violating the union contract by displacing employee hours. A union grievance was filed against Food Front because a volunteer was cleaning a restroom.

"Does this store need to have a union?" asked another member. "Unions are great, but not in this case."

That generated a fulsome defense of unions, including from Balanof, a union advocate in a previous job.

One member acknowledged the balancing act involved.

"Most of us are pro-union and pro-volunteerism ... because that's the spirit of the co-op and the neighborhood we live in," she said.

Another challenging balancing act surrounds beverage container redemption, a legal requirement that drains staff time and burdens cash flow. As major supermarkets nearby close their redemption centers, homeless people have turned to Food Front. Weekly redemptions have soared from \$1,200-\$1,400 weekly last year to \$5,600 last week, Balanof said. This is cash the store must pay out and wait for reimbursement, which does not include compensation for processing costs.

Balanof insists that homeless people and other recyclers are not a behavioral problem.

"My houseless population has helped me clean up the store more than just about anybody else," he said, recounting how one "guy in the middle of pouring rain picked up every scrap of trash on the parking lot."

When Balanof offered him anything he wanted from the store in gratitude, the man asked only for one RC Cola. Balanof gave him two.

"I can tell you as a fact that that man was the happiest man on the planet when he got those two RC Colas," he said.

Instead of a plan to save Food Front, the meeting elicited well-intended suggestions and goodwill. Jere Grimm, a member for almost 50 years, said her pessimism was lifted by what she heard at the meeting, making her "very happy tonight." She thanked everyone for their participation.

No task forces were created to follow up on ideas offered at the meeting. Nothing was said of special meetings or even the April board meeting, by which time progress toward the seven-week drive to achieve financial stability should be measurable. No action was taken to fill vacancies on the board, which has dwindled to four members.

Ortega did, however, share cause for optimism in his closing remarks.

"We're not done," he said. "We honestly believe that we can get through this. We truly believe we have the next 50 years in our pocket. We just need to get through the next six or seven weeks."

He described Food Front's immediate vicinity as "a gold mine" poised to achieve population gain and economic growth.

Ortega expressed confidence in Balanof's expertise and dedication to the co-op.

"He's got a plan to do this," he said.

Much depends on keeping him.

"If we lose this general manager, I don't know what happens," said Ortega.

"We can't afford one more GM transition."

Three days after the board meeting, the Food Front board distributed a report to members:

"The incredible turnout and enthusiasm at Tuesday night's monthly meeting was just what we needed to refuel for the challenging times we are facing. It was also an excellent reminder of what Food Front can offer that larger chain stores cannot—a vibrant, committed and resilient community."

On the matter of empty shelves, the report stated that prior purchasing practices were untenable, requiring the store to buy large quantities of products that did not sell. The transition to tighter inventory control "needs to be communicated better and be completed as quickly as possible."

It advised members to help by continuing to shop at the store, advocating for Food Front, donating money and creating committees.

"We need both a marketing and a funding committee, so if you have any experience with either please consider helping start [a] committee," the report stated. ■

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**“I learned later that I was not acknowledged as the founder, which hurt me tremendously.”**  
– Linda Funkhouser

*"Food Front forgotten" cont'd from page 1*

and some of my produce was sold to other small produce stores in the area, but it was never enough to live on. I agreed to allow some members to sell their sprouts to us, and usually they accepted store credit. I had to be very frugal in order to use the funds wisely until we were bringing in sufficient cash to pay back some of the certificates of scrip.”

Funkhouser recounted how a group of “hippies, senior citizens” and low-income people gave a few dollars or up to \$20 in return for store credit. Her father chipped in \$500, making him the largest donor.

“I myself wrote the original paperwork, which gave ‘ownership’ to NO ONE,” she wrote. “It was wholly owned by the communal efforts of the community, so that no one had any more control or ownership than anyone else.”

Funkhouser found and leased an empty storefront on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, a since-demolished building last occupied by New Old Lompoc.

“Rent, as you can imagine, was dirt cheap back then. I’m certain the landlord did not require a deposit. You would never find anyone willing to do that today.”

She tracked down used refrigerators, shelving, curtains and furnishings.

“I found an antique National Cash Register,” she wrote. “It was quite large and worked perfectly.”

“Several young and older men who were carpenters repaired some flooring, set up and fit in some of the product display shelving inside,” she recounted. “It took all hands on deck, but slowly it became a real store.”

