

HEY NEIGHBOR! This newspaper is a free publication brought to you by the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN)

MISSION STATEMENT:

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) increases neighborhood livability through highly inclusive civic engagement and grassroots community building. NECN believes in creating healthy neighborhoods by engaging people to become directly involved in determining how their neighborhood evolves.

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25 Years of Good in the Hood

In it's 25th year, Good in the Hood (GITH) parade and weekend celebration will be held Friday through Sunday, June 23-25, 2017. This event brings together all elements of North and Northeast Portland.

This year GITH features DJ Price and Sam Thompson of the TOWN, as hosts. Friday evening will include a live performance by the Andy Stokes band.

Good in the Hood is the creative medium by which Portland residents, businesses and organizations can engage in music, food and resources while connect-



“Our 25th annual will be the biggest community music festival in the Pacific Northwest”

ing people with experiences that strengthen unity in the community.

A Rose Festival sanctioned event held annually the last weekend

in June, GITH attracts more than 30,000 people most from N/NE neighborhoods.

“This is the festival weekend you do not want to miss. Our 25th annual will be the biggest community music festival in the Pacific Northwest,” GITH president, Shawn Penney said.

The highlight of this family friendly event is a community parade that will take place on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 11:00 a.m., beginning at King Park (NE 7th and Going) and ending at Lillis

Albina City Park (N. Flint St. and Russell St.)

If you're a drill team, marching band or a community group and would like to participate in the 2017 Good in the Hood parade, email parade@goodinthehood.org.

The finest bands from the Pacific Northwest will perform in the Legacy Health Pavillion. Free health screens for the community will also be offered at the pavilion, plus free bike helmets.

Come sample the finest food our
See GITH pg 5

GOT WASTE? Spring Clean Ups Are Here



Photos from past neighborhood cleanups

Community Collection Events (formerly Neighborhood Cleanups) are a partnership between Neighborhood Coalitions, the City of Portland, and Metro in order to build capacity and invest in community, and advance equity, waste reduction and reuse.

They are organized to offer a wide range of Portland residents, including seniors and people with disabilities, with proper disposal of household bulky waste that often accumulates in the home and may otherwise be disposed inappropriately. The events prioritize recycling

and reuse over disposal.

Prohibited Items:

- hazardous waste
- construction, demolition and remodeling debris*
- kitchen garbage
- residential yard debris and trimmings
- waste and recyclables collected curbside
- commercial landscaping
- roofing
- waste not allowed at a regional transfer station

*construction, demolition and remodeling debris covers asbestos-containing materials www.oregon-metro.gov/asbestosrules

See Clean Ups pg 8

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N/NE MAP

Vernon Neighborhood Association

Meetings: 3rd Wednesdays,
7-9 pm, 5431 NE 20th Ave.
vernon@necoalition.org

Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, 7-9 pm,
817 NE Madrona St.
woodlawn@necoalition.org

Concordia Neighborhood Association

Meetings: 2nd Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm,
5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.
Kennedy School Community Room,
chair@concordiapdx.org

Alameda Neighborhood Association

Meetings:
4th Mondays, 7-8:30 pm,
2620 NE Fremont St.
alamedapdx@gmail.com

King Neighborhood Association

Meetings: 2nd Wednesdays,
6:30-8:30 pm, 4815 NE 7th Ave.
alan.silver@kingneighborhood.org

