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JUNE 2026/ VOLUME 39, NO. 10

FREE

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Looking up in the 'hood

Associations gain in a system designed to thwart them

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

City Hall's "war on neighborhoods" cast Portland's neighborhood associations as havens for wealthy homeowners blocking social justice and housing opportunity for those less privileged.

The war was incited by former City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly shortly after her election in 2016. She told neighborhood leaders that their only importance was as potential supporters of other organizations she deemed more worthy. Eudaly appointed Suk Rhee to run the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, which she did with a vengeance until she was investigated and terminated.

Eudaly renamed ONI the Office of Community and Civic Life, but she failed to get council support to revise the bureau's central purpose: to serve neighborhood associations and their coalitions. Eudaly and her successor as commissioner of the bureau, Jo Ann Hardesty, did not even attempt city code revision but steered the program toward diversity and social equity administratively through hiring choices and implanting of bureau culture.

Eudaly, Rhee and Hardesty are long gone, and the embattled associations appear to be



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The Armory Auditorium was packed with people wanting to help "re-ignite the Pearl."

Honor-bound to ignore constituents

Sen. Lisa Reynolds held a forum to explain her views on syringe hand-outs and Multnomah County regulation as a stopgap until the state Legislature reconvenes next year.



Lisa Reynolds (she/her)

2026-03-25 18:14:28

Sen. Reynolds explains why she killed needle regulations

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

State Sen. Lisa Reynolds has a new explanation for why she mischaracterized the position of neighborhood activists seeking limits on distribution of drug paraphernalia: She didn't think she was supposed to talk to them.

Reynolds killed Senate Bill 1573 in her committee in February, claiming that its proponents refused to compromise to aid its passage. Members of Stadiumhood Neighbors and Friends of Couch Park insisted that they would have accepted any reasonable revisions

had they been given the opportunity.

Reynolds said she did not connect directly with her constituents out of respect for Sen. Christine Drazan, the chief sponsor of the bill.

"We had what I thought was a really fruitful compromise," Reynolds said, "and I'm hearing now the community would have approved, but that was not the message I got from the senator."

"I think maybe Sen. Drazan put words in

Continued on page 8



More than 200 neighbors joined a yoga class in Fields Park May 30.

Summer events for all

The idea was to re-ignite the Pearl District this summer with regular events bringing crowds to public places. The kick-off event, Yoga in the Park, on May 30 took off.

"The fuse has been lit!," wrote Pearl District Neighborhood Association President Bruce Studer, referring to "200 folks in The Fields Park doing yoga on Saturday."

Dakota Thyken, who organized the event for the PDNA Parks Committee, seconded the emotion.

"I am absolutely thrilled by the success of our first Yoga in the Park," Thyken wrote. "The energy was incredible, and seeing so many people come together was genuinely so inspiring."

"We had more than 200 people attend, which far exceeded our expectations. With only limited promotion through some local flyers and our Pearl District social media, we originally thought we might see 30 or 40 participants."

"Again and again, people talked about how heartwarming it was to gather with neighbors and how meaningful community connection has become."

Continued on page 9

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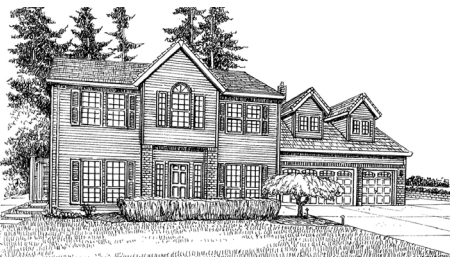
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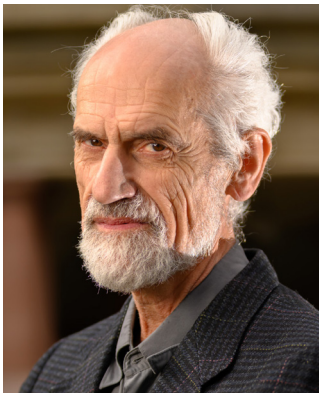


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When hyperlocal becomes hyper-revealing

I have never pretended to cover state or even city news comprehensively. But my hyperlocal gaze keeps catching flashes of the bigger picture.

I have had a front-row seat as Portland's harm-reduction absolutists are being exposed in a way that could tip the Oregon governor's race. Republican nominee Christine Drazan has been working with a cohort of residents mobilized around the drug paraphernalia handouts that went on at Northwest 19th and Burnside streets for several years. Their concerns did not even command the agendas of the two affected neighborhood associations, yet the whole state may be paying attention to this saga by November.

An unabashedly anarchist group called Portland Peoples Outreach Project had been handing out syringes, pipes, hygiene products and snacks near the McDonald's on West Burnside for about a decade, drawing throngs of drug users who in turn attracted drug dealers. People shooting up in plain view, sprawled out bodies blocking the sidewalk and frequent mental health episodes—all amid campsites and piles of garbage—were only half of the story.

Drug dealers who found the lawless pocket ideal for their purposes acted to see that their marketplace was not disrupted, which neighbors were doing by protesting and drawing news coverage.

Turf warfare involves intimidating citizens so they do not call the police or interfere with illegal activities.

A Stadiumhood Neighbors woman was threatened by groups of masked hoodlums taunting her with chilling reminders that they knew where she lived.



AI illustration by ChatGPT

Multnomah County District Attorney Nathan Vasquez saw a KPTV news clip last year and went on air, declaring that his entire staff was outraged upon seeing video of threats and intimidation against neighbors of this hot spot.

"That particular piece—that upset me," Vasquez said. "No person should be harassed or threatened in any manner."

Viewers of any political affiliation would have found the scene upsetting, but state Sen. Lisa Reynolds had another concern: Limiting these no-rules needle handouts would put a crimp on anyone engaged in "harm reduction," an approach addressing the secondary health consequences of used needles.

This practice has wide acceptance in the medical profession and among local social agencies, but studies they rely upon assume qualified providers endeavoring to move addicts toward

treatment. PPOP, which moved its 19th Avenue distribution spot to the Pearl District this year, takes no measures to promote recovery. Its core tenet is that everyone has the right to decide what they put into their own bodies without outside judgment. Needless to say, PPOP does no outreach to the neighborhood residents that it impacts.

There may be a division of opinion as to whether harm reduction has its place, but reckless operations such as PPOP are not something a mainstream politician would be expected to defend.

However, District 17 state Sen. Lisa Reynolds put off Stadiumhood Neighbors and their hyperlocal partners, Friends of Couch Park, for three years as the situation stewed. The only elected official willing to take them seriously was Drazan, the senator from Canby who is again running for governor.

Reynolds could have known Drazan was interested in the statewide implications of a story pitting caretaking neighbors against drug dealers terrorizing them. But Reynolds controlled the path proposed legislation had to travel, and she saw a threat to harm reduction practices anywhere as a threat to harm reduction practices everywhere.

"It would have done away with harm reduction," she said.

Never mind that the bill would only have applied to mobile distribution sites and then only near schools.

Asked to explain her dire prediction, she told the Examiner, "If you draw a 2,000-foot radius around every school and preschool, I suspect there'd be very few corners left in Portland where harm reduction supplies could be distributed from a mobile service."

Neighbors and Sen. Drazan were willing to reduce the radius to 1,000 feet, but Reynolds' feet were planted. She killed the bill in her committee without exploring such modifications.

Was the end of harm reduction an exaggeration?

"That's fair, but it certainly would have eliminated mobile distribution of harm reduction supplies," she told the Examiner after re-election to her senate seat last month. "So that's a valid point."

The senator may be more conciliatory now, and she is advocating for a Multnomah County licensing system for mobile harm reduction suppliers. But she and her party may be asked again and again why they took the side of illegal drug consumption and its enablers against the good neighbors when it mattered.

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.

Top-down approach wrong

Your editorial is the most important thing ever written about the value of citizen stewardship for our neighborhoods and our city in which we live since the creation of the Office of Neighborhood Associations in 1974. If it was me, I would have made the May issue a single page with your editorial the only content on one side, with the backside of that page to be completely black.

This continued top-down approach to neighborhood issues is a disservice to all citizens.

Tad Savinar
NW Vaughn St.

Neighborhoods shortchanged

The Office of Civic's Life latest erosion of neighborhoods began during the transition to Portland's new charter. Under Dan Ryan's leadership, they internally decided to match neighborhood coalitions to the four new geographic districts, thereby steamrolling the painstaking work of the Independent Districting Commission.

They claimed that "the neighbors agree," when in fact neighborhoods were not informed at all. (See the attached email.) Neither did they engage with the Government Transition Advisory Committee on this topic and dismissed my co-chair's and my con-

cerns when we met with them in that capacity.

Civic Life presumed that "councilors will be able to attend district coalition meetings to hear from and understand the needs of constituents in their district," but that was not coordinated with the GTAC's recommendations.

While certain aspects of the transition were steeped in data and overthinking, this decision was hasty and arbitrary. Coalitions were left to sort out a mass of logistics with vague direction and diminishing resources. I hope controls are in place to track the outcomes of the coalitions' structure and refine it.

Although the GTAC published recommendations after its two years of work, the organization of coalitions is notably absent. That's because the city bypassed us. That also meant it was never a topic in our public meetings. In fact, of 18 GTAC members, I was the only one experienced with neighborhoods, and that was probably an accident. I was appointed because of my work history, not my role with the Northwest District Association, for which I served 20-plus years, two of them as president.

