

SEPTEMBER 2025 / VOLUME 39, NO. 1 **FREE** SERVING PORTLAND'S NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOODS SINCE 1986 [f nwexaminer](#)



Mayor Keith Wilson (left) and Lance Orton see eye to eye on the importance of overcoming Portland's homelessness crisis.

The man in the middle

Lance Orton turned his life around. Now his eyes are on the whole city.

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Lance Orton has come a long way in six years.

A homeless heroin addict just looking for a place to sleep, he was taken in by a religious mission, got serious about his future and now runs that agency, renamed CityTeam Portland.

Call it lived experience, street cred or lessons learned the hard way, Orton has something Portland Mayor Keith Wilson—the man who would end unsheltered homelessness in one year—does not have. He also has the mayor's ear.

In April, Orton became chair of ShelterPortland, a nonprofit Wilson

launched to demonstrate that the city's homelessness problem could be solved. The idea involved a few overnight shelters in churches that took in higher-functioning people, providing minimal services with the assistance of volunteers.

ShelterPortland's direct work was modest, but its directors have become Wilson's sounding board on his most critical mission as mayor.

"I volunteered [to become chair] because the board wasn't doing anything," Orton told the NW Examiner. In the first months on the board, "Keith was giving us updates."

That soon changed.

Continued on page 6

Electric vehicle fans get word of caution

Neighborhood's first EV owner still up to date on emerging technology

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Officials with the city's electric vehicle program came to Northwest Portland and found some enthusiastic fans.

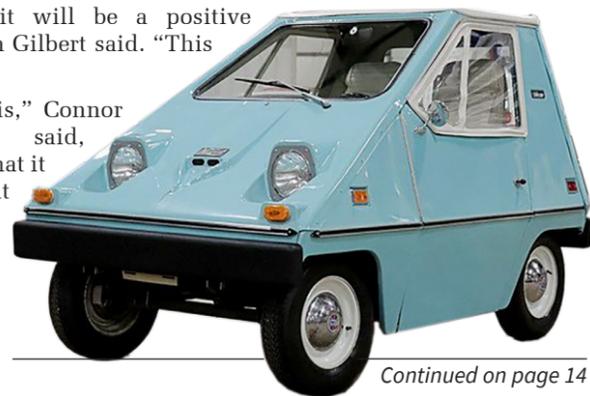
Most of the charged-up neighbors were not regular attendees of Northwest District Association Planning Committee meetings, but they showed up on Aug. 21 to add their weight.

The program projects to spur the installation of 9,500 charging stations around the city within 10 years, starting slowly with about 35, only two or three of which may be in Northwest Portland. The chargers will be installed on power poles beside dedicated curbside parking spots.

"I just want to say that this sounds great," Steven Goehrig said.

"I think it will be a positive impact," Ben Gilbert said. "This is like cool."

"I love this," Connor Lennon said, explaining that it will make it



Continued on page 14



Roger Vrlikas brings some history to his views on electric cars.

Shelter beds find few takers on opening night

The first night at the Northrup Street Shelter confounded expectations of Pearl neighbors, who had speculated about long lines waiting for the 8 p.m. opening Tuesday. Instead, observers, television news crews and elected officials vastly outnumbered the handful who entered in the hour before the doors opened.

Supporters of the city-operated overnight shelter speculated on the lack of interest: homeless people had not heard of the shelter or flyers distrib-

uted in the vicinity listed the wrong address.

Others took the low turnout as evidence that homeless people have more pressing needs than a safe place to sleep.

Rob Layne, communications strategist for Portland Solutions, said it is typical for new shelters to take a month or so before reaching their capacity.

City Councilors Olivia Clark and Eric Zimmerman were among about 20 observers on site in the early evening.



Opening night drew no lines at the Northrup Street Shelter.



The city-operated Northrup Street Shelter, staffed by The Salvation Army, has 40 beds, set to increase to 200 by Dec. 1. Photo by Curtis Holloway.

KNOWN AS THE HISTORIC KYER HOME.
DESIGNED BY ESTEEMED
ARCHITECT EMIL SCHACHT
*Urban Sanctuary in Prime Location near the vibrant
NW Alphabet District, Uptown Shopping & Parks*



1217 NW 25th Avenue

**4 Bedrooms + 3 Full Bathrooms
+ 2 Half Bathrooms
4,447 SF (Approx.)
4,594 SF Lot (Approx.)
2 Car Attached Garage
RMLS #70328319
\$1,350,000**

RESTORED 1908 CRAFTSMAN

*Mt. Hood view and near Fulton Park, Johns
Landing & OHSU*



37 S Custer Street

**4 Bedrooms + 2 Bathrooms
3,379 SF (Approx.)
2 tax lots = 10,000 SF (Approx.)
Off street parking for up to 4 cars
RMLS #779572026
\$1,095,000**

**TWO HISTORIC KINGS HILL PLEXES ADJACENT TO ONE ANOTHER
& SOLD TOGETHER**

*Totaling 7 units and 6 parking spaces with city and mountain views 650 ft. from Zupan's front door.
NW 23rd Avenue just .25 mile away*



2324 SW Cactus Drive

Designed by Architect Earnest Boyd
MacNaughton in 1910
Converted to a Duplex in 1956
2 Units
RMLS #665770755



839 SW Green Avenue

Designed by Architect Henry
Hefty in the American
Renaissance style in 1910
5 Units
RMLS #175139492

**PORTFOLIO OFFERING FOR
\$1,845,000**

"Dear Dan Volkmer Team,

Thanks for getting my house on Marshall sold so quickly and painlessly. Your Team has been really supportive throughout the process and that has made an exhausting and stressful time much easier. Your stellar reputation is well-deserved and I would absolutely use you again. You have set a high bar for all other real estate agents. My deepest gratitude."

-Carla C.

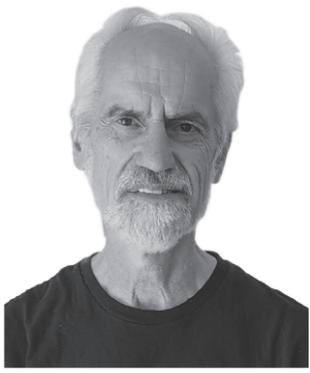
THE DAN VOLKMER TEAM
SPECIALIZING IN HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES



From Left to Right, Licensed Real Estate Brokers:
Fritz Benz, Kim Hayworth, Mardi Davis,
Dan Volkmer (Principal Broker) and Kishra Ott

Archie - Chihuahua Mix: Resident Preservationist
Watson - Boxer: Resident Historian

Windermere
REAL ESTATE
Licensed in the State of Oregon
WINDERMERE REALTY TRUST
Team@Danvolkmer.com
503-781-3366



In the wrong place

Robert Fulghum wrote that “all I really need to know, I learned in kindergarten.”

That may be a stretch. Although I grew up in a remote part of the Lower 48 and never attended kindergarten, I learned some weird things in preschool about 20 years later that I can't get out of my mind.

I was a teacher's aide in a Head Start classroom in Fort Wayne, Ind., and I remember the approved corrective when one of our 3-year-old charges got out of line: “You're in the wrong place.”

No scolding or negative characterizations of these tender souls was allowed, so the only permitted guidance was to suggest that whatever deviant behavior might have drawn them in was merely a matter of location. Instead of marking on the wall, you should have been sitting in your chair, for instance.

I haven't thought much about the concept of being in the wrong place, except in jovial reflections of my brief career in teaching. But it may be time to resurrect this simple truth regarding the problem now tying our city in knots: What to do about homelessness?

We have been wedded to the theory that shelters and services for homeless and/or addicted people should be in the central city, the area where these populations tend to congregate. The mantra that facilities “must be near services” has been taken as an absolute, certainly by Multnomah County and our major social service agencies.

But what if that's a mistake? Services—meaning housing, food, medical care, detoxification and recovery programs, mental health counseling, benefit counseling, job training, family reunification,



ChatGPT illustration.

etc.—can be provided most efficiently at a single site, wherever that may be.

If being “near services” is shorthand for being near drug dealers, communities of addicts, stores vulnerable to shoplifting and passersby to be panhandled, the central city may be the very worst location of all.

But we persist in piling more and more services and shelters in Old Town, downtown and adjacent districts. Mayor Keith Wilson is staking his mayoralty on a plan to create 1,500 shelter beds in neighborhoods where they will bring the

most social and economic harm and where the locals are most determined to keep them out.

