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SUMMER 2021



A free publication from Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN)

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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.

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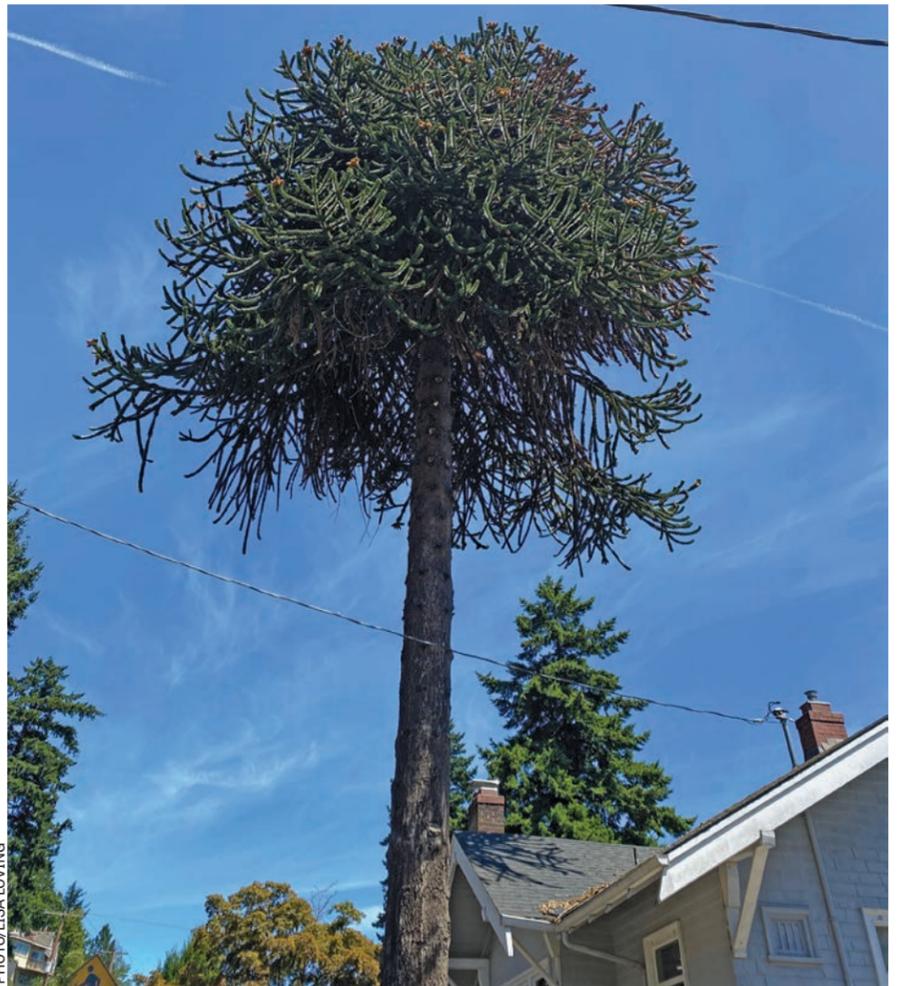
Monkey Puzzle Trees are Portland's Ancient Survivors

Some of Portland's oldest residents – trees – tell amazing survival stories

by Margaret O'Hartigan

Monkey puzzle trees are “living fossils.” Believed to be the oldest ancient conifer still on earth, fossils almost identical to today's trees are found in rock 160 million years old. Having survived one mass and two major extinction events, these trees take up to 40 years before bearing seeds. While the seeds are edible, the trees' tough, spikey leaves can draw blood – and up close look like something fully capable of outlasting past contemporaries such as the dinosaurs.

Sadly, due to over-harvesting, the monkey puzzle is now considered an endangered species in its native Chile – which makes its presence in Portland all the more important. The species was first brought out of its native Chile by Archibald Menzies, the Scottish naturalist on the 1791-1795 voyage of the Discovery as Captain George Vancouver explored and explored the west coast of the Americas – including Oregon. The mature trees growing in Portland, however, are



PHOTO/LISA LOVING

The mature monkey puzzle trees growing in Portland are almost all about 115 years old, having arrived as seeds available to fair-goers attending the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition.