Juliet Hyams
Former member and co-chair,
Government Transition
Advisory Committee

The NW Examiner

VOLUME 39, NO. 10 // JUNE 2026

EDITOR/PUBLISHER..... ALLAN CLASSEN

GRAPHIC DESIGN..... WESLEY MAHAN

ADVERTISING..... JOLEEN JENSEN-CLASSEN

CONTRIBUTORS..... MICHAELA LOWTHIAN, JOE MCAVOY, RICHARD PERKINS, NORM FRINK, BOB WEINSTEIN, KURT MISAR, WILLIAM MORTON AND MATT ZMUDA

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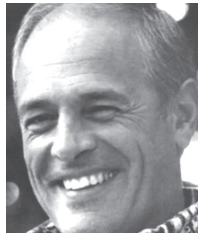


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Published on the first Saturday of each month. Annual subscription \$50. CLR Publishing, Inc., 1209 SW Sixth Ave., #303, Portland OR 97204 503-241-2353. CLR Publishing, Inc. ©2026 allan@nwexaminer.com www.nwexaminer.com

Ivan Kafoury



Ivan Kafoury, a former resident of Sauvie Island, died April 11 at age 86. He was born on July 20, 1939, and attended Kennedy Grade School, Grant High School and Cleveland High School. He served in the Army in Germany for two years before receiving a bachelor's degree from Portland State University. He worked in sales for two national companies and then bought KWTQ radio, developing a talk format that featured shows by his son and his brother. Kafoury also brought old-time pro wrestling performances back to Portland. He served on the board of the Old Timers Baseball Association for 40 years, including tenure as president. He married Sharon Roslyn in 1964. They divorced in 1981, and he married Jeannine Upham. He is survived by his sons, Jeffrey and Kenneth; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Christopher A. Folkestad



Christopher A. Folkestad, a 1969 Lincoln High School graduate who was executive director of the Maybelle Clark MacDonald Fund for many years, died April 25 at age 74. He was born on June 2, 1951, in Miles City, Mont., and moved to Oregon as a child. He graduated from the University of Oregon and obtained a CPA certificate. He worked for accounting firms in Bend and Portland before opening his own practice. While with the MacDonald Fund, the agency built the MacDonald West Apartments in Old Town. He was a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club. He married Janis in 1978. He is survived by his lifelong partner, Pam Resnik; daughter, Ingrid; and two grandchildren.

Jerard S. 'Jerry' Weigler



Jerard S. "Jerry" Weigler, a Willamette Heights resident for 42 years, died April 26 at age 92. He was born on Oct. 14, 1933, in New York City and graduated from the Bronx High School of Science. He graduated from Colgate University and Yale School of Law. He joined the law firm of Lindsay, Hart, Neil & Weigler and later became a partner. His civic work included progressive causes in the city and state. He volunteered for the Jung Society, Forest Park Conservancy, Friendly

House and as an advocate for foster children. He moved to Willamette Heights in 1979 and left in 2021. He is survived by his children, Sally, Will, Ben, Jake and Miranda; and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Carol Weigler; and son Kevin. A celebration of life is being planned this summer at Friendly House. Email weiglerinc@gmail.com for information.

Michelle Bressler



Michelle Ruth Bressler, a Linnton resident, died on March 27 at age 64. A fifth-generation Portlander, she was born on Nov. 26, 1961, and grew up in the Irvington neighborhood. She graduated from Grant High School and Reed College and received a master's degree from the University of North Carolina. She worked in the Peace Corps in the Philippines, where she began a career in public health. She married Ivan McLean. She is survived by her husband, Ivan; daughters, Celia, Anna and Molly; and siblings, Holly, Tim, Greg and Kim.

Gladys Mannheimer



Gladys Dorothy Mannheimer, co-owner of Youngland children's clothing for more than 30 years, died May 8 at age 104. Gladys Satterlee was born on June 6, 1921, in Kelso, Wash. After graduating from the University of Oregon, she moved to Portland. She married Norman Mannheimer Sr., and they opened Youngland in the Uptown Shopping Center in 1952. It moved to West Burnside Street in the late 1980s and closed in 1995. In 1975, she wrote "Gourmet on the Go," which became a bestseller at Bloomingdale's and Neiman Marcus. She was a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and a former president of the Portland chapter of Fashion Group. She is survived by her sons, Norman Jr. and James; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She was predeceased by her husband, Norman Sr.; brother, Donald Satterlee; and sisters, Lucille Rothfus and Harriett DePriest.

William H. Reilly



William H. Reilly, who operated a civil engineering company on Southwest 18th Avenue for many years, died on April 21 at age 94. Reilly was born on Jan. 15, 1932, in San Francisco and graduated from St. Ignatius High School. He received a civil engineering degree from Santa Clara University. In 1961, he moved to Portland, where he bought a water treatment supply company headquartered in Goose Hollow for many years. He served on the Providence Hospital and CYO boards and was a long time member of the Arlington Club, Multnomah Athletic Club, Waverley Country Club and St. Thomas More Church. He married Rose Marie Wolff in 1957. He is survived by his children, Bill, Jim, John, Karen Marie, Mary Ann Walker, Stephen, Michael and Kathleen Helmer; 21 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Rose Marie; and sisters, Kay and Ann.

Death notices

BEOTA JEAN 'BEE' HARTUNG, 97, former payroll worker at Montgomery Ward.

HARVEY C. BARRAGAR, 92, former board member of Multnomah Athletic Club.

JANE MAUSSHARDT, 93, member of the Town Club.

SHIRLEY (LEHRER) BANKSTON, 88, 1956 Lincoln High School graduate.

MARY ANN REYNOLDS, 77, a former nurse at St. Vincent Hospital on Northwest Westover.

SHEILA BAMBERGER MACDONALD, 87, graduated from Ainsworth Elementary School in 1953 and from Catlin School in 1957.

CHARLES WITHEE, 94, former teacher and coach at Lincoln High School.

MAUREN CANTLIN, 79, longtime Portland Heights resident.

HAROLD "ELDON" ROSE, 84, owner-operator of Vista Avenue hair salon 1982-2003.

VIRGINIA LEE (FENTON) CAMERON, 99, grew up in Arlington Heights and lived in Northwest Portland.

MARCIA GAUTHIER, 78, former laboratory manager at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center.

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Neighbors question plans to use soccer field as parking lot



The Washington Park soccer field is used for team practices and informal recreation activities.

BY ALLAN GLASSEN

The last temporary parking lot in Washington Park proved harder to remove than a Supreme Court justice. That's one of the reasons neighbors of the park are leery of turning the park's soccer field into an overflow parking lot this summer.

Explore Washington Park, a nonprofit serving the transportation needs of the Oregon Zoo, Portland Japanese Garden and other park attractions, wants to allow cars on the field for two weekends in July and August.

EWP interim Executive Director Mara Gross told Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association board members this month that she intends to seek a non-park use permit from Portland Parks & Recreation. Beyond that, few details are known.

Neighborhood representatives are troubled by the short notice, the lack of community outreach and the uncertainty as to how PP&R will evaluate the application.

"How come no one's doing a [traffic] circulation study, an environmental impact study and an engineering study?" AHNA board member Jay Shoemaker asked. "Why would you embark on this if you don't even know how much it's going to cost you to fix the field once you're done? You don't even know if you have those funds."

Gross referred to earlier planning studies EWP has used to guide transportation planning, but offered no research to justify the parking plan, what she calls a pilot project.

"Since they were very opaque about

when they were actually submitting, I think we need to assume it's going to be submitted quickly," AHNA President Darcy Wheelers said after Gross left the meeting.

Arlington Heights neighbors remember the "temporary" 129-space parking lot opened during construction of the MAX station that remains in use 28 years after the station was completed. Neighbors took the case to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals, which ruled that the city had not justified the need for the auxiliary lot. In 2012, the city approved a conditional use permit for a 116-space accessory parking area known as the West Lot.

NW Examiner subscribers offered these comments on our May 22 Substack post.

"Once again, kids need a voice," wrote Eileen Galen. "This field serves a much higher purpose than 'overflow parking' and ought to be removed from consideration. Please, Portland, let's take care of what we have and what rightfully belongs to children, who don't get a vote."

"This story is disturbing," wrote Marc Green. "After reading the mission statement for EWP, I am struck by the obvious conflict that a parking lot creates."

That mission statement states that Explore Washington Park is ... "dedicated to connecting people with the culture, diversity and wonder of nature in Washington Park."

Guiding principles include caretaking of the natural world and stewardship of exploration embodying the "nature of Portland."

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Re-ignite the Pearl presented plans for a summer of activities and enlisted volunteers to help.

“I would really love seeing associations have a seat at the table and doing policy development from the ground up.”
—City Councilor Mitch Green

“Looking up” cont’d from page 1

reclaiming their historic standing. Current Civic Life director Amanda Garcia-Snell, who previously led the Washington County Office of Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement, has been put on administrative leave after her hasty attempt to unilaterally revise the neighborhood governance system by July 1.

Like earlier attempts to defrock neighborhoods, the latest initiative became ensnared in process, the city’s trademark reaction to controversy. But the rising credibility of neighborhood associations helped turn the tide.

The Pearl District Neighborhood Association filled the 570-seat Armory auditorium twice in nine months, first to challenge Mayor Keith Wilson’s decision to open an overnight shelter at Northwest 15th and Northrup streets and more recently to rally residents to “re-ignite the Pearl” with dozens of community-building events this summer.

Wilson at first refused to appear at last July’s forum but reversed himself as interest in the event grew day by day. By the second forum, held in April just after Wilson announced the closure the Northrup Street Shelter—a decision influenced by PDNA’s persistent monitoring of the facility—elected officials pounced on the opportunity for a few minutes on stage.

Councilors more attentive

Evidence of restored favor can be seen in other Westside neighborhoods. Associations are benefiting from three councilors elected by district. Each District 4 representative has repeatedly attended neighborhood meetings and spoken out on the type of local concerns that drew scant attention in the old government system, when years could pass between a council member’s visit.