Old Town has been defined for decades by social service agencies for the indigent, and as a result, it has become too unsafe and unsavory for most Portlanders to venture near. Despite enormous public and private investment in the Pearl District next door—including enormous social capital in the form of thousands of successful people who have flocked there and then volunteered to build a thriving community for all—its vacant storefronts, broken windows,

graffiti and campsites increasingly resemble Old Town.

A few years ago, anarchists took over the streets, breaking windows and vandalizing anything in sight in the name of social justice. No one should be shielded from the social burdens suffered by others, they said. Instead of spreading the wealth, this dictum involves sharing the pain.

No one in a position of authority condoned this madness. But this time, people in positions of authority may be causing even more destruction in pursuit of the same twisted notion of social justice. They treat successful sections of the city not as resources and positive examples but as targets to label as self-ish resisters to compassion for those in need. A heap of self-righteousness leads nowhere we want to go.

A Russian proverb I may have repeated too often best illustrates the principle:

A divine messenger appeared to a peasant farmer. “The almighty has decided to bless you. Whatever you wish for will be granted. There is only one condition: Whatever you receive, your neighbor will be granted twofold.”

The farmer's smile disappeared.

“So if I ask for a ton of gold, my neighbor will get two?”

“That is correct.”

The farmer thought for a while. Then his face brightened.

“I've got it. Put out my left eye.”

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

Readers Reply

Letters can be sent to: allan@nwexaminer.com or 1209 SW 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.

Ill-founded pride

If you build it, they will come. Build more shelters and “services” to support those drug-addled lost souls so they can suffer and die before our eyes. Portland is a destination spot to descend into the hell of heroin, fentanyl or whatever the new drug is.

The solution is so simple, cheap, straightforward and effective. It's also the most compassionate treatment possible. The solution to the homeless problem would put all of the social workers and homeless advocates out of business in 90 days. Our streets would be safe, and the mentally ill would be

treated. Drug addiction would be a rare condition if not totally eradicated.

We might have to forgo our pride in our sense of righteousness and compassion.

If we put drug-addicted people in jail for 30 days to detox under the care of county doctors and nurses, we might also forgo the feeling that comes when another poor soul dies in front of us on Portland streets. Can we give up our compassion and actually help people?

Gail Cronyn
NW Luray Terrace

Shelters not a solution

I recently made Portland my permanent home after living in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, New York and other U.S. cities and towns. I've experienced urban life in all its complexity and richness. At 67, I came here deliberately—not to retreat, but to engage. I chose Portland for its scale, culture, access to nature and potential. I invested in a home in the Pearl District because I believed in this city's future.

I didn't come here blind. I've seen Portland through its darkest moments—its decline, revival and ongoing battle since COVID.

I care deeply about people who are unhoused, suffering and addicted. But I also care about those of us who live here, build businesses, pay taxes and are working to bring this city back to life.

That's why the mayor's decision to place a 200-bed overnight shelter in the Pearl feels like a slap in the face. This is a dense, residential, mixed-use neighborhood—home to families, barely surviving businesses and people who deliberately chose to live in the urban core and contribute to Portland's recovery.

Cont'd on page 5



Antonius 'Tony' Sannen



Antonius "Tony" Sannen, a longtime Willamette Heights resident, died April 11 at age 89. Sannen was born on Feb. 5, 1936, in Waardenburg, the Netherlands. In 1962, he immigrated to the United States, where he married Francisca Bouwens the following year. They settled in Northwest Portland, the last 42 years on Northwest Vaughn Street. He worked at Montgomery Ward on Northwest Vaughn, Meier & Frank and Sealy Mattress Co. He is survived by his wife, Francisca; daughters, Marcelle, Nicolette and Alexa; and one grandchild.

William Dameron



William Henry Dameron III, a resident of Northwest Upshur Street, died on Aug. 4 of lung cancer at age 83. He was born on April 25, 1942, in Dallas and raised in North Carolina and Georgia. He received a bachelor's degree from Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta and a master's degree from Georgia State University.

He worked for the U.S. Department of State in Libya, Nigeria, Hungary, Norway and Mali in West Africa, where he served as U.S. Ambassador from 1992 to 1995. He married Diana Montgomery in 1991, and they moved to Portland in 2012. He was past president of Chamber Music Northwest and served on the local and national boards of Friends of Mineralogy. He is survived by his wife, Diana; daughter, Phoebe; sister, Linda; and one grandchild.

Charles Ryberg



Charles Ryberg, a Pearl District resident, died on July 25 at age 90. Ryberg was born on April 8, 1935, in Chicago. He attended Palatine (Illinois) High School. He received a bachelor's degree in rhetoric from the University of Illinois in 1957 and master's degree in writing at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

He was a professor of literature and writing for 40 years, including 12 years at Southern Oregon University. He married Barbara in 1957. They moved to Portland in 2003. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; and son, Erik.

Georgie Packwood



Georgie Anne "GiGi" Packwood, a former resident of Campbell Court Apartments, died Aug. 4 at age 95. Georgie Oberteuffer was born June 19, 1930, and grew up in Lake Oswego. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1948. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Oregon in 1952. She married Bob Packwood in 1964, and they moved to Washington, D.C., after his election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1967. She opened an antiques business, Plain 'n' Fancy, in 1985. She returned to Lake Oswego after her divorce in 1992, and later moved to Northwest Portland. She is survived by her son, William; daughter, Shyla Moeller; and three grandchildren.

Death Notices

JAMES C. BORG, 82, 1960 graduate of Lincoln High School.

CEILLIE (WALLACE) CAMPBELL, 95, 1948 Lincoln High School graduate.

HARRIETT (SCHLIM) DIETZ, 78, 1964 Lincoln High School graduate.

MARLENE DUTCHER, 89, Multnomah Athletic Club member.

BRUCE HENDRICKSON, 90, member of First United Methodist Church.

ROSE MURAHASHI, 88, Naito Bros. and Norcrest China employee.

MARY E. SEWALL, 89, 1954 graduate of Catlin School.

GARRY STENSLAND, 86, member of Multnomah Athletic Club.

FREDERICK "STEVE" STEVENS, 88, member of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

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

We Digitize Everything

Think heaps of photos but don't stop there:

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

We'll organize your old media into one tidy digital folder that fits on a thumb drive.



We're located in your NW neighborhood.

DRGdigital

NÉGOCIANT

specialty wine shop,
cheese counter & café

Open Daily



655 NW 21st Ave Portland, OR
(503)384-2946 • negociantpdx.com

35 years dedicated to
handcrafted framing

35 years dedicated to
NW Portland

Katayama Framing
2219 NW Raleigh
www.katayamaframing.com



LINNTON FEED & SEED



503-286-1291
LinntonFeed.com

Also visit us at
Dekum Street Doorway!
dekumstreetdoorway.com

10920 NW Saint Helens Road
Portland, OR 97231

CZ BECKER COMPANY WOOD FLOORS

A Family Owned Business Since 1982



CCB #48132

- Restoration Repairs & Refinishing
- State of the Art Dust Containment
- Installation of New Wood Floors
- Environmentally Friendly Finishes

503.282.0623
czbecker.com

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

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

Follow the NW Examiner daily at NWExaminer.com

Readers Reply
continued from page 3

There will be no showers. There's no clear intake process, no behavioral guidelines, no transportation plan and no clear wrap-around services. People will be discharged at 6 a.m. when no transit is running and residents are walking their dogs, going to the gym next door, grabbing a coffee and commuting to work. What exactly is the plan for them—or for us?

This is not a real solution. It's a reactive, bare-minimum campaign promise

gesture that burdens neighborhoods already doing more than their share. It helps no one, least of all the people in need who deserve care.

This is not compassion but political convenience. And it undermines the people who are reinvesting in Portland in hopes of rebuilding what once made it great.

Ruby Reichardt
NW 12th Ave.

Online comments

Responses to "Feeling helpless, not entitled," August essay by Joe McAvoy, on NWExaminer.com

Paul Douglas:

Well articulated!

Many of us have compassion burnout, and this story reminded me of how compassionate I used to feel when face to face with glimpses of humanity of the drug addicted and the untreated mentally ill I came across.