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1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition.
See TREES pg 4

Board Spotlight: Keith Jones

Lloyd Neighborhood representative weaves together visionary projects on housing, the environment, and emergency management

by Lisa Loving of NECN

Keith Jones represents the Lloyd neighborhood on the North East Coalition of Neighborhoods Board of Directors and recently became president of the Lloyd Community Association. As executive director of Friends of Green Loop, he's advocating and ac-

Lloyd has forged with Right 2 Dream Too, and how it all could improve the city's resilience in a natural disaster.

NECN: The Lloyd neighborhood, the Green Loop and solutions to our housing crisis are all on the table with your work! Talk about how these pieces fit together.

KEITH JONES: When I joined Lloyd Community Association as a board member – I knew I wanted to get involved with some sort of positive contribution around houselessness in my neighborhood. I represent the residents of Lloyd. Lloyd is kind of a funny little area to be a resident because it's traditionally been a more business-centric district, with

office buildings, the mall and the Convention Center – and the Moda Center is acres wide! With developments like Hassalo and Louisa Flowers, there's more and more people moving into the neighborhood. So, I had a small group of residents that I conferred with about ideas.

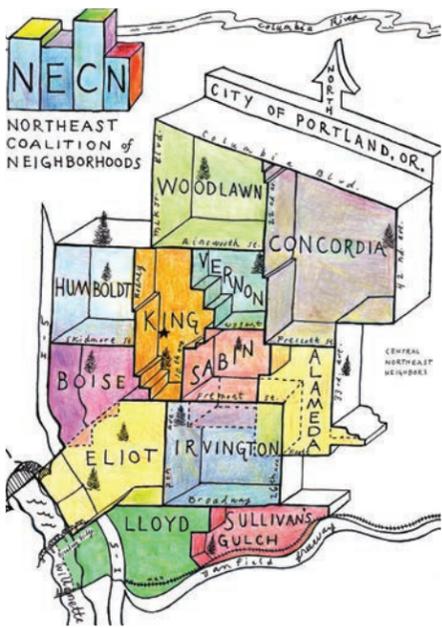
See JONES pg 5

“I represent the residents of Lloyd”

tivating the community-based development of the six miles linear park around the city known as “The Green Loop.” Hey! Neighbor chatted with him about the Green Loop, the groundbreaking partnership

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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!



FARMERS' MARKETS: Summer Jewels of King, Lloyd, Woodlawn

Delicious cherries, juicy tomatoes, fragrant basil. Now offer those delights alongside unique foods and beverages made fresh right on the spot! The local farmer's markets in NECN's communities have come a long way in offering ways to "eat your vegetables" alongside the crafts of visionary local entrepreneurs. Fresh meals, sweet treats, refreshing drinks -- come on by. Ask about SNAP matches for Oregon Trail Card-holders! Markets run through October.

King Farmers Market, Sundays, 10-2 pm, in the parking lot of the King Neighborhood Facility, NE Wygant St

&, NE 7th Ave. Chill family atmosphere, right next to King School park.

Lloyd Farmers Market, Tuesdays from 10am to 2 pm at NE 8th and Holladay Street near Lloyd Center. Small but mighty! Some of the very best produce vendors in the city are regulars here.

Woodlawn Farmers Market, Saturdays, 10-2 pm, at NE Dekum Street and NE Durham Avenue. Another cool, serene spot next to a beloved park where kids can play.

We want to make sure you make it over to a fresh produce market this summer. Why? Because #welovenepdx!

Concordia Foundation Moves to Return University-zoned Land to Residential Use

by NECN

A City of Portland Hearings Officer has recommended a proposal by the Concordia University Foundation to rezone five lots next to the Concordia University campus along NE 27th Avenue. The proposal now heads to the City Council for a final hearing.

Hearings Officer Nancy Hochman issued her decision May 3, endorsing a Bureau of Development Services staff report which recommended rezoning the five lots from Campus Institutional 1 (C11) to Residential 5,000 (R5), the most common residential zone in Portland.

Thurston.

The final hearing at City Council, which will be open to public testimony, has not yet been scheduled.

At a virtual hearing on April 19, Hochman listened to the Concordia University Foundation's proposal, BDS staff's report, and public testimony.

Speaking on behalf of BDS staff, Marguerite Feuersanger said that the proposal complied with all approval criteria in Portland's Zoning Code and "goes a long way to shoring up the residential character of that west side of northeast 27th."

The properties have stood mostly vacant since 2016, said

there and recognize the struggle of some of the indigenous people in this community.

