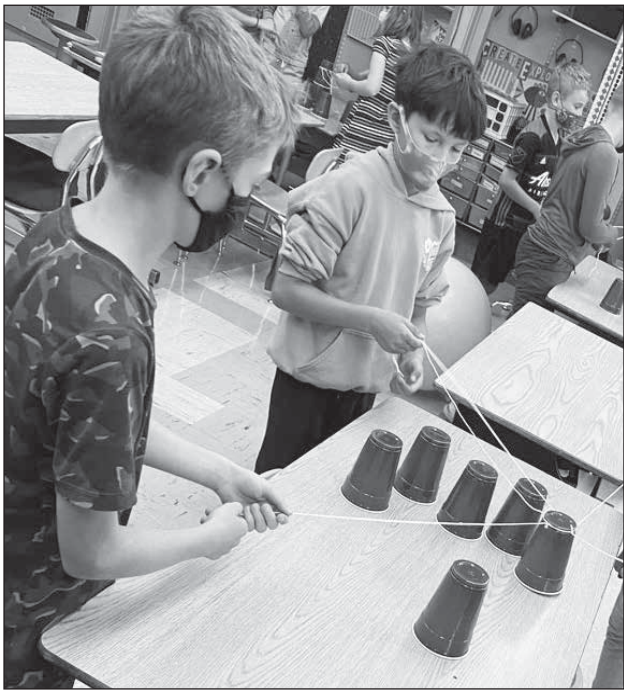


Alameda PDX

Winter 2021

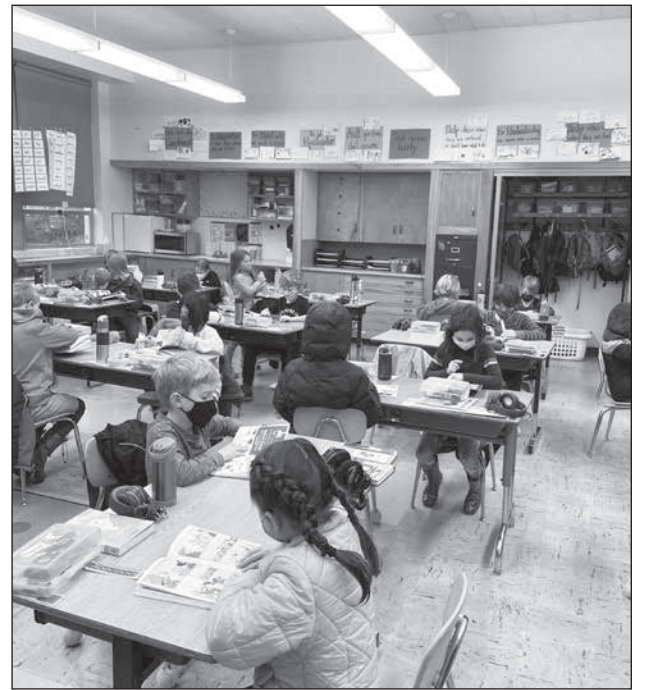
Volume 35 Number 4



DANI ABBOTT'S 4TH GRADE CLASS ENJOYS HANDS-ON GROUP PROJECTS WHILE OBSERVING SAFE COVID PROTOCOLS. PHOTO BY DANI ABBOTT.



ALAMEDA STUDENTS EAT LUNCH OUTSIDE TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING. PHOTO BY MATT GOLDSTEIN.



ABBY LARGO'S 2ND GRADE CLASSROOM DOES QUIET READING BEFORE COMMUNITY CIRCLE. PHOTO BY ANNA TOFEL.

Alameda School Off to a Strong Start *by Patty Farrell*

While teaching in the time of Covid continues to be a challenge, Alameda Elementary students and staff have had a surprisingly good start to the school year, according to new principal, Matt Goldstein.

“The first day of school, we could see kids reconnecting through their masks with friends they hadn’t seen in person for over a year,” he said. “As much as the staff and I have been concerned about Covid - making sure we’re following the necessary protocols - seeing that was really exciting.”

Now, almost three months into the year, “we’ve been able dig in to see how our students are doing academically, socially and emotionally,” Goldstein said. “The initial data is pretty strong. In second through fifth grades, reading and math skills look good. That’s a testament to

the work that did happen online, with staff and families supplementing lessons, and committing their time to keep kids learning.”

Alameda has had just one confirmed Covid-19 student case this year (as of press time). Goldstein said he can’t divulge specific Alameda staff data, but noted that 92 percent of all Portland Public Schools staff have been vaccinated, with the remainder receiving religious or medical exemptions.