Ironically, district representation was intended to diminish neighborhood association power by those who proposed and refined the 2022 charter. Andrew Speer, who served on the 2020-22 Portland Charter Commission, said the novel three-member districts were designed to lower the bar for narrow-appeal or modestly funded candidates, while still diluting the NIMBY power of neighborhood associations. It was assumed that associations focused on keeping unwanted developments out of their backyards rather than on the

general welfare of their section of the city. Speer gave that explanation at a July 2022 forum held in a Willamette Heights backyard.

Now that district representation is in place, council members are paying attention to local as well as districtwide concerns. Even District 4 Councilor Mitch Green takes a pro-neighborhood stance, which might not have been predicted based on his politics and alliances.

An avowed socialist, Green sees himself as an advocate for the working class. He and three other Democratic Socialists of America members aligned with the council’s Peacock caucus, more often associated with defunding the police and stopping sweeps of homeless camps than protecting neighborhood livability.

Green spoke to the Downtown Neighborhood Association in May, assuring members of his support for returning the city’s neighborhood program to what it was before the name change.

“I think we need to move the neighborhood system back much closer to the City Council,” he said.

Green said budget cuts to communications, insurance and other vital services to neighborhoods are perpetually on the chopping block.

“I was talking to some of my colleagues, and they’re very interested in investing in building back the capacities of the association system, and maybe moving it back to the Office of Neighborhood Involvement,” he said.

“I would really love seeing associations have a seat at the table and doing policy development from the ground up.”

His District 4 colleagues, Olivia Clark and Eric Zimmerman, have been clear regarding their allegiance to neighborhoods. Zimmerman went on high alert after Garcia-Snell tried to redefine the neighborhood’s role.

“When I got a whiff that this was going on, it was alarming,” Zimmerman said at a special NWDA meeting on May 7.

“I’m just deeply skeptical. ... You’ve got to remember that the Office of Civic Life is where—for 10-plus years—there were commissioners in charge, like Chloe Eudaly, who were just at war with the neighborhood associations. Over and over, they have been trying to dismantle that system.

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Ray Davis (above) delivered the core message of the night: "By showing up here tonight, you are telling your neighbors ... you're prepared to work to take our community back."

District candidate Jamey Evenstar (right) has a new name. Does she have a new take on neighborhoods?



"I'm not sure what problem they're seeking to solve," Zimmerman said.

District 4 Councilor Olivia Clark agrees, promising neighborhoods her "support and advocacy":

"Portland's neighborhood system has survived despite continued challenges brought on by past city commissioners," Clark said. "As a strong advocate for our neighborhood associations, I rely on these organizations for two-way communication."

District 4 candidate Eli Arnold, who narrowly missed council election two years ago, said, "I'm concerned that we are once again undervaluing neighborhood associations. They are the city's eyes and ears on the ground and provide valuable local knowledge that leaders should benefit from."

"City Hall is too often detached from the experiences of residents, and neighborhood associations are a check against untethered ideology."

Neighborhood leaders sense the upswing, though many still see a long way to go.

"We are moving in a positive direction where neighborhood associations are getting more respect and are seen as contributors to the public good," said Downtown Neighborhood Association President LaJune Thorson.

"A change in the leadership of Civic Life is a good thing and a sign of progress," she said. "Undercutting neighborhood associations by attempting to single-handedly change the rules is not acceptable."

Bruce Studer, president of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, is not of the broader picture, but "I agree that ours is on the rebound."

"We have a great relationship with the councilors, and we have a good relationship with the mayor, although we disagree on some things."

In general, Studer said, "It feels pretty good."

"I think neighborhood associations are seen as increasingly important because they are one of the few grass-roots civic structures that pull people out of special-interest silos," said Todd Zarnitz, president of the District 4 Coalition and Northwest District Association.

"Because neighborhood association membership is geographically based,

they create a natural buffer against extreme views," Zarnitz added.

Steve Pinger has been involved in Portland neighborhood affairs since the 1990s and has seen associations go "from being a participant to being a spectator" when decisions are made.

"Coalitions have become vehicles to infuse us with received ideology," said Pinger, who has served on the boards of both NWDA and PDNA. "That's not what they started out to be."

He recalls the time (1999) when the Office of Neighborhood Associations was renamed to the more generic Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

He is not ready to say things have turned around, though perhaps, "We're not having to battle the city quite so much. ... I still feel like we're dealing with the Eudaly hangover."

If anyone is a bellwether on the course of Portland's neighborhood standing it could be Jamey Evenstar, who recently launched her campaign for a District 4 seat. In 2018, while working as policy director for Chloe Eudaly, Evenstar (then known as Jamey Duhamel) texted a city official during a council meeting:

"We need our neighborhood associations in their place. They get too much power and voice," she wrote. "They are white and 'high caliber' so ... any inconvenience is a big deal to their cozy lives. ... So. Much. Privilege."

After her stint in Eudaly's office, she held other city jobs, including leading community engagement for charter transition, according to her resume. In 2024, she joined the staff of District 1 Councilor Candace Avalos, who served on the 2022 charter commission.

Once a true warrior for charter reform and against neighborhoods, where does Evenstar stand today on those issues? Why does she want to represent District 4?

Evenstar agreed to an interview with the NW Examiner in June. She offered no decisive reaction to Green's comments to downtown neighbors. Perhaps detente is possible.

Director on leave

Amanda Garcia-Snell, the first director of the Office of Community & Civic Life under the new city charter, was placed on administrative leave May 26, as first reported by the NW Examiner.

City Administrator Raymond Lee provided no information on the action, opening speculation of negotiations over a severance package.

Since January of last year, the city has paid a combined \$711,000 in severance to three bureau directors and the head of Prosper Portland.

Garcia-Snell will continue to receive installments on her \$182,520 annual salary while on leave.

She announced in March that new standards for neighborhood associations and coalitions would be adopted by July 1, a timeline soon abandoned as neighborhood representatives pushed back against the abrupt changes made without their participation.

Todd Zarnitz, president of the District 4 Coalition and the most outspoken critic of the proposed changes, said he did not know the reason Garcia-Snell is on leave.

The issue to him is, "We can't have the neighborhood system run by administrative rules that can be changed by fiat."

Before taking the Civic Life position, Garcia-Snell was community engagement manager and temporary deputy chief equity and inclusion officer at Washington County.



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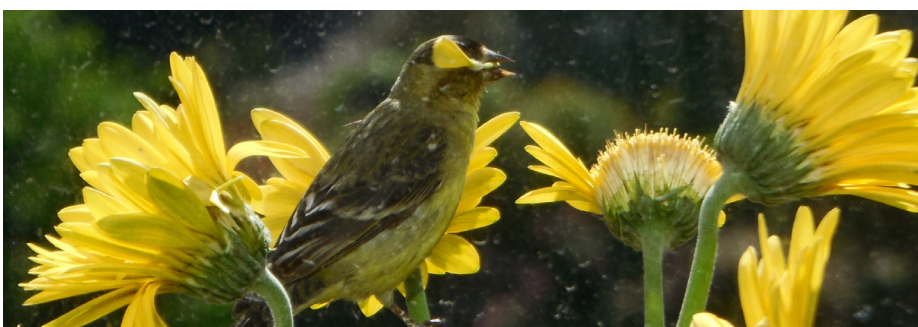
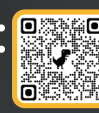
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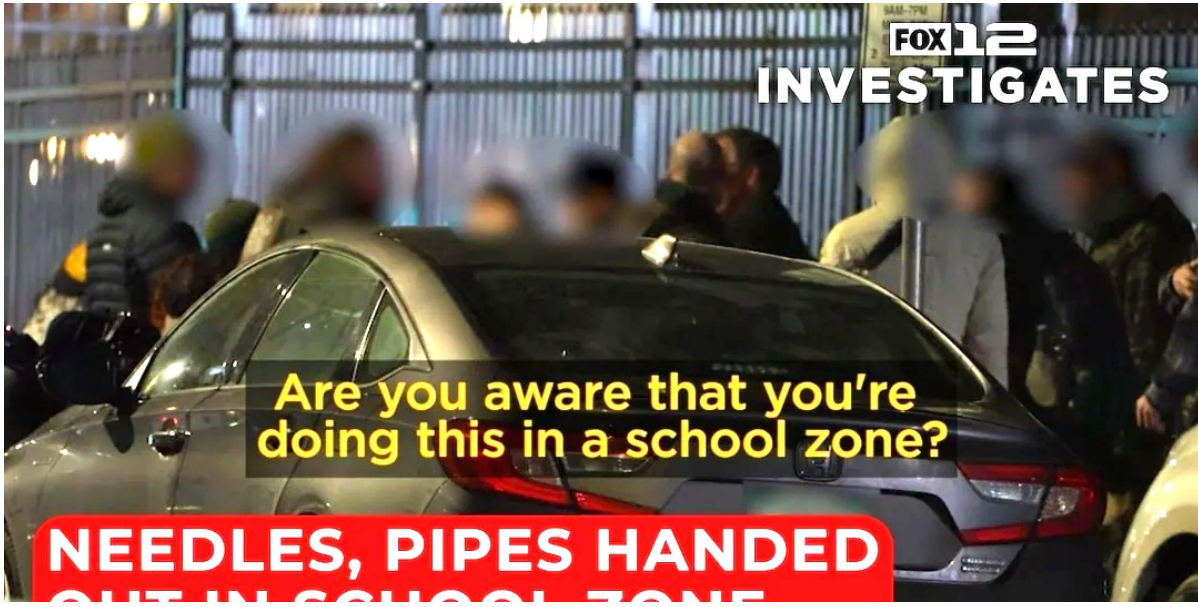
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"Honor-bound" cont'd from page 1

their mouth," she continued. "Maybe it was wrong of me to believe her. Obviously it was, but I'm not really sure it was my place to then go behind Sen. Drazan's back on her bill, you know what I mean?"

