

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.

CONTACT NECN:

4815 NE 7th Ave
Portland, OR 97211
503.388.5004
info@necoalition.org
www.necoalition.org
facebook.com/NECoalition

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Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods
4815 NE 7th Ave
Portland OR 97211

Portland, Unhoused

By Mischa S. Webley
NECN Staff Writer

Ask any Portlander about their top concerns for the city, and you're likely to find homelessness high on that list. The explosion of people living outside is a frequent flash

“Many people have made it their life’s mission to do their part to tackle this issue”

point in local politics and a regular feature of life in the Rose City. And while it’s one of those issues that everybody seems to have a strong opinion about, few are willing to grapple with its complexity.

The reality is that homelessness, or houselessness, is a catch-all phrase for a phenomenon that is only the most



PHOTO BY JONATHAN KHO

visible aspect of a host of other complex social issues. That tent on your street corner, then, is only the tip of a much larger societal iceberg. Beneath it lies countless unseen personal stories and struggles, to say nothing of the decades of policy decisions that have led to this being the status quo.

Here’s the good news: there’s a tremendous amount of work being

done behind the scenes to manage, alleviate, and eventually eradicate the issue of people living without a roof over their head. Many people have made it their life’s mission to do their part to tackle this issue, whether by providing direct services to the houseless community or by working through government to affect policy and legislative change.

We set out to exam-

ine this issue from the ground up to add some layers to a civic conversation that is all too often viewed in only two dimensions. To do this, we gathered perspectives from a variety of people who are on the frontlines. Hopefully, their testimony can help us appreciate the complexity of the situation before we demand simple answers for it.

See UNHOUSED pg 4-5

The Great Earwig Invasion of 1920



PORTLAND AUDITOR'S OFFICE

By Margaret O’Hartigan, King Neighborhood, adapted from her walking guide, “Walnut Park Revealed”

Walnut Park is nestled on the western edge of King neighborhood and the eastern edge of Humboldt, its streets still dotted by old walnut trees originally planted so the neighborhood could live up to its

name.

Things haven’t always been as peaceful in the Park as they are today. On July 30, 1920 the Oregonian reported “EARWIGS INVADE THE CITY – PESTS DESTROY FLOWERS AND SHRUBS IN WALNUT PARK”. Fred Cooper, transportation manager of the Portland Railway Light & Power Company – and

Park resident – brought several hundreds of the pests to city hall and ultimately to the attention of

“Commissioner Bigelow was reluctant to give any assistance”

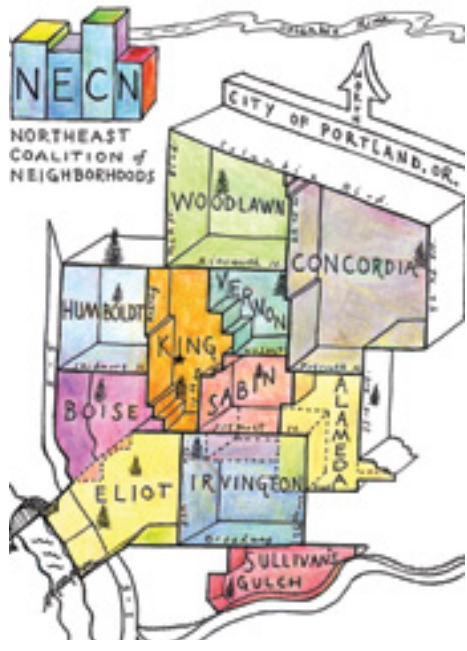
the park bureau.

By the following day the crisis had grown: “EARWIGS CAUSING WORRY – RESIDENTS OF PEST-INFESTED DISTRICT SEEK AID” blared the July 31

See EARWIG pg 3

IN THIS ISSUE

ASTR Income	2
VERNON SCHOOL.....	3
Resident Spotlight	7
PORTLAND UNHOUSED .4-5	
Things to Do	6
Paradise Lots	7
Crossword	8



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

- Alameda**
4th Mondays, 7-8:30 pm
2620 NE Fremont St.
alamedapdx@gmail.com
- Boise**
2nd Mondays, 7-9 pm
4115 N Mississippi Ave.
boisena@gmail.com
- Concordia**
1st Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm
5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.
Kennedy School Community Room
chair@concordiapdx.org
- Eliot**
3rd Mondays, 6:30-8 pm
120 NE Knott St.
info@eliotneighborhood.org
- Humboldt**
2nd Wednesdays, 7-9 pm
804 N Alberta
HNAnews@gmail.com
- Irvington**
2nd Thursdays, 7-9 pm
1320 NE Brazeo St.
president@irvingtonpdx.com
- King**
2nd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm
4815 NE 7th Ave.
info@kingneighborhood.org
- Lloyd District**
Visit www.lloyddistrict.org for meeting schedule and location
- Sabin**
2nd Mondays, 7-9 pm
3535 NE 15th Ave.
sabin@necoalition.org
- Sullivan's Gulch**
2nd Tuesdays, 7-9 pm
1548 NE 15th Ave.
sullivansgulch@necoalition.org
- Vernon**
3rd Wednesdays, 7-9 pm
5431 NE 20th Ave.
vernon@necoalition.org
- Woodlawn**
Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, 7-9 pm
817 NE Madrona St.
info@gowoodlawn.com

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN), founded in 1975, is an independent nonprofit 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 12 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!