"What we're hoping for is that somehow along the line we can get in front of this or be a part of it and not be run over by it."

Fawn Abernethy, Outreach Coordinator for the Soul District Business Association, identified local organizations already working to return Black and other displaced families to North and Northeast Portland, such as the Portland Community Reinvestment Initiative. "There are community-based organizations that are readying people in that demographic to become homeowners. They have a pipeline," she said, urging collaboration to "stand up Black wealth creation through home ownership."

"We hope that you take the next step and come across the aisle," she said to representatives for the Foundation, "and see how much we can do to rectify some of the grave disparities that have been implemented in the past."

Carlisle Daniel, a resident of the Concordia neighborhood, asked if granting the zoning change "sets any sort of precedent or makes it an easier process to change zoning on other campus properties in the future." Marguerite Feuersanger, the BDS staff representative, said no, "but if it is approved, we would be looking at a different zoning map and consider that new land use pattern." Concordia University owns an additional block of student housing on the west side of 27th Ave between NE Highland St and NE Liberty St which is zoned C11 and not included in the current proposal.

"What we're hoping for is that somehow along the line we can get in front of this or be a part of it and not be run over by it."

—John Washington, N/NE Business Association

Three of the five properties (6705 NE 27th Ave, 6623 NE 27th Ave, 6325 NE 27th Ave) already contain single-dwelling houses. One (2636 NE Dekum Street) contains a duplex, and one (6305 NE 27th Ave) is vacant. No development has been proposed for the properties at this time.

Concordia University ceased operations in the spring of last year, and as Hey! Neighbor goes to press, the 24-acre campus is scheduled to be sold at auction on June 29. The Concordia University Foundation, which manages the university's endowments, must distribute those assets to other charitable institutions under the auspices of the Oregon Attorney General "in keeping with the original intent of the donors," said Foundation president George

George Thurston, president of the Concordia University Foundation, and everyone he's spoken to on that street "is anxiously waiting to have new neighbors...They want to see new families move into those residences so the block can get back to the sense of being a close-knit neighborly community."

Others voiced support for the proposal but underscored its economic impact and opportunities for communities, particularly Black and Indigenous, who have roots in the neighborhood, where Concordia's campus footprint has grown in step with gentrification and rising costs of living. John Washington, executive chair of the N/NE Business Association, called on attendees to "look at the lay of the land

AdoptOneBlock: Bringing Portlanders Together to Clean Up Their Favorite Places

Organizers grow capacity with strategic business partnership with national chain

by NECN

Tired of watching your neighborhood struggle with hard-to-solve issues? But wish there was something simple and constructive you could do to make your own neighborhood a better place?

AdoptOneBlock is a new nonprofit that – like the Adopt-a-Spot projects elsewhere in the United States – creates an online system for local residents to organize themselves in cleaning up their neighborhoods.

It's free, it's easy, and the organization sends the supplies you need right to your door: Gloves, bags, buckets, trash picker devices – even containers for sharps if you think it's necessary.

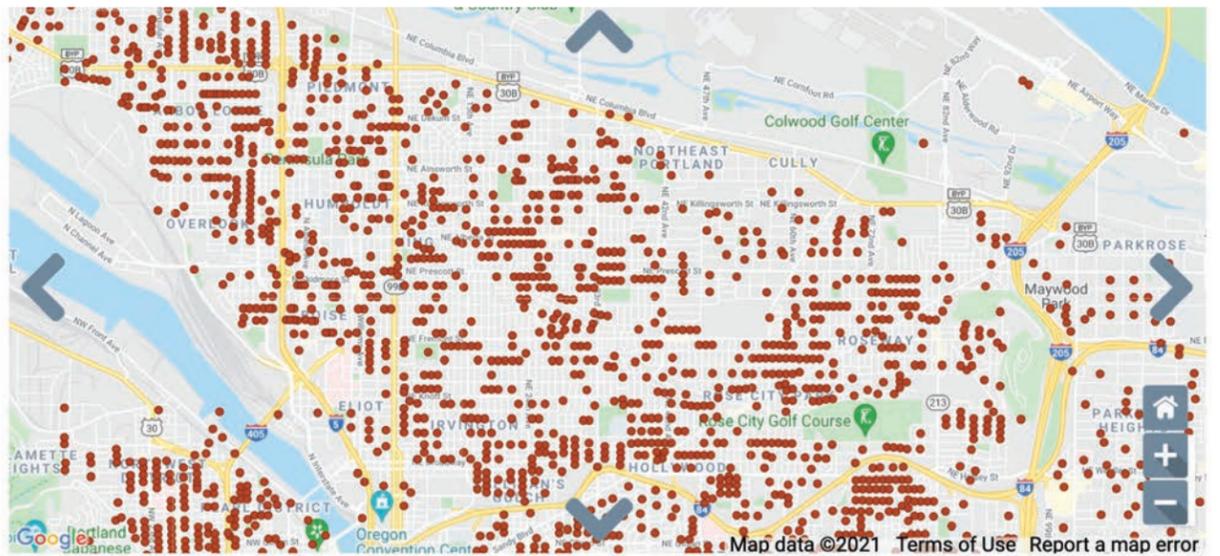
All you need to do is go online and sign up for a block that hasn't already been covered.