Food Front was not the original name, at least not officially.

“I did not want to be involved in naming it, because this entity belonged to the people and I only kept record of their choice. There was a bit of haggling, yelling, strong opinions given. I seem to recall there may have been approximately 20 people of all ages at that meeting, and I recall Food Front was the first choice. But later, we were told that name was already being used, and it was thereafter officially voted on and named, The Real Good Food Store.”

In all things, volunteer labor made it possible.

“Members participated in the start-up according to their abilities and specialties, and I was fortunate to have many volunteers

to assist in putting this store together. However, the running around, finding vendors, making calls—most of that was done by me in order to keep organized and to watch carefully over the funds.

“For example, we found a dairy that would sell glass gallons of unpasteurized whole milk with the real cream on top, along with other dairy products and eggs. We sold beef and legal horse meat. We did not want to be only vegetables in order to attract more customers.

“I would get up about 3-4 a.m. every couple of days as needed, and go to a very large produce marketplace in downtown Portland, where huge produce shipments arrived from all over the country. I could always pick up great quantities of fresh vegetables that other fancier, high-end grocers rejected, and I bartered for these, obtaining a greatly reduced price.”

A robbery of about \$60 in the first months of operation divided membership on whether the crime should be reported to the police.

“Tempers flared, and I think some people were angry enough to want to leave the store,” Funkhouser wrote. “However, I stood firmly on the belief that no one would rob us again if they knew the police would be called. The store never had a single incident after that.”

Her intense involvement with the co-op ended abruptly.

“Several urgent things occurred all at once that forced me to leave Portland” to manage family matters in Tampa Bay, Fla.

“I had almost zero time to stay and get any kind of transition going,” she wrote. “I believe a few people were angry at me because I could not stay.”

Rich Philofsky became her successor, but she knew little about what happened next.

“I did finally return and worked many shifts at the store after it had relocated to Thurman Street, but I learned later that I was not acknowledged on the website as the founder, which hurt me tremendously. I did ask when I came back if there was any possibility to give me any kind of fund reimbursement for all the months of daily effort, driving to vendors and organizing that I did, and I believe there was a board, which voted no.

“I am saddened to this day to see that I am not named as the original founder and organizer of Food Front. There is a newspaper article and photo that supports who started



*Linda Funkhouser was pleased to know that Food Front reached its 50-year anniversary.*

it, so that always made me wonder why I was not named and why was there any doubt in those original members’ minds as to who it was that did what I did. ... I will likely never learn why I was overlooked. It still hurts.”

In the 1972 article, she emphasized the necessity of volunteer labor by co-op members, a policy that Food Front phased out in the 1980s, as was the pattern at co-ops nationwide.

“If the people don’t spend enough time with it, they lose the store,” Funkhouser told the Oregon Journal.

That dedication to mission and determination served her well after leaving Portland. She earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering at Rutgers University, was an underwriter for Chubb Insurance for several years and became a paralegal in Tampa Bay. While in Florida, she also purchased, renovated and rented three homes.

Having found a sympathetic ear in Uehara, she poured herself into several emails.

“I have always applied the goals written in the charter of Food Front to my rental properties,” she wrote. “I offer reduced rents. I’ve been totally devoted to giving the best quality of life to my tenants for over 30 years, and I have always stood for ‘the little people’ who have no voice.

“I am a beekeeper, an organic gardner, I belong to the Native Plant Society, The Sierra Club, The Audubon Society and my neighborhood group,” she wrote.

Funkhouser also had a question about the organization she birthed:

“It is wonderful that it has survived the many ups and downs of both economics and politics,” she wrote.

“I think Portland is the one city where this kind of entrepreneurial effort, done solely by volunteers [could] establish a beneficial, warm, communal meeting place that served the needs of the people.”

She died not knowing the degree to which her vision was realized. Or not.

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# NW Examiner

## Local news that goes deeper.

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"Wallace saved" cont'd from page 1

sented is incomplete," Schaefer told the NW Examiner.

And while safety supposedly drove PP&R officials, what about the loss of safety associated with dark public spaces? The announcement did not promise that all the lighting fixtures would be replaced, only that some would be replaced within 16 months.

"Very good point about the darkness," Schaefer wrote in an email. "Someone tripping because of the uneven path and no light might be more apt to happen."

