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**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

# Faith in Northeast

Civic engagement begins with the community, not with the powers that be

By Mischa Webley,  
NECN Staff Writer

In the insular world of local politics, a recent controversy has sparked a heated conversation in Portland around civic engagement. In short, the City of Portland's Office of Community and Civic Life (Civic Life) has undertaken an effort that would, theoretically, expand the focus of the neighborhood system (that's us) to be more inclusive of other groups, and less-focused on neighborhood associations (note: Civic Life is NECN's primary funder).

The plan, broadly called Code Change, has been met with fierce opposition from a broad alliance of Portlanders. Critics see the move as a way to undermine public involvement in a city that still doesn't elect its commissioners by district, leaving the neighborhood system as one of the only avenues for most Portlanders to directly access their government. The City, for its part, maintains that *Code Change* is simply an effort to widen the tent of recognized organizations.

Few on either side disagree with that mission. But after a two-year long process that has been less-than-transparent and at times openly hostile to neighborhood groups, the plan has proven to be more divisive than inclusive. Here at NECN, it's led us to reflect on our own history of civic engagement and the partnerships we've made over the years.

NECN has a long history in Northeast Portland. We've been operating out of the King Elementary School Annex since 1974, when a group of neighborhood



PHOTO BY MISCHA WEBLEY

leaders banded together to fight the city's strategic disinvestment and negligence of the (then) predominantly black communities of Northeast. Neighborhoods joined

**"Real, meaningful civic engagement...comes from the ground up, from the people"**

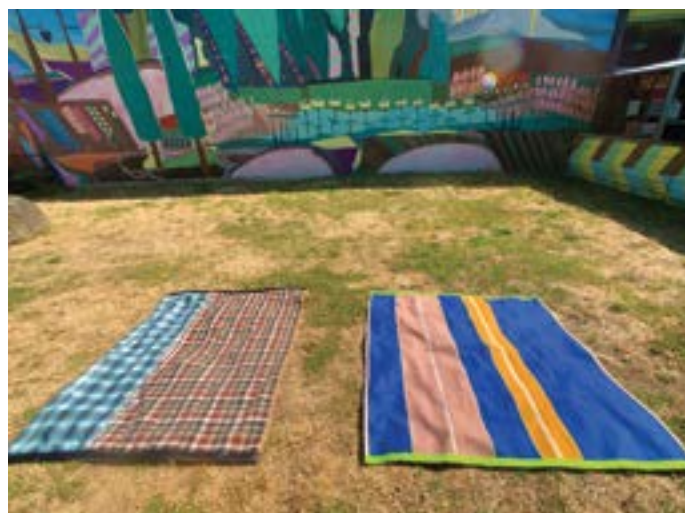
together to amplify the voices of the community and build strength in numbers to demand representation from the city. In other words, NECN was born out of opposition to - not because of - city policy. *That's because real, meaningful civic engagement doesn't come top-down from the city. It comes from the ground up, from the people.*

NECN's focus is, and always has been, to support and uplift our community by promoting, funding, supporting and enabling in any way we can other grassroots and

nonprofit organizations in Northeast, including neighborhood associations. From working with all these groups over the years, one thing is clear: people don't fight for their community, engage with their city, vote for their representatives or volunteer in their community because the city government gives them their blessing. People do it out of faith: that their neighbors are good, that their community needs them, that things will get better. And they often do it

in spite of the decisions made in City Hall, not because of them. So, in this issue we shine a light on just a few leaders around Northeast who have made it their life's work to improve this place. For some, faith in community and faith in a higher power are one in the same. For others, faith is what they need to keep fighting for a community that presents different daily challenges. Whether it's in the news or not, the hard work of building up communities goes on, everyday, with or without the government's stamp of approval.

# Albina Green Celebrates 20 Years



Anne Greenwood Rioseco will install 50 picnic blankets made from scrap wool donated by Pendleton Woolen Mills

By Anne Greenwood  
Rioseco, Humboldt  
Neighbor

Humboldt neighborhood residents and business owners founded the Albina

Green neighborhood greenspace in 1999 as a grassroots effort to create an outdoor gathering place for everybody. Now, twenty years later, they're celebrating its anniversary with a community art event and neighborhood picnic on **Sunday, October 6th, 2019 from 4-9 p.m.**

Stewardship efforts in the first ten years went towards maintaining the grounds as many people began to discover the place with their children. When we rede-

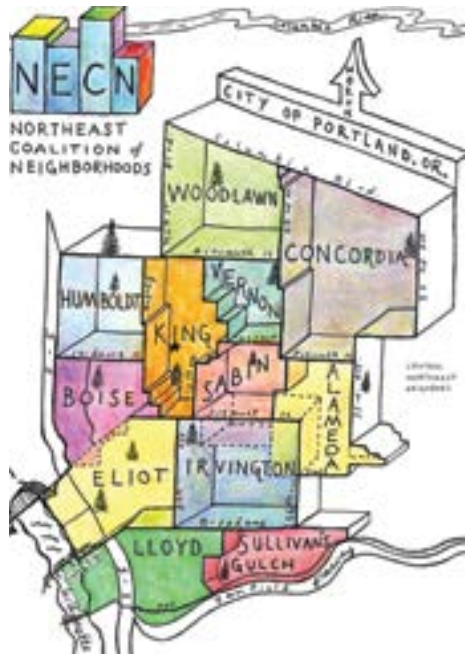
signed the greenspace to include a grass stage that is wheelchair accessible, more activities began to materialize.