In a voluntary program just begun through Oregon Health and Science University, Alameda students can take a “spit” test home every Tuesday, return it on Wednesday and parents receive the results 48 hours later. While the school doesn’t receive the results, they are reported to Multnomah County, which will then report any positive

tests back to the school. More than 300 of 520 Alameda students have volunteered to participate.

Students are wearing masks in class and mostly eating outside. “The first windy day, we had lunches literally blowing away. That brought both laughter and tears,” Goldstein said. When the weather requires eating inside, the school has six lunch periods – one for each grade level. “In the past, we’d have 16 kids to a table. Now it’s four. The doors are open, the air purifiers are running while the kids are out of their masks, eating in 15-minute periods. It feels safe. They are doing an awesome job.”

Covid protocols aside, Alameda teachers and staff are most focused on strategies for student engagement. They are introducing a new...*(continued on page 8)*

Fast Facts – Matt Goldstein, Alameda School Principal

- This is his 25th year in public education.
- Grew up on Long Island, just outside of New York City.
- Has lived in the Alameda neighborhood for 16+ years.
- Was a fourth-grade teacher at Alameda School from 2007-2010.
- Is married to Nancy Cozine, Oregon’s State Court Administrator.
- When time allows, enjoys cooking for friends and family, and baking bread, bagels, and sweets.

- Has two children: A daughter, Ella, who is a junior at the University of Victoria, and a son, Miles, who is a senior at Grant. Both attended Alameda, Beaumont and Grant.
- Interesting past jobs include a stint as a line cook at an Italian restaurant, and working for a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons in London, England.
- Other spare time pursuits include running, skiing, watching soccer, hiking, and spending time with family.
- Favorite Book: *The Man Who Walked Between The Towers* by Mordecai Gerstein.

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PRINCIPAL MATT GOLDSTEIN ENJOYS FAMILY TIME WITH DAUGHTER ELLA, SON MILES, AND WIFE NANCY COZINE.

Editor's Message



This issue marks my third year as Editor of *AlamedaPDX*, and so far it's been quite an experience! When I took the job in September of 2018, I never anticipated the changes that would occur in Portland - and around the world - in just three short years.

But my third anniversary pales in comparison to the milestone our layout designer, David Sparks, just hit. David has been working on the Alameda newsletter since Winter 2012, so this issue marks his 10th anniversary.

Even though he owns his own successful business, Hawthorne Media Group, David takes time every quarter to put together our publication. He's been great to work with every step of the way, and I appreciate his expertise, his positive attitude, and most of all his patience with my occasional (ok, maybe frequent) last-minute changes!

David was originally hired to work on the newsletter by his good friend - and editor at the time - Blythe Knott. He jokes that his predecessor, George Ivan Smith, "was looking to hand over the design and layout reins to someone a little more gullible!"

David's design career began when he was a senior at Portland State University. Originally a Fine Arts and

by Annette Bendinelli

Spanish major at University of Oregon, he finished his degree at PSU and purchased a Macintosh Performa in his final term there. In his words, he "became obsessed" with learning how to translate his on-paper artwork into the digital realm. It started with illustrations, then moved into page layout when he determined he might actually be able to make a living doing "Desktop Publishing," which is what digital graphic design was called at the time.

His first paid project was a logo for a friend who was starting a nanny service. That turned into developing a brochure, and the floodgates were open. After an 18-month stint at Nike in the mid-90s, David decided the corporate design life was not for him and started Hawthorne Media Group (originally called Island Graphics) in 1997. Now - 25 years later - he's doing design and website work for businesses all over the United States.

"Something that sets me apart from other designers is that I have always had a brick-and-mortar location. For the past eight years we have been located at the Leftbank Building by the Moda Center. Before that we were on 7th and Hawthorne, hence the business name. Even though Covid has crippled usage of our meeting space, I love being located right in the heart of Portland," Sparks notes.

When he started his company, it was primarily graphic design for printed materials, as the Internet was still fairly new, websites were a novelty, and Google as we know it didn't exist yet. Now his firm does a mix of website



ALAMEDAPDX LAYOUT DESIGNER DAVID SPARKS,
OWNER OF HAWTHORNE MEDIA GROUP

design and development, graphic design for print, social media management, local search strategy and website maintenance.

According to David, "We offer everything public-facing that a small business would need to connect with their existing and/or new customers. We also operate as a virtual small business marketing department for companies who don't need a full-time marketing person. My mission has always been to help micro-businesses become thriving small businesses, and to help small businesses grow to compete with anyone in their respective industry."