Norm Duffett, president of Friends of Wallace Park, was also caught off guard by the news. He was quoted in the March NW Examiner questioning the high cost of replacing the poles, which he calculated at \$62,000 per fixture based on numbers contained in the news release.

For reasons still not disclosed, plans to remove the Wallace Park light poles were abruptly reversed. While the rest of the citywide removal plan stays on course, Trimm emailed Schaefer and Duffett on March 9 with "good news."

"No other park lights will be removed until the city has funding to replace [them]," Trimm wrote. "Wallace lights will stay in place."

"Hooray, on all fronts," Schaefer responded. "Sometimes good things happen."

But the local tempest in a teapot was soon boiling over in the rest of the city. On the east side of the river, there was no such reprieve. Light poles were taken down wholesale and hauled off, triggering widespread as well as deeply reasoned criticism likely to reverberate in City Hall for some time.

One former city official called it "one of the stupidest policy decisions by the city" in memory. Park lovers, neighbor-

hood activists and historic preservationists each found special reasons to register their scorn.

A public forum called by Southeast Uplift neighborhood coalition drew about 40 people from that quadrant of the city. After some intense venting and calls for direct action, the coalition submitted a letter to the city making three points:

Expedite funding to replacing light posts already removed.

Postpone further removals until funding for replacement is secured.

Begin "a meaningful community engagement process" toward collaborative solutions recognizing that the lamp posts "that are part of the historic fabric of our city."

The Northwest District Association was one of 23 organizations that signed onto the letter.

"There appears to be critical mass in Southeast to have simultaneous events in the impacted parks sometime in April," wrote Nanci Champlin, executive director of SEUL.

Some individuals have taken more pointed aim at the decision.

Lincoln Tuchow, a Northeast Portland realtor and member of the Architectural Heritage Center board, sent a 730-word email to Parks Commissioner Dan Ryan in mid-March.

Tuchow knew that the sudden safety concerns flowed from a 2022 lawsuit filed by a woman injured when a light pole collapsed and fell on her and a child in her care.

"The case of the person hanging a hammock from a lamp post in Irving Park last year represents reckless and negligent behavior and is not a normal use for a light post," he wrote. "The city should

not be running scared or making bad policy decisions based on the poor judgment of that individual."

Tuchow said he and others "field tested" many light posts and found "they did not budge even when considerable pressure was applied to them. Nor were they leaning or showing signs of loose bolts or footings." He concluded that most of the poles on the removal list "are structurally sound and not in imminent danger of falling down."

Tuchow raised other issues:

- The lights provide security for park users after dark, extending the hours people can use the parks.
- Some of the lights are considered "contributing resources" to parks listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- It would be cheaper to repair rather than replace the fixtures.
- Demolishing the standards generates "a much higher carbon footprint than refurbishing them."
- There is broad public support for retaining and refurbishing the light poles.
- "It seems unwise to destroy useful and aesthetically pleasing resources without a plan or the funds to replace them."

Two weeks later, he had gotten only perfunctory responses from Ryan and other city officials. Meanwhile the poles have been coming down with an alacrity rarely seen by a city agency. A total of 116 poles in Irving, Sellwood and Colonel Summers park were gone by March 24.

An engineering report supposedly justifying the mass removals is not being released to the public. PP&R cited pending litigation as an exemption from the Oregon Public Records Law. Trimm said the bureau completed a pole-by-pole visual review of more than 1,000 similarly designed poles in December and found that 243 were anchored in the same manner as the one in Irving Park that collapsed.

If such a study triggered the expedited clear cutting, what new evidence surfaced that warranted removing only Wallace Park from the targeted list?

We asked PP&R spokesperson Mark Ross, who promised to look into it but did not furnish an answer by late March.

Henry Kunowski, an architectural historian, sent Ryan a blistering email calling PP&R's work "specious sophistry" and a disservice to the commissioner's integrity. He questioned how there could be "seismic and wind code concerns" when no building or structural codes address light poles, which are "very wind resistant."

If PP&R's financial stewardship is puz-



One of four Wallace Park light posts along the arced pathway set for removal before the decision was reversed.

zling on the surface, some see a strategy behind it. While the PP&R announcement of the light pole removals blamed a \$600 million parks maintenance backlog, Willamette Week reported that "the removal of the light poles serves as a kind of advertisement for the parks district idea. But the city isn't bluffing: A dozen parks really are going dark this summer."