“AdoptOneBlock has reimagined the way we make our city cleaner and happier,” says founder Frank Moscow.

Moscow stresses there are “no meetups, no commuting to volunteer, no scheduling to volunteer, no organizations to join, no fundraising.”

Fast and easy

It really is fast and easy: enter your address at www.adoptoneblock.org, choose a block, and order the clean up supplies – all delivered within a week or two via Amazon.



To make it fun, Moscow and operations manager Olivia Langley host a lively Instagram account where volunteers post images of themselves and their families filling up buckets and bags with street trash.

Picking up trash may sound tiring or dull, but no doubt about it: participants are having fun. A LOT of people: AdoptOneBlock's Facebook page has 1.2k members and counting.

In their first 8 months, Moscow says he and his crew have recruited more than 4,200 volunteers, aka “Block Ambassadors,” consistently picking up one or more blocks in the Portland area. That adds up to more than 4,800 blocks cleaned on a weekly basis.

And it's growing.

GOT-JUNK?

Starting in June, any Portland resident Block Ambassador with AdoptOneBlock who collects too much litter from their blocks can email Portlandcomeback@1800gotjunk.com for a pickup.

1-800-GOT-JUNK? will schedule a free-of-charge pick up within 24 hours of the Block Ambassador's request. AdoptOneBlock will cover all pickup costs at a discounted rate.

“We enable anyone to care for the block they love the most, when and how they want, with clean up supplies we deliver for free,” Moscow says.

Find more information at www.adoptoneblock.org.

Clean Camp PDX Seeks Campsites in Northeast

Nonprofit forms to provide garbage service to unhoused residents in 3-month pilot project



Holladay site



Larrabee site

by Will Denecke and Dave Brook, Clean Camp PDX

Supported by NECN, Clean Camp PDX is a newly-emerging neighborhood-based project to provide regular garbage collection service for homeless camps.

Inspired by the “hygiene stations” the City of Portland provides, the Clean Camp project gives homeless campers the ability to keep their area clean by providing basic dumpster services.

To do that, Clean Camp Organizers Will Denecke and David Brooks are looking for individual donors to sponsor as well

as appropriate campsites in Northeast Portland as part of the 3-month pilot phase.

The initial sites to be served include several locations where the City of Portland currently locates red porta-potties. Clean Camp's strategy is to identify camp residents to help organize services at their camp.

Organizers are also recruiting business sponsors interested in paying for the garbage service in the style of public highway clean-ups with signs thanking them.



The group plans to start by serving 3-5 camps in NE and SE Portland for three months. During the project, organizers plan to assess and revise their operating

strategy based on experience and responses from the campers and trash haulers.

They'll be coordinating with other agencies providing trash removal, such as Central City

Concern and SOLVE and neighborhood associations whenever possible.

“The living conditions for people without shelter on the streets of Portland are terrible,” Denecke says. “The accumulation of debris and trash around campsites makes difficult conditions even more dangerous.”

“Although the city and several other agencies currently clean up camps, they are overwhelmed by the need. Clean Camp PDX will help fill that need.”

For more information email info@CleanCampPDX.org or call Denecke at 503-997-3811.



The huge Ponderosa pine at 29th and Northeast Fremont has marked the northeast corner of Samuel Pearson's 20-acre farm since at least 1885.