Twenty years later, the local community looks very different and many people who helped cre-

See ALBINA pg 2

## IN THIS ISSUE

Resident Profile ..... 2  
Rep. Tawna Sanchez ..... 3  
**FAITH IS WORK ..... 4-5**  
Ideas Needed for Local Project ..... 6  
How We Grow ..... 7



RUDY SPERSCHNEIDER

**NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**

**Alameda**  
2620 NE Fremont St.  
alamedapdx@gmail.com  
www.alamedapdx.com

**Boise**  
4115 N Mississippi Ave.  
boisena@gmail.com  
www.bnappdx.com

**Concordia**  
5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.  
Kennedy School Community Room  
chair@concordiapdx.org  
www.concordiapdx.org

**Eliot**  
120 NE Knott St.  
info@eliotneighborhood.org  
www.eliotneighborhood.org/association

**Humboldt**  
HNANews@gmail.com  
www.humboldtneighborhood.org

**Irvington**  
1320 NE Brazee St.  
president@irvingtonpdx.com  
www.irvingtonpdx.com

**King**  
4815 NE 7th Ave.  
info@kingneighborhood.org  
www.kingneighborhood.org

**Lloyd**  
Visit www.lloyddistrict.org for meeting schedule and location

**Sabin**  
3535 NE 15th Ave.  
sabin@necoalition.org  
www.sabinpdx.org

**Sullivan's Gulch**  
1548 NE 15th Ave.  
sullivansgulch@necoalition.org  
www.sullivansgulch.org

**Vernon**  
5431 NE 20th Ave.  
vernon@necoalition.org  
www.vernonpdx.org

**Woodlawn**  
817 NE Madrona St.  
info@gowoodlawn.com  
www.gowoodlawn.com

*Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN), founded in 1974, 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, Lloyd, King, Sabin, Sullivan's Gulch, Vernon, and Woodlawn. Any person that resides or works in North/Northeast Portland can get directly involved!*

**RESIDENT PROFILE: Rena Williams**

By Mischa Webley, NECN Staff Writer

There's not much you can say that will phase a woman like Rena Williams. As the founder of a grassroots organization dedicated to supporting survivors of sex trafficking and a former sex worker herself, she's seen it all, heard it all, lived it all, built up walls around all those hard experiences. But no matter how thick those walls are, her heart is on full display when she works with her clients. So it's the smallest thing, like a poem that a client once wrote for her, that tug at her heart and make those walls come crumbling down.

It has been a long, hard path for Rena to get to the place where she could help others. When Rena was pushed into the lifestyle as a teenager it began a vicious cycle common to sex trafficking victims: a sense of shame led her to accept violent behavior from pimps and others. To cope with the violence, she turned to drugs. To feed the addiction, she relied more on prostitution.

Prostitution, she says, is itself a kind of addiction, a fleeting sense of power that disappears quickly and leads back to shame. That shame also kept her in an abusive marriage for years until she finally began to wonder if she didn't deserve more in life. At that point, she also had to face the guilt she felt for the example she had set for her two daughters, one of whom had followed in her footsteps.

Despite all this, her strong sense of self managed to break through and she began to take the lead in her life. First, she enrolled in a training program called Prostitution Alter-



PHOTO BY JASON EDWARDS

natives that helped her envision a life outside of the streets. Then she kicked a nasty crack cocaine habit and went into recovery. She never went back to either one. In her training, she learned an important lesson: it wasn't her fault. She could stop

Her role is complex, difficult and exhausting but she makes it sound simple: it's just about listening to her clients, understanding them, and leading them to recognize triggers and unhealthy relationships. It's about helping them redefine in their own

on their shared experience. But government services for survivors are still sorely lacking and only recently has there been movement from lawmakers towards tackling the issue in a meaningful way. This has put Rena in high demand from policymakers who are eager to gain an understanding of how to approach such a complex issue.

Rena's own story offers hope to others who are hungry to see that a life can exist beyond the streets, beyond the violence. She is living, breathing proof of the power of hope and faith, a testament to the idea there is something better waiting for all of us if we are courageous enough to learn from our own experiences and reach a hand out to help others.