PP&R has other avenues to cover the \$15 million needed to replace the lights. A parks levy adopted in 2020 extends through 2025, generating about \$45 million a year.

System development charges are collected on new development to cover the capital expenditures. Two years ago, developer and NWDA board member Noel Johnson calculated the SDCs devoted to parks projects that had been generated in the Northwest district in the past 10 years. It came to more than \$17 million. Meanwhile, far less than 1 percent of that amount has been spent on infrastructure in the district. Johnson and other NWDA leaders wonder why the SDC reserves were not among the first place PP&R looked to keep parking lighting in place.

Update: On March 28, Commissioner Dan Ryan announced that he would introduce an emergency ordinance April 5 to ensure funding for replacement poles that must be removed. ■

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# GREATER NORTHWEST PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT MAP



from the University of Oregon with a degree in business. After serving in the Army, he worked for Brice Mortgage, beginning a long career in building and development that included many projects in Oregon and Southwest Washington, including King City, Summerfield, Charbonneau, Lincoln Palisades, Claremont, The Highlands at Gearhart and Forest Heights. He married Nancy Randolph in 1956. In 1972, he married Mona, who survives him. He is also survived by his daughters Terrie, Sherrie and Lynn; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Rosalie Gomez



Rosalie Jean Gomez, a resident of the Pearl District, died Feb 19 of cancer at age 84. Rosalie Bradarich was born Leadville, Co., and in 1975 moved to the Portland area, where she worked as a bartender in several establishments, including Joe's Cellar and Cheers in Northwest Portland. Before coming to Portland, she had been married to professional wrestler Pepper Gomez. She is survived by her son, Michael Gomez. A memorial celebration will be held Saturday, May 6, 3-5 p.m., at Joe's Cellar, 1332 NW 21st Ave.

Death notices

- WILLIAM F SCHULTE**, 81, 1959 graduate of Lincoln High School.
- JEAN DAYLE SIGHTLER**, 94, 1946 graduate of Lincoln High School.
- DOUGLAS M. THOMPSON**, 93, member of the Multnomah Athletic Club.
- MICHAEL L. SAVAGE**, 77, worked for Hyster and Bingham Industries in Northwest Portland.
- VIOLET (HEEZEL) LARKIN**, 98, 1942 Lincoln High School graduate.
- ROBERT S. NORQUIST**, 87, 1953 Lincoln High School graduate.
- RICHARD H. RINGQUIST**, 95, member of First United Methodist Church.
- MASUKO (HACHIYA) OYAMA**, 96, attended Lincoln High School.
- DEANNE ATER**, 81, volunteer counselor at William Temple House.
- MARLYS CHAPMAN**, 86, Portland Heights resident and community volunteer.
- RONALD L STONE**, 84, 1957 Lincoln High School graduate.



Food News



Above: Kornblatt's Deli was jammed with customers in the final days before closing.  
Left: Signs at The Brewer's Bread eagerly anticipated opening day.



Kornblatt's closing

Kornblatt's Deli will close March 30, ending a run of 32 years at 628 NW 23rd Ave. and the distinction as Portland's last remaining Jewish deli. The announcement was issued March 19 on the restaurant's Facebook page, which collected about 400 reactions of regret and praise from local customers. The New York Times called Kornblatt's "one of the truly great New York delis outside the five boroughs," and local reviewers consistently praised its pastrami sandwich, bagels and smoked whitefish.

Bagels staying

One of Kornblatt's suppliers, Henry Higgins Boiled Bagels, will take over the Kornblatt's Deli location in May. Henry Higgins has three locations on Portland's Eastside. "Kornblatt's has been serving Henry Higgins boiled bagels for years and we are excited to carry on this tradition," Henry Higgins owner Leah Orndoff said.

The Brewer's Bread

Kellee and Adam Curfew, who began selling their brand of sourdough bread wholesale three years ago, opened a bakery at 2600 NW Vaughn St. on March 29. Adam was a brewer for 25 years, learning the science of yeast and fermentation to produce unleavened bread, and Kellee is the vision and operations side of the partnership. "Our passion for bread started from a love of quality ingredients, fresh food and zymology, better known as fermentation," states their website.