"We kind of don't do that on each other's bills—it's like, this is her bill. It's Sen. Drazan's job to work that bill."

Despite this deferential attitude toward Drazan, the Republican nominee to unseat Gov. Tina Kotek, Reynolds had little good to say about her senate colleague in a call to the NW Examiner.

"I probably shouldn't be saying all this, but she played us all like a fiddle," Reynolds added, "including the community."

Sen. Drazan had a very different take on what happened.

She scoffed at the idea that Reynolds was upholding legislative protocol forbidding lawmakers from "going behind the back" of a bill's sponsors to hear what their own constituents want.

"I'm not aware of any such tradition," Drazan said. "But let's parse this out: Why would her constituents reach out to anyone if she was talking to them? The thing that's outside the norm is their feeling that they had no option."

It was the third straight year Drazan had sponsored a bill regulating syringe distribution on behalf of

Stadiumhood Neighbors. She also had a Democratic co-sponsor, though every Democrat voted against an effort to override Reynolds' refusal to bring the bill to a floor vote in February.

Was it an extraordinary overreach into a local issue beyond her senate district? Drazan sees it as an extraordinary lapse by Democrats who should have been paying attention to their own backyards.

"There's no universe where I should have been the chief sponsor for her constituents," said the senator from Canby.

As for the claim that neighbors insisted that no amendments be considered, Drazan said she has text messages proving the opposite.

"The only interest they had was seeing that the bill not die," she said.

Michelle Milla, chair of Stadiumhood Neighbors, said her group sought help from city, county and state officials in response to weekly needle and pipe distributions by an anarchist group known as Portland People's Outreach Project. Neighbors invited public officials to tour the district and see spillover problems in surrounding blocks.

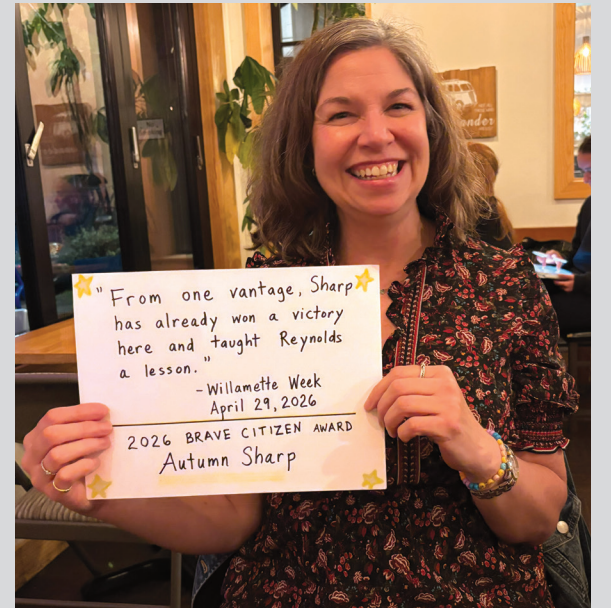
The only state legislator who would take the tour or take up the cause was Drazan, while Reynolds showed no interest, Milla said.

The issue touched a higher priority for Reynolds: preserving the "harm reduction" approach to drug addiction. She claimed earlier versions of the legislation banning mobile needle handouts within 2,000 feet of schools and giving citizens a private right to sue violators "would have done away with harm reduction," which she considers a medically proven and useful practice.

Reynolds now supports a county-run registration system for harm reduction supplies. She calls PPOP a "bad actor" that she hopes would be restrained by such regulation. She also vows to introduce a new bill in the 2027 legislative session.

Brave citizen loses race, wins hearts of her neighbors

Autumn Sharp challenged state Sen. Lisa Reynolds "for lying" and made a point



Autumn Sharp accepts the runner-up prize.

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Northwest District resident Autumn Sharp failed to unseat District 17 state Sen. Lisa Reynolds in the May 19 primaries, receiving 13% of the vote. Sharp also failed to win an endorsement from Willamette Week.

But she was all smiles at her election night "victory party" at the Northwest Hostel Cafe. She proudly held up a DIY "brave citizen award" citing the honorable mention she received from Willamette Week.

"From one vantage, Sharp has already won a victory here and taught Reynolds a lesson," it read, quoting the newspaper.

The lesson had to do with Reynolds blaming neighborhood activists for refusing to compromise on a bill they supported to regulate pop-up needle and drug paraphernalia handouts plaguing the Northwest 19th and Burnside area for years. Reynolds killed the bill in her committee, blaming supporters for refusing to compromise on its terms.

Sharp and others in Friends of Couch Park and Stadiumhood neighbors called that a lie: They were never given the opportunity to compromise on the terms, which they would have been willing to do had they been asked.

Hours after accepting the challenge to oppose Reynolds at a Friends of Couch Park meeting in March, Sharp told the NW Examiner, "I know I won't win, but lying makes me really mad, and if I lied to the public and then hid in my office, I'd get fired. I want to at least make her cake walk a little less cakey this spring."

After offering several rationalizations for killing the bill, Reynolds shared something approaching an apology with the Examiner after the election.

"I will acknowledge that I wasn't as responsive to the community as I probably could have or should have been," she said.

She also pledged to work for a new version of the bill for the 2027 legislative session.

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"Summer Events" cont'd from page 1

Dorian Barnhart, a Pearl resident for 20 years, said it was good medicine for the district's maladies.

"Right venue. Right message. Received well," Barnhart said.

Yoga in the Pearl will continue on the last Saturday of every month through Sept. 26, 11 a.m.-noon.

"When the Town Hall drew nearly 600 of you to The Armory, you told us loud and clear that you wanted more reasons to gather, move, and connect as a community," Studer said. "This is us delivering. Free, outdoors, open to every experience level, and led by your own Pearl instructors."

Culinary Farmers Market

The signature event of the Pearl's revival summer promises to be the Culinary Farmer's Market, scheduled every Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Northwest 13th Avenue between Everett and Glisan streets. Organized by Kimiko Matsuda, a fashion, food and culture promoter, and Peter Platt, founder and owner of Andina Restaurant, the market has high ambitions.

What sets this market apart?

"It's more of a culinary and lifestyle market," said Kimiko Matsuda.

A mobile stage with full audio and visual features will be the centerpiece. Pro tips from local chefs will be shared from the stage, and kitchen demos can be viewed from an overhead camera.

Sisters Coffee will brew coffee and sell fresh pastries.



Komiko Matsuda, Bruce Studer and Jenae Kaldunski

A special license allows samples of beer, cider and wine as well as bottle purchases to go. The Pearl District's new Spin the Bottle vinyl and wine shop will play a part, as well as the Willamette Valley Wine Association.

Because Sundays are typically a day of rest for farmers and service industry workers, asking them to add a day took powers of persuasion.

Sisters manager Jenae Kaldunski said being a part of city life and the Pearl's rebound is key. When asked to be involved, she said, "Absolutely. Let's go."

The Re-Ignite the Pearl Town Hall at the Armory in April lit a fire.

"If there's any way we can be a part of the community and come together over hospitality and help chefs and restaurants at the same time—yes," Kaldunski said.



Peter Platt and Komiko Matsuda shared their vision for a Pearl farmers market.

Pearl District

June 7: Culinary Farmer's Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 13th Avenue, Everett-Glisan streets, Sundays through September.

June 27: Yoga in the Park, 11 a.m.-noon, Fields Park

July 9-12: Art & Sports in the Pearl, Various locations

July 17: Concert at Jamison Square, BridgeCity Soul, 6:30 p.m., Jamison Square

July 25: Yoga in the Park, 11 a.m.-noon, Fields Park

Aug 15-16: Bike Race

Aug. 29: Yoga in the Park, 11 a.m.-noon, Fields Park

Sept. 5-7: Art in the Pearl, North Park Blocks, between Burnside and Flanders streets.

Sept. 19: Pearl Picnic, Street party/fundraiser for Pearl District Neighborhood Association, NW 13th Avenue.

Sept. 26: Yoga in the Park, 11 a.m.-noon, Fields Park

Goose Hollow

July 26: History Talk/Film, 10 a.m., Providence Park, Gate A

Aug. 3: Goose Hollow Neighborhood Picnic, Providence Park, 1844 SW Morrison St.

Aug 30: Vista Bridge Centennial Street Festival, Vista Bridge, SW Jefferson St.

Sept. 4: Heritage Tree Tour, 5:30 p.m., Goose Hollow Inn

Oct 3: History Walking Tour, 10 a.m., Providence Park Gate B

Northwest District concerts

June 16: Carolyn Joyce and Friends, 6-8 p.m., Slabtown Square, NW 21st and Pettygrove

July 14: Baka Marimba, 6-8 p.m., Couch Park, NW 19th and Glisan

July 21: Oregon Symphony, 6-8 p.m. Slabtown Square, NW 21st and Pettygrove

July 28: Mr. Ben / Ross Island Ramblers, 6-8 p.m. Couch Park

Aug. 11: Orofino / A Whimsical NW Duo, 6-8 p.m., Couch Park

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Ecu owner LeAnn Dolan knows something about the hardships of running a small business in Portland.

Ecu cards and papers closes Pearl District store, pushes on in South Waterfront

BY MICHAELA LOWTHIAN

In mid-May, LeAnn Dolan closed her Pearl District business, Ecu Modern Stationer, after 20 years on Northwest 11th Avenue. She taped a handwritten note of thanks in the window. For this small-business person, it was a painful ending in more ways than one.