Another Level is always looking for support, financial or otherwise, to continue doing this work that has saved the lives of so many young people already.

Find out more at <https://anotherlevelportland.com/>

**"In her training, she learned an important lesson: it wasn't her fault. She could stop blaming herself for what her younger, underage self did to survive"**

blaming herself for what her younger, underage self did to survive. She took that lesson and ran with it when, a few years later while attending a seminar about sex trafficking, it dawned on her that there were countless others like her who needed help, just like she did. So she decided right then and there to begin Another Level, her support group for survivors, and soon after became a Certified Recovery Mentor.

terms what right and wrong are; what's right for them, what's wrong for them, what being loved means. It's about helping them break the cycles that have left them reeling from their own personal histories. In a world where sex trafficking is little understood and often stigmatized, the services Rena provide are a lifeline to survivors of the industry. She has helped dozens of women make the transition, building trust

**Albina** cont'd from pg 1

ate this place have been priced out of the neighborhood and city, and have therefore been excluded from knowing this place exists for community use. On this day, we want to create opportunities for artists who haven't shown their art in the park, and to inspire ongoing stewardship action and relationships.

We have invited filmmaker Kalimah Abioto to curate events for the evening from 7-9pm;

*Po'Shines Café* will provide delicious free food from 5-6:30; and park steward Anne Greenwood Rioseco will install 50 picnic blankets made from scrap wool donated by Pendleton Woolen Mills. The blankets were designed and sewn together as a collaboration with her brother Tom Greenwood and the Portland Garment Factory, where the siblings worked as artists-in-residence. This is the first edition of blankets created by the two siblings joint venture, *Ray-mains*

*Blanket Company.* The blankets will be featured from 4-5pm as a Portland Textile Month Event and sold in a silent auction that afternoon.

Mississippi Records will also be selling a commemorative stamp made by The Portland Stamp Company featuring Johanna Jackson and Chris Johanson's mural. All funds made from this event will go toward paying the artists and to raise funds for The Native American Youth Association and Family Center.

**Unexpected Visitor Drops In On Northeast Portland**

By Margaret O'Hartigan, King Neighbor

Northeast residents got an unexpected visitor July 1 when a weak tornado blew through around 5:30 p.m. Although the National Weather Service subsequently claimed the tornado first touched down near 8th and Wygant, the trail of broken trees actually began near Malory and Sumner, the funnel cloud bouncing up a hundred feet and hopping over MLK before landing again near King School.

I was at home on Garfield Avenue, sitting on my front porch, when the twister struck, blowing rain and grit parallel to the ground, while smaller trees were doubled over. Having already been through 4 tornadoes back in Minnesota, I knew exactly what was happening.

As far as reminders of nature's power goes, it was pretty good – no fatalities, no injuries and no serious damage to property.



restore all telephone service.

Even after electrical service was restored, power kept going out throughout Northeast Portland over the next several months as a direct result of the storm. On November 11, approximately 300 customers of Pacific Power & Light lost electricity when a tele-



Peninsula Park swimming pool wall crashed to sidewalk after the Columbus Day storm of 1962

Northeast Portland has a history of escaping relatively unscathed from natural disasters that inflicted far worse on other parts of Portland or the state as a whole.

The biggest wind to hit Oregon in the past century – the Columbus Day storm of 1962 – killed 24 people and caused \$170,000,000 in damages, with Multnomah County alone suffering \$1,700,000 in damages. Estimated to have peaked in Portland at 116 mph, the storm's winds tore down the Peninsula Park swimming pool's wall, broke ships loose from their moorings at Swan Island, and destroyed horse barns at Portland Meadows. The St. John's suspension bridge swayed 15 feet. Trees and chimneys were toppled.

469,000 homes in western Oregon were without power – and it was the resultant darkness that led to the only death in Northeast Portland, when 37-year-old Harold Morrison fell 17 feet in the Lloyd Center parking lot as he attempted to locate his auto.

Damage to the electrical grid was so extensive that it took 2 weeks to restore power throughout Portland, and even longer to

phone pole at Rodney and Killingsworth dropped a storm-weakened cross-arm. Branches – and entire trees – continued to fall onto power lines.

Nature just seemed to have it in for Portland that autumn. On the evening of Monday, November 5, an earthquake centered 10 miles south of Portland knocked down chimneys throughout Northeast Portland. And a windstorm on November 19 caused additional trees – damaged but not downed by the Columbus Day storm – to topple over, according to Portland's Commissioner of Public Works, William A. Bowes.

But there were lighter moments to the storm, as well. As recounted in Betty Plude's 2011 "Columbus Day Storm Memories", then-6-year-old Joe Fulton walked home from class at St. Andrew's Elementary School just as the storm was breaking. After getting to the family home on the corner of 11th & Shaver, Joe launched a paper airplane from the porch – and before going inside, stripped down to his shorts, entering the house with the pronouncement that the wind had blown the rest of his clothes off!