Hot Lips Pizza

Hot Lips Pizza has closed its restaurant by Providence Park, along with two other outlets. The outlet in the Pearl District Ecotrust building remains open.

# NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 29, No. 4 "News You Can't Always Believe" April 2023

## AI banned at Nobbys

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# Going Back

Aerial photo of the Interstate I-405 and Highway 26 interchange in Southwest Portland in 1970, three years before the Fremont Bridge opened. City of Portland Archives, I-405 I-26 aerial [600], A2012-005, 1970.



Centennial Park at the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, 1905. City of Portland Archives, A2004-002.



Looking west on West Burnside Street near NW 20th Place in 1927. The building on the right is now Jim Fisher Volvo Cars. City of Portland Archives, AP/20107.



Darcelle XV Tavern at 208 NW Third Ave. in 1976, two years after opening.



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Moroni Seely-Roberts, Jeremy Guthrie and Heather Roberts at last year's state tournament

# Major league tip turns season around

The Lincoln High School boys basketball team, which took third place in the 6A state tournament last month, had an early season hiccup at the Les Schwab Holiday Invitational Tournament in December, losing two straight games.

The team's leading scorer for two past two seasons, Moroni Seely-Roberts, was subpar, scoring only nine points in the second loss. The three-point shot he had vowed to improve this season was off the mark in all but two of his 12 outside shots in the back-to-back losses. His confidence and morale were sagging.

He needed a pep talk, and his mother, Heather Roberts, who is also the Cardinals head coach, knew who to call. Former major league baseball pitcher Jeremy Guthrie, a friend of the family, talked Moroni through his doubts and disappointment for letting the team down. His mind reset, he scored 30 points the following night in a victory over Central Catholic. Lincoln went on to win its first 13 league games.

Guthrie told him to stop dwelling on his own performance and focus on making the team better.

"I think I was being selfish," Seely-Roberts admitted. "I felt like I had to do it all myself, but it's a team game. You need everyone to help win games.

Guthrie also had him focus on three things he could control, and commit them to writing.

"I'm super grateful to him for taking time with me," he said.

Later in the season, Seely-Roberts shared Guthrie's advice with a teammate enduring his own struggles. It was perhaps a step toward Moroni's goal to become a coach one day.

Lincoln lost in the state tournament finals to West Linn but beat Barlow in the battle for third place.

"To end on a win, getting third was a big deal," Roberts said.

The team-first approach is reflected in the tournament statistics. Lincoln had 59 assists in three games, almost twice as many as any other team. Moroni and his twin brother, Malachi, each had 15 assists in three games, tying for first place. Moroni also led the tournament in scoring with 27.7 points per game and in rebounds.

Moroni, who averaged 23.7 points per game on the season, was named player of the year, and Heather was coach of the year in the Portland Interscholastic League. Malachi (19.4 points per game) was picked on the first all-star team, while Cardinals Graham Eikenberry (second team) and Jimmy McCartan (honorable mention) were also recognized by league coaches.

# Transportation agency changes tune on four-way stops

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The Portland Bureau of Transportation may consider adding four-way stops after all, softening a policy many neighborhood activists find too rigid.

PBOT Senior Transportation Planner Zef Wagner told the Northwest District Association he found evidence on this point cited by neighborhood representatives "really compelling" last month.

"I really think it's time to begin a more serious discussion at PBOT about this," Wagner said.

A NW Examiner cover story last month, "Are four-way stops the answer?" noted that longstanding policies from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration may be outmoded.

Roger Vrilakas, a member of the NWDA Planning Committee, said many research papers critical of four-way stops were based on a 30-year-old study conducted in a small town in Georgia.

Wagner said PBOT engineers "would not approve" four-way stops to reduce speeding east of the Thurman Street Bridge because "it just wouldn't work."

The theory is that motorists will in time ignore stop signs if cross traffic is rare.

Planning Committee co-Chair Greg Theisen sees little evidence for that.

"Everyone stops" at the four-way stops on Northwest Thurman Street, Theisen said.

"I agree. I'm on your side," replied Wagner, revealing internal division within the agency.

"Stop signs are a really touchy deal with engineers," he said. "Stop signs do not control speeds. That's a mantra."

Similar thinking has led the city to resist pedestrian-activated crosswalk signals or crosswalk markings based on NHTSA's advice that they give pedestrians a false sense of security. But more recently, PBOT has taken a more nuanced look at the research, particularly as it applies in cities, he said.