Knock, Knock, Have You Got a Bed Tonight?

By Marsha Sandman
CNA Media Team

When money comes knocking at your door do you answer? You might if you own one of the 116 accessory short-term rentals in the Concordia neighborhood.

What is an accessory short-term rental (ASTR)? According to the Portland Bureau of Development Services (BDS), "An ASTR is where an individual or family resides in a dwelling unit and rents bedrooms to overnight guests for less than 30 days."

Regulations allow ASTRs in houses, attached houses, duplexes, manufactured homes on their own lots, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Each ASTR type has unique requirements based on the number of bedrooms and structure type. Six or more guestroom rentals at one time are not considered ASTRs.

If sharing your home or ADU sounds appealing, there are a few hoops the city requires you to jump through:

- Fill out an application.
- Notify your immediate neighbors with the city's form letter, "Neighborhood Notice."
- Pay a permit fee rental (\$180 and more).
- Obtain a permit from BDS every two years (\$50 and more). In the intervening renewal years – or years two, four, eight, 10, etc. – the resident may self-certify compliance with the bedroom requirements.
- Have the rental bedroom(s) inspected by BDS. Rental bedroom(s) are inspected every six years thereafter.

Still interested in that knock on your door?



The Humboldt Neighborhood Association is looking for enthusiastic members to join!

Neighborhood Associations play a vital role in representing the interests of residents and enhancing the local community. We hope to become stronger and are seeking residents of the Humboldt neighborhood who can dedicate a little time and energy to make a difference in our shared community.

Some of the benefits of being involved with your neighborhood's association are:

- Facilitating the achievement of common neighborhood goals.
- Preserving and improving the quality of neighborhood developments.
- Providing community with a means of communicating with our elected leadership.

Humboldt Neighborhood Association Meetings are every 2nd Wednesday of the month 7-9pm @ Neil Kelly 804 N. Alberta Street corner of Alberta & Albina.

Learn more about us and contact us on our webpage: humboldtneighborhood.org



Concordia is home to 116 accessory short-term rentals. How does that work? Read on.

- Each bedroom must have a smoke detector and may require a carbon monoxide detector.
 - Hosts with ASTR permits are required to occupy their residences for at least 270 days during each calendar year.
 - There are no limits to the number of nights you may have a short-term rental. The maximum number of days you may be away from home and renting to overnight guests is 95, or roughly three months.
- Rules, rules, rules.**
If you operate an ASTR without the required permit, you'll be found in violation of Portland City Code and subject to citations with civil penalties of \$1,000 to \$5,000.
- So it's a good idea to know what you are doing before you answer that knock at your door. Information about the general inspection process is available at PortlandOregon.gov/bds/65603.
- For questions about ASTRs, visit PortlandOregon.gov/bds/66835 or call 503.823.7526.
- If you own an ASTR or live near one, and you have an opinion you'd like to share in a subsequent issue of *Concordia News*, please contact Marsha.

After living east, south, north and west, Marsha Sandman is home at last. And she wants to hear your story. Contact her at MarshaSandman@gmail.com.



Ainsworth in the City
ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER AND AUCTION
DINNER \$50 PER PERSON
COLWOOD GOLF CENTER
7313 NE COLUMBIA BLVD

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018
6-10 p.m. For more info contact ainsworthucc.com
503.284.8767

The More Things Change, They Stay the Same

By Marsha Sandman
CNA Media Team

Thursday, Oct. 4, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. the Vernon School will celebrate its 111th anniversary with an open house. All are welcome.

The school's motto "I Believe. I Belong. I Become," is as true today as it was in 1931 when Gordon Hood entered the school among the first students in the newly rebuilt school.

The old Vernon School had been an impressive all-wood structure that was built in 1907. It was destroyed by arson in 1932. At that time, there were about 500 students enrolled. There are currently 526 students at the new Vernon School, which was built in 1931



Gordon Hood and Medina Keita share several things in common, including their love for Vernon School.

"The principle of the IB school is to challenge yourself as a learner"

for \$259,198.

Medina Keita, 12 years old, is a bright, charming and creative 7th grader at Vernon School today. She visited recently with Gordon, a 92-year-old Vernon School alumnus who has

Earwig cont'd from pg 1

Oregonian; "City Council Appealed To". A dozen Walnut Park residents appeared before the city council to appeal for immediate action in fighting the pests. Commissioner Bigelow – in charge of the park bureau – was reluctant to give any assistance, contending that the fight against earwigs should be waged by individual property owners. Cooper responded that "individual efforts would not conquer the earwigs and that it was the duty of the city authorities to interest themselves in ridding the city of the serious pest, in the same manner that the city takes steps to eradicate an epidemic."