While moving fixtures from the store, the cash-wrap station fell on her. She dislocated her shoulder and had surgery. But she's already back at her remaining store in the South Waterfront and working there five days a week.

Ecu sells locally made small press cards, calendars and wrapping paper, knitting together themes of travel, friendship and community.

The decision to close the Pearl shop was multilayered, she said. Her lease was due, and the COVID hangover sapping Portland's retail energy just wasn't improving.

In 2024, she closed her downtown shop, which in its 10 years had always been busier than the Pearl store. Dolan thinks it could have survived if city workers

had gone back to work when the mask mandate ended.

"You feel the city doesn't really appreciate how small businesses are the gas that keeps the city running," she said.

"The Pearl location was never a heavy retail area," she said, "but we had that corner Starbucks and a dress shop. Then REI left and Basics market left, so there was no retail close to me. Foot traffic was lower and costs were rising."

She doesn't know how long her South Waterfront store can fight off similar forces. Dolan notes that shopping culture has changed so much, as many prefer to do everything online. "I watch Uber food deliveries all day."

But there's foot traffic from Oregon Health Sciences University customers, and people she met over the years at the Pearl shop are riding the streetcar down to support her.

"I'm really embracing local artists and people are loving it," she said.

NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 32, No. 5 "News You Can't Always Believe" June 2026

Are you ready for the World Cup?

The Nob Hill Bar & Grill is the place to watch World Cup soccer games, which begin this month.

Eager fans couldn't wait, as the line went down the block and around the corner last month. No harm was done, and many occupied themselves by picking up supplies at Baggu, the handbag shop that opened recently on Northwest Kearney Street.

Good soccer fans come prepared, since there is no way of telling how things will go. The first game is Mexico versus South Africa on Thursday, June 11, at noon.

We ask all fans to keep the line orderly and not obstruct passersby. Sleeping on the sidewalk is, of course, forbidden in the city

of Portland, so remain responsive, if not alert, at all times. You might pass the time by comparing handbags.

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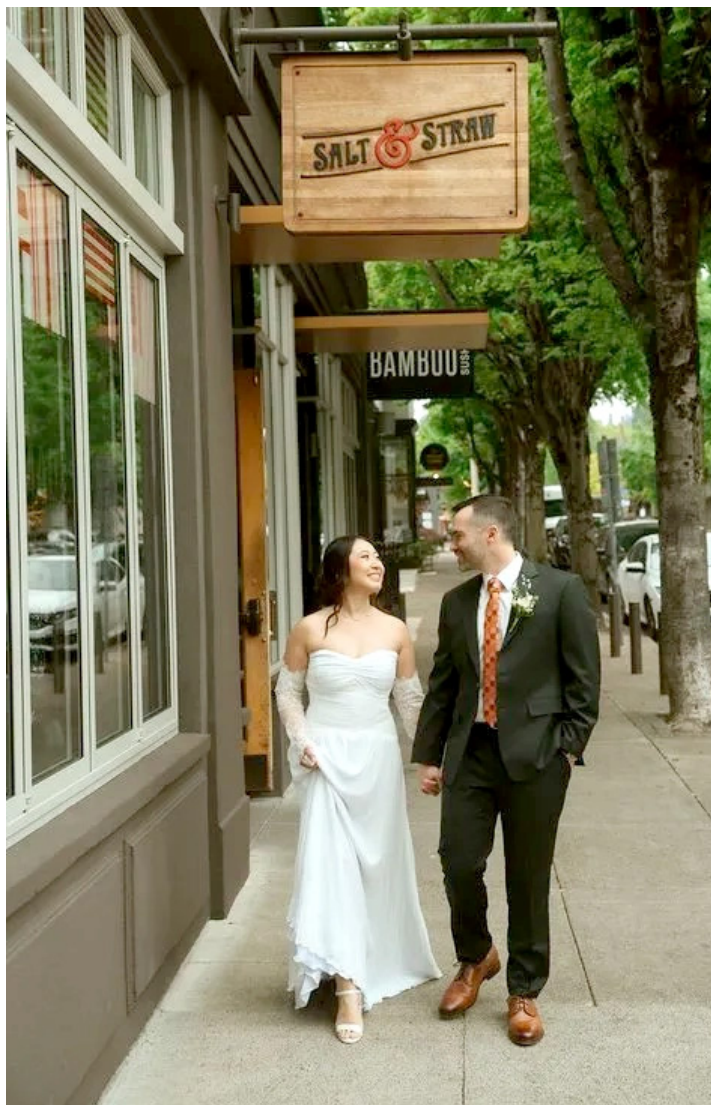
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Private protection
A million-dollar plan to preserve the Pearl

Are four-way answer?

Salt & Straw wedding

Portland couple fulfills 'wildest dream'



Alex and Michelle found love and ice cream in the same place.

Salt & Straw may not offer 31 flavors, but what other ice cream brand hosts weddings officiated by the company's co-founder? On May 2, Tyler Malek officiated the marriage of loyal customers Alex and Michelle.

The Northwest 23rd and Kearney shop had been a favorite place in Michelle's childhood. When she returned to Portland and found a home a few blocks away, she also connected with Alex. Their courtship rituals included monthly flavor releases, celebratory scoops and even their dog Nolan's favorite pup cups. When Alex proposed, he made sure the evening ended the same way many of their milestones had—with ice cream.

"It would be the wildest dream to be able to get married here," they said.

Malek, who is also the company's head ice cream maker, met with Alex and Michelle ahead of the big day to learn their story and help craft their celebration.

"From the very beginning, Salt & Straw has been about creating moments of connection and joy," said Malek, who called the wedding "incredibly special for our entire team."

Briefly . . .



BAGGU fans (above) stormed opening day of the bag company's first Portland shop, 2305 NW 23rd Ave.

PLAYDATEPDX closed its indoor gym on May 31, after 15 years at 1434 NW 17th Ave. Company co-owner Bob Birkham said he was unable to reach an accord on increased rent with building owner Shaowen Yu.

FELI, a restaurant featuring the cuisine of southern Spain and Andalusia, will open at 2970 NW Quimby St. Owner-chef Javier Canteras, who named the restaurant for his grandmother, hopes to open by late summer. His wife, Jael, will run the front end of the house.

They are importing a Jospier oven from Barcelona, which will allow the team to smoke, grill, and bake using traditional Spanish techniques. The couple also operates Urdanetta on Northeast Alberta Street, which focuses on Basque and northern Spain cuisine.

A chicken pick-up window and Portland-themed mural are nearly complete at **DAVE'S HOT CHICKEN** which is taking over the Santa Fe Taqueria space, 839 NW 23rd Ave.

RIVERMARK CREDIT UNION will close its downtown branch, 120 SW Taylor St., on June 30.

REPUBLICA restaurant has reopened at 100 NW 10th Ave.

AZUL KITCHEN AND BAR, 115 NW First Ave., will open this summer.

BAR NOTO, inside Studio Noto, has applied for a limited onsite liquor license, 1932 NW Lovejoy St.

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21 Slabtown Square
Oregon Symphony
6pm-8pm

28 Couch Park
Mr. Ben - Ross Island Ramblers
5pm-7pm

AUGUST 11 Couch Park
Orofino & A Whimsical NW Duo
6pm-8pm

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GREATER NORTHWEST PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT MAP

2640 NW ALEXANDRA AVE.

Portland Japanese Garden Holdings LLC has a new idea for the former White Shield Center it purchased from the Salvation Army in 2022. Instead of a Japanese Institute for visiting scholars, PJG Holdings is contemplating a residential treatment facility “to provide withdrawal management and residential services for people recovering from substance use disorder” in compliance with House Bill 2005.