"We used to be very stingy about marking crosswalks," Wagner said. "Our approach on crosswalks has dramatically changed."

Earlier last month, members of the Planning Committee bemoaned their lack of traction with PBOT. In contrast, former members of NWDA's Transportation Committee, who resigned en masse two years ago to form Northwest Active Streets, seem to have a better relationship with the city.

"Now we have no constructive relationship with PBOT, and they do," committee member Bristol Kelley said.

"From what I've seen, their approach is more effective," said Todd Zarnitz, a member of both the Planning Committee and Northwest Active Streets. "Their friends in PBOT know how to get the results [NWAS] wants."

More effective or not, Planning Committee co-Chair Steve Pinger called



Four-way stops may be getting more favorable consideration by the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

NWAS a "special interest group" not bound to represent the entire neighborhood or to hold open meetings.

"They're promoting an agenda," Pinger said.

Wagner's latest revelations suggest that NWDA has had greater impact than it realized.

Dennis Harper, a former Planning Committee member whose advocacy of four-way stops opened the recent dialogue, said he was "surprised and pleased that Zef Wagner and PBOT may be more willing to install more stop signs in our neighborhood."

But until PBOT supports his efforts to add stop signs at several streets along Northwest Everett Street, he said he will retain some skepticism.

Kelley was pleased to learn the Planning Committee may have the ear of City Hall after all.

"That was pretty exciting," she said of Wagner's latest comments.

Pinger said he was "not too surprised" at the turn "in that both parties are making an attempt to interface more productively.

"But, yes, the tone is much different than a year ago, when we requested that a test or pilot project be done on Northwest Pettygrove by installing a series of stop signs between 17th and 25th before placing the speed cushions. This was not done, and the request was dismissed by citation of 'standards.'"

Rick Michaelson, chair of the Northwest Parking Stakeholders Advisory Committee for many years, said he "was very pleased" to hear Wagner's openness to four-way stops and to measuring the impact of traffic interventions.

Michaelson does not approve of PBOT's continued reliance on NHSA standards, which are focused on traffic flow and safety.

"I think that it is about time that PBOT considers [transportation projects] for pedestrian and bicycle safety and not just about auto traffic."

NWAS spokesperson Phil Selinger saw nothing surprising in Wagner's latest stance.

"I'd like to think PBOT takes a pragmatic approach to finding the right 'tool' for a given situation. I think the engineers are more black and white in their problem-solving approach than the PBOT planners," he said.

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Donate today was the message at the Northwest Community Conservancy kickoff last month. In the photograph (top row, L-R) are Loving One Another Outreach Services Coordinator JJ Arevalo, NCC Executive Director John Hollister, Leif Spencer and Terrance Dodson. Arevalo, Spencer and Dodson work for Loving One Another. In the bottom row are Loving One Another Outreach Services Coordinator Jill Wylson, Loving One Another Executive Director Tamara Kerr, Echelon Protective Services Chief Operations Officer Reid Kerr and Echelon Protective Services founder Alex Stone. Donations can be made through [nwccpdx.org](http://nwccpdx.org).

# Conservancy outreach workers hit streets

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The Northwest Community Conservancy began serving the Pearl District last month with a team of two social workers on the street six days a week.

Under the first phase of the program, called Save the Day, humanitarian efforts are directed toward establishing relationships with people living on the street and assistance in obtaining shelter, treatment and independence.

The outreach workers are employed by Loving One Another, a nonprofit branch of Echelon Protective Services, which has an exclusive contract with the conservancy.

Phase II, called Own the Night, will introduce Echelon's private security patrols.

A \$1 million first-year budget is being raised through voluntary sponsorships by property owners, businesses and residents. Condominium homeowners asso-

ciations are asked to contribute \$20 per month for each household.

A \$30,000 grant has also been awarded by the Milgard Family Foundation for an April 22 Earth Day volunteer cleanup event.

In one category, the conservancy is ahead of projections. The goal was to hire an executive director after the first year, but John Hollister, one of six directors of the conservancy, is serving as interim executive director without pay until a permanent replacement is hired.

Some have asked what measurements will be used to determine if the program is bringing about improvement in safety and livability. Hollister said the metric that matters to him is whether his wife feels safe walking to Safeway at 8 p.m.