Humboldt Neighborhood Association

Meetings: 2nd Tuesdays, 7-8 pm,
804 N Alberta
humboldt@necoalition.org

Sabin Community Association

Meetings: 2nd Mondays, 7-9 pm,
4013 NE 18th Ave.
sabin@necoalition.org

Boise Neighborhood Association

Meetings: 2nd Mondays, 7-9 pm,
4115 N Mississippi Ave.
boisena@gmail.com

Eliot Neighborhood Association

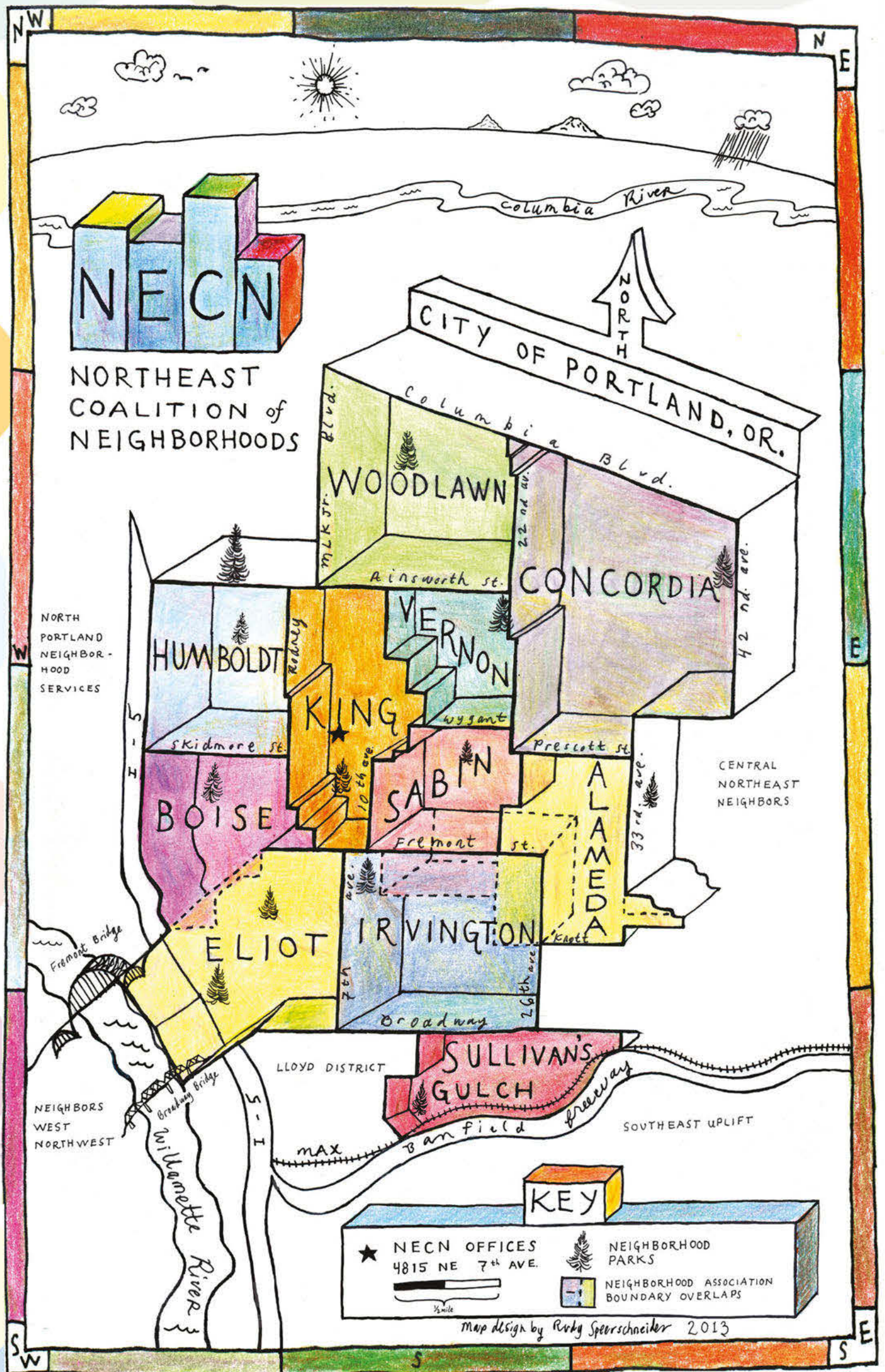
Meetings: 3rd Mondays,
6:30-8 pm,
120 NE Knott St.
info@eliotneighborhood.org

Irvington Community Association

Meetings: 2nd Thursdays,
7-9 pm,
1320 NE Brazee St.
president@irvingtonpdx.com

Sullivan's Gulch Neighborhood Association

Meetings: 2nd Tuesdays, 7-9 pm,
1300 NE 16th Ave.
sullivansgulch@necoalition.org





Welcome

to our second edition of *Hey Neighbor!* This publication is free and distributed quarterly to you by Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN).



Who are we?

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN), founded in 1975, is an independent non-profit organization. NECN is one of seven neighborhood coalitions in Portland, which are primarily funded by the City's Office of Neighborhood Involvement. NECN identifies and takes on hyper-local issues to increase neighborhood livability and civic

engagement. NECN's service area includes 11 neighborhoods in inner North/Northeast Portland: Alameda, Boise, Concordia, Eliot, Humboldt, Irvington, King, Sabin, Sullivan's Gulch, Vernon, and Woodlawn. Any person that resides or works in North/Northeast Portland can get directly involved!

What do we do?

Policy Formation and Skill Building:

NECN convenes volunteers to take up issues and advocate, as well as build knowledge through trainings, events, and workshops.

Fiscal Sponsorship and Grant Assistance:

NECN provides assistance for projects through funding, sponsorship, and marketing. NECN

also awards grant monies to projects that improve the quality of life in North/Northeast Portland.

Information, Referral, Connections:

NECN serves as a connecting point for residents, community organizations, Neighborhood Associations, and government agencies, as well as a reference point for questions.

Multnomah County Drainage District: Protecting our Levees

The Multnomah County Drainage District, located between NE Columbia Blvd and Marine Drive, is a system of four districts charged with protecting lives and property from flooding.

MCDD operates and manages a storm water and flood management system throughout the 1,200 acres of land along the Columbia Slough from Portland Boulevard in the west, near Smith and Bybee Lake all the way to Sandy River. The system consists of 27 miles of levees, 13 pump stations and 45 miles of ditches, sloughs, streams,

Construction of the levees began in the 1930s after a period of significant flooding and in 1948 in the aftermath of the Vanport flood. Over time, land uses have changed but the desire to keep the area drained has stayed the same.

The MCDD maintained area also provides significant middle-income employment in the NECN district; many of which can be accessed with high school education.

What is also important to understand is that this system is required to meet federal standards in order for those who operate and

live in that area to receive program benefits.

The primary benefit for NECN residents and businesses is flood insurance protection, which is contingent

“FEMA requires that the levees be maintained to withstand the 1% annual chance of what is known as the 100-year flood”

and culverts.

The drainage district was created in 1917, to manage the 12,000 acre floodplain that makes up much of North and Northeast Portland. The original intention was to convert this land for farming and agriculture.

upon levees being federally accredited.