**Five Questions with Tawna Sanchez, State Representative, District 43**

By Mischa Webley, NECN Staff Writer

Tawna Sanchez was elected to the state legislature in 2016. Since then she has racked up a long list of legislative accomplishments, most significantly getting the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Act passed, which directs state resources to tackle the massive and underreported issue of violence against women in tribal areas. She has also worked for 23 years at NAYA, the Native American Youth and Family Center, where she is currently the Director of Family Services. She is a longtime resident of Northeast Portland.



Rep. Tawna Sanchez, District 43

how hard all this is. But it's so important.

**Why did you turn to public office?**

Well, my first response when it was suggested was to laugh. But I thought about it. There had only been one Native person to represent Native Americans in the legislature in Oregon. So, as indigenous people here we didn't really have anybody representing us. We barely had people of color in the legislature.

But I also recognized that I could continue to do everything I'd been doing for years like help to build NAYA family center from its small beginning place to a multi-million dollar organization that provides resources like housing and energy assistance and domestic violence services. I got to help build all that and I [realized] I could continue to do that. I could badger the legislature from the other seat or I could step up and be one of the people who make those decisions.

**How do you keep going when the work you do has so many challenges?**

It's about recognizing that everyday you get up you have the opportunity to do good work. You have to recognize that you're doing something for the greater good. That's part of my culture, that what we do now we do for the next seven generations to come.

You can't just be thinking about yourself. You have to think about the future and your kids and their kids. How do we create a world that is safe for them? How do we deal with some of the issues that we're struggling with and recognize what will happen to them in the future if we don't? It's amazing

**"You can't just be thinking about yourself. You have to think about the future and your kids and their kids. How do we create a world that is safe for them?"**

**Has all the change that's gone on in the Northeast community changed your work?**

Change and gentrification have shifted our community so much. So the mindset of some of the people in the community is different, but when it comes to the basic stuff like affordable housing and transportation and parking, when you get down to it these are all human beings who are struggling to make it happen everyday just like everyone else.

Come down to it, people are dealing with the same problems. Some of them may have more income than others and some may have different thoughts of how you do different things, but for the most part if we remain human it seems to still work out.

**How do you balance public service with taking care of yourself and your family?**

I don't like the concept of self-care. It feels selfish in the way we put it out there all the time. When I cook for 200 people it may seem like work to other

See **SANCHEZ** pg 6

# Faith Is Work

By Mischa Webley,  
NECN Staff Writer

Across Northeast Portland, community churches are undergoing dramatic transformations. A combination of economic displacement along with the growing age of the average church-goer has led to the pews in many churches getting emptier by the week,

while other churches have simply shut their doors for good.

In response, the churches that still remain are being forced to rethink their role in the community, and redefine themselves for the future. In a break from the past, some of them are finding success with opening their doors ever-wider, getting rid of the hierarchical structures that bind them, and asking themselves a simple question: what can we do for the community that's here today?



Inside Ainsworth United Church of Christ

For some, this kind of work is nothing new. In the heart of the Concordia neighborhood on NE 30th and Ainsworth, an elegant brick building houses Ainsworth United Church of Christ (AUCC). Built by German immigrants in the early part of last century, AUCC as it is today came into being when two different churches in the neighborhood - one majority white and the other majority black - merged with one another in the 1980's. Soon after, Pastor Lynne Smouse Lopez arrived in Portland in the mid-90's, fresh off an eight-year stint in the heart of South Central Los Angeles. And she came with a charge to push the church in a new direction.

Pastor Lynne and her new congregation wasted no time pushing AUCC ahead of the curve in Portland. Soon after arriving, they opened an HIV day clinic in the church's basement at a time when the fear of AIDS and HIV were at a peak. They also became one of the first churches in Portland to openly welcome the LGBTQ+ community when anti-homosexuality in Oregon and the nation at large was still considered mainstream. Since then, AUCC has been an outspoken advocate for a variety of causes focused on social justice: immigrant rights, housing and economic discrimination, racial injustice, indigenous rights and gun violence,

among others.

Pastor Lynne is careful to point out that her advocacy is not because of a personal agenda. Rather, she merely sits in the driver's seat of a church that makes all its major decisions democratically, guided equally by their faith and the concerns of its community.

**"People come here because they want to be in a diverse congregation"**

It's not always easy. **"People come here because they want to be in a diverse congregation," she says,** pointing out that they are a multi-racial and multi-generational congregation with a wide variety of income levels represented. **"But living it out," she adds, "is harder than they expect."**

Pastor Lynne doesn't take credit for any of this. If anything, it's the other way around: her congregants, she says, are very active and they volunteer countless hours serving the community. AUCC is simply a catalyst. **"One of our biggest roles is to nurture that fire, nurture the people, help feed them so that they can go out and do the work they're doing to serve the community."**

A short mile or so away on Northeast Killingsworth, across from Vernon Elementary, a small, modest building is evidence of another solution to a changing community. This is the home of Leaven Community, a nonprofit incubated by the Salt and Light Lutheran Church, previously Redeemer Lutheran, which has been in the Northeast community for decades.