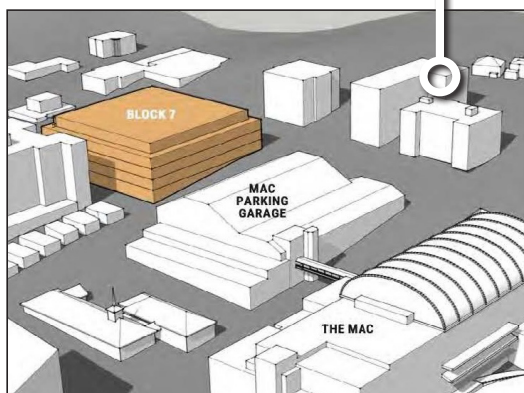
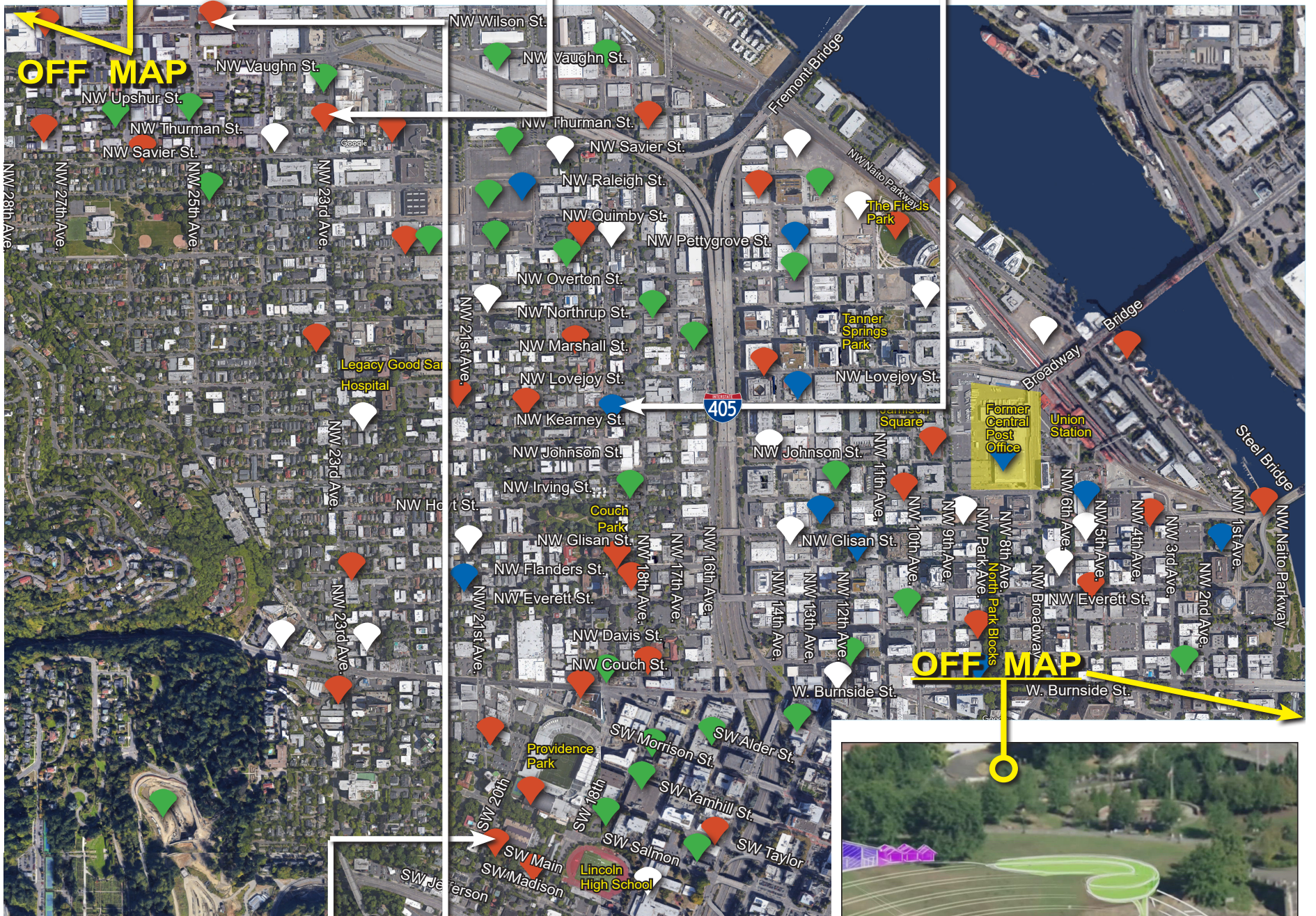
STREETCAR EXTENSION

Last month, the city of Portland contracted with HDR, a global consulting and construction firm, to proceed with design and engineering work to extend Portland Streetcar tracks to Montgomery Park. The contract involves a public engagement process, which Northwest District Association representatives deem a useless exercise unlikely to alter assumptions made before major redevelopment plans for the Montgomery Park complex collapsed.



1963 NW KEARNEY ST.

Carbon Group has revised its plans for the parking lot at Northwest 20th and Kearney streets next to Cafe Nell, which the restaurant has operated in a temporary structure since 2020. Instead of one 13-story apartment building, the latest plan is for two buildings of six and seven levels—one facing 20th and the other fronting on Kearney—with a total of 95 units.



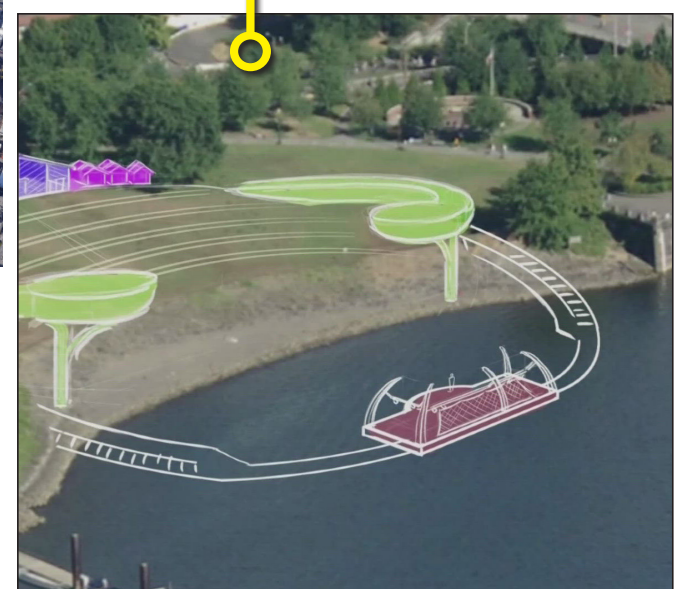
BLOCK 7

The Multnomah Athletic Club is seeking neighborhood support to rezone the block it owns between Southwest Main, Madison 19th and 20 streets to allow nonresidential development. The club envisions a four-to-six level building for MAC programs and offices, but has no interest in repeating its failed 10-year pursuit of a residential high-rise on the block.



2480 NW WILSON ST.

Mercy Housing NW plans to build a two-phase, affordable apartment project at 2480 NW Wilson St. on the former ESCO property. The first phase is a four-story building with 47 parking spaces. Phase II will have 68 units on seven floors. Both structures will include one-, two- and three-bedroom units. The agency has sought early assistance from the Bureau of Development Services.

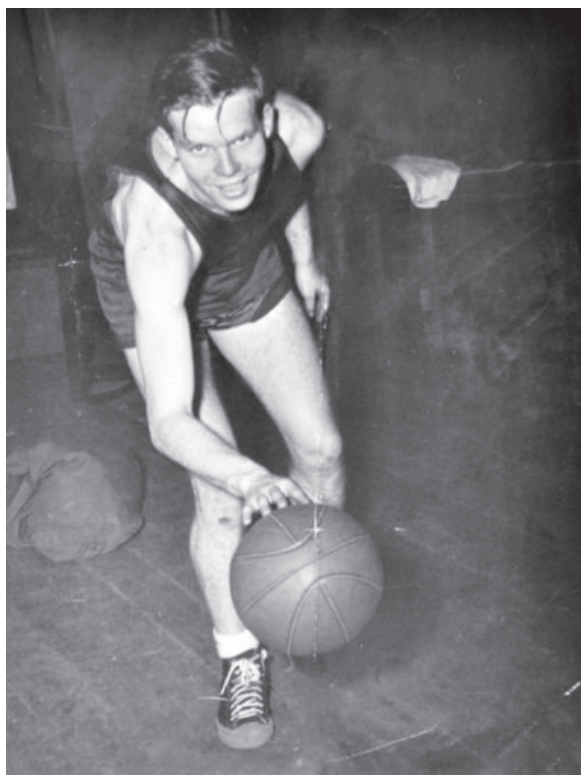


WATERFRONT PARK

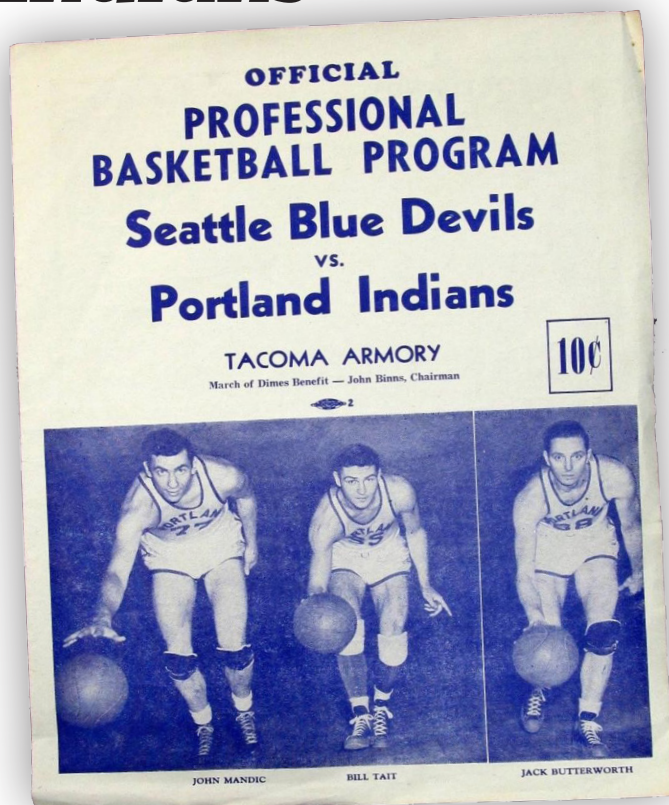
Portland Parks & Recreation has launched an international design competition to improve access to the Willamette River, create flexible public spaces and restore the riverfront ecology along Waterfront Park. The project is funded by a \$750,000 grant from Metro.



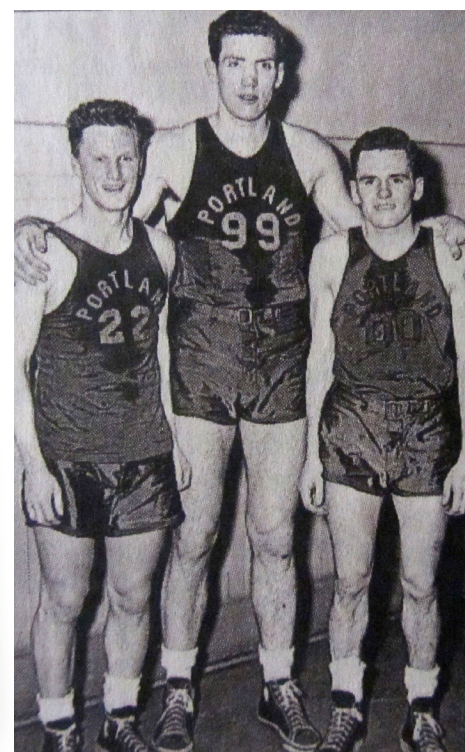
Long before the Trail Blazers, pro basketball belonged to the Indians



19-year-old Ty Lovelace



Portland mainstays John Mandic, Bill Tait and Jack Butterworth made the cover.