Some of his local clients include American Chimney and Masonry, Foot Traffic, NW Seismic and Portland Farmers Market.

He adds, "It's the helping that I enjoy the most. Marketing can be an expensive minefield of disappointments. I like to help guide folks through the scariest parts of keeping a business alive and healthy."

David spent a significant chunk of his 30s and 40s in the Alameda neighborhood. He currently lives in northeast Portland with his wife, Laura, a nurse at the Veterans Administration who also runs a thriving sound healing practice at Crown and Heart Healing. His daughter, Tess, plays soccer at Central Washington University and his son, Jack, is a senior who will probably follow her there. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, gardening, and "spending way too much time and money" restoring his 1972 VW Riviera Bus.

A big thanks to David for contributing his time and expertise to our neighborhood newsletter, and I hope he sticks around for another 10 years!

- Annette

Welcome Our New ANA Treasurer

The Alameda Neighborhood Association has named Teresa St. Martin as its new Treasurer. Teresa is a residential real estate broker with Windermere Realty Trust, and a local leader in the green building and sustainability areas of real estate.

She served as a commissioner on the City of Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission from 2014 - 2019, and prior to her career as a broker, she worked in the bio-tech industry. She has also served on the board of directors for several non-profits and professional trade organizations.

Teresa moved to the Alameda neighborhood two years ago, after living in SW Portland for over 20 years. She and her husband, Dan, share a 92-year-old home with their two cats, Chauncey and Bianca. In her spare time, Teresa is an avid golfer and disc golfer, and is also a hobby-level glass artist.

Teresa succeeds Charles Rice, who is stepping down after 11 years on the ANA Board - seven as Secretary, and four as Treasurer. He also organized several ANA Spring Clean-Up events and worked on Alameda's annual Halloween Haunted House.

Welcome Teresa! And Charles, thank you for your many years of service to the ANA!



TERESA ST. MARTIN

ALAMEDA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF INCLUSION AND SUPPORT

Our community declared the Alameda neighborhood a hate-free zone in 1995. Today, we reaffirm Alameda's commitment to be a loving, caring, supportive and inclusive community for all who reside, work, do business, or visit our neighborhood. We stand against hatred, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and/or marginalization of any kind. We are committed to growing, nurturing and sustaining a community where all feel welcomed, safe and included.

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The ANA meets on the 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm at Fremont United Methodist Church.

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AlamedaPDX is available online at alamedaportland.com.

ADVERTISING RATES

Sizes and Prices:

A - Business Card Size

2" High, 3 1/8" wide..... \$50

B - Double Bus Card

4" High, 3 1/8" wide..... \$100

C - Double Bus Card

6" High, 3 1/8" wide..... \$130

D - Half Page

8" High, 10 1/2" wide..... \$250

Prices are per issue. To place an ad, contact Teresa St. Martin at sparkofgreen@gmail.com

Publication dates:

December 10

March 10

June 10

September 10

Deadlines:

November 10

February 10

May 10

August 10

Please submit pdf, jpg, or Adobe Distiller X-1A compliant artwork at 300dpi or greater.

Double Whammy Hits Local Retailers *by Dan LaGrande*

Our neighborhood retail community is being hit by a double whammy, and it's affecting all of us. One part is the supply chain issue. The other is the ongoing pandemic.

Those photos of dozens of ships at anchor off California ports may seem to have little to do with us, but in fact they do. The supply chain disruption – the complex transportation system that brings us goods and supplies not only from every corner of our nation, but also from around the world – has hit not only big businesses, but also our neighborhood cafes, shops and stores.

Surprisingly, though, most of us don't see anything different when we come into a local shop or store. Everything looks pretty normal. The reality, however, is quite different.

"We have been experiencing delays in receiving our orders pretty much across the board," said Deena Sprang, manager of The Arrangement on NE Fremont & 42nd. "We have had a six-month delay in receiving some items. Earlier this year we started ordering merchandise several months earlier than normal, to be sure we maintained our inventory."

Glancing around The Arrangement one sees the usual eye-catching displays of clothing, jewelry, gift items, cards, books and other tastefully displayed merchandise. It's what has made The Arrangement a "go-to" shop for many of us in Alameda and surrounding neighborhoods since Sue Mautz started the business 42 years ago.



THE LARGE ASSORTMENT AT PUDDLETOWN PROVIDES ALTERNATIVES FOR ITEMS THAT ARE OUT OF STOCK.