Starting in 2010, the church began to rethink everything. Seeing the neighborhood change rapidly around them, and the feelings about church and religion changing with it, they decided that the answer was to lean into the change wholeheartedly and embrace it. To do that, they hired a community organizer and spent three years soul-searching and simply listening to their neighbors: they knocked on doors, held public meetings and heard about what holes in the community they could fill. They had decided that the key to moving forward wasn't to serve the community in a one-way relationship. Rather, it was to build a platform that could become whatever it was the community decided it should be.

**"It's about practices, not an expectation to subscribe to any set of beliefs"**

The result was Leaven Community, an organic and constantly evolving project that, among other things, hosts a variety of grassroots community organizations, as well as the Salt and Light Church of Christ. The change has been an undertaking that's much bigger than a single



church. In fact, most of the groups are not faith-based at all. "It's a practice-based community," says Mira Ayala, a Leaven Community member and organizer with Oregon Synod, the regional arm of the Lutheran church. **"It's about practices, not an expectation to subscribe to any set of beliefs."**

The groups on-site are diverse, and decidedly secular: there's the Portland Tool Library, for example, which loans out tools to neighbors; there's a Buddhist meditation group; a feminist women's group; a food collective; and an innovative Salt and Light program called Intercambio, an intercultural language exchange that hosts dinners for people who speak different languages to come together and learn from one another.

It's all part of a broader philosophy that defines the role of their church as providing the journey, but not necessarily the destination. In the words of LaVeta Gilmore Jones, Co-Executive Director of Leaven Community, **"We create spaces for people to be who they are through the exploration of their spiritual journeys and to act together out of our stories and the love we have for one another to do systemic and structural change so that we have more thriving neighborhoods."**



Change isn't easy, but change is exactly what Reverend Randy West signed up for at Berean Baptist Church on North Vancouver Avenue when he started ministering there two years ago. Berean has been around for generations, but in recent years it has seen a steep decline in enrollment. With a background in both business and theology, Reverend West arrived to shake things up and turn around the struggling church.

**"This church is caught in a crossfire between maintaining tradition and gentrification"**

The main problem they face, he says, is a conflict between old and new. **"This church," he says, "is caught in a crossfire between maintaining tradition and gentrification."** Current congregants want the church they've always had while newer residents and younger people in general are looking for something different, less institutional, more welcoming. What he knows for sure is that he didn't move all the way from Houston just to maintain the status quo. **"You look at our church**

**just from the outside right now and it doesn't even look welcoming,"**

he says, walking around the half-acre or so that the church sits on, including a two story house next to it. The paint on both buildings is old and peeling; the last update might have been decades ago. But the Reverend sees it all as an opportunity. When he looks at his building, he sees a space that would fit an indoor gym and childcare center; when he surveys the empty land behind it, he imagines building affordable homes on it, with barbecues and sports games on the weekends where there is now just an empty field.

But the real change is about a lot more than just the paint color. He's preparing to retire the old church as it is and launch an entirely new one on the same site, with a new name, for a new generation. It's a generation, he says, **"that may have given up on church, but they haven't given up on God."**

Reverend West envisions a new establishment that will be all-inclusive and affirming and that serves the community seven days a week, far beyond a weekly sermon. Reverend West knows it's a big job, but he's filled with excitement to build something new for the next generation. He'll need to be because, as those at Ainsworth United and Leaven Community can attest, that is where the work truly begins.

## Vernon Happenings this Fall!

Vernon Neighborhood Association (VNA) is reorganizing the way we operate to collaborate more directly with the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN). This restructuring will free up resources and increase our ability to support our community partners and their initiatives. This fall we are organizing a social meet up with our other Neighborhood Association colleagues to discuss new ways to collaborate in light of our ever changing City.

If you are interested in finding ways to help create more community within Vernon and our supportive neighborhoods, we will be hosting elections on October 23rd for board member positions. There are many opportunities within VNA such as putting on social events within the community, being the land use representative with NECN, working on a project with the city, helping with fundraising, securing sponsorships, and much more.

**Please come to our elections to be held on October 23rd at 7pm in the Leaven Community Center, 5431 NE 20th Ave.** This is a chance to bring your ideas on future community event plans. We look forward to hearing more from you! <http://vernonpdx.org>



## PCC Seeks Ideas for Local Project

By Nancy Varekamp, Concordia News Editor

In 2017 Portland Community College (PCC) asked voters to approve a bond measure that includes rebuilding the Metropolitan Workforce Training Center at Killingsworth Street and 42nd Avenue. Now it's asking what services there could serve the community as well as students.