The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) requires that the levees be maintained to withstand the 1% annual chance of what is known as the 100-year

See LEVEES pg 5

Common Ground Wellness Cooperative

We are an urban community healing center dedicated to providing a relaxing and healing space for everyone.

Our bathhouse features a saltwater-chlorinated heated soaking pool with jets and a dry cedar sauna in an enclosed outdoor courtyard oasis. The spa area is all-gender and clothing-optional.

We host over 20 independent health and wellness practitioners offering Naturopathy, Massage, Acupuncture and More... sessions can be combined with a soak and sauna.

Appointments are recommended. Please call **503-238-1065** to set up your visit. Explore more at **cgwc.org**



common ground wellness co-operative

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RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Marcia Cole, Concordia neighborhood

Hey Neighbor: How long have you been in this neighborhood?

Marcia Cole: I was born in Portland, my mother was of Irish descent from Canada and we grew up in S.E in my early years. Being a hairstylist, one of my clients had gotten a good deal on this house and she was having trouble finding people who wanted to move in. I rented the house in May of '76 and I purchased it in December of '96.

During the '80s, none of my friends hung out here, they would either drop me off or pick me up. There weren't restaurants on Alberta like there are now. By the time crack cocaine infected the neighborhood, I had bullet holes in the back of my garage which I'm kind of proud of...we all lived through that, and we all tried to still be good neighbors.

What is sad about gentrification is many people who were displaced, were older than me, had owned their homes, stuck through all the horrible times and had to deal with the drive-bys. It is when taxes went up and they couldn't re-finance, I feel concerned that many were screwed out of their houses.

I remember in the 70-80s, that



Marcia Cole

there were many dilapidated warehouses here, plenty of bars yet they did not sell any hard liquor, there were just taverns.

The businesses I remember, was the Johnson family had a fish market and their daughter was the first Black Rose Festival princess. I actually sat on one of the soda fountain stool's at the old Rexall Drug store (currently home to Just Bob on Alberta) and spun around. It closed shortly after I moved in and was vacant for a long time.

HN: Do you remember when

there were other clubs in the neighborhood?

MC: My significant other was a founding member of a Biker club "Brothers Free". Their club was predominantly Black but they allowed White members too. One thing they did was host an annual Easter egg hunt at Alberta Park. I remember hearing all these men yelling at these kids: "over there, over there" as where to find the hidden prizes.

“During the '80s, none of my friends hung out here, they would either drop me off or pick me up”

It was a regular activity for years, the Easter egg hunt. During those times, there were many struggling low income families that appreciated the Easter egg hunt. These bikers would get these kids outside all day and every year. One can hear those big burly bikers on a megaphone as they fed the neigh-

borhood, they also held a toy donation run around Christmas.

It's interesting, how this area is now wealthier, but for years, when folks had less, there was a lot that was done under the radar, that nobody knew about.

HN: What else do you remember about the family make-up of the neighborhood?

MC: I do notice that there is a lot less children out, but we are living in the electronics age and maybe the youth are not getting outside, like we did, going to parks and playing b-ball.

I think back when I came into the neighborhood and there was nobody of my age bracket that was white, so I could tell it kind of might have been a big deal at the time.

I remember that there were many established households around here in '76. People were neighbourly but it was also like, mind your own business, and so that's how it's different now. People are more outgoing now, but when people ask me if I think it's better now, in some ways yes, but in some ways no.

Humboldt Neighborhood Association

The unique Humboldt neighborhood is rich with history and soul. Our residents are multicultural and number over 5,000.

Humboldt is the beating heart east of the city.

Humboldt is also identified as a neighborhood with some of the highest gentrification and displacement statistics. With the anticipated growth in population, development within



Humboldt is happening at an alarming rate! This issue is a primary concern & focus for involvement of neighbors & members of The Humboldt Neighborhood Association (HNA). We're always looking for enthusiastic and passionate residents

to join in preserving & building upon our history as we plan to improve the quality of our future neighborhood.



The Unity Circle street painting at N. Haight Ave. and N. Emerson St.

Did you know?

Humboldt is an educational hub! PCC Cascade Campus, Jefferson HS, The N. PDX branch of the library all on the same city blocks!

The Middle College partnership between Jefferson HS, PCC Cascade, and Self-Enhancement Inc. continues to bear fruit. Jefferson's graduation rate improved to 84 percent for the Class of 2016, placing it well ahead of the city-wide and statewide averages, and among the elite high schools in all of Oregon. Every JHS student graduates having earned college credit from PCC, and having gained the confidence to succeed in college-level coursework. The Middle College is a game-changing opportunity for young people that promises to transform the neigh-

borhood for generations to come.

Check out the Unity Circle Street Painting by neighborhood residents with a yearly summer block party at the intersection of N. Haight & N. Emerson.

Humboldt is also home to over 20 four-star-rated or greater restaurants!

Please join the HNA in helping to continue to build an inclusive, diverse, sustainable and prosperous community!

Join Humboldt for monthly meetings every second Tuesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at 804 N. Alberta Street. This always includes renters & businesses, as well as home owners!

Please visit HNA's website at www.humboldtneighborhood.org for more information.