The next day the Oregonian reported "City Fights Earwigs", adding that "Upon instruction from the city council... Park Superintendent Keyser detailed a gang of men to the Walnut park district." Keyser wasn't happy, however. In "Pest Fight Transferred", the August 6 Oregonian reported that "The city's fight against earwigs in Walnut Park was yesterday transferred from Park Superintendent Keyser to James W. Jones, a sanitary inspector in the health bureau...Lack of enthusiasm on the part of the park superintendent in the fight that the city officials intend to wage

against the pest was given as the reason for the assignment of the work to Mr. Jones." Then Commissioner Barbur announced he would prepare an ordinance declaring the earwig a nuisance.

A letter to the Oregonian's editor applauded such stern measures: "The city council has a great plan for combating the earwig pest, namely, to pass an ordinance declaring the earwigs a public nuisance. When they hear about this no doubt the earwigs will be so chagrined that they will curl up and die."

Mayor George Baker claimed a lack of city funds precluded the appropriation of \$1000 to fight the earwigs, as the August 14 Oregonian reported: "Earwig Fund Stopped." Ultimately the fight against the invaders was left to individuals, acting on their own, in the great American tradition of rugged individualism.

In yet another great American tradition, the mayor at the time of the earwig invasion – George Baker – the following year posed for a photograph with bed-sheeted Ku Klux Klan members – proving once again his utter inability to respond appropriately to vermin when he came across it.

And the earwigs can be found in Walnut Park to this day.

program which teaches world awareness and social issues that are detrimental to humanity. That's a heavy burden for a preteen old, but one that teaches students to be more open minded.

"Gordy Hood never had it so good"

"The principle of the IB school is to challenge yourself as a learner," Medina said.

Gordon moved to Concordia and attended Vernon from 1931 to 1937. As the result of the 1929 stock market crash, his father had lost their home and business. The Great Depression lasted until the late 1930s, and was the most widespread depression of the 20th century.

Gordon said his family moved to an apartment in Concordia that cost \$12.50 per month. He left Concordia when his family purchased a home near Broadway for \$2,800.

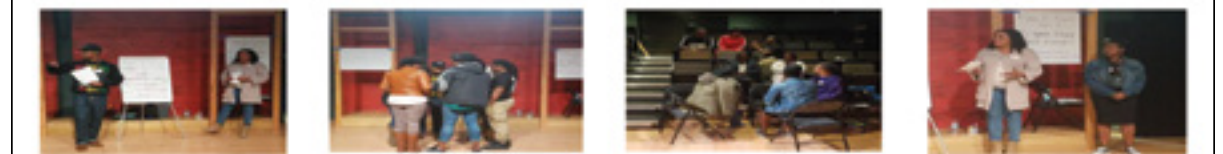
In spite of his family's hardships while Gordon attended Vernon, he remarked that it was a great school with great teachers.

With a twinkle in his eye he said he was a bit of a friendly troublemaker but "Gordy Hood never had it so good."

Both Medina and Gordon face social challenges with dignity. One could say the more things change the more they stay the same.

After living east, south, north and west, Marsha Sandman is home at last. And she wants to hear your story. Contact her at MarshaSandman@gmail.com.

FADE TO BLACK Pt.2 Cont'd



"Is your black black enough?"

➤ Guest speaker and panel who?.....That would be YOU! This is a facilitated affinity space where engaging and interactive dialogue/conversation, with those you have shared identity with, sets the "stage" for creating connection and dismantling the barriers between us.

➤ We will continue to explore "the black identity" and its intersectionality with colorism, religion, sex, class, race, and interests associated with "white culture".

(Facilitation provided professionally & independently by Keela Johnson)

Presented by:



Saturday, November 10, 2018 11am-3pm

602 Northeast Prescott Street Portland 97211 (Doors open @ 11am)

*****Light refreshments provided, but bringing your own brown bag lunch is encouraged; and/or join a newly found friend(s) for nearby happy hour immediately following this event and continue the conversation!*****

❖ **Participants/Attendees: Only individuals that self-identify as African-American, Black, and/or African Diaspora**
(Adult conversation, but youth 15yrs./older are welcome and encouraged to attend)

This is a FREE event and space is limited so please RSVP:

https://portlandplayhouse.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_a051000004162oUAI





Precious Lott

Currently Retention Case Manager, JOIN

www.joinpdx.org

"Me and my daughter slept in our car from when she was two months until she was almost five, jumping from place to place. But I had a daily routine: I would see my daughter off and then make sure I was on the grind looking for work or permanent housing. I have

families now that do the exact same thing. They're really trying. No one wants to lose their housing, no one wants to be on the street, especially if they've been there before.