LISA LOVING PHOTO



The Pearsons salvaged the tree as a young seedling from an area burned over by wildfire – and like Portland's other ancient trees, has since survived windstorms, ice storms and the Columbus Day storm of 1962.

Trees cont'd from pg 1

The huge Ponderosa pine at 29th and Northeast Fremont is yet another arboreal survivor. As early as 1885 this tree marked the northeast corner of Samuel Pearson's 20-acre farm. Pearson salvaged the tree as a young seedling from an area burned over by wildfire – and like Port-

“Portland's urban canopy of trees is shrinking – and a growing number of factors make it increasingly difficult for Portland's ancient trees to survive”



LISA LOVING PHOTO

The Pearson Ponderosa was designated a Heritage Tree in 2008. Heritage trees must be protected during development.

land's other ancient trees, has since survived windstorms, ice storms and the Columbus Day storm of 1962.

The Pearson Ponderosa was designated a Heritage Tree in 2008. In 1993 Portland began recognizing trees due to age, size, type, historical association or horticultural value. Heritage trees must be protected during development.

There are dozens and dozens of designated heritage trees in north and northeast Portland, and a guide to all of them – by species and location – can be found by logging on to: www.portland.gov/trees/heritage-trees-portland

American chestnuts behind the North Portland library building at Killingsworth and Commerce are also survivors.

130 years ago this species was the most commonly planted tree in U.S. cities. Chestnut trees were grown for shade, wood and food. Chestnuts were an



PHOTO/JHENNING BEAUTY OF NATURE VIA PIXABAY

A close-up of a monkey puzzle branch really does look like something from the age of the dinosaurs.

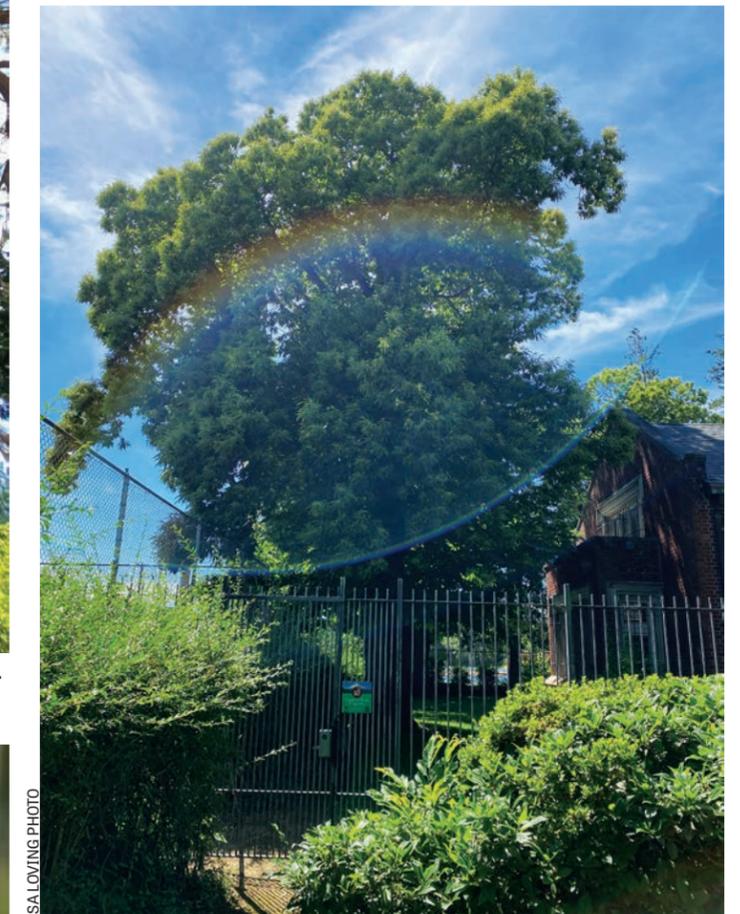
integral part of the American psyche, from poetry (Longfellow's “Under a spreading chestnut tree, the village smithy stands”) to song (“Chestnuts roasting on an open fire”). But the vast majority of living Americans have never seen one.

That's because in the first decade of the 20th century a fungal disease struck American

Sierra Nevada mountains a few lucky trees avoided the blight.

North Portland is especially fortunate, for in addition to the library tree, 4 blocks east of the library is a stand of three American chestnuts along the east side of Williams Avenue just south of Emerson Street.