The conservancy is a nonprofit spinoff of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, which placed four of its own directors, including PDNA President Stan Penkin, on the six-seat conservancy board.

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or email: [allan@nwexaminer.com](mailto:allan@nwexaminer.com)

# Downtown's decline linked to lessons of history



BY ALLAN CLASSEN

International urban planner, author and development consultant Michael Mehaffy returned to his former home city with some thoughts on what Portland is getting wrong.

Mehaffy, a Goose Hollow resident and neighborhood association president until 2020, spoke to an audience of 143 at a Zoom meeting sponsored by the Downtown Neighborhood Association last month.

His talk, "The Death and Life of Downtown Portland," was in homage to Jane Jacobs' "The Death and Life of Great American Cities," on which he teaches a college course.

"We've let money and power corrupt our thinking," he said. "This theory that we can build our way out of our problems, attacking one variable such as housing supply, is I think very dangerous."

Mehaffy said this "single-variable thinking" has led to demolition of valuable buildings and replacement with "formulaic global architecture."

"This is not an architecture rooted in place and human place-making or the collective genius of evolutionary history and adaptation to human need. It is 'starchitecture'—a glitzy artistic packaging over a questionable global (Western) industrial product. It is an architecture of fashion and novelty—not an architecture of place and people. It is not sustainable. It is contributing to our problems, to our crisis, really."

Mehaffy took aim at those who vilify residents and neighborhood activists as NIMBYs.

"People have a legitimate concern with what is built in their neighborhood, their quality of life and livability," he said. "People have a right to do that in a democracy. They are citizens after all. They are the people whose homes and neighborhoods are going to be affected by it."

"We don't do ourselves any favors by simply focusing on the human failings of other people who we need as collaborators," he continued. "Let's stop demonizing and get to work."

Mehaffy objects to the city's diversion of its neighborhood association program into advocacy for identity groups that "tokenizes a select few who they think are going to be representative of some group they think has been excluded. You've still got our thumb on the scales. That is not a democratic approach," he said.

Mehaffy's presentation can be seen at [youtube.com/watch?v=XfC4ihJvoVg](https://youtube.com/watch?v=XfC4ihJvoVg)

## Wallace Park Sustainability Fair

presented by



**Saturday, May 6th**  
**10am–2pm**

### Schedule

- 10:30am–12pm: Speakers
- 1pm: Dog Parade with Costume Contest
- 2pm: Passport Raffle Entries Close

### Recycling

- James' Recycling (\$4/Bag): Accepts PET, PETE #1, HDPE #2, LDPE #4, PP #5
- Agglyx: Accepts Styrofoam & #6 Plastics
- Free Geek: Electronics
- Friendly House: Batteries

### Vendors, Providers & Information

Agglyx, Backyard Bird Shop, Bold Reuse, Chapman School, Community Warehouse, Cornell Farms, Eco-School Network, Free Geek, Food Front, Friendly House, Hip Hound, James' Recycling, Mama & Hapa's, Master Recycler, Multico Environmental Health, Repair PDX, Unless Collective, Urban Village Designs, Waste-Free Advocates, Westside Watershed Resource Center

### Food

- Dippin' Dots
- Poblano Peppers
- More TBD

### Raffle and More!

- Collect stamps in your fair passport to enter a raffle for amazing prizes!
- Facepainting and fun activities!
- Free tote bags and cool vendors!

**Wallace Park (NW Quimby St. & 25th Ave.)**  
Visit our websites for more info: [fhpdx.org/calendar](http://fhpdx.org/calendar) and [wallaceparkpdx.org](http://wallaceparkpdx.org)

## Make A Difference in Your Neighborhood

Serve on the Board of the Northwest District Association

### 2022 Annual Meeting and Elections

**6:00 pm Monday May 15th, 2023**

Candidates must be members of the Northwest District Association (NWDA):  
<https://www.northwestdistrictassociation.org/>

Membership is open to all residents, property owners, and representatives of businesses or organizations in the district, and is free. To join:  
<https://airtable.com/shroPHr8EleFFeM4T>

To vote at the annual meeting, you must be registered as a member of the NWDA by completion of online balloting on May 12, 2023. Online balloting will run from May 8 to May 12. Instructions will be included in the next notice, published in the NW Examiner May issue.