The biggest problem, I believe, has been the absolute refusal to name the root cause of a significant amount of the most recalcitrant homelessness we witness in Portlandia every day: Drug addiction and untreated mental illness. The hyper-progressive leadership of Multnomah County and our city government have refused to identify these biggest root issues (which are often intertwined), and I believe this has been done for social/political reasons: Oregon Values™.

If you can't diagnose the problem, you can't work towards a cure.

Richard Miller:

Joe's experiences sum up the complexity and reality of chronic mental illness, addiction, poverty and homelessness. Multiple and varied solutions appear to be required, and I am breathless how to begin. Just money, just an apartment, just, just, just ... not one simple answer. Not sure if the hierarchical decision-making folks have the bandwidth or creativity to figure it out within the current socio-economic vagaries that exist.

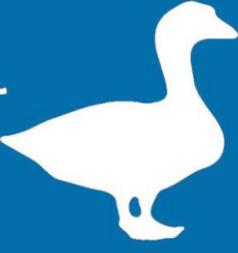
Marjorie McLaughlin:

Thank you Joe! Your article expresses well the thoughts my husband and I have about the homeless people in our neighborhood.

Tough love—through mental health services and some form of punishment for doing drugs and throwing trash around are sidewalks and parks—is needed.

Incarceration is costly, but the hollowing out of our beautiful city by businesses and people leaving is far more expensive.

GOOSE HOLLOW
STREET FESTIVAL
Sep 14 12-4pm
@Goose Hollow Inn
raffles, music, food, beer



**Artfully Placed.
Distinctively Yours.**

With over two decades of expertise, Thornton Art & Design brings clarity and balance to your home through thoughtful art installation and design services. Your home will feel as natural as it does distinguished.

thornton
art and design

ThorntonArtAndDesign.com | (503) 467-8704

JUDIE DUNKEN
REAL ESTATE



JUDIEDUNKEN.COM
503-849-1593
OWNER/BROKER

TANNER PLACE #611 **\$1,195,000**
2 BED, 2 & 1/2 BATHS, 2131 SQ FT, NE VIEWS! PEARL DISTRICT



Representing Buyers and Sellers in Portland since 1993

- PDNA Board Member Livability & Safety Chair
- NW Examiner "2018 Civic Engagement" Awardee
- Pearl District Resident since 2000
- NWCC Founding Board Member





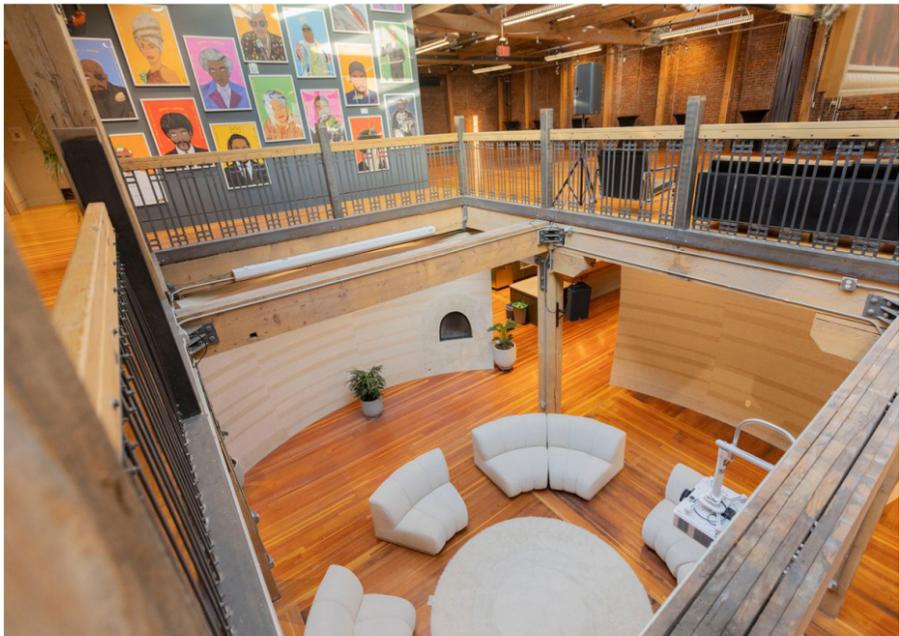
PAULSON COLETTI
TRIAL ATTORNEYS PC

personal injury
wrongful death
product liability
medical malpractice

FLEX-O-GYM

EXHIBIT A

385 1st Street, Ste 217, Lake Oswego, OR 97034 | (503) 226-6361 | paulsoncoletti.com



Above: An atrium brings light into the core of the Overland Building.

Right: Lance Orton at CityTeam's former home in the Central Eastside.



"Man in the middle" cont'd from page 1

"Given the pushback, that has now shifted to us advising him," he said.

Orton's personal recovery story tells him it will take more than overnight shelters to turn hopeless lives and the city around.

"Low-barrier shelters alone are not the answer," he said. "Getting people off the street has value. That's something that has to happen, but you can't take people directly from the street into recovery."

The mayor's plan includes recovery services down the road, but the immediate emphasis has been on simply providing a place to spend the night. Day centers, recovery support and transitional housing were always in the scheme, but his laser focus on reaching

1,500 overnight beds dominates public perception.

"The mayor doesn't do a good job of telling that story, explaining that it's not just about shelter," Orton said. "I don't know why."

The legally dictated 1,500-bed prerequisite (a number derived from a percentage of people sleeping outdoors during the most recent point-in-time count) before Portland's no-camping ordinance can be enforced has consumed the plan's momentum.

Wilson has been saying arrests for camping cannot be made until reaching that arbitrary number, which will not be achieved by Dec. 1 without picking up the pace. There are now 430 beds, which

will rise to 630 beds when the Northrup Shelter is in full operation in December. Still, that would be only 42 percent toward the goal of 1,500.

"ShelterPortland meets with him monthly, and we tell him where we think he should pivot," Orton said.

That advice now includes "intensive outreach" with homeless people on the street to begin Nov. 1.

"Ten new outreach workers have just been brought in" to do that work, he said.

They will attempt to persuade loiterers to enter a shelter, which Orton contrasts with the more lax "compassionate outreach" now going on. They will also learn the names of individuals as the first step in tracking their progress.

As Wilson plows toward the 1,500 magic number, Bybee Lakes Hope Center has been discussed as a possible site for 300 low-barrier beds. That deal has not come about, so the pressure to find sites in existing neighborhoods mounts.

Orton admires Wilson's commitment to soldier on.

"He's not doing this because he wants to be popular," Orton said. "He did his research, and he's going to stick to it. I kind of admire him for not backing down."

Orton can imagine circumstances that might merit reconsideration, but he has not seen such to date.

Even eruptions of dissent among the 580 attending the July town hall at the



REALTY PORTLAND

PEARL LIVE/WORK LOFT



\$379,000

1001 NW Lovejoy St #390
Portland, OR 97209
1 bed / 1 bath
Call Stuart Stevens
(503) 858-4089

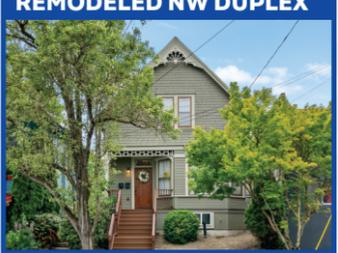
1/2 ACRE FIXER UPPER



\$600,000

6108 SE Tenino St
Portland, OR 97206
5 bed / 2 bath
Call Tim Walsh
(360) 391-9093

REMODELED NW DUPLEX



\$639,900

2115 NW 22nd Ave
Portland, OR 97210
3 bed / 2 bath
Call Amanda Folkestad
(503) 805-2098

Scan here to see these properties and more!



www.RealtyPortland.com



Italian Language Immersion

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

Children's Classes & Camps
Summer culture camps
Preschool, Weekend & Afterschool Classes
Mommy & Me Playgroup



Authentic Italian language & culture education since 2006

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

DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE IN THREE FAMILIES IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY DON'T EARN ENOUGH TO MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS?



FRIENDLY HOUSE SCHOLARSHIPS HELP FAMILIES MAKE ENDS MEET. DONATE TODAY:

FHPDX.ORG/DONATE



Armory did not shake Orton's or the mayor's faith that his plan will win out in the end.

"I thought the pushback at the Armory was going to be stronger," Orton said. "There was a surprising amount of support."