"Our customers have been fantastic," Deena added. "They know they can come here and find something just right for all members of their family and for all ages. Given the uncertainties of when our orders will be filled, we suggest folks shop earlier for the holiday season this year. We also hope they will shop local and take advantage of the personalized service we offer."

Down the street from The Arrangement, another local business, Green Dog Pet Supply, has also been impacted by delays in receiving their orders, and in some cases, not getting them at all.

"The delays and shortages are affecting most of what we sell," said the owner, Christine Mallar. "Pet food and supplements, especially for pets with special dietary needs or with health issues, are important to many of our customers. Even though most of this is produced in the U.S., it often comes from midwestern states."

Christine went on to explain that there is a ripple effect in the supply system. "Farmers are facing shortages in labor and water," she said. "Warehouses also have labor shortages, and there are not enough truck drivers. And here in our shop we are short-staffed. We get a couple of hundred people a day coming in, and with the pandemic and continued Covid-19 risk, some potential staff are not willing to work in these conditions."

Christine suggests people plan ahead and come in sooner than normal for what they need. "Fortunately, most of our customers feel safe shopping here, as we adhere strictly to the mask-wearing guidelines," she said. "We provide masks for those who forget and we ask those who decline to wear a mask not to come in. But that's rare. We have wonderful customers and we want our shop to be safe for them and our staff."

Puddletown Games & Puzzles is one of the newest businesses on upper Fremont, but they have not escaped the supply chain problems impacting long-established businesses.

"Practically all the games and puzzles we feature are at some point going out of stock," said Puddletown owner Miles English. "So the name of the game is pivoting. If I can't get one version of a game, I get another one. But some of the games I'd like to have had when I opened, I still can't get."

Miles said nearly all of the board games he carries come from China, with some from Germany. "Because of the supply chain backup, it takes a month or more in many cases to get deliveries," he said. "Package deliveries are delayed, warehouses are super full and there is a shortage of truck drivers."

Despite these challenges, Miles is optimistic about his business. "The great thing is there are a ton of great, wonderful board games, so it is not so hard to pivot to a different title. That means I can still serve our customers well and meet their needs."



GREEN DOG SUGGESTS PEOPLE PLAN AHEAD TO GET THE PET SUPPLIES THEY NEED.

At NE Fremont and 14th Avenue, the popular Caffe Destino is as busy as ever, and adhering to the rules for protecting staff and customers during the pandemic. They still provide their signature breakfast and lunch specials and delicious pies. Elias Herrera and Holly Higdon purchased Caffe Destino one month before Oregon's governor declared an emergency and ordered most businesses to close to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

"We survived that and reopened when the Governor set new rules for operations during the pandemic," Elias said. "Now we're challenged by shortages caused by supply chain problems."

Supplies as basic as plastic containers and cups are harder to get.

"There is a shortage of resin, used to produce them, because ships with resin from Asia are backed up in American harbors," Elias explained. "We used to get all our supplies from one restaurant supply company. Now we shop at several different places. One of them is Costco, which is a lifesaver for us. And some items are less expensive than where we shopped before."

Elias said they also rely on Restaurant Depot, a supply company in Delta Park.

"There's a bit of a silver lining in this cloud," Elias said, "because by shopping at different places we can actually get items like flour and sugar at a lower price than we used to pay. We now



THE ARRANGEMENT URGES CUSTOMERS TO SHOP EARLY TO AVOID DELAYS.

store more items here in our cafe, to be sure we have enough on hand all the time."

All this has been hard, he acknowledges, but he says he and Holly don't focus on problems, they find solutions. "At the end of the day," Elias said, "we love this community and we are so grateful for the support and loyalty of our customers."

The concerns over Covid-19 have rippled through our economy, resulting in significant numbers of workers leaving their jobs in warehouses, trucking, manufacturing and other



CAFFE DESTINO'S OWNERS HAVE FOUND CREATIVE WAYS TO AVOID SUPPLY SHORTAGES.

industries essential to the production and orderly movement of goods that we take for granted in our daily lives. It has seriously disrupted the supply chain, the complex system of getting nearly everything we need to the stores, shops, cafes and other outlets — big and small — that you and I rely on every day.

Most business people agree this disruption will continue for months at a minimum; some think it will last well into 2022. Meanwhile, the Christmas holidays are fast approaching. Again, most shop and storeowners are urging all of us to start our holiday shopping now. They also urge us to shop local, to take advantage of the convenience, personal service and choices offered by businesses in our neighborhoods.