PCC and the Oregon Department of Human Services serve 185 students and clients weekly at the site. "We expect that number to grow significantly if we provide wrap-around services, like daycare, healthcare and more," says Rebecca Ocken, PCC metro center project manager.

**"You'll work toward your career goals here, and have other needs – like health care and child care – taken care of, too"**

Prior to being purchased by PCC and opening under its banner in 1998, the facility had served as both a grocery store and a Veterans of Foreign Wars hall. "It wasn't constructed as an educational center," Rebecca says. "So, while we've made it work over the years, it doesn't really fit PCC's needs. The time has come to make this a full-service workforce center. You'll work toward your career goals here, and have



Rebecca Ocken of PCC and Cameron Herrington of Living Cully

other needs – like health care and child care – taken care of, too." A food pantry and food carts are among current suggestions for the facility.

As part of the project, PCC is partnering with Living Cully, a collaboration of four local nonprofits, to help with community engagement. "We're asking people for their vision for the neighborhood in general," explains Cameron Herrington, Living Cully program manager. "Then we'll distill those things down to what works here. But we'll hang onto other good ideas for potential implementation nearby. We're pleased to partner with PCC on involving community members in a project that's catalytic."

The workforce center's \$32.5 million portion of the \$185 million bond was promoted to demolish the two outdated buildings and build one multi-story facility on the three-acre site.

PCC intends to have affordable housing with as many as 100 units built on one acre of the property. The school won't build or operate the housing, but will encourage the operator to rent to students.

Otherwise, plans are fluid and await community input. A design team was formed in August and will participate in community meetings in September and October. According to Rebecca, a November 14th open house is already scheduled to share the results of those meetings with community members. "We'll talk about the top themes and ideas we've heard, and ask citizens to weigh in on those."

More details and a survey for community members to weigh in on are at: [pcc.edu/bond/pmwtc](http://pcc.edu/bond/pmwtc).

**PCC Open House**  
**Thursday, Nov. 14, 5-7:30 pm**  
**PCC Metro Workforce Training Center Building 2**  
**5600 NE 42nd Ave.**  
**Dinner & childcare provided**

**Special accommodations:**  
**Contact Gina Valencia,**  
**[gina.valencia@pcc.edu](mailto:gina.valencia@pcc.edu)**

## Sanchez cont'd from pg 3

people but I get great joy out of feeding people. When I am able to make change in a big way for the community or family or individual person, I get great joy because I know that I am shifting and changing the world in some way.

Taking care of others and serving others is taking care of yourself.

### What gives you hope?

What gives me hope is that we've been able to bring more people of color into the legislature here in Oregon and throughout the country because of [the election in] 2016. And it gives me hope because I believe truly that innately people are good and can recognize

lies and inappropriate behavior. One of the struggles we have as a society is we have tried to legislate political correctness or legislate anti-racism or anti-oppression kinds of things, and we really can't do that. We have to change people innately.

But we have a generation of folks coming up - children and young people - who are growing up with much better knowledge and awareness and understanding of their own humanness and [who are] pushing racism and oppression aside. We have others that are not doing it so much. But I think we're doing better at helping people understand that we have a responsibility to help people be decent human beings. We just have to tilt the balance to help them do that.

## It's Not If We Grow, It's How We Grow

By Jonathan Konkol, Eliot Neighborhood Association board member and Vice-Chair of its Land Use and Transportation Committee

Portland has struggled to accommodate growth in the decade since the Great Recession, and our conversations about growth and neighborhood change have become oppositional and overheated. It doesn't have to be this way.

Cities around Oregon have been given until 2022 to come up with plans to implement HB 2001, a bill that will eliminate single-family residential zoning and make four units allowed by-right on all lots. This poses many challenges for communities that want to be intentional about what historic buildings, trees and other features are preserved for future generations.

What if we could preserve what we love in Portland's classic neighborhoods while creating opportunity for tens of thousands of new households in the coming decades? What if historic preservation and affordability advocates could find themselves on the same side? Imagine a future where neighborhoods are partners in growth and change, playing a collaborative role in finding room for new homes for our growing population.

Recently, three friends from diverse backgrounds and professions got together to try to answer these challenges under the name The Re-Urbanist Collaborative. Our approach to neighborhood change is called Dynamic Density. It's a new/old way of looking at urban neighborhoods based on the idea of finding our urban future in our urban past. This proposal uses the existing framework of neighborhood associations to make local decisions on how we allocate new buildings while preserving existing assets. Rather than a one-size-fits-all, top-down approach, it proposes a grass-roots, place-based approach.