The audience certainly applauded many of Wilson's objectives, but the most resounding reactions were hostile to the specifics. When he announced that no IDs or sex offender registrations would be checked for entry into shelters, many guffawed or booed. When Wilson deflected blame for mismanagement at the River District Navigation Center, more angry voices were heard.

CityTeam

When he's not advising the mayor on his biggest initiative, Orton is preparing for a big moment in his own program's future.

CityTeam bought the 1889 Overland Building at Northwest Fourth and Davis streets last year and will open its 110-bed treatment program next month. In addition to the organization's headquarters, the 27,000-square-foot building will move residents in stages from recovery (six to eight months) to job training and on to independent living, which typically takes another 12-18 months.

In its old building in the Central Eastside, 41 men graduated last year. A year after leaving, 83 percent of graduates are sober, hold living-wage jobs and are housed, Orton said. After three years, 76 percent still meet those three markers.

In 2016, the brick structure was impressively restored. A commercial kitchen was installed. The atrium cutting through the top two levels is the centerpiece.

The atrium gives recovery residents, who live on the second floor, something to look up to on the third floor, where "graduate students," who may hold jobs offsite, enjoy more independence.

David Dickson, who cofounded the Homeless Solutions Coalition and led a homeless outreach program for the Downtown Neighborhood Association, said, "I can't think of a person I have more respect for in

Continued on page 8

Wilson's advisers trust him, but see missteps in his message



David Dickson

Lance Orton and David Dickson believe in Mayor Keith Wilson's mission to end homelessness in Portland. They also believe in his character, compassion and capabilities.

As informal advisers in the mayor's sphere, they think his stumbles owe to things he could have seen coming.

Orton, who chairs ShelterPortland, the nonprofit Wilson founded in 2023 to show how other cities can tackle homelessness, and Dickson, who cofounded the Homeless Solutions Coalition, comprised of 18 neighborhood, business and nonprofit entities, are among the people Wilson listens to.

Both say overnight shelters, the core of Wilson's plan in his first year, are not a solution to homelessness and should not be painted as such.

"The mayor doesn't do a good job of telling that story. I don't know why," Orton said.

Wilson's emphasis on getting homeless people into shelters is clouding the vision of further steps needed to make superficial gains permanent.

The mayor is hearing that advice. ShelterPortland board members "tell him where we think he should pivot," Orton said.

Their influence led to opening 50 high-barrier beds at Bybee Lakes Hope Center in February. That was followed by negotiations to add 300 low-barrier beds at Bybee Lakes that ended when the mayor learned they could not be ready by Dec. 1.

Despite some disagreements over strategy, Orton holds the mayor in highest regard. He has seen him personally guarantee continued funding to a shelter operator who blasted him in the news media.

"I've seen his dedication and his heart," he said. "He's not doing this because he wants to be popular."

Dickson says the same thing.

"I believe 100 percent in his integrity," he said. "His heart is as big as it can get. He loves Portland."

His problems have come in implementation.

"I wish he would have involved people before decisions are made, make them feel they have a stake in this," Dickson said. "He didn't fully communicate the bigger problem to Portlanders."

Dickson saw the willingness of citizens to roll up their sleeves and reach out to people on downtown streets during the COVID era. Similar volunteer efforts took place in the Pearl District, where some of the same people now say no to the Northrup Street Shelter.

Wilson was to speak at a major forum organized by a coalition of homelessness agencies, Dickson said, "but just then the Northrup shelter hit and the Pearl absolutely went nuts," including neighborhood leaders who had been on board with his agenda.

Instead of a crowd of friendly faces, Wilson had to speak to 580 largely hostile ones at a July 28 forum organized by the Pearl District Neighborhood Association.

"He is now dealing with the genuine anger of the community," Dickson said.

Still, he thinks Wilson can get through this period and have success in the last three years of his term.

"Let's cross our fingers that Keith's going to see the light," Dickson said.

— Allan Classen

Pull up a chair.
We saved *you* a seat.
Come by for a visit and stay for the lifelong friendships.

W
THE WATERMARK
AT THE PEARL

Independent Living
Assisted Living
Memory Care

watermarkthepEARL.com

A meal isn't just a meal here. No one checks their phone because no one wants to miss a moment.

Join us to see what living well looks like in the Pearl District. Call 503-983-7422 today to plan your visit.

1540 NW 13th Avenue | Portland, OR 97209 | 503-983-7422

© A WATERMARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITY™ LICENSE #50R522 | 2507-PPP-3915C | ♿



"Man in the middle" cont'd from page 7

the homeless field."

Dickson also respects CityTeam's approach, going beyond placing people in housing.

"We forget that the most important thing for self-esteem is a job," he said. "Housing alone does not solve the problem."

Made in Old Town

CityTeam's move to Old Town had a lot to do with Jessie Burke, the president of the Old Town Community Association and an Old Town business operator who sees commercial revitalization as the district's most critical need. Burke helped Orton acquire the Overland Building when Multnomah County intended to use it for its own housing programs.

Dickson said Orton's ability to earn the respect of Burke and the local business community set him apart from other

nonprofit players in Old Town.

Orton's partnership with Burke is about to reach a new level with plans for CityTeam graduates to work at Made in Old Town, an ambitious shoe innovation and manufacturing company acquiring several buildings in the heart of Old Town. Burke's husband, OTCA Treasurer Jonathan Cohen, is an MiOT partner.

Orton recalls his introduction to Burke, who asked him to serve on the OTCA board.

"I knew if I didn't get on her good side, I would be fighting her daily," he told Burke.

One of her first requests of him was to join her in a demonstration against a food giveaway organized by an anarchist group known as the Portland Free Store. The Free Store had provoked confrontations through a series of events, held without acquiring city permits, that



Far left: Mayor Keith Wilson (front center) talked to neighbors in the shelter in June.

Left: The top level at the CityTeam facility is for residents in the "graduate level" of recovery.

READER POLL

The NW Examiner polled readers on the Northrup Shelter on Aug. 26, receiving 224 responses.

Do you favor the Northrup Shelter?

Yes.....8%

No.....73%

Only with enhanced enforcement.....18%

blocked streets and commandeered the Lan Su Garden parking lot.

"I said, 'Are you crazy?' I am absolutely not going to show up and pour gasoline on the fire," he told Burke.

The March counterdemonstration did indeed become explosive. About a dozen Portland Police officers were tipped off about the counterdemonstration and stood on guard, creating the appearance of over-policing on behalf of a well-connected operative.

A videographer calling himself John the Lefty asked Burke what the demonstration was about, and she falsely claimed she was acting on behalf of the Portland Bureau of Transportation to underscore the importance of getting permits. She did not reveal her connection to the OTCA.

Cohen was there too but would not give his name, denying he even knew what the event was about.

The scene became fodder for a NW Examiner cover story, "Power couple sics cavalry: carry a big stick and don't give your name."

Orton said he agreed with the thrust of the Examiner story that organizational leaders should identify themselves and the organization they speak for.

MiOT was the subject of a May Portland Mercury investigative piece headlined "Power moves: a community organization is calling the shots in one of Portland's oldest neighborhoods."

The subhead laid out the premise: "The Old Town Community Association has been a key driver of development and investment in Old Town. Much of it comes with financial gain to its members."

Orton read the piece but didn't know what to make of it. "Made in Old Town is a good thing for the district," he said, "and it seems to be on the up and up." ■

THE JOINERY

Handcrafted American furniture that's here for good

Made in Portland for more than 40 years, The Joinery designs and crafts furniture to last a lifetime.