I have 93 people on my caseload now. I see five people per day to make sure that I connect with everyone monthly. I go to your house, I do home visits, we do lunch. There's nothing like having somebody that supports you, that believes in you. It's a missing part of the equation.

I see families all the time and their kids get off the school bus and go right up into a tent on Division under the bridge. These kids grow up so fast. They have no choice but to fend for themselves. A lot of kids go to school, but then they have to come home and teach their parents how to read, how to write, how to do mathematics.

Families tell their children not to tell anyone they're homeless for security. Sometimes a school knows, and sometimes they don't. If you talked to my daughter at a school alone and she told you we're homeless, I don't know if you're going to take her or report her. So there's reasons to not tell anyone. But then by not telling they don't get the help they need."



Matt Olguin

Director of Shelter Services Transition Projects Inc.

www.tprojects.org

"You have this perception that all homeless people are drug addicts or criminals. The difference is that the people we see who are experiencing homelessness that are bad actors and using drugs or committing various crimes - we see that specifically because they are homeless and don't have another place to do those things. But criminals walk all facets of life whether they're experiencing homelessness or they're in housing. So it's trying to separate out those two things where it's bad actors and criminality, versus people who are experiencing homelessness and more often than not are the victims.

We who are housed come from a level of privilege and we have to acknowledge that sometimes and show a little more empathy. You see someone experiencing homelessness and you think they had the same experience you had growing up, and therefore this is their choice that led them to where they're at but it's not taking into account whatever their experiences were.

People are homeless because they have no other options. Some people have no options to begin with, some have burned those bridges and they have to try to repair them later in life. But every experience of homelessness is different and the drivers that led them to be homeless are different. The vast majority of people became homeless here in portland. It's a portland problem. That myth that the homeless are moving to Portland because of good services isn't true."

Portland, Unhoused: The People on the Front Lines

cont'd from pg 1

See the video companion to this story at: necoalition.org/blog/pdxunhoused



Jason Jones

Acting Sergeant, Central Precinct Portland Police Bureau

"Law enforcement is only one aspect of what we do. We're the fingertips of government. We're also social service providers, and we are public safety. We're a tool for the community and we have to problem solve together, build relationships with diverse groups and

figure out how we can partner with one another to solve complicated problems.

The issue of houselessness is not one-dimensional. It's very complicated and it's very different for different people. If you go out there and ask 10 or 15 people on the street, you'll get 10 or 15 different stories. Every solution is going to look a little different, and that's

what makes this issue so difficult. We can't broadbrush paint this thing.

People who are unhoused are human beings. We as a society tend to objectify and forget they're human beings with feelings and with rights, dignity and respect. We cannot forget that. As such, any solution that's crafted has to involve those who are affected.

It feels like the boat is moving further from shore. We have a lot of programs out there but a lot of them aren't synergizing and working well together. Our resources need to collaborate better, streamline together so we're not duplicating efforts, not competing, but cooperating. We need a vision that puts all of this together which unites all of these strategies and gets us all together in the same direction."



Larry Turner

Founder & President, Fresh Out Community Based Re-entry Program

www.facebook.com/FreshOutPDX

"It's hard to be homeless without doing something to change the way you feel, especially if you can't find a place to live. Then we got people who, due to the recession, became homeless and have never rebounded because the prices of housing went up so high they can't get living wage jobs to support them and their families to get back into housing. Then if you add a prison record to that, it makes them even less attractive as renters.

Living on the streets is a traumatic thing. Then being treated badly because you're homeless is a traumatic thing. Then coming out of prison and being homeless on top of that just adds more trauma to it. [We need] housing that's staffed with professionals that help support and validate people and support

them to make changes in their lives that are positive. If we can keep someone in housing and keep them working, the chances are pretty good they won't go back to jail.

If there's someone living in a tent in your neighborhood, what are you going to do to help get that person out of your neighborhood and get them someplace where they're safe and comfortable and they're not in front of anybody else's home? How do you talk to the people who are camping in your neighborhood and let them know you care for them but we need to find another solution for you and how can I help you do that? Treat them like humans and see what you can do to support them."



Leo Rhodes

Homeless Advocate

"One of the biggest misconceptions of homelessness is that everyone's on drugs, alcohol, mentally ill, because the decision makers are catering to that. They're saying we need to [treat] the most vulnerable, people that have problems, so people like me who are clean and sober are stuck, put way back on the back burner. It's hard for us to see other people that have vices go and get rewarded with housing, when we're trying to really be outstanding

citizens. But it only takes one homeless person to screw up and all of a sudden we all get labelled as that.

The hardest thing about homelessness is the psychology of it all. People are downgrading you, saying yes you can sleep here, no you can't sleep here; you can rest here, no you can't rest here; you can eat here, no you can't. The psychological part of it, that's what people don't understand. It gets you down, and you have to bring yourself back up. It's a constant thing.