Frank Mandic, at 6 feet-4 inches, towered over his teammates.

BY WENDELL MAXEY JR.

Long before the Trail Blazers came to town in 1970, pro basketball thrived in Portland.

The Portland Indians of the Pacific Coast Professional Basketball League were formed in 1946, and they played their home games in the Portland Armory, now the Gerding Theatre in the Pearl District.

"We had a hell of a good ball club. We were real popular," remembered 86-year-old Dave Teyema, an Indian alum who now lives in Gresham. "We used to be known around Portland anywhere we went. Everyone knew about us because we played pro ball. It was a good feeling. I loved it."

Back then, Teyema—a quick 6-foot guard who was a four-sport athlete at Roosevelt High School—was in his mid-20s and full of hope on the hardwood. He'd just returned from four years with the Marines in World War II, where he helped occupy Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Signed to play major league baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1941, Teyema decided instead to play one year of professional football with the Chicago Bears before returning to Portland, where Ray Clark, a Portland hotel mogul, was busily constructing a seven-team professional basketball league.

While professional basketball had been played since the 1930s in the East and Midwest, the PCPBL was the first pro league on the West Coast. The Indians competed against the Bellingham Firecrests, the Vancouver, B.C., Hornets, the Seattle Blue Devils, the Salem Trailblazers, the Yakima Ramblers and the Spokane Orphans.

The rosters were comprised primarily of former collegiate stars from Oregon, Oregon State, Washington and Washington State, a few high-school standouts and a couple of players with semi-professional experience. If the talent was impressive, playing conditions were subpar.

The Armory, a castle-like structure built in 1891, was far from an ideal sporting venue.

"They put a wood floor over a cement floor, and it didn't seat very many," said Teyema, who also played with the Salem Trailblazers and the Vancouver, B.C., Hornets.

"They only charged 25 cents to see us. I got paid \$350 [a month]. There was no money in those days. That was big money—better than taking a lunch bucket to work."

The Portland Indians—who were co-owned by league President Ray Clark and Otis Anderson, a Portland car dealership owner—were one of the better teams in the league during the inaugural 1946-47 season. It was said that Clark spent freely to put a successful team on the court.

And the money paid off. The Indians posted the best overall record in the PCPBL, going 33-10 and winning the regular-season championship, thanks to an intimidating frontcourt of John Mandic and Urgel "Slim" Wintermute. A 6-foot-8 center, Wintermute led the University of Oregon Tall Firs to the 1939 NCAA men's basketball championship before becoming a player-coach for the Indians, while Mandic—a 6-foot-4 forward and All-American from Oregon State in 1942—was the Indians' go-to scorer.

"Oh God, John [Mandic] was the best I ever saw. He had kind of a hook layup you couldn't check," Teyema said.

Portland finished second to Bellingham in a round-robin playoff. After the Fircrests declined an invitation to the World Professional Basketball Tournament in Chicago, however, the Indians went instead and squared off against the Sheboygan Redskins in the first round on April 6, 1947. Portland led after three quarters, 43-35 before falling 62-48 to the Redskins.

Unfortunately, Portland's second season in the PCPBL didn't go as smoothly as their first.

During the 1947-48 season, the Indians added Noble "Jorgy" Jorgensen to their roster. A 6-foot-9 center from the University of Iowa, Jorgensen had previously starred with the Pittsburgh Ironmen of the Basketball Association of America, a forerunner to the NBA that boasted teams like the Boston Celtics and New York Knickerbockers. The addition of Jorgensen, however, wasn't enough. Portland went 12-37 on the year, finished at the bottom of the league and entered the round-robin playoffs as a wildcard team.

But the Indians saved their best for last. Portland matched up against their rivals, the Seattle Athletics (who had changed their name from the Blue Devils), in a five-game series with the

Indians, winning the first two games in Seattle. Once the series switched to the Portland Armory for the third game, drama ensued.

"Hoop Windup Is Confusin'; Not Amusin'," read The Oregonian's headline on April 10, 1948. The night before, 1,500 fans filled the Armory to witness "the most violent exhibition of court mayhem yet seen in a circuit that seems to dote on rough business."

With 20 seconds remaining in the game and Portland leading 81-80, the timekeeper "accidentally" sounded the final buzzer just as Seattle collected a rebound and made an open layup. The head referee was Frank Mandic, the brother of Portland's star and a member of the Indians the year before. Mandic blew his whistle, disallowed the bucket and gave Portland the victory.

Coaches, players and fans were all dumbfounded. Discussions grew into arguments and owner Ray Clark eventually called the game a no-contest and "ordered the whole thing played over" two days later at the Armory.

In the rematch, Portland settled the matter by beating Seattle 76-74.

"It's All Over, It's Official; Indians Win Hoop Title," declared The Oregonian's headline.

Oregonian sportswriter Bill Hulan wrote: "The Indians terminated the campaign with their conquest, but right down to the final gun the issue was in doubt and the possibility always existed that Seattle could grab it from the flames and send the play-off into still another game. ... It was in this [game] that subsequent victory was born."

No one knew it at the time, but it was the last game ever played in the Pacific Coast Professional Basketball League.

After just two seasons, the league and the Portland Indians folded. Despite plans to add a southern division consisting of five teams from California, Clark's vision evaporated. A combination of over-expansion, inadequate playing facilities and poor attendance contributed to the league's demise.

Franchises flopped. Seattle flopped, as did Tacoma, which joined the league in its second season. Reckless spending contributed to the financial doom. One mediocre Tacoma Mountaineers player was paid \$1,150 a month and also received travel expense money from an ownership group of Eddie Mays

and Milton Bay, two Portland-area businessmen.

Franchises in Salem, Yakima and Spokane all folded after one season. A team in Astoria was added during the second season but also faltered.

Attendance was passable at some cities. A good night at the turnstiles for the stronger franchises was about 1,000-1,500, while lesser teams in the league sometimes played before 100 fans. The Indians—who in the words of Teyema were "real popular"—drew as many as 2,000 to the old Armory.

While the days of the Portland Indians were short-lived, some of its players went on to better things. John Mandic was drafted by the Washington Capitals of the Basketball Association of America in 1946, where he was coached by the late legendary Boston Celtics coach "Red" Auerbach the following year. Mandic then played in the NBA from 1948 to 1950 with the Indianapolis Jets and Baltimore Bullets.

Noble Jorgensen lasted four seasons in the NBA, from 1949 to 1953 with the Sheboygan Redskins, Tri-Cities Blackhawks and the Syracuse Nationals.

As for Dave Teyema, he remained an athlete and hometown hero in Portland for several years. After his pro basketball days were cut short by a separated shoulder, he played baseball in the Texas Lleague and graduated from Portland State in 1957.

"I was always in great shape. That's what I did. I was always an athlete. I never worked until I graduated," Teyema laughed.

Inducted into the Portland Interscholastic League Hall of Fame in 2007, Teyema taught and coached for 27 years for the David Douglas School District and currently lives in Gresham with his son Troy and daughter-in-law Barbara. An avid sports fan, Teyema cherishes his days of professional basketball in Northwest Portland.

"Even to this day, I'll be talking to somebody and they'll say, 'I remember watching you play ball at the Armory.'"

"That was a great life."

Originally printed in the January 2009 NW Examiner. Wendell Maxey Jr. recently released "Called For Traveling: 20 Years of Sports Writing from the NBA, to Europe, and Back Again."

Couch Park provided final refuge to historic house



Getting the Capt. Brown House to Couch Park was a tight fit. Photo Norm Gholston collection



Metropolitan Learning Center students turned the landmark on blocks into a clubhouse. Tanya March collection

The Capt. John Brown House was considered one of the finest remaining examples of Victorian home design in the city in 1968. It was on the National Register of Historic Places. Yet within five years, it was gone, though it didn't go down without a fight.

Local historian Tanya Lyn March will tell the story of ill-fated efforts to save some of the city's historic treasures in a lecture at the Architectural Heritage Center, 701 SE Grand Ave., June 13 at 10 a.m. Notable exceptions to the list of lost causes include the Kamm House in Goose Hollow and Ladd Carriage House in downtown.

But the challenge of saving, moving and restoring a 19th century house can be seen through the John Brown House saga.

It was built in 1898 on Northwest

Everett Street.

March notes:

- It was designed by architect Thomas J. Jones (1853-1921), who was born in Wales and arrived in Portland in 1887. He served on the City Council (c1895) and designed the old Washington High School and Portland High School as the school district's supervising architect in the early 1900s.

- In the 1968 edition of his book, "Nineteenth Street," Richard Marlitt wrote: "Here is one of the few good examples of a Victorian house that is left in the city. ... The heavy dormers, the tower shooting out of the circular porch, the disdain for proportions, are all architectural earmarks of the [1880s]. There is a playfulness and daring in the design of this house like this for it rather typifies the brash ways of showing success at that time."

"The community rallied with the dream of saving the Captain John Brown House," March wrote. "The home was moved to land owned by Portland Public Schools.

"The initial goal, following a successful private fundraising effort and a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, was to fully restore the building as a senior and medical center.