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Measuring Residential Displacement in Portland

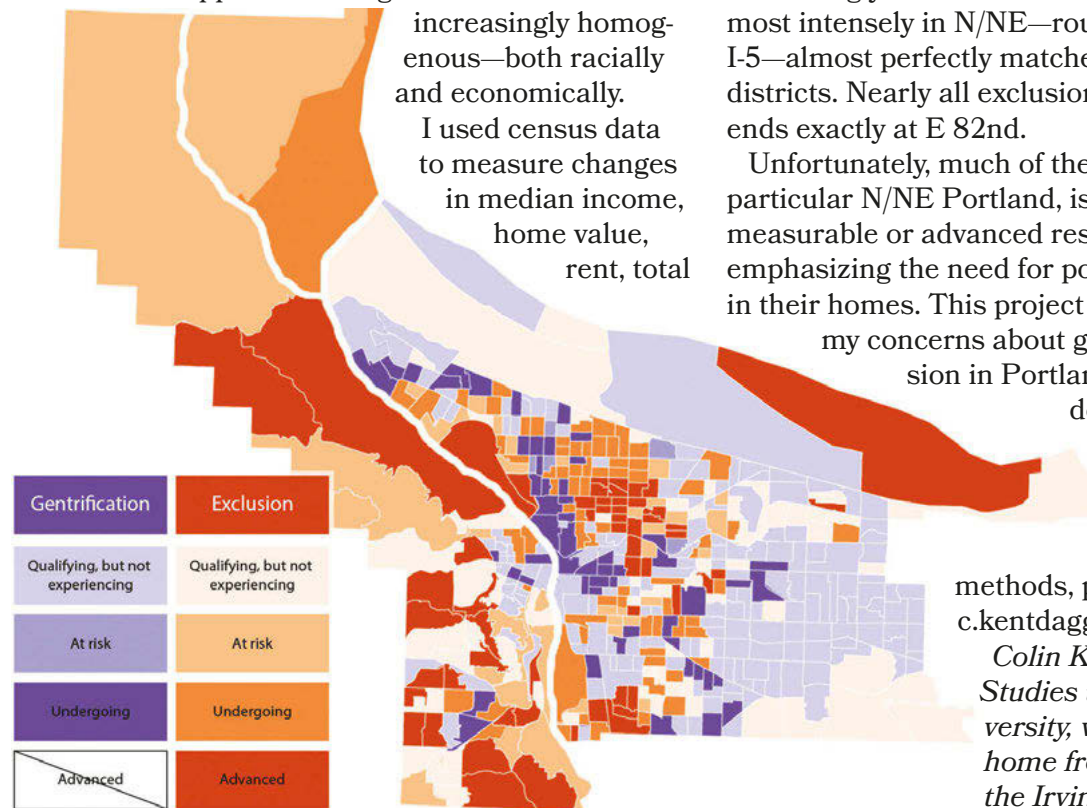
By Colin Kent-Daggett

Gentrification became a crucial lens through which I viewed Portland after studying the history of Albina during high school. It became increasingly apparent after I left for college, as I see brand new buildings, boutiques, and bicycles every time I drove along Williams, Alberta, or Killingsworth. When my professor assigned an open-ended final project in my Geographic Information Systems class this fall, I decided to undertake a quantitative study of residential displacement in Portland to see if data would validate my perception of Portland's dramatic changes.

I borrowed categories and methods from Berkeley and UCLA's Urban Displacement project to measure residential displacement in two categories: gentrification and exclusion. Gentrification occurs when a working-class or vacant area is turned into a middle-class or commercial area, while exclusion occurs when upper-class neighborhoods become

increasingly homogenous—both racially and economically.

I used census data to measure changes in median income, home value, rent, total



population, racial distribution, educational attainment, and the number of renters from 2000 to 2014. These various factors were weighed and combined to produce a map showing the distribution and severity of gentrification and exclusion across Portland's census block groups.

The clear patterns in the final map exceeded my

“...exclusion occurs when upper-class neighborhoods become increasingly homogenous—both racially and economically”

expectations. In North and Northeast Portland, Alameda and Irvington are high-income and incredibly homogenous, a pattern that has spread to Alberta and even further North. St. Johns is also growing increasingly exclusive. The area that is gentrifying most intensely in N/NE—roughly between MLK and I-5—almost perfectly matches historically redlined districts. Nearly all exclusion, whether in NE or SE, ends exactly at E 82nd.

Unfortunately, much of the inner city, and in particular N/NE Portland, is already undergoing measurable or advanced residential displacement, emphasizing the need for policies that keep people in their homes. This project quantitatively validated my concerns about gentrification and exclusion in Portland and highlighted the decades-long legacy of

racist housing practices and redlining. If you have any questions about the map or my

methods, please contact me at c.kentdaggett@gmail.com

Colin Kent-Daggett is an Urban Studies undergrad at Brown University, who grew up and, when home from school, still lives in the Irvington Neighborhood.

Levees

cont'd from pg 2

flood. If the levees can protect against the 1% annual chance of a flood, then FEMA considers them to be outside of the floodplain.

If the drainage district was to lose accreditation of the levees, many businesses and homeowners in the district would be required to have their own flood insurance and MCDD warns that could change the economy of the area.

MCDD is currently evaluating the levees to ensure they keep accreditation, which is a common practice throughout the country.