Portland's urban canopy of



LISA LOVING PHOTO

Three American chestnuts grow behind the North Portland library, on Commercial Avenue just south of Killingsworth Street.

chestnuts. The devastation was so complete that in its original range the tree is functionally extinct.

However, west of the Cascade and

trees is shrinking – and a growing number of factors make it increasingly difficult for Portland's ancient trees to survive. In addition to urban pollution, invasive diseases or pests and an ever-changing environment, the city government's desire to increase density replaces single-homes sporting big enough yards to support large trees with lot-filling multi-family dwellings. If you want to give endangered trees a better chance at survival, you can learn how to nominate a Portland tree for heritage status at: www.portland.gov/trees/get-involved/heritagetreenomination.

Jones cont'd from pg 1

Then we found out in press that the city was relocating Right 2 Dream Too (R2D-Too) into our neighborhood. I thought, “hey, this is a great opportunity!” I knew a little about them from when they were downtown by the Chinatown/Old Town Gate. But I wasn’t aware that they had been moved and also that they had been selected to move into the Lloyd. So I immediately went to the residents that I’ve been working with and asked: “How do you feel about this? And is there a way that we can support this in some way?” And everyone I talked to said: Absolutely! I think this is a great addition to Lloyd! However, I knew that, to make this a success and to be really welcoming, we would also have to have the approval of the business community – or the buy-in. That’s what made the Lloyd Community Association the perfect place for that conversation, because it was made up of both residents and businesses.

“That in a nutshell is what Lloyd really is about: businesses and residents working together to make the neighborhood a welcoming place.”

In our discussion, there were lots of questions, only because we had no details. So, I reached out to Right 2 Dream Too, with a list of questions from residents and businesses. Things like, “where will it be located? “What is R2DToo?” “Who runs it?” And so, I went back to the LCA with not just answers, but a full analysis on how this could benefit our neighborhood – and they were supportive! Like, “let’s do this and do it right!” This was very surprising to the city,



Harvey Rice Heritage is bringing two new affordable housing complexes to inner Northeast Portland, named after renowned artists. This is the Isaka Shamshud-Din Development.

you know, they weren’t really prepared for us to be supportive. R2DToo had already been bounced around the city for a site location with varying levels of resistance. So they were also kind of incredulous, like: Oh. There’s not any real issues here!?

That in a nutshell is what Lloyd really is about: businesses and residents working together to make the neighborhood a welcoming place.

For Green Loop, I have plans to build on some work in the Lloyd, to make sure that we include houselessness in our design plans. To directly build off of R2DToo, I’d like to develop peer run rest areas along the Green Loop that allow people to sit, rest and maybe store items in community lockers. We’ve also discussed forageable forests and community pantries also along the Green Loop to address hunger and food insecurity.

NECN: What about the emergency services connection?

JONES: Let me tell you some-

thing I think is really interesting. So again, with Lloyd there’s no real houses and most of the housing is in the form of apartments where people come and go. It’s hard to keep people engaged, in some ways. At one point I was looking at doing an emergency management team with Portland Bureau of Emergency Management for earthquake resiliency. I’m kind of a geology nerd too, so I knew about the Cascadia earthquake potential. As part of the PBEM program, you create a base of operations where you have ham radio equipment

“So when you have one of these already in your neighborhood, as a place where you could deal with a huge catastrophic event, it’s totally an asset.”

and water and medical supplies stored for people in the event of a larger earthquake.

I was looking at all the apartment buildings thinking – where would we even put that? Well, why not put it at R2DToo? And not only that, in the event of a major earthquake, all of us might become houseless. So when you have one of these already in your neighborhood, as a place where you could deal with a huge catastrophic event, it’s totally an asset.

Find out more about NECN Board Member Keith Jones’ work online at www.pdxgreen-loop.org.



Aerial view of Right 2 Dream Too taken December 3, 2019



2021 Suicide Prevention Summit

Healing During COVID-19

for the Black & Native American Communities

July 13th & 14th - VIRTUAL via Zoom



Dr. Victoria O'Keefe
Cherokee & Seminole



Kelechi Ubozoh
Nigerian-American



Barbara Franks
Tlingit & Haida



Tyrell Blaquemoss
Afro-Indigenous



O'Nesha Cochran
Oglala-Sioux & Black



Michaela Pavlat
Chippewa

This year's summit will feature the voices, wisdom, and experiences of several Black & Indigenous speakers from across Turtle Island. Visit the website below to learn more!

www.twelve6.org

Registration Open Now!