I pushed a lot of that away in order for me to do what I had to do and it took me a long time to settle down once I got housed. I had high walls, thick skin and I wouldn't let it bother me. Then when I went inside I said I'm gonna take one day for me to grieve all the homeless people that I knew that died and suffered out there. It took me five days when I finally got inside and it was so bad that I went into this deep depression because of that. But the walls got thinner, the high walls came down, and there was this tidal wave of emotion that came down on me."



Denis Theriault

Communications Coordinator, Joint Office of Homeless Services

www.multco.us/joint-office-homeless-services

"The floor is falling out. People don't have a place to land anymore when they used to have a place to land. The rent is going up faster than your wages are, and your wages aren't starting from very much in some cases. And when you're in that situation, if your car breaks down, your kid breaks his leg, you gotta miss work, maybe you go through sick time, start losing money, the car, hospital bill...all that stuff adds up. You could end up in a shelter, you could end up in a tent, you could have a partner who spends the money they're not supposed to spend and then you're a mom with

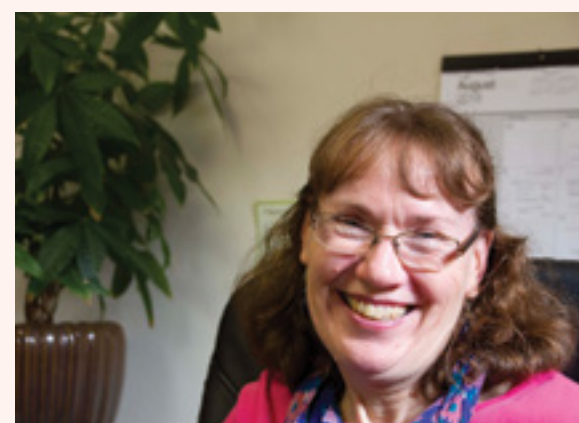
her kids and you're outside.

We're all a tragedy, a paycheck away from not having somewhere to go or a support network. It's easier to think less of those that are in that situation

as a way to protect ourselves from the reality that it could be us.

We see about 6,000 people a year who come in for first time rent assistance or eviction prevention. The number of people continuing to use that service after they first receive it - that number is going up. It tells you something about the housing market. And once we place people into housing, we know how many people we're still giving retention services. And that number is going up also.

People think there isn't work happening, that the money we're spending isn't doing anything. The reality is that the money is helping more people than ever; the things we're doing are making a difference. There's just so many people that still need help, it doesn't feel like it. The reality is we know what works, and we need more money to fund what works."



Linda Jo Devlaeminck

Program Director Community of Hope

www.communityofhopepdx.org

"The missing piece is relationships. If you're going to break the cycle of trauma, the only way to do that is to help both parents and children to have healthy relationships, to be able to give and take, to trust each other to know that they're loved and be free to be who they are. Relationships are key; positive relationships that are going to help heal from that trauma and support people in making healthy choices. You can't make a healthy choice if you don't have the

wherewithal to do that, if you don't have that background and support. If we could heal those relationships, and have a society where we love each other, then there would not be homelessness and there would not be addiction.

Children that have adverse childhood experiences - if you have been homeless, abused, witnessed abuse, a child of a parents that are incarcerated or addicted - if you experienced these things you are statistically more likely

to have poor health as an adult, even if those issues got resolved. More likely to be mentally ill, more likely to use drugs and to abuse others or to be a victim of domestic violence. Less likely to have a good education, less likely to have a good job, less likely to have good social skills that's going to help you be successful.

Childhood trauma is the worst health issue in our nation, and maybe our world. It's worse than cancer, worse than heart disease."

Events & Opportunities: Fall 2018

Creating an Edible Landscape

Saturday, October 6, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Livingscape
3926 N Vancouver Ave.

This workshop will give you insight and tools for thoughtfully incorporating edible plants into your landscape – from annual veggies and herbs to perennial berries and fruit trees. Register online at <http://emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/upcoming-workshops/> or call 503-222-7645 for more information.



Gentrification Documentary Screening by Eliot Neighborhood Association: Priced Out

Monday, October 8, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Q Center
4115 N Mississippi Ave.

Free Event

Community Dialogue: What does safety mean to you? How can Portland be a sanctuary for you and those that you care about? Why are some of us not feeling safe?

Tuesday, October 16, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
The Library at Martin Luther King Jr. School
4906 NE 6th Ave, Portland OR

Food provided! Free, open and in need of public participation!

This is a bilingual event with Spanish translation provided.

We want your questions to engage in a community dialogue about sanctuary and safety in

Portland. Everybody is invited to this long table discussion! At the end, we will learn about Measure 105, which could end Oregon's status as a sanctuary state.

Submit your questions about safety and sanctuary to: ksmoca@gmail.com

Trick or Treat Alberta Street

Wednesday, October 31, 3:30 - 6:00 PM
NE Alberta St.

The 6th annual Trick or Treat Alberta Street is presented by pedX shoes. Alberta Street businesses with Trick or Treat Alberta Street posters on display will be providing treats to costumed children as they trick or treat up and down NE Alberta Street.