"However, the funding was not sufficient. After the home was moved in 1970 to the northeast corner of Couch Park to save it from demolition, fundraising efforts stalled. William Hawkins and his team drafted a forward-thinking adaptive reuse project, but their architectural plans gathered dust.

"After the move, the structure rapidly deteriorated. 'While in limbo,

[the house] was generally ignored,' Marlitt wrote.

"Within two years of the move, vandals had 'wreaked such havoc on it that the structure was deemed fit for little else but demolition.' It was demolished in 1973."

March will also explore the mid-move calamity of the Ahavath Achim Synagogue.

March holds a Ph.D. in urban studies from Portland State University and a master's in historic preservation from Columbia University. As the founder of Slabtown Tours, she specializes in uncovering Portland's hidden histories.

Tickets to the lecture are \$20 for AHC members and \$30 for the nonmembers. For information, write to info@visitahc.org.

Public employee unions dominate budget session

COMMENTARY
BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The proposed city budget goes through final tweaking this month after months of presentations, hearings and deliberation at City Council.

A May 5 "listening session" at Chapman Elementary School suggests community engagement can devolve into special interest lobbying.

About 50 people attended the meeting, but I didn't recognize any of them, other than city employees and our three District 4 councilors, all of whom shared their surprise at the poor turnout.

The crowd was dominated by city employees speaking in defense of their jobs and the programs they work for. Many wore union t-shirts. Almost every speaker criticized proposed spending cuts.

Many defended the Portland Fire &

Rescue Community Health Assess and Treat (CHAT) program. On the other hand, cutting homeless camp sweeps was highly popular, drawing robust applause every time. The audience may have shown even more antipathy for remodeling the Moda Center, an estimated \$400 million tab considered pivotal to keep the Trail Blazers in town.

After the abbreviated meeting, I talked to neighbors outside the building who said they would have attended had they known about it ahead of time.

NW Examiner subscriber Cormac Burke reacted to a May 6 Substack post.

"I can't help but wonder if the sparse attendance wasn't a reflection of the fact that many random citizens may simply feel like their voices aren't heard by some of the council members whose minds are already made up.

"Mayor Keith Wilson's recent letter to constituents calls out how so



Attendance was sparse at the budget session, but those who spoke had a singular message.

many council discussions are being dominated by well organized and vocal groups who are making it challenging if not impossible for some to get their points across.

Wilson's letter contended, "Here's the problem. The "pros" have gotten very good at gaming the public

testimony system. They know just when to sign up to testify, take up as many slots as they can, push rigged constituent surveys, and coordinate on messaging. It's not very democratic to drown out, shout down, or intimidate everyday Portlanders who are just there to get local government to listen."



Snapshots



The Portland Loo at Northwest Fifth and Glisan streets was hauled away and won't be replaced. Installed in 2008, it was the oldest Loo in the city and beyond repair. TriMet recently purchased the former Greyhound terminal on that block and found the structure a barrier to access of the site. Portland Solutions approved of the removal.



The Old Barn Preservation Society will be one of a dozen bands playing at the Northwest Portland Hostel June 6-7, noon-9 p.m., for a weekend celebrating the hostel's 28 years. Admission is free, but a hat will be passed every hour. A "pay to play" open mic fundraiser will also support future events at the hostel, which has been heavily impacted by declining travel to the United States.



Rutted Northwest 23rd Avenue was recoated last month, a temporary fix expected to last no more than seven years. Permanent rebuilding is tied to a federal grant application to install streetcar tracks on both lanes of the street.



The Portland Office of Arts and Culture plans to reinstall a statue of Abraham Lincoln in the South Park Blocks but not upon the plinth where it stood for more than 100 years. Darion Jones, assistant director of the Portland Office of Arts and Culture, said the 10-foot statue will be mounted beside the plinth and a plaque "to reflect a fuller version of history" and may note his failure to spare 38 Dakota Indians from execution



Portland Parks & Recreation has received a Oregon Department of Transportation grant for a pilot project bringing residents from North and East Portland to Forest Park and Washington Park via shuttle buses.



Miguel Oliva was honored as the Lincoln High School student for May. Oliva played French horn in a school band that competed for the state championship. He was also a varsity swimmer for four years and a member of the cross country and track teams.



The annual Sauvie Island Volunteer Fire Department pancake breakfast filled the station with islanders of all ages May 16. Younger residents were treated with custom animal-shaped pancakes and fire truck rides.

The Daily NW Examiner

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I have never received a more pleasing letter to the editor than the one below from longtime neighbor and reader Tad Savinar. If my May editorial was indeed the most important assessment of the Portland neighborhood association system, that is in part because I have more experience on this subject than anyone, having covered the system for 45 years.

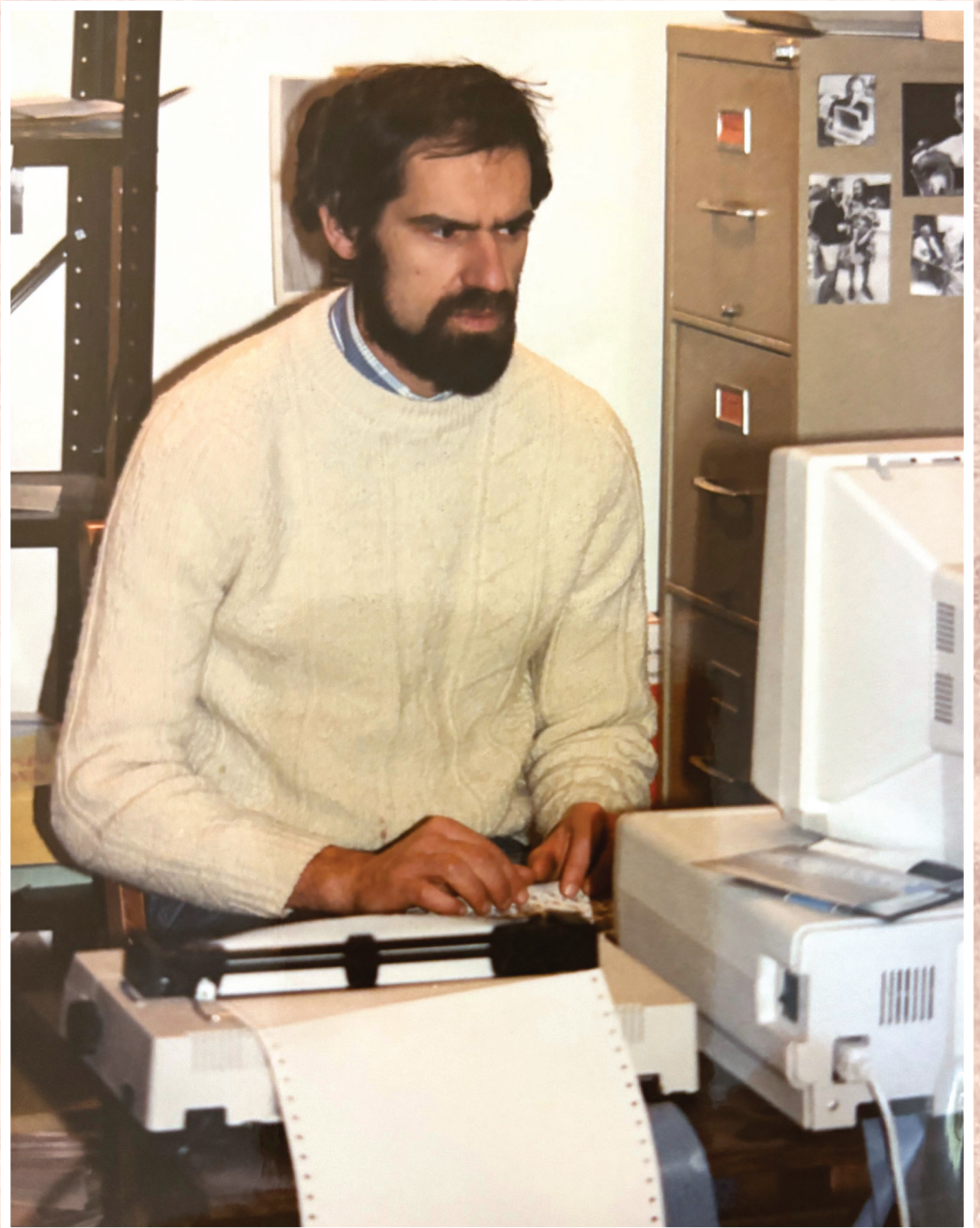
I may not have always known what was happening in City Hall in regard to neighborhood-based activism, but I believe I have attended more Portland neighborhood meetings than anyone ever has. I have also taken notes and tried to make sense of what was going on. And by writing literally thousands of stories, each distributed to a circulation of tens of thousands of readers, I have received feedback from many who saw things differently. All of this has been fostered a deeper understanding of communities, citizens and local governance.

I hope you as readers have gained as much as I have from the journey. You are the reason for it all.

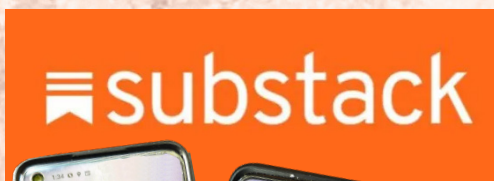
“ Your editorial is the most important thing ever written about the value of citizen stewardship for our neighborhoods and our city in which we live since the creation of the Office of Neighborhood Association in 1974. If it was me, I would have made the May issue a single page with your editorial the only content on one side, with the backside of that page to be completely black.

This continued top-down approach to neighborhood issues is a disservice to all citizens.

Tad Savinar ”



The NW Examiner began in our bedroom with a dot-matrix printer and Tandy 1000 computer



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