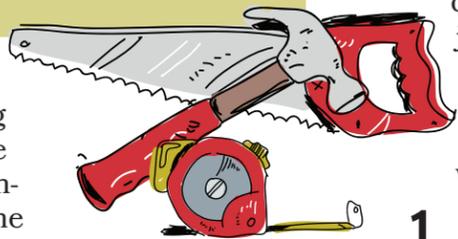
ReBuilding Center is Back with Classes and Racial Justice

NECN Staff

After a long pandemic slowdown, Summer is bringing the bustle back to the ReBuilding Center.

An anchor of Mississippi Avenue's business district since the 1990s, the building itself stands out with reclaimed facades, murals, and a cob tree sculpture.

"We're here to disrupt the system and work towards environmental justice."



Evolving over more than a generation, the ReBuilding Center today is firmly rooted in the movements against climate change and racism, focusing on reuse of existing resources, sharing with one another, and respecting the environment. "We're here to disrupt the system and work towards environmental justice," says staff member Alexandra Ferrara.

Organizationally, the Center defines itself as part of the movement toward an anti-racist economy "that is based in sharing and abundance and equity, rather than the racist strategies of extraction and exploitation," Ferrara says. "This might feel like heavy stuff for a reuse organization, but it's what guides our work internally."

They stressed that the Center's operations rely on community connections – members, volunteers, the contributors

who drop off building supplies or send in money, and the students who pay modest fees to learn carpentry skills.

"We see our work as providing countless opportunities for people to see how their individual actions (choosing to reuse or repair, instead of buying new) can have an impact on the climate crisis and racial justice," Ferrara says.

The ReBuilding Center urges supporters to join them in their fight for climate justice this summer in these three ways:

1. Listen to the "Is Your Carbon Footprint BS?" episode of the podcast 'How to Save a Planet,' about the value of individual action vs. policy change and corporate regulation. The podcast is hosted by noted marine biologist Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and This American Life producer Alex Blumberg. (Ferrara says: "Spoiler! it's all important!")
2. Once you educate yourself, consider what you can do, what changes you can make, and how you'll talk to others about it. By talking to others about changes you're making (eating less meat, biking more, installing solar, insulating your attic) you can multi-



ply the limited impact of your actions.

3. Learn more about how climate justice is linked to racial justice. Some very smart people have written about this if you want to dig deeper, including Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr. of the Hip Hop Caucus, and Elizabeth Yeampierre of the Climate Justice Alliance. Look them up online!
4. And last but not least, come to the ReBuilding Center! The warehouse store at 3625 N. Mississippi Ave., is full of affordable, reclaimed materials and is open daily, from

11am-6pm. The Center teaches multiple building and repair classes each week, ranging in topics from plumbing, electrical, and carpentry. Learn more about how to get involved at www.rebuildingcenter.org and follow them on social media.

"Sometimes guests come in sad, but leave happy – that means something to me," long-time staff member Ella Rose says. "That's not recycling wood; that's recycling kindness."

"We all have goodness to share and an ability to show love. The more goodness we share and love we show, the better we can make the world."



THEN & NOW...

by Margaret O'Hartigan

The photo at left is of Killingsworth looking east from Mississippi circa 1937. The photo at right is of the same view, in 2021.

The nearest building on the right is the Kanjaya Building, built in 1906 and now home to Origami Catering. Also on the right and just visible above the bus shelter in the contemporary photo is another

building from 1906, and currently home to Coffeehouse-Five; it is also visible in the older photo, just above and to the right of the approaching bus.

Across Killingsworth – but not visible in the photo – is the PCC Cascade Campus bookstore, while the nearest building on the left – built in 1914 – is now home to Meskel Market. The trolley tracks were removed during a recent renovation of the Kanjaya Building.

Vernon Neighborhood Association Upcoming Events

**Friday, July 23rd, 8am – 12pm &
Friday, July 30th, 8am – 12pm**

Volunteer with VNA and Portland Parks & Recreation at Vernon's very own Alberta Park! Help us lay forestry chips along the walking trail and dog run.