PHOTO: ALBERTA MAIN STREET FACEBOOK

Trick or Treat on Mississippi Ave!

October 31, 3:00 - 7:00 PM
N Mississippi Ave.

Orange and black balloons mark the sweet stops and shops that have candy galore for the kids. Share your sweet costume photos with us too! Just tag #missave. We can't wait to see you and your costumes!

Calling all Vernon alumni!

Thursday, October 4, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Vernon School
2044 NE Killingsworth St.

Your alma mater will celebrate its 111th anniversary at an open house at the school. All Vernon alumni, their families and the entire Vernon community are invited.

The school is updating its list of alumni. If you attended Vernon School, add yourself to the database at Goo.gl/forms/wNUAx02W3J6Z-58aB2/Connie or email CSchwend@pps.net.

If you know people who attended, please share this information with them.

The school is also collecting pieces of his history. If you have memorabilia to donate, call 503-916-6415. And mark your calendar for Oct. 30 through Nov. 25, when Concordia University will host an exhibit of Vernon Voices, a photo/historical display connecting current Vernon students with alumni.

Phones Offer Social Service, Art

By Riley O'Boyle
CNA Media Team

Nestled in the alley between 27th and 28th avenues, between Killingsworth and Jarret streets, stands a former pay phone.

There's just one difference. You can leave your coins at home and call nearly anywhere in North America free.

Futel, a Portland nonprofit telephone company, announced the installation in January. The first was installed on southeast Clinton Street in 2014, and Concordia's is one of four additional local phones, the second in northeast Portland. One was installed in 2016 on Ainsworth Street at 8th Avenue.

There's another on southeast Taylor Street and – thanks to a partnership with Village Coalition and Freewire – there's a phone in homeless encampment Right 2 Dream 2. The first out-of-town unit was installed in March in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Futel has several volunteers and contributors, including Regional Arts and Culture Council, Precipice Fund and Awesome Foundation.

Installation requires a host – with power and internet service – who is willing to share. The rest is managed by the dedicated network of volunteers who believe in the project. Last year 14,000 calls were made, according to Karl Anderson, one of two men who created Futel. That's an increase from 9,000 in 2016.

The intent is twofold: to provide a social service for anyone who may not have a phone and an artistic mode of engaging with a community space.

"It's a way of getting art in the community," Karl explained at a May gathering of hardware aficionados hosted by Crowd Supply.

"It's a part of the urban landscape that I never saw as disappearing," he added. "I thought that they [pay phones] would always be there."

From a social services standpoint, the phones offer more than free outgoing calls: incoming phone service, voice mail accounts and speed dialing to social services resources, TriMet Transit Tracker, weather forecasts, the Portland mayor's office and an "apology line" patterned after one in New York City for people to unburden themselves to a recording.

Dial "0" and you'll talk with Karl, fellow Futel



PHOTO BY CHRIS BAKER

Concordia News writer Riley O'Boyle wouldn't write about a "pay" telephone installed in a Concordia alley without first testing it for readers. It may seem like just a neighborhood curio, but the phone actually works.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: Karis Stoudamire-Phillips

By Mischa S. Webley
NECN Staff Writer

Karis Stoudamire-Phillips might not sleep. As a mother of two boys, the Director of Corporate Responsibility at Moda Health, and the wife of a traveling musician, she would be forgiven for sneaking away for a nap in her spare time. Instead, she uses that time to be an active community member, whether through her participation with the Boise Neighborhood Association, as a member of the North/Northeast Oversight Committee which oversees development in the inner-NE core, or any of the countless boards she sits on. She is a proud, lifelong resident of Northeast who is not afraid to be a voice for her community.

On getting started:

I've been a part of the Boise Neighborhood Association as long as I can remember.

When I moved back here from college in 1998, I started going to the meetings and we were talking



Karis Stoudamire-Phillips

about doing something in the community to bring people together. At the time, Mississippi was pretty run down. There had been a period where we had block parties all the time, but when drugs, gangs and crime crept in, that kind of stopped. There just wasn't a lot of community unity at the time.

What hatched out of that was the Mississippi Street Fair. It was very grassroots, very community, like people who live/work/play there community. It was small, but it was nice. What it is now is not community, it's... commercial.

On Northeast Back In The Day:

People knew each other. I loved to go to the Fred Meyer on Killingsworth and knew everyone that worked there. When you walked around the store it was like a family reunion. I miss that social aspect of our community and no matter where you went you saw somebody you knew.

Even though there was a lot of good and bad back then, everyone still watched each other, everybody still had each other's back.

On Portland "Nice":

As tolerant as Portland may think it is, some of that is just not the reality. I don't live in a bubble, and I don't teach my kids to live in a bubble. They don't have the luxury of living in a bubble.

On the North/NE Oversight Committee:

I feel like [Prosper Portland] is trying, they're being diligent, but they have an uphill battle. There's some people in the room that are willing to give them a chance and

some people just aren't. Which is okay, you gotta have all sides.