MCDD also engages with the broader community as stakeholders. To access their annual reports please visit <http://www.mcdd.org/publications-media/>

If you drive along Marine Drive and see unfamiliar equipment this year, it is likely one of the big drill rigs taking soil samples out of the Levee, which will be used by engineers to evaluate its health. MCDD will provide those geotechnical reports back to the community to inform stakeholders of what kind of risk-based decisions will need to be considered.

GITH

cont'd from pg 1

region has to offer from local vendors, access community resources and shop local craft and clothing booths.

Good in the Hood will be recognizing the hard work and dedication of students in our community as they accept onsite, applications for their next round of \$1,000 scholarships.

Vanport Mosaic

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the building of Vanport, Oregon's second largest city built in 110 days in 1942 as a temporary solution to Portland's wartime housing shortage. On May 26-29, 2017, our second Vanport Mosaic Festival will unite Portland area residents through historical and artistic tributes, and explore this transformative history, which continues to influence local community and city dynamics. At its height, Vanport housed 40,000 shipyard workers and their families, who came from all over the U.S. to build a new life, attracted by job opportunities and affordable housing. On Memorial Day, 1948 a flood destroyed the entire town within a matter of hours.

For the past three years a collective of artists, historians, educators, media makers, long-

term Portland residents, and newcomers have been working together to capture, honor, and preserve the memories of those who lived there. Now in their 80s and 90s, former Vanport residents tell their stories and help to explore the little known legacy of Vanport's multiracial community and the statewide impact of the 1948 flood.

Our annual festival is an invitation to gather around this history and celebrate its richness and complexity. On Memorial Day weekend and in various venues in North and NE Portland, we will present: screenings of former residents' oral histories; theater performances exploring the experience Japanese American experience in Oregon leading up to Vanport; a musical; an exhibit of photos and artifacts; a workshops for educators who wish to bring



this history to their students.

The Vanport Flood is often compared to the more recent Hurricane Katrina disaster in New Orleans, so there will be an opportunity to reflect on the parallels through two new plays. You will be able to visit the historic sites by joining the guided bus and bike tours, or on your own with our map. If you lived in

Vanport, we invite you a private reunion for former residents. And there will be an opportunity to capture memories of Vanport and life in Albina 1950s-1970s in an Airstream pop-up recording studio at several times and venues.

For more info, contact info@vanportmosaic.org or 971-319-0156, and visit www.vanportmosaic.org.

Events: Spring 2017

Institutional Equity: Tools and Frameworks for Leaders

Thursday, April 6, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Resolutions Northwest - new location
2538 NE Broadway, Suite A (2nd floor)

By the year 2042, white people will become a minority in the United States of America. The context of the world is changing radically, and we are living the response to those changes in our communities and our workplaces. This training intends to empower individuals to take leadership, wherever you are, to ensure that the response to the cultural shift in our country is responsible, healthy, and just. People of any level of experience are welcome. The training will be highly interactive and will invite each of us to move through challenges and discomfort toward engagement, connection, and action. Learn more and register at www.resolutions-northwest.org/events/institutional-equity-3.

Youth-led Climate Camp by HELP Portland/Create Plenty

Friday, April 7, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Leaven Community/Salt & Light Lutheran Church 5431 Northeast 20th Avenue

Free event! HELP (High School Environmental Leadership Program) Portland is collaborating with YouCAN (Youth Climate Action Now) to present a youth-led camp to motivate and inspire children in grades 2-8 to learn about climate change and join a growing number of youth in passing a Climate Recovery Ordinance at City Hall.

For more information or to reserve a spot please visit: www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/youth-led-climate-camp-tickets-32006403013.

2017 Portland Spring Beer and Wine Fest

Friday & Saturday, April 14-15, noon-10 p.m.

Oregon Convention Center

The 23rd annual Portland Spring Beer and Wine Fest is happening April 14th and 15th at the Oregon Convention Center. Come enjoy beer, wine, spirits, cheese, chocolate and more!

www.oregoncc.org/events/2017/04/spring-beer-wine-fest-2017

Spring Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m.

Fernhill Park Playground along NE 37th Ave.

The hunt begins at 10 a.m. SHARP.

Don't be late - it ends in a flash!

This event is sponsored by Concordia Neighborhood Association & American Legion Post 134.



Movie Screening & Q&A: "Unprepared"

April 19th, 2017, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Concordia University Student Event and Activities Center, Hagen Campus Center

The Concordia/Vernon/Woodlawn NET is hosting a showing of Unprepared (2015, OPB, 55 minutes)

"Scientists say there is a 1 - 3 chance that a magnitude 8 or 9 earthquake could strike the Northwest in the next 50 years. Unprepared examines the ways Oregon is - and isn't - prepared for what experts expect will be one of the greatest natural disasters ever to strike North America."

The CVW NET team will be hosting a Q&A following the one hour long documentary.

For more information contact concordianets@gmail.com

Earth Day Green Streets w/ Widmer Brothers Brewing and Surfrider Foundation

Thursday, April 20, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

929 N Russell St.

Free Event! Join the Green Streets crew this month as they team up with Widmer Brothers Brewing and their employees to clean up our streets! Hit the pavement early, meeting at 4pm at the Widmer brewery to kick things off. There will be food, drinks, laughs, and plenty of trash to be picked up! Come get in on the fun.