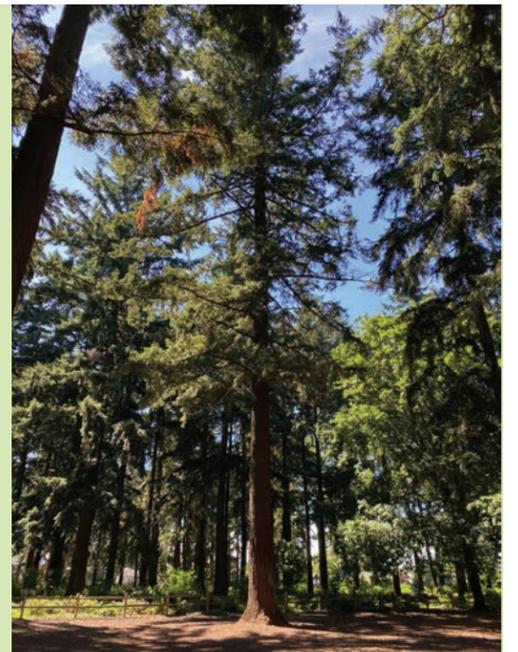
Sign-up sheet located on our website, vernonpdx.org and Facebook page, www.facebook.com/groups/VernonPDX.

All are welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Email vnaboard@gmail.com with any questions.

**Wednesday, August 18, 7pm
Community Meeting**

Join us at VNA's next community meeting! Info on our website at vernonpdx.org.

We want to meet our neighbors and hear what topics, concerns and ideas you have.



NECN Seeks Writers for Hey Neighbor!



Do you have an important story to write?
Four times per year, we seek articles of 500 words or less on neighborhood projects, events, cool individuals and small businesses.

Send an email to lisa@necoalition.org! Let her know who what, when, where, how and why.
And thanks for supporting NECN!

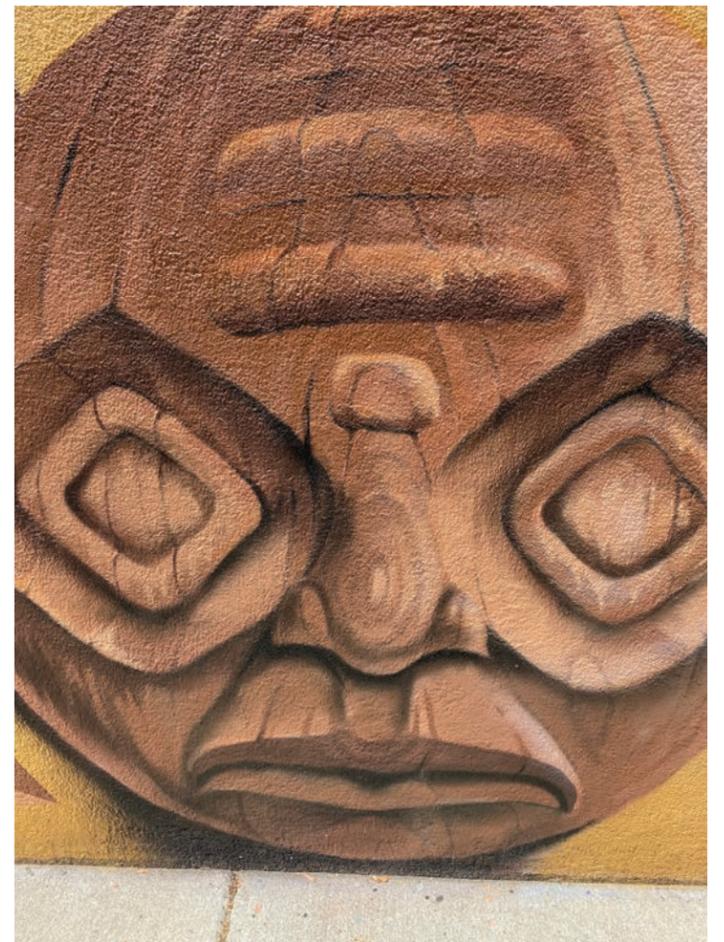


Columbia Plateau Representing



Toma Villa, member of the Yakama Nation, of the Sohappy family, works on a new mural at 2877 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. Each design and symbol carries meaning about this place we call home and the reminder of community.

Check out more of Toma's art on Instagram at [@toma_villa_haup](#).



PHOTOS BY JESSICA ROJAS