Prosper is going to have to do more, though, they're going to be pushed more than they want to. But I do think they're doing the right thing by involving community in the meetings, creating committees and having more of a public process. But you gotta help people understand the process. If you invite the community, don't expect them to be where you are.

On Getting Involved:

You gotta have a seat at the table, you gotta go to the meeting. You have to get off the wall and just go in. When you see an opportunity, grab it. At a certain point, people see you're interested, engaged, that you do have something to say. You can be a squeaky wheel, that's okay, but at a certain point you have to be a problem solver. You have to make the effort; no one's going to come find you.

Turning Parking Lots into Paradise



Vernon School

By Erica Mattison, MPA,
JD - Depave Executive Director

A decade ago, a group of friends and community members in Portland gathered for a depaving work party at a friend's parking lot. After removing the asphalt, they worked together to turn it into a growing space. Today, that property is home to the lush Fargo Food Forest Garden on N. Williams Avenue.

Since then, Depave, a Portland-based 501c3 nonprofit, has collaborated with dozens of community partners such as schools, communities of faith, social service organizations, environmental organizations, and community-focused businesses to implement close to 60 urban greening projects across the Portland metro region. Examples of Depave's Northeast Portland projects include: King School, Vernon School, and Faithful Savior Lutheran Church.

Depave incorporates green infrastructure practices and has created dozens of bioswales to filter stormwater before it goes into our waterways. We invite community members to submit their ideas for projects. We focus our work in areas that are underserved, where reduced pavement and increased access to green space will have a major positive impact on the community. By promoting the transformation of over-paved places to overcome the social and envi-



King School



Faithful Savior Lutheran Church

ronmental impacts of pavement, we help city dwellers experience nature without having to leave their

See PARADISE pg 8

JOIN THE BOARD



Hey Neighbors, Are you a member-owner of the Alberta Food Co-op? **Do you want to have a say** in the co-op's vision and direction, represent other member-owners, and support the Collective Management to help make the store a success?

There is an open seat on the Board of Directors, and our by-laws require us to appoint someone to fill that position until the July 2019 election. This is a **great way to learn** about governing your co-op without making a long-term commitment.

If you're interested, please email board president Ashley Todd at ashley.todd@albertagrocery.coop. Benefits of serving on the Board include a voice in the co-op's vision and direction, the opportunity to serve your fellow Owners, and a **15% discount on all purchases**.

See PHONE pg 8

Hey Neighbor! Crossword Puzzle

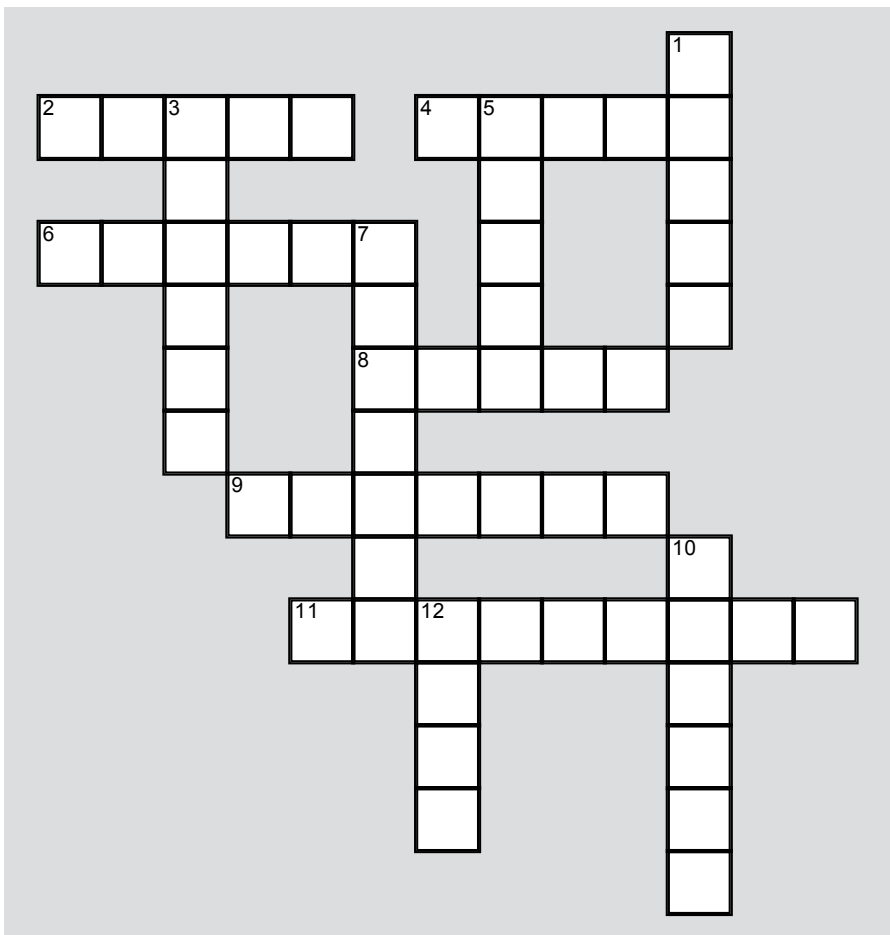
ACROSS

- 2 Portland nonprofit telephone company
- 4 Medina _____, student at Vernon School
- 6 _____ Sandman of CNA Media Team
- 8 Fade to _____
- 9 Insect that invaded Walnut Park during the 1920s
- 11 Holiday that involves Trick-or-Treating