### How it works:

Dynamic Density empowers neighborhoods to direct how they would like to grow, and enables them to share in the economic benefits of development in their communities. It recognizes the value of Portland's classic neighborhoods and empowers citizens to take an inventory and preserve what they love. This includes historic houses, but also trees and other features.

By establishing each neighborhood as a Community Development Corporation, neighborhoods would be able to capture a portion of the System Development Charges (SDC's, fees charged by the city on new developments) and the new tax revenue generated by that development.

We know we need to increase housing in all our neighborhoods, and particularly in urban neighborhoods close to employment and



Artist rendering depicting neighborhood density

transit. We begin by establishing a minimum aggregate density based on data-driven metrics (for example, 22 homes per net acre).

Regular people who don't work in the design and planning worlds usually don't have much exposure to talk about "typologies" and density. We want to show people what these terms look like on the ground and what they already have in their communities with self-guided walking tours, assisted by a mobile app. The app will guide people around examples of higher density development and allow them to get a firsthand impression of traditional building types that

already exist in our neighborhoods.

Re-Urbanist Collaborative will show neighborhoods their current population density and provide a visualization of different ways to meet or exceed the density target. We hope to lead neighbors in a series of public design workshops that will educate neighbors about the reasons for doing the work; show what their neighborhood already contains; help neighbors prioritize what they want to preserve most; show what different forms of



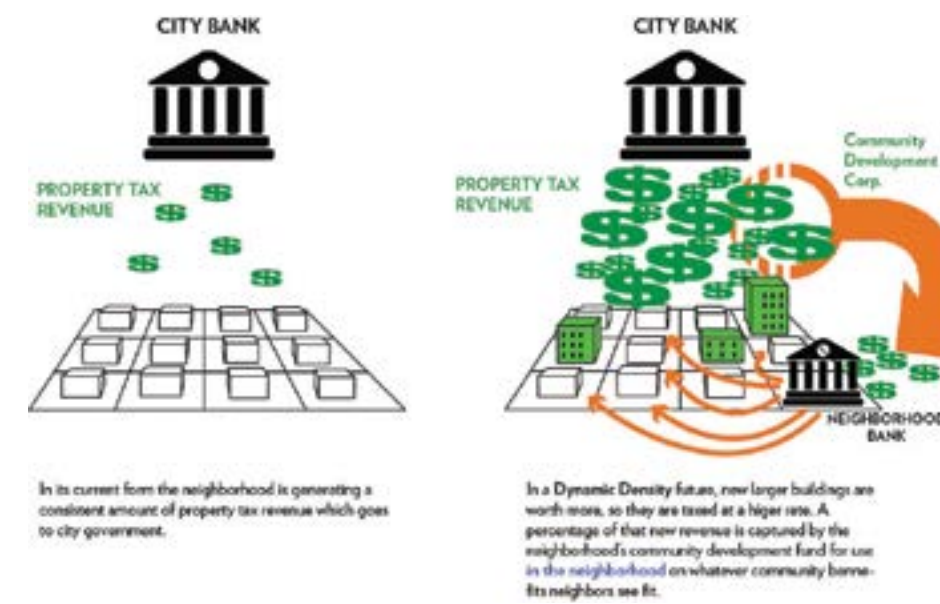
Author Jonathan Konkol and partner Miles Sisk on a neighborhood tour with a resident

density look like; lead a mapping exercise to place denser housing types in neighborhoods, develop a plan to implement the neighborhood's preferred scenario.

Drawing on what they have learned about growth targets, existing conditions, priorities for preservation, and a knowledge of what higher density housing can look like, neighbors choose the puzzle pieces and arrange them on the board. We provide a pattern book of compatible, historically-derived building types based on examples we've documented from months of walking neighborhoods with our cameras and talking to neighbors on the way.

The Re-Urbanist Collective includes the author, Jonathan Konkol, AICP – Planner & Urban Designer; Richard Potestio, AIA, Architect & Troublemaker; and Miles Sisk – Political Consultant & Property Manager.

If you'd like to get involved, you can find out more at [www.reurbanistcollaborative.com](http://www.reurbanistcollaborative.com) or contact the author at: [jonathankokol@gmail.com](mailto:jonathankokol@gmail.com).



## NATURESCAPING WORKSHOP

Join this FREE workshop to learn how to create a low-maintenance landscape that conserves water, prevents pollution, and saves you time & money! This workshop will cover building healthy soil, explore the many benefits of landscaping with native plants, and help you learn more about choosing the right plant for the right place.