Flagship Showroom
Now Open in the Pearl District
102 NW 9th

503.788.8547 • thejoinery.com

Certified Corporation

FRIENDS OF WALLACE PARK

FRIENDS OF WALLACE PARK'S

FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

2 PM - 6 PM

WALLACE PARK

MUSIC FROM HIT MACHINE

20+ BOOTHS

RAFFLE PRIZES

FOOD CARTS

KIDS ACTIVITIES | FACE PAINTERS

DOG PARADE 5 PM

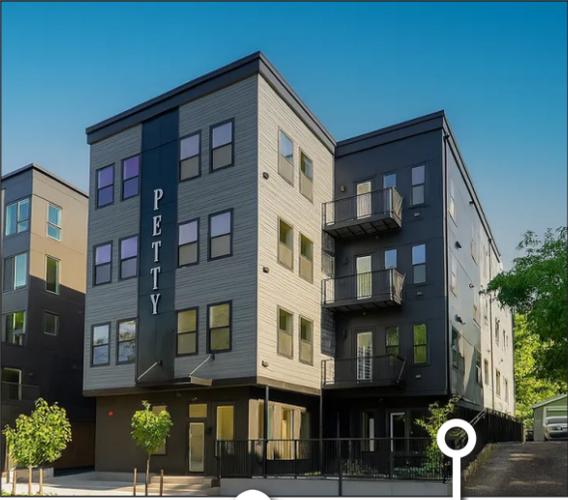
MORE INFO

QR CODE

GREATER NORTHWEST PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT MAP

PETTY

WDC Properties' newest apartment building, the four-story Petty, at 2260 NW Pettygrove St., has opened. Studio and one-bedroom units of 300-350-square-foot apartments are available for \$1,099-\$1,695 a month.



CENTENNIAL MILLS

A design review hearing will be held Thursday, Sept. 18, for a three-building mixed-use complex on the site of the former Centennial Mills, 1362 NW Naito Parkway. Lindquist Development Co. plans 281 residential units on five or six levels, with 174 underground parking stalls. The last of the historic mill buildings will be demolished.



OASIS DAY CENTER

A daytime facility for up to 200 homeless people is coming to the block bounded by Northwest Fifth, Sixth, Glisan and Hoyt streets. It will have showers, bathrooms, charging stations, a pet area, connection to resources, snacks and beverages. Hours will be 6 a.m.-10 p.m. daily and transportation will be provided from the Northrup Street Shelter. Urban Alchemy will operate it.



BETHANIE'S ROOM

Blanchet House hopes to open Bethanie's Room, an overnight shelter for 75 women at Northwest 17th and Lovejoy streets, by early November. Permits to expand the restrooms are under review at the city. Blanchet House purchased the property for \$2.1 million in June and is seeking \$700,000 in donations to complete the upgrades.



CAMBRIA HOTEL

Cambria Hotel, part of Choice Hotels International, opened at 105 NW Park Ave. last month. It has 178 rooms. The Recess Restaurant and Bar draws its name from the adjacent playground in the North Park Blocks used by a Montessori school.



OVERLAND BUILDING

The 1889 Overland Building, 205-219 NW Fourth Ave., has been remodeled as the headquarters and residential treatment facility for CityTeam. In addition to retail and office space, it has beds for 110 participants in the program, who move from recovery to job training and independence.



Proposed Under Review In Construction Other

For an interactive and continually updated version of this map, visit: NextPortland.com

Also see the development map maintained by the Goose Hollow Foothills League: goosehollow.org/images/GooseHollowDevelopmentMap.pdf

Briefly . . .

GINZA PORTLAND, an upscale Asian fusion restaurant, has opened at 875 NW Everett St., where Tanner Creek Tavern closed last September.

Jodi Heinz has reopened her **BLOOM PILATES** at Northwest 26th and Upshur streets. It had been closed since the COVID pandemic.

BONTA GELATO, a Bend-based ice cream chain with six Oregon stores, opened last month at 207 NW 10th Ave. Cosmic Bliss closed at this location after three years in business.

ERATH WINERY URBAN TASTING ROOM, 1439 NW Marshall St., closed last month on the heels of an announcement that the city-operated Northrup Shelter would open a block away on Sept. 2.

The former **CAFFE** and **BARBA MINGO** spaces, 807-811 NW 21st Ave., which were badly damaged by fire last year, have been restored and are for lease.

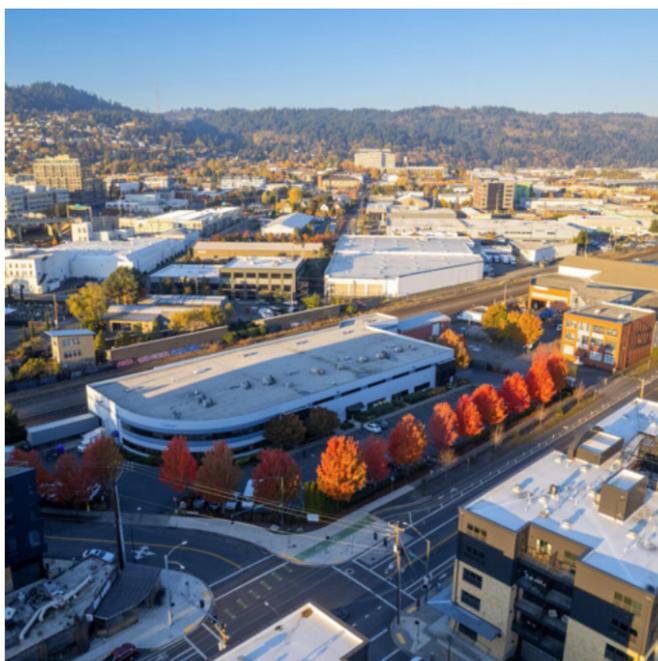
DUER, sellers of stretching “performance denim” pants, will open at 820 NW 23rd Ave. this month. The company has seven stores in Canada and three in the United States.

FALAFEL STREET CAFÉ, a walk-up window spot at Northwest 21st and Glisan, opened this month with breakfasts and coffee.

PASSAGE IMMIGRATION LAW recently opened an office in the ORO Apartments at Northwest 15th and Overton.

THE SUNSHINE DIVISION, a nonprofit provider of food for low-income households, will move its headquarters and warehouse to the Floor Factors building at Northwest Front and 17th streets next year. The 30,000-square-foot facility will provide three times the space of the organization’s current location.

GOOD NEIGHBOR CA PHE opened last month at 1650 NW 23rd Ave., serving Vietnamese coffee drinks and banh mi sandwiches. The business was founded by Kim Dam in Southeast Portland.



Clockwise, beginning top left: **The Sunshine Division** is turning a huge building in the industrial area into its headquarters, **Erath Winery** called it quits and **Ginza Portland** just arrived.

NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 31, No. 9 “News You Can’t Always Believe” September 2025

Today kickball, tomorrow Trail Blazers

The Nob Hill Bar & Grill’s kickball team went undefeated and won the city championship in its first year. The team beat Stranger Danger 19-18 in a thrilling title game at Colonel Summers Park on August. 14.

The Nobby’s owner is trying to make a bid to buy the Portland Trail Blazers, and this was the first step. Step 2: win the Powerball and mega millions in the next six months.

“I feel confident,” Greg Hermens said. “I mean the kickball team was no problem. I just need to pick six numbers or so for Step 2, and the Blazers will stay in Portland forever!”



BURGER COUNT
1,354,893

Enter your name for a monthly drawing.
This month’s burger winner is Mariquia Alferez

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



C.A.K.E

Trivia Nights

Join us Wednesdays at 7pm

It’s always a party with C.A.K.E!

1810 NW Glisan St
www.hostelcafepdx.com
503-417-8143 #pdxhostelcafe

Your guestroom is ready!

Neighborhood Friends & Family Discounts

479 NW 18th Ave (& Glisan)
www.nwportlandhostel.com
503-241-2783 #pdxhostel

4th Saturday Neighborhood CleanUp

Sep 27, 9am–11am: help pick up litter in our neighborhood; sponsored by SOLVE. Check out our website for more info or email info@hostelcafepdx.com.

EVERETT STREET
AUTOWORKS
Old Town

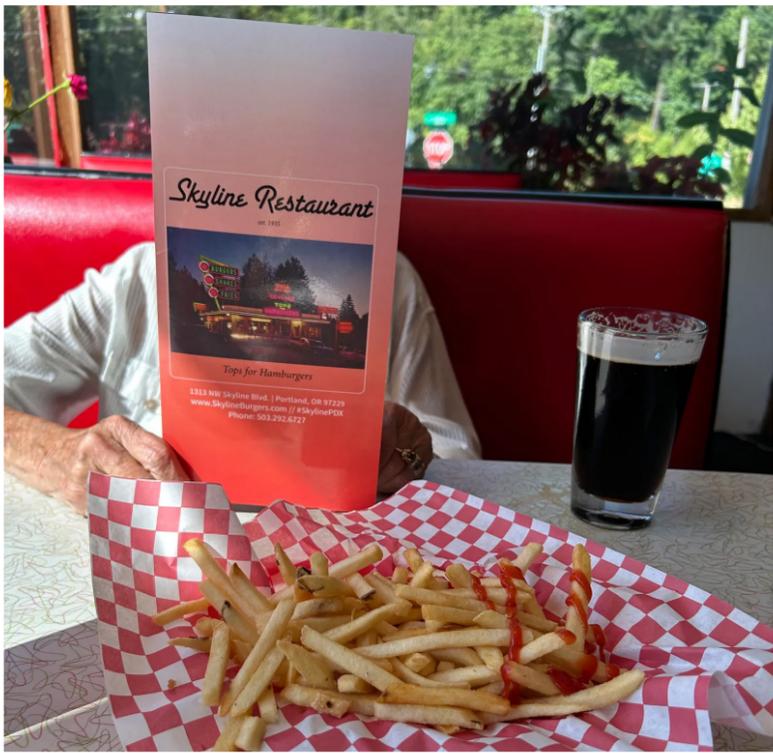
FALL IS COMING!