To be on the ballot, you must declare your candidacy  
**for Director or for President**  
**by 5:00 PM, Wednesday, Apr 19<sup>th</sup>**

Send declarations of candidacy or inquiries about becoming a member to:  
[contact@northwestdistrictassociation.org](mailto:contact@northwestdistrictassociation.org)



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**Wild late-night shootout barely  
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**Neighborhood coalition bans reporter  
from public meetings**

**Forest Park entry covers for  
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Reader James Knight noticed many ADA-accessible curbs on Northwest Raleigh Street marked for replacement when they already looked “perfectly fine” to him. Portland Bureau of Transportation said they do not fully comply with federal standards, which are inflexible.



This damaged street lamp pole on Southwest 16th Street apparently passed the hammock-holding test.

Pearl Rotary named Jacob Pixton student of the month for March. Pixton is Lincoln High School student body co-president. He is concerned about the “less than human” treatment of the houseless community and aims to work for a more just society. “He’s one of the most compassionate, kind and perceptive students I have ever met,” Lincoln Principal Peyton Chapman said.



Lincoln High School alum Walter Cole Sr. was an honored guest at the final football homecoming at the old school building in 2018. “He was very emotional in saying how wonderful it was to come back and be received so lovingly as Darcelle,” said Dana Cress, director of the Lincoln alumni association.

Skylar DeBose, senior at Lincoln High School, was named student of the month for February by the Portland Pearl Rotary Club. She has been a varsity soccer and track athlete, arts & culture editor for the Cardinal newspaper, president of Sisters of Color, and a leader of SAFER. She plans to attend college and major in psychology or journalism before attending law school.



The Wildwood Trail will be closed at the Barbara Walker Crossing for maintenance work April 3-May 25.





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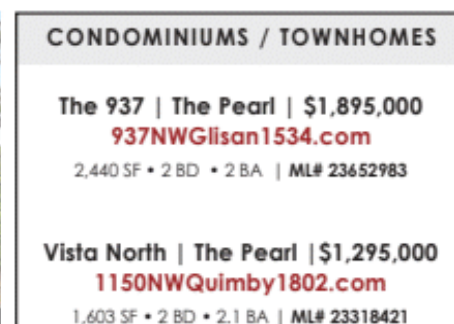
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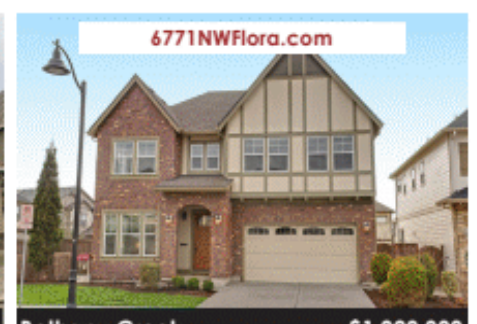
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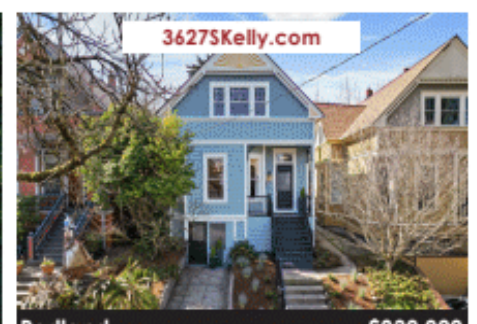
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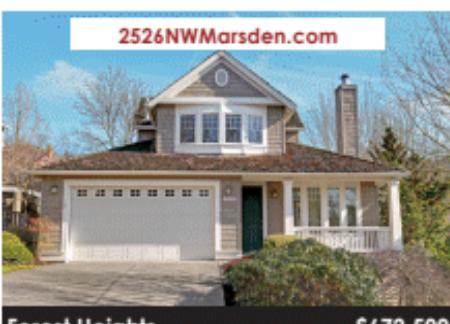
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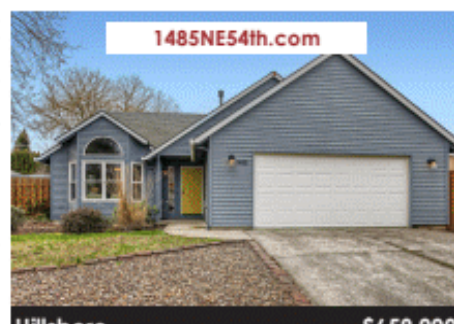
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