Date: **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
 Time: **1-5pm**  
 Location: **NE Coalition of Neighborhoods**  
 Address: **4815 NE 7th Ave, Portland OR 97211**

Register online at:  
[www.emswcd.org/workshops](http://www.emswcd.org/workshops)

EMS WCD is committed to accessibility, diversity, and equity. To request accommodation, please contact us at least five business days in advance at: (503) 222-7645 or [rhesa@emswcd.org](mailto:rhesa@emswcd.org)

Brought to you by:  
 East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

Hosted by:  
**NE Coalition of Neighborhoods**

## Green and Black: Equity in the Clean Energy Future

October 15, 2019

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June Key Delta Community Center  
 5940 North Albina Avenue  
 Portland, Oregon 97217

Join us for a discussion of how communities of color can access the clean energy future and design green buildings to benefit the community.



# Woodlawn Yoga: A Gathering Space In the Community, For the Community

By Diane Englert,  
Woodlawn Neighbor

**O**n the corner of NE Dekum Street and 8th Avenue sits the Woodlawn Wellness Center. The gray and sage building houses an acupuncturist, chiropractor and a yoga studio. I live in Woodlawn and always wanted yoga classes within walking distance. When the studio opened three years ago, I checked it out.

Sunlight streams through plate glass windows giving the wood floor a warm glow. The instructor greets students at the door. I bring my yoga mat, but you can borrow one—no charge. Music plays softly, sometimes accompanied by the neighborhood sounds of chickens clucking and children laughing. At the end of class, feeling rejuvenated and somehow taller, I stay to drink the complimentary tea or kombu-



Instructor Whitney Handrich leads Woodlawn Yoga's Tiny Tots class.



Woodlawn Yoga class performs chair to drinking bird sequence.

**“This is the most inviting and affordable studio I’ve found in 22 years in Portland”**

cha and chat with my classmates. This is the most inviting and affordable studio I’ve found in 22 years in Portland.

That’s just what Woodlawn Yoga owner/teacher Crystal Covelle wants, “Come as you are—all are welcome!” A Portland native and neighborhood resident, Covelle and teacher Avery Lewis started

the studio with a mission to offer everyone the opportunity to practice yoga everyday. To meet this goal, the studio offers 35 classes a week, including a daily pay-what-you-can class. The schedule for these donation classes changes quarterly to accommodate different work schedules. This fall, pay-what-you-can classes are weekdays at 9 a.m. and weekends at 4:15 p.m.

Formerly named Drishti (Sanskrit for “focused gaze”), the studio recently changed names to reflect its identity as Woodlawn’s community gathering space. The center hosts events such as family movie nights (catch a Halloween film on Oct. 26), clothing swaps and a December craft faire featuring teacher and student artisans. “I wanted to make things I love available to everyone,” says Covelle, who also makes candles.

Most teachers and students live in the neighborhood. Students range from babies coming with a parent for the Tiny Tots yoga and music class to seniors

**“I wanted to make things I love available to everyone”**

who appreciate the gentle flow and body alignment classes, plus everyone in between.

Along with several styles of yoga, Woodlawn Yoga offers classes in

core strengthening, breath work and yoga-lates—a yoga/Pilates combination. Wellness workshops explore diet, essential oils and meditation. Covelle hopes to revive the bilingual yoga class, on hold since the Spanish instructor had a baby. The studio is also available to rent.

Come join your neighbors. You can find out more information at [www.WoodlawnYoga.com](http://www.WoodlawnYoga.com).

## Love Is The Greatest

By Ike Harris, Concordia  
Neighborhood Association Board  
Member

**R**emember Muhammad Ali, the greatest heavy weight boxer of all time? I do. Those quick hands and feet.

Once upon a time he made this statement. He said to his audience and followers and fans, “I wish you would love everybody the way you show affection for me.”

If we are to be truly great – here at home, across the country and throughout the world – we need to love. I can identify six types of love:

- Eros: romantic love
- Philos: affectionate love
- Philautia: self love
- Storage: familiar love
- Pragma: enduring lovetake
- Agape: unconditional love

That latter – unconditional love – is the greatest. It was important 2,000 years ago and it’s important to achieve today. Look what was said in 1 Corinthians Chapter 13, New English version:

*What if I could speak all languages of humans and angels? If I did not love others, I would be nothing more than a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

*What if I could prophecy and understand all secrets and all knowledge? And what if I had faith that moved mountains? I would be nothing unless I loved others.*

*What if I gave away all that I owned and let myself be burned*



Isham Ike Harris

*alive? I would gain nothing unless I loved others.*

*Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud or rude.*

*Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep record of wrongs that others do.*

*Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil.*

*Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful and trusting.*

*Love never fails.*

*For now there are faith, hope and love, but of these three the greatest is love.*

Isham “Ike” Harris has served on the Concordia Neighborhood Association Board of Directors for countless years. Husband for 43 years, father of three and grandfather of four, he is a retired postal carrier and a pastor for Upper Room Church.

*Editor's note: CNA respects the views and beliefs of all cultures and faiths. The views expressed by this writer do not necessarily reflect the views of CNA.*



Woodlawn Yoga's Instructors