Save where it counts!
10% OFF ALL LABOR
OFFER EXPIRES ON 10/4/2025

Schedule online @:
www.esautoworks.com
503.221.2411

509 NW Everett St
Open M-F 7am-6pm

Skyline Restaurant is still cooking



Old fashioned drive-in decor and dining endure in the West Hills.

Old-school diner has served up burgers, fries and shakes since 1935

BY MICHAELA LOWTHIAN

Skyline Restaurant, 1313 NW Skyline Blvd., serves up burgers with a side of time travel. Established in 1935, Skyline has regulars and hardcore fans. Tom Desmond, a Pearl District resident, bumped into actor Sam Elliott there once and Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden another time.

A neighbor called it “a refreshing throwback. I like the window decorations, lights, and the milkshakes. At Christmas the lot is always packed with cars carrying trees on their roofs.”

Owner Michelle Nelson bought Skyline Restaurant in 1999. Her grandmother worked for the previous owners.

The restaurant has big, comfortable booths with red upholstery. Diners used to enjoy the comfort of their own

cars when waiters provided window service in the parking lot, as depicted in a vintage mural.

Many people today call ahead and pick up dinner to go.

Big eaters should go for the Skyline Hamburger Steak. It's 1- ½ lbs. of ground steak covered in gravy and served with fries and salad (\$20.50). My mom and I shared a basket of shoestring fries served on red-and-white checkered paper. We listened to some Tom Petty. A giant hamburger we discussed ordering is \$12 a la carte and an extra \$5 for fries.

Next time, we'll come hungry. Skyline Restaurant serves homemade soups and salads and a customer-favorite is clam chowder. The ice cream category is robust. Sundaes are \$6.50 and shakes are \$6.75. Bring the kids for a Pike Shake.



CASSIDY CAMPANIAN
REAL ESTATE BROKER

Portland-Metro Area
Licensed in Oregon



Thinking about buying your first home, upgrading to your forever home, purchasing a vacation home, or selling to start a new chapter? I'm here to share my expertise, advise, and handle all of the details so you don't have to.

Forest Heights

Chehalem Mountain



LET'S TALK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES

- ☎ Call or Text: 971-645-1071
- ✉ Cassidy@CassidyCampanian.com
- 🌐 CassidyCampanian.com



One more round won't fix anything.

But still...one more round?



EMERALD LINE

At the corner of NW 15th and Thurman

FOOD

COCKTAILS

PARKING

Monday – Friday
11:00 to 2:00

Monday – Saturday
4:00 to 9:00

@EMERALDLINEPDX
THEEMERALDLINE.COM



Running through a red light

City didn't want to hear warnings against extended parking meter hours

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The Portland Bureau of Transportation put out feelers in March about extending parking meter enforcement in the Northwest District three hours longer into the evening.

Instead of ending at 7 p.m. six days a week, the bureau wanted motorists to pay until 10 p.m. Meter enforcement would also begin an hour earlier, 8 a.m. instead of 9 a.m.

The Northwest Parking Stakeholders Advisory Committee was the appropriate setting to launch a trial balloon. Representatives of various sectors of the district meet monthly with PBOT staff to advise them on policy and practice.

PBOT staff asked committee members to designate a color—red, green or yellow—to reflect their leaning on the topic.

“I don’t feel a need to extend the hours,” Parker McNulty said.

“I just think it’s a bad idea to extend meter hours into the evening,” Steve Pinger said. “I think it sends the wrong message. If everybody feels like this is a good idea, then we should transmit that, but that’s not the sense I get in this room.”

“I’m a little red on this,” Amy Spreadborough said. “I feel like I don’t have enough information to make a good decision on this, but I don’t like stuff that puts our neighborhood at a disadvantage versus other neighborhoods where people could visit and spend money in.”

Having heard three red light reactions to extending the hours, PBOT Parking Program Specialist Stanley Ong’s ear was tuned to a different voice.

“I’m getting feedback that doing a temperature check at this point is not something that we actually really want to do at this moment,” said Ong, using extra words instead of explanation.

“This is the first part in a multistep process to inform the director of how the neighbors feel about it. The next step will be, at some point, I’m assuming, we will give our direct

feedback with the colors or anything else before a decision is made.”

Somehow PBOT never got around to another color-keyed temperature check.

In July, the new hours, along with an hourly rate boost from \$2 to \$2.60 an hour to go into effect Oct. 1, were announced.

If PBOT truly wanted to know how people felt about the changes, many were ready to tell them. The NW Examiner asked former members of the stakeholders committee and local business people what they thought of the extended meter hours.

“This is the first time we have heard about the proposal and are disappointed in the lack of outreach by the city,” said Don Singer, a former member of the SAC whose family owns many properties in the district.

“Nob Hill has worked hard to recover from the events of the past five years, and enforcing parking meters until 10 p.m. is not welcoming. The Central City needs visitors and new residents to support new and existing businesses, and this is not rolling out the welcome mat.”

“I’m not sure where they’re getting their information about an increase in parking demand for business parking after 5,” said Greg Hermens, co-owner of the Nob Hill Bar & Grill. “Downtown and Northwest Portland have not even come close to what it was pre-pandemic, with the homeless, higher prices and open drug use in the area. People are just not coming in from the burbs.”

Hermens mentioned the recent closures of 23rd Avenue dining mainstays Santa Fe Taqueria and The Ram’s Head.

“They should be looking to get people back to the downtown and Northwest area with free parking, not chasing them away with higher and longer meter rates.”

“I haven’t spoken to a single business owner here that has any idea about this change,” said Tom Ranieri, owner of Cinema 21 and a former SAC member.

“It’s clear to me that the decision to hike the hours of enforcement had nothing to do with the formerly enshrined guiding principle of following the parking occupancy data. It’s completely about gathering more revenue, not about parking management,” Ranieri said.

Rick Michaelson, a Northwest resident and commercial property and business owner who chaired the SAC for its first 10 years, focuses on the numbers and policies that are supposed to guide the meter program. Achieving 85% occupancy of on-street parking stalls is one of the goals. Promoting faster turnover of parking spaces is another.

In this case, Michaelson doubts there will be much impact on turnover—given that patrons of higher-end restaurants will be unfazed by paying a few dollars



Stanley Ong, Portland Bureau of Transportation

more to park—while the bureau would certainly gain “a meaningful source of revenue.”

Two groups that will suffer are low-paid restaurant workers who do not have parking permits and visitors to Cinema 21, for whom a few hours of parking will rival the cost of a movie ticket, he said.

Sami Gaston, owner of Négociant and Bar Diane on Northwest 21st Avenue, said she had not been notified of the metering changes.

“We rely on an evening dinner crowd that is likely to use street parking,” Gaston said. “It also might make customers reconsider or factor in the parking expense when planning on dining out for an evening. We’re seeing a lot of cost increases across the board, so if things wind up playing out like that, it could be problematic.”

Tanya March, who serves on the Northwest District Association board and runs a walking tour business, said the increased meter hours will deter visitors.

“It’s going to be really hard on businesses,” she said.

The metering expansion may also have violated city policy.

As reported by The Oregonian last month, metering changes enacted in Northwest Portland and three other districts did not meet the 85% occupancy threshold set in the Performance-Based Parking Management Manual adopted in 2018.

“The figures show fewer vehicles used on-street parking in the Lloyd and Northwest Portland districts in 2024 than two years prior, despite previous claims by officials that ‘parking data shows that there is a rising demand for space across the city,’” The Oregonian reported.