Metro's Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lone Fir Cemetery - SE 26th between Stark and Morrison

Oregon's largest Earth Day event needs you! Pick your favorite park and join Metro rangers, neighbors and friends in a day of work and fun.

Gloves, tools, training and snacks are provided. Choose from projects at a variety of Metro sites, including Lone Fir Cemetery. For more information, visit oregonmetro.gov/calendar

Cost: free; advanced registration required

Ages: all ages

Level of difficulty: easy



Portland "Breaking the Chain of Generational Poverty"

Sunday afternoon, May 7 (time to be determined)

The Madeleine Parish, 3240 NE 23rd

The Interfaith Alliance on Poverty will host a presentation by Dr. Mandy Davis, LCSW, Co-Director and Trainer of Trauma Informed Oregon, Portland State University School of Social Work.

There are no "poor children." But, there are children living without the critical resources needed to achieve normal development. Come for an afternoon exploring the role poverty plays in the lives of children and limits them to lower educational and economic outcomes. Learn ways we, as individuals, people of faith and faith communities can make a difference in their lives. Learn techniques and skills to be of more caring direct service. And, how we can help break the chain of generational poverty.

For more information, contact John Elizalde john_elizalde@hotmail.com

Village Building Convergence 2017

June 2-11

Volunteers needed across metro region! Natural building, permaculture, and street art opportunities.

For more information contact volunteer@cityrepair.org.

www.cityrepair.org



Classes & Story Time at the Library

Multnomah County libraries

Technology/Computer classes and help sessions; Story Time for babies, toddlers, children. For locations, dates and times, visit www.multcolib.org/events or call 503-988-7824.

Submit events to:
events@necoalition.org

Block Party?

As the weather warms up for spring and summer, you must wonder... how can I throw a block party? Thinking of connecting to your neighbors but you are not sure where to get started?

Have no fear, the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods is here to help you!

Check out our website to learn more: www.necoalition.org/how-to/block-party. Download "How to Throw a Block Party in 6 Easy Steps".

Or call us at 503-388-5004. We are here to help!



RESOURCE ALERT: Wood Chips!

Residents- Are you looking for wood chips to provide mulch for your garden? Arborists- Are you looking for a place to take your removed tree? Visit www.chip-drop.in. Sign up to receive or give wood chips!

Boise Releaf Project

The Albina ReLeaf project is the first program of its kind in Portland, according to the Albina Neighborhood Tree Team (ANTT), and it has already served as a model for other Portland tree teams to begin helping low-income homeowners plant and maintain healthy trees in more areas around town.

The Albina ReLeaf project, part of the ANTT, is a fiscally sponsored project of NECN. With funding support from the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (www.emswcd.org), the Albina ReLeaf project provides assistance to low-income homeowners by removing dead trees and replacing

of the area. Tree care can be an economic burden to property owners. In urban areas dying trees are a safety liability to homeowners. Long term tree survival requires consistent investment in arborists, which can be a financial barrier for many, especially for fixed income seniors.

In 2014, the ANTT's inventory of the neighborhoods' 4500+ trees, completed with the help of Portland Parks and Recreation's Urban Forestry program, revealed a lack of species and age diversity among the trees in the Boise-Eliot neighborhoods.

The dominant family of species belongs to the Rosaceae family,



its own health by disrupting the pathways for disease and pests to flourish.

While a conventional metric for evaluating forest health by measuring species diversity is the 10-20-30 rule: no more than 10% of one species, 20% of one genus and 30% of one family, the Albina Releaf project proposes that in the face of climate change and considering Portland's temperate conditions that naturally welcome species diversity, a 5-10-20 practice, in line with more progressive forestry programs, should be the ideal goal.

To help the new trees get their best start, Depave (www.depave.org), a local nonprofit that specializes in recruiting volunteers to remove concrete, will assist by cutting out a strip of the concrete

to widen tree wells and make more room at the base of the tree. This will prevent the roots from breaking up the sidewalk, another liability to pedestrian safety.

The Albina ReLeaf team members hope to expand this work to address the sidewalk repair from past trees, hopefully with permeable paving, which allows rainwater to be absorbed. This also alleviates the stormwater burdens on our city's sewage system.

Learn and volunteer

The Albina Tree Team is looking to expand the ReLeaf program to adjoining neighborhoods and hold more events aimed at promoting a healthy urban forest. To learn more and sign up as a volunteer, please contact albinaneighborhoodtree-team@gmail.com or visit www.albinatrees.org.

“Long term tree survival requires consistent investment in arborists, which can be a financial barrier for many, especially for fixed income seniors”

them strategically to minimize risk and increase biological diversity.

The ANTT reports that 54% of households in Boise are low income, which is above Portland's average, and when the project began working in the Boise-Eliot neighborhoods, the Boise tree canopy cover was only at 21%

consisting mostly of Prunus (cherry and plum) and Acer (maple) genera, making this limited diversity of trees vulnerable to pests and pathogens in addition to the increasing impacts of a climate in flux. Maintaining a diverse mix of species ensures a forest's (whether urban or rural) ability to protect

MLK Celebration

In Honor of MLK Jr.: It's time to be blunt about Oregon's "Progressive" past and present

By Anna Daggett

On January 15th, at an MLK Jr. Celebration Mayor Wheeler described Oregon's racist past:

"The 1857 Oregon Constitution explicitly excluded black people from living in Oregon. There were 20,000 KKK members in Portland in 1920. During WWII, Portland wanted black workers, but didn't want black neighbors. Vanport was created outside of the city limits for a reason...18,000 people were displaced by the Vanport floods, 25 percent of whom were black."