DOWN

- 1 Boise Neighborhood Advocate _____ Stoudamire-Phillips
- 3 Larry _____, Founder of Fresh Out
- 5 _____ Mattison, Executive Director of Depave
- 7 _____ Food Co-Op
- 10 School celebrating 111th anniversary
- 12 Precious _____, Retention Case Manager at JOIN

Answers located at www.necoalition.org/newspaper



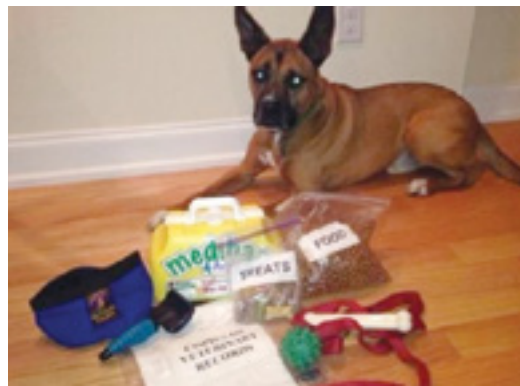
Portland Prepares

Woodlawn/Vernon/Concordia
Neighborhood Emergency Team
(NET)

Portland's Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) and your local neighborhood emergency teams (NETs) are all about taking steps now to be prepared for the coming Cascadia subduction zone earthquake. We all love our lives here in this beautiful place and hate to think that an

earthquake could so disrupt our way of life that things will never be the same again.

In this context, proper preparation and advance readiness are key in order for us to suffer less and recover faster in the event of an earthquake. We will be able to help each other through the early days of trauma as well as in the weeks and months after the last aftershocks pass. Our individual prepara-



tions will benefit us collectively and promote the common good of our neighborhoods, our city, and the region as a whole.

In light of this, we encourage every household in Northeast Portland to begin making preparations if you have not already done so. Among other things, a very large earthquake will disrupt electricity and water systems. Stores will not be open or will quickly run out of supplies. Therefore, you will need a supply of water, first aid supplies, non-perishable food supplies, and a system for taking care of human wastes (Pee and Poo buckets!). What will your pets need? Do you have a supply of cash set aside since credit cards and ATMs will not be useable?

You can address these and other questions related to preparation for a large scale emergency if you take it one step at a time, calmly and deliberately now, so that when "it" happens, panic and despair will not be your household responses.

If you are motivated to begin your preparations, refer to the following

sites that will provide information to help you get your stuff together. For information on your local neighborhood emergency team (NET) check out www.portlandprepares.org; for a wealth of information from Portland's Bureau of Emergency Management go to www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem; for preparation and disaster readiness information from FEMA check out www.ready.gov. If you have specific questions, contact your local NET and we will do our best to get you the answers you need.

Paradise cont'd from pg 7

neighborhood. With just 1.5 staff, Depave is heavily reliant on volunteers to make our work possible. Depave organizes a large-scale volunteer work party for each project to provide community members and depaving enthusiasts a chance to make a tangible contribution to the transformation of the space. In addition to ripping up pavement and creating greenspaces, volunteers are needed to serve as stewards of these places. Through our Green Thumbs Program, we engage volunteers in assisting at sites that need some extra support. There are many different ways to lend your interests, skills, and time.

Learn more and sign up at <https://depave.org/volunteer>.

Phone cont'd from pg 6

founder Elijah St. Clair or another volunteer. "You can call us to answer what questions you might have or talk about whatever you want," Karl offered.

The nonprofit's costs are relatively low. Futel repurposes salvaged payphones, thrift store landlines, obsolete IT hardware kept alive

with open source firmware and rented cloud computers.

"Then we buy phone service and we give it away free," Karl said. "It's not a technologically exciting thing. It's a socially exciting thing."

Riley O'Boyle, certified EIT, works in land development and site engineering, and can be reached at RSOboyle13@gmail.com.

FUND YOUR PROJECT

BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY

with NECN's Community Grants Program

Grants up to \$2,000 available for community-based projects that take place in Northeast Portland.

Applications open Oct. 11th.
Deadline to Apply: Jan. 15, 2019

Visit www.necoalition.org/programs/grants for application and more information

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods
Portland, Oregon
4013 NE 7th Ave / 503.388.3004 / necoalition.org

OFFICE OF Community & Civic Life