“In a perfect environment, where parking prices are where they should be, PBOT is at cost recovery and the bureau isn’t facing severe budget constraints, we follow the Parking Management Manual more closely,” bureau spokesperson Hannah Schafer told The Oregonian. ■

“I’m getting feedback that doing a temperature check at this point is not something that we actually really want to do at this moment.”
—Stanley Ong
Portland Bureau of Transportation

NW Examiner
MARCH 2023 / VOLUME 36, NO. 7

“Digging deep, Shining a light”
INSIDE
p. 3 New perspective
p. 10 Asian noodles for cold weather
p. 13 Remembering old neighborhood

Private protection
A million-dollar plan to preserve the Pearl

Reach over 20,000 residents of NW Portland & The Pearl with your ad in the NW EXAMINER. Call Joleen Jensen-Classen now to reserve your space in the OCTOBER 2025 issue: 503-804-1573, or email joleen@nwexaminer.com

Are four-way answer?

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



Bicycle advocates made a cause of preserving the traffic diverters at Northwest 20th and Everett streets and prevailed, at least for now.

Bike advocates halt diverter removal plan

Mayor reverses city decision announced only one day earlier

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Plans to remove the traffic diverter at Northwest 20th and Everett ran into the local bike lobby and came to a screeching halt. At last month's packed meeting of the Portland Bicycle Advisory Committee, at which city staff were scheduled to explain the rationale for removing two sets of diverters, the committee learned instead that Mayor Keith Wilson had stopped the project.

After taking testimony from the public and three City Council members, nearly all of whom held pro-diverter signs, the committee voted unanimously to recommend retention of the diverters. The meeting facilitator, noting the sweeping consensus, said, "I'm not surprised."

Not only was the committee united, no member of the public expressed a contrary view on the diverter question.

In the prior week, a demonstration in defense of the diverters drew a throng to 20th and Everett and was prominently covered by local TV stations.

In addition to the more publicized diverter on Everett, the project targeted diverters blocking eastbound traffic under the Interstate 405 bridge on Northwest Johnson Street.

City Manager Michael Jordan issued an Aug. 11 memo identifying the Everett Street diverter as an impediment to law enforcement in an area of increasing crime.

"There is limited access to routes between West Burnside Street and Couch Park" that limits police access and maintenance of "routine police presence."

But no city official came to the meeting to defend the plan or the lack of public process, both of which drew broad derision. Many speakers discounted the claim of limited police access, suggesting that police cars could drive around the diverters in an emergency.

Councilors Mitch Green, Tiffany

Koyama Lane and Sameer Kanal were disturbed to have received little notice of the diverter removal project, which came from the Portland Environmental Management Office, a problem-solving team working out of the mayor's office.

The trio plans to take the offensive on local transportation policy. They quote Portland City Code 16.10.100, which designates "the City Council is the road authority for all public streets, except state highways" and only delegates that authority to other government branches "as the council deems appropriate."

Green said the city administrator should have asked the City Council for permission to change the diverters before acting. A fight over diverters in Northwest Portland may soon echo across the city.

After the meeting, the three council members posed with signs stating "Save our diverters" and "Diverters are public safety."

Debate raised over council powers

Cycling activists, and the council members in attendance, said it was a victory for transparency, citizen participation and data-driven policy. They had a point.

The removal plan was hatched by Anne Hill, director of Portland Environmental Management Office, a nuisance abatement program operating out of the mayor's office. PEMO cuts through bureaucracy and time-consuming processes. Its meetings aren't announced and minutes are not taken. Hill cited increased crime in the vicinity and the difficulty of Portland Police Bureau to patrol the area between Stadium Fred Meyer and Couch Park, but her evidence was thin, as BAC members emphasized.

The attendance of the City Council members at a citizen advisory committee may be unprecedented, and they were not there to merely listen. They cited city code to declare that the council, and

not the mayor or city administrator, is in charge of transportation policy, and they intend to act accordingly.

Councilor Green took the foiling of diverter removals as evidence that Portland's new charter is working, allowing citizens and their representatives to expose and block actions taken in secret. Councilor Kanal, who co-chairs the council's public safety committee, which might have been expected to know that the Portland Police Bureau sought the removals, said even he didn't know about such plans until reading it on BikePortland Aug. 1.

A case against democracy and transparency can be made on the grounds of division of powers. The administrative branch should have the authority to carry out democratically established policies and not be bound by public participation processes at each step. The City Council adopts legislation and sets budgets,

while the mayor and city administrator enact programs to carry out this mandate.

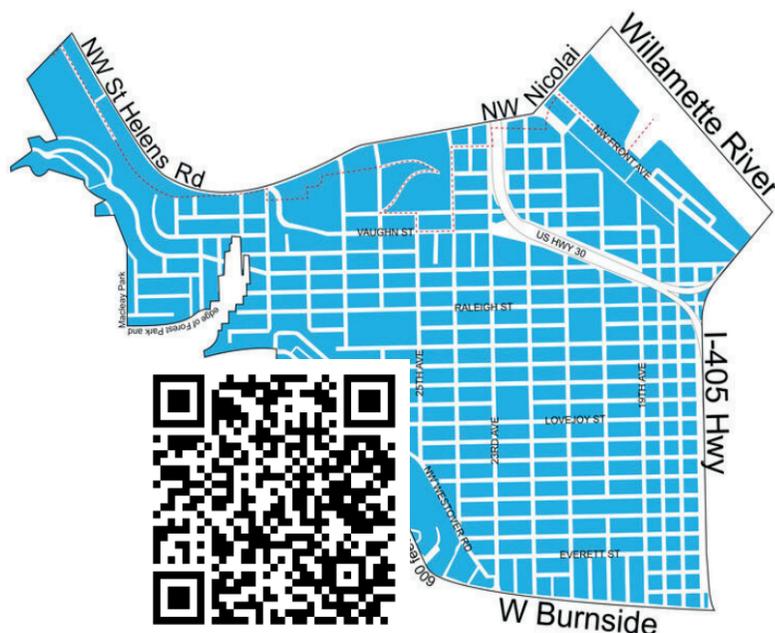
Will Aitchison, a Northwest resident with lengthy experience dealing with local governance, says Portland's charter was created to respect such boundaries.

"The whole idea about charter reform ... was that the council was to concern itself with broad policy issues, not the minutia of running a day-to-day government," Aitchison wrote in a private email.

By meddling in issues such as the diverters or overruling Portland Children's levy grants, the council has gotten out of its lane, he suggested.

"What about tackling some of the many overarching policy issues we're facing? We've seen no coherent plan from the council ... on things like homelessness, addiction, the need for more public safety, infrastructure, budgeting maintenance as a component of new projects, the voice of neighborhoods and so many more issues." ■

JOIN THE NWDA!



NWDAPORTLAND.ORG

Join your all-volunteer neighborhood association... supporting and advocating for Northwest Portland since 1972!

 **Northwest District Association**

MARSHALL UNION MANOR

RETIREMENT LIVING FOR SENIORS 62 YEARS OR OLDER



AFFORDABLE QUALITY RETIREMENT LIVING
STUDIO & ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENTS

No COSTLY BUY-INS OR APPLICATION FEES
RENT SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE/INCOME LIMITS APPLY

2020 NW Northrup Street
Portland, Oregon 97209
503.225.0677
[WWW.THEUNIONMANORS.ORG](http://www.theunionmanors.org)

ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF SENIOR LIVING!

OFFICE HOURS:
WEEKDAYS 10:00AM - 4:00PM
APPOINTMENTS GLADLY SCHEDULED!

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

"Electric Vehicle fans" cont'd from page 1

feasible for more people to switch to an electric vehicle. "That's really, really great."

"I think this is a pretty reasonable approach," Jeremiah Via said. "You all should do it right away."

But the momentum stalled when a man who has been on the committee since before most of the EV fans were born raised a carefully prepared counterargument.

"I think that the city of Portland is promoting electrification of transportation is great," Roger Vrilakas said. "The fact that the city is doing something about it is great, but the way it is going about it is not the best way."

Vrilakas said private companies are already adding charging stations at an astounding rate of 1,000 per week.

"As of July 2025, there are about 240,000 stations in America, which is a 24% increase for this year, a 44% annual growth rate when compounded. It seems to me, private enterprise ... is doing an excellent job."