Wheeler hadn't planned to focus on Oregon's exclusionary past during his speech. He had come with a written speech, but admitted to the crowd that he rewrote it while others were speaking in order to reflect their perspectives.

One of those leaders that Wheeler listened to was NAACP Portland Chapter President, Jo Ann Hardesty. Hardesty illuminated the outcomes of progressivism:

"We are not living in a time where liberalism passes for equality. When you look at the outcomes, we don't live in a progressive state. Our first order of business is we have to tell the truth. As I get older, I have less patience for pretend liberals and people that accept the

status quo as it is."

The Southern Poverty Law Center recently published an analysis of hate crimes reported within the first 10 days after Trump was elected. With 33 hate crimes reported, Oregon ranked 1st in hate crimes per capita. How could such a "progressive" state reflect such regressive behavior?

It's time to be blunt about Oregon's "progressive" past and present. What does progressive connote in Portland?

Many young liberals from across the nation have flocked to Portland for its relatively cheap prices and "progressive" culture: music, art, bike lanes, restaurants and access to the outdoors. Developers have sold Portland as a liberal haven. Consequently, the city is rapidly gentrifying, and affordable housing is increasingly rare.

Instead of empowering our most vulnerable community members, progressivism has pushed them out.

We need to focus on being radical, less on being progressive. One aspect is recognizing all of our privileges; race, gender, age, physical, or class related, and using them to advocate for community members who have less privilege or access to institutional support.

At the MLK Jr. Celebration,

Wheeler locked eyes with Hardesty. Wheeler ensured that he would advocate for her, in recognition of the fact that she does not have access to the same decision-making spaces that he does.

Our Mayor asked the crowd:

"Can we celebrate and embrace pluralism in this community in the toughest political environment? Are we willing to be deliberate in our defense of our values? You can't stand in the middle. It's on one side or the other. We stand on the side of justice. Pretty words. Tough actions. We have to fight for pluralism."

Are we willing to hold Wheeler and other officials accountable for

their pretty words? Let us redefine what progressive means in Portland. Let us make radical demands in defense of our neighbors and families and those who have less privilege than we do.

In the words of Dr. LeRoy Hayes of the Albina Ministerial Alliance's Coalition for Justice and Police Reform, "There is a present state of insurgency and turning back the clock. We must go forward. We must keep advancing the dream, a community of beloved justice."

Anna Daggett graduated from Lewis & Clark in 2014 with a B.A. in History, currently works as an educator in St. John's and lives in the Eliot Neighborhood.

BOISE ELIOT HUMBOLDT
Neighborhood Emergency Team

GET PREPARED

- 1) Develop a family rendezvous and communication plan
- 2) Make a 2-week emergency supply kit
- 3) Learn where your home utilities (water, electricity, gas) are located and how to shut them off
- 4) Know your neighbor

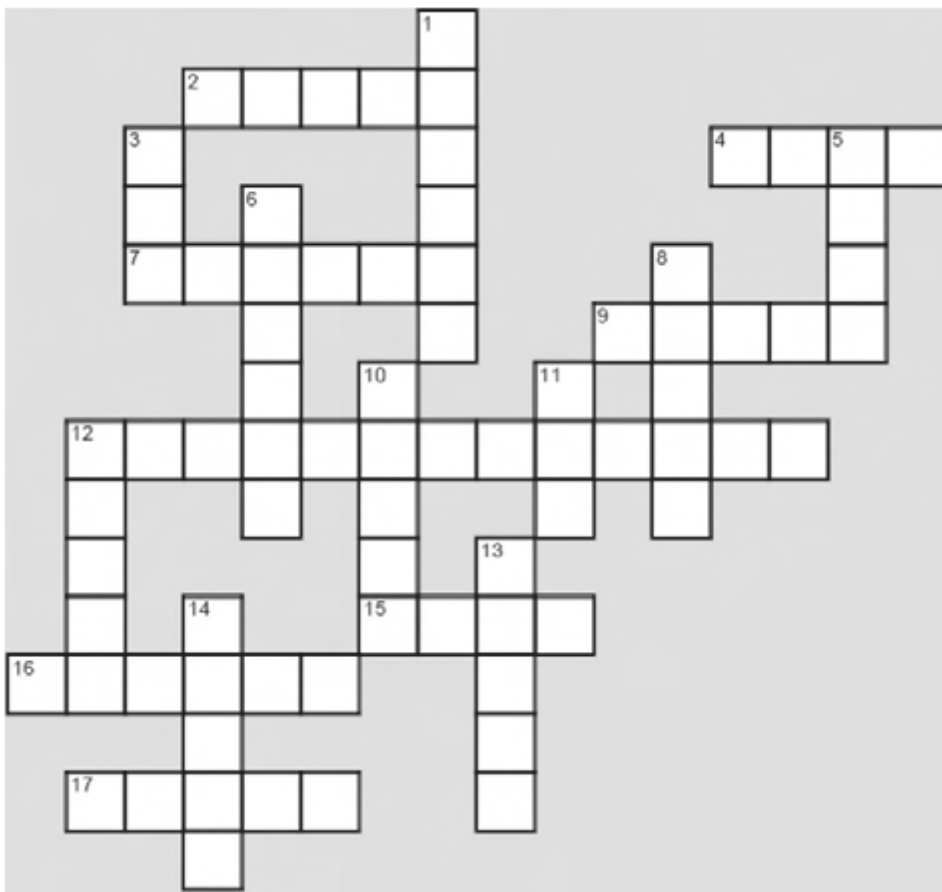
GET CONNECTED

Portland Prepares

Boise/Eliot/Humboldt Emergency Prep

PortlandPrepares.com

pdxboiseprepares@gmail.com



Answers located at www.necoalition.org/latest-news/newspaper/

ACROSS

- 2 In what US state is the other Portland?
- 4 What you roast and grind to make coffee
- 7 McMenasmins' ____ Pub
- 9 Name of North Portland street and Michigan city
- 12 Festival celebrating 25 years in 2017
- 15 Back or front ____
- 16 What MCDD protects
- 17 Painting on a side of a building

DOWN

- 1 Name on historic sign of former drugstore on Alberta St.
- 3 Which higher learning institution has a Cascade Campus?

- 5 Acronym from this issue's Re-Leaf story
- 6 Where Marcia Cole's mother was born
- 8 What destroyed Vanport in 1948
- 10 ____ Circle Street painting
- 11 Acronym for largest African-American led nonprofit organization in Oregon (featured in last issue of Hey Neighbor)
- 12 Columbia ____ (destination of future trail that will start in Sullivan's Gulch)
- 13 University Colin Kent-Dagget is attending
- 14 Regional government agency that runs the Oregon Convention Center and Zoo

Sullivan's Gulch Trail: The Dream is Alive



By Garlynn Woodsong

One day, my son and I will pack our panniers and jump on our trusty bicycles. We will ride south from the Concordia neighborhood, down the Alameda Ridge, through Irvington, and down into Sullivan's Gulch, where we will turn left onto the Rose Quarter to Gorge (RQ2G) trail.

We'll ride for a few hours east on the trail, passing through the new Gateway Green. We'll follow a tree-lined path adjacent to I-84, through Troutdale, and onto a new grade-separated pathway running through the forest uphill from the freeway, through and over new pedestrian/bicycle tunnels and bridges. We'll thread a needle through the topography of the Gorge, until finally we pull into our bicycle campground in the forest near Laterourelle, where we camp for the night.

The next morning, we'll get back on our bicycles and pedal on into Cascade Locks for lunch, stopping briefly to take in a few waterfalls along the way. After picking up some salmon from the Native

American fishermen at the old Locks, we'll ride to Lang State Park and pitch our tents.

On Day 3 we'll ride to Starvation Creek, stopping for lunch on the picnic benches before riding on into Hood River. I'll have a microbrew in town while we wait for our train. Then, we'll hang our bicycles on hooks and enjoy the quick ride on the new electrified high speed rail line running through the Columbia River Gorge. The train will deliver us back to Gateway Transit Center within 45 minutes.

This is the vision of the Rose Quarter to Gorge Trail Project, a new initiative to link the Sullivan's Gulch Trail project with the Historic Columbia River Highway Trail project. The goal is to provide one continuous pathway from downtown Portland to downtown Hood River (and then, on in to The Dalles) via a near-water-level passage through the Columbia River Gorge.

The second phase of the Cascadia High Speed Rail projects (the first phase of which is the north-south line from Oregon to British Columbia) will extend east-west

from the Oregon Coast to Boise, Idaho. Trains will inter-line with other traffic on the existing, newly-electrified transcontinental rail main lines to points east.

Together, these two visions could be part of our generation's legacy, transforming our state and our bioregion, strengthening our economy, and laying the foundation for sustainable growth well into the second half of the 21st century.

NECN has taken many positions in support of this vision, dating back at least as far as the organization's support for High Speed Rail and the Sullivan's Gulch Trail, during the Adams administration in 2011 and 2012, respectively. This past summer, NECN again expressed support for this vision in a letter to Mayor Hales and the City Council in August 2016. Our organization, all of us as neighbors, want to turn this vision into reality.

If you're interested in helping with this effort, please drop a line to RQ2G@necoalition.org.

Garlynn Woodsong is co-chair of NECN's Land Use & Transportation committee.

Clean Ups

cont'd from pg 1

Alameda:

Saturday May 20, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
The Madeleine School, 3240 NE 23th Ave.

Concordia:

Saturday, May 20, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
PCC, 5600 NE 42nd Ave.

Eliot:

Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Legacy Parking lot, 120 N Knott St.

Humboldt in partnership with Emmanuel Temple Church:

Saturday, June 24, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Emmanuel Temple, 1033 N Sumner St.

Irvington & Sullivan's Gulch:

Saturday, May 13
Holladay Park Church of God, 2120 NE Tillamook St.

King:

Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
449 NE Emerson (North Portland Police Precinct parking lot, Killingworth @MLK)

Sabin:

Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Marantha Church, 4222 NE 12th Ave.

Vernon:

Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Leaven Community, 5431 NE 20th Ave.

Woodlawn:

Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Henry V, 6300 NE MLK Blvd.
Visit necoalition.org for contact information.