According to a May 2024 Pew Research Center report, "64% of Americans live within 2 miles of a public charging station."

"There are lots of private enterprises making charging stations faster, cheaper and better than the city of Portland will ever do it," he said.

A wrong turn the city may be making, in his view, is installing slow-charging technology that takes four to eight hours for a full charge. In a few years, Level 3 chargers that can deliver an 80% charge in minutes will be the norm, he said.

Vrilakas said the first-come, first-served arrangement envisioned will not add to convenience in that users may hold a space for eight hours while other EV users wait for an opening they cannot predict or plan around.

"That doesn't really make it easier to own an electric car," he said. "It just doesn't add up."

"I'm not saying that because I want to discourage EV use," he concluded. "It's going to be necessary if the planet is going to survive."

If younger people in attendance thought they were receiving an unwelcome lecture from a past era, they did not know half the story.

Vrilakas made a greater—and far earlier—commitment to electric vehicles than they might have imagined or that he let on.

In the 1970s, he bought a 1976 Sebring Vanguard CitiCar, a cheese-wedge-shaped, battery-powered car



Curbside charging stations are coming to neighborhoods across the city.

made in Sebring, Fla.

"I kept it quite a few years," he said. "Why I did eludes me."

The CitiCar had a 3.5 horsepower motor powered by eight 6-volt batteries. It took 13 hours to recharge, giving it a range of 35 miles. The top speed was about 40 mph. To meet federal regulations, it had a defroster switch, but the switch wasn't connected to anything.

From 1974-77, 4,444 Citicars were produced, making it the best-selling electric car in the U.S until the Nissan Leaf surpassed it in 2011. The original sales price was about \$3,000 (\$17,000 in today's dollars).

"The thing was horrible, unsafe, noisy, constantly requiring work, cold, had no heater or defroster. The list of its deficiencies is long. I guess I should have known, since they couldn't even spell 'city.'"

"But, that is all set against its one attribute, a fully electric car," he said.

He omits another attribute. It was an extraordinary conversation piece.

The Neighbor newspaper published a story on the amazing mechanical monstrosity in its May 1985 edition. By then, he was fully aware of its faults.

What possessed the young Vrilakas to invest in such a vehicle?

"It was some dimly framed philosophical/ecological predilection against burning dead dinosaurs," he told the reporter in 1985. "When we've used up almost all the oil available, when there's just no choice left, then we'll have to turn to electric cars."

The case for electrification of transportation may be worded differently today, but Vrilakas is ready to continue modifying his assumptions—if there is good evidence.

"I have 48 years of EV experience, if you are charitably inclined, that might qualify me as having at least an informed opinion, which is that PBOT and PGE should not install EV chargers anywhere," he wrote in a follow-up piece to the NW Examiner.

On the other side, the city has a "design for transportation justice," a phrase that he says could "drain the battery of my fourth electric car." ■

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

RUSSELL FELLOWS PROPERTIES, LLC

E|W|F MODERN
LABOR DAY SALE

up to 40% off on select items storewide

FURNITURE SHOWROOM | INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES | EST. 2002
1122 NW GLISAN ST. PORTLAND, OR 97209 - 503.295.7336 - EWFMODERN.COM

Supporting local, independent journalism.
(We ♥ the NW Examiner)

Rich Earth
organic skin care studio

RichEarthOrganicSpa.com | NW 23rd Avenue
Welcome by appointment

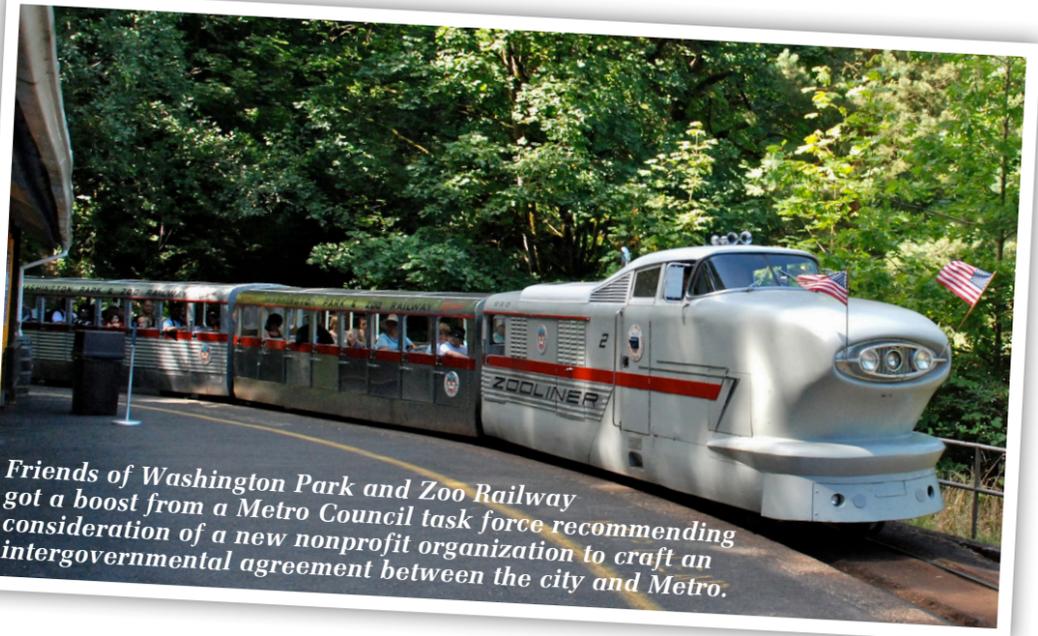




Snapshots



Fall Festival, an annual event organized by Friends of Wallace Park, will be held on Saturday, Sept 13, 2-6 p.m. There will be live music by Hit Machine, a dog parade, raffle prizes, food carts, kids activities, yard games and community booths. SELCO Community Credit Union, W(her) Realty, Dan Volkmer Realty, Northwest District Association, Arciform, NW Neighborhood Veterinary and the Sackett family have underwritten the event.



Friends of Washington Park and Zoo Railway got a boost from a Metro Council task force recommending consideration of a new nonprofit organization to craft an intergovernmental agreement between the city and Metro.



Victor Palmer-Regen surrendered to Portland Police in front of his apartment at Northwest 18th and Hoyt streets after a five-hour standoff Aug. 27. He was charged with stabbing two people earlier that day.

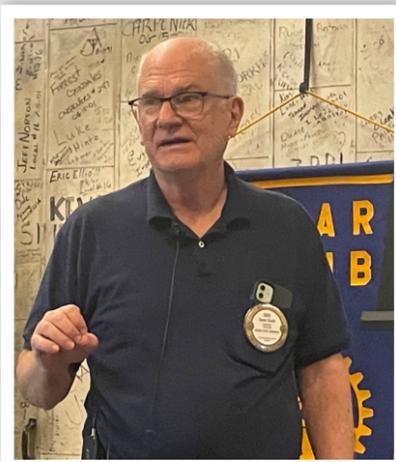
Brian Kurt Hesse, 46, was killed Aug. 31 after crashing his bicycle near Lewis and Clark Circle in Washington Park. A preliminary police investigation found that he was riding a BMX-style bike downhill with a group of other cyclists when he crashed trying to ride between two boulders. His daughter, Anmarie Hesse, posted this photo on a PDX Bikelife Facebook page.



The brass section of the Oregon Symphony performed a free community concert in Slabtown Square last month, accompanied by a bubble master and dancing children.



Street Roots vendor Vern Hannigan has retired after selling papers by Trader Joe's on Northwest Glisan Street. He plans to move to Hawaii next month. Hannigan credits this job for helping him overcome a drug addiction and social isolation.



David Scott has begun his term as president of Portland Pearl Rotary, a club he joined 23 years ago. While working for Intel in Singapore more than 10 years ago, he chaired the Marina City Rotary there.



Oasis Day Center, providing showers, restrooms, WiFi service, a pet area and snacks for up to 200 homeless individuals, will open at Northwest Sixth and Glisan streets between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. daily. No opening date has been set.

Local advertisements are part of our newspaper. Even our digital version.

You can read the full print PDF version of the latest NW Examiner on our website, nwexaminer.com

In addition, beginning this month, you can click on any ad and go directly to the business's website.



 substack



To subscribe or donate to the NW Examiner:
DONATE.NWEXAMINER.COM