So, while the Covid-19 pandemic and the prolonged disruption in the supply chain are certainly an unprecedented double whammy for all of us, it also offers us some opportunities. One is to take stock of what we already have that is truly important — our family and friends — and to give thanks for these priceless gifts. The second is to dust off a couple of those old-fashioned virtues that helped our grandparents get through the Great Depression and a world war — self-reliance, optimism and ingenuity.

Thankfully, most businesses in our neighborhoods are already practicing those virtues, and all of us in Alameda can thank them and support them by shopping local.

The Feeneys: A Life of Adventure & Service by Dan LaGrande

They say politics makes strange bedfellows. For Anne Kelly and Richard Feeney, politics led to a match made in heaven, and a shared life of adventure, service and great accomplishments.

Here's the story of these longtime Alameda residents. It's filled with political wheeling-dealing, world travel and adventure, and the huge, positive impact Richard and Anne Feeney have had on our community and our state.

The story begins in 1960 when Richard - a recent Portland State University grad who grew up in Beaverton - headed up a group of young people to work for Sen. John F. Kennedy's Presidential campaign. After the election, Richard joined the U.S. Army and was sent to language school to learn Turkish (he had already studied Arabic in college). He was then assigned to an Army intelligence unit.

After Army service, Richard was back in Portland. In 1968, at a political event at the Goose Hollow Inn (owned by Bud Clark who later became a mayor of Portland), he met Anne Kelly, a Portland native and Seattle University graduate. "Anne stepped out of the crowd in a lovely colorful dress, and for me, that was the beginning of our romance," he happily recalls.

The feeling was somewhat mutual. "I had heard of Feeney for a couple of years, and I was intrigued," Anne explained.

However, politics soon threw them a curve ball. In the 1968 presidential primary, Richard was working for Sen. Robert Kennedy, but Anne was working for Sen. Eugene McCarthy. Since both candidates were Democrats, it was not a deal-breaker. They both went to the Democratic national convention - Richard as an alternate delegate, Anne as a page.

"Later that year Richard proposed, and I promptly accepted," Anne said. "We were married on January 4, 1969, and flew to Tahiti for our honeymoon."

Then they plunged back into the political world, this time in Washington, D.C., where Richard was chief of staff for Oregon Congresswoman Edith Green.

"And I started graduate school at George Washington University," Anne explained, "and that was very helpful in my political career later on."

In 1971 Richard was hired as assistant director at what is now the prestigious Salzburg Global Seminar in Salzburg, Austria. "Anne and I visited Western Europe, most of the Eastern European countries, and Turkey and Greece." Richard said, "I was recruiting young professionals in government, academia, and the arts to study for a month at the Seminar, which was staffed with American professors."

Anne added, "It was a heady and stimulating environment."

Two years later they sailed second class back to the U.S. on an Italian liner that doubled as an immigrant boat.

"We couldn't fly because I was nine months pregnant with our first child!" Anne explained. "On arrival in New York we promptly drove across the country to Portland, where Richard had a summer job as a reporter for the Oregon Journal newspaper. Three weeks later, on June 30, 1973, I delivered Cait, our baby girl."

That fall, with a three-month old infant, the couple drove across the county where Richard, with the help of a scholarship and the GI Bill, started graduate studies at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Upon graduation, they drove back to Portland for Richard's summer job at the Oregon Journal.

"In the fall of 1974, my political mentor, Multnomah County Chairman Don Clark, hired me as Director of Government Relations for the county," Richard said. "Then we moved to Salem, and lived in a rented house for the start of the 1975 session of the Oregon Legislature."

Anne became a paid lobbyist for the Women's Rights Coalition, and soon impressed longtime legislative observers by winning passage of 20 of the 30 bills her organization was supporting.



RICHARD AND ANNE KELLY FEENEY

After the 1975 session, Richard became chief of staff for Don Clark for the next two-and-a-half years.

In 1978 Richard was recruited by TriMet as Director of Government Relations, with initial duties including press and community relations, as well as marketing.

Meanwhile, Anne was expanding her political career. She lobbied successfully for tax credits for home solar installations. In the 1979 Oregon legislative session, she won approval for the Metro Service District, in cooperation with Publishers Paper, to build a co-generation plant in Oregon City to produce electricity by burning garbage.

"The project was cancelled due to citizen opposition," Anne explained, "but we were able to persuade Metro to require garbage haulers to provide curbside residential recycling, a service that continues today."

In 1982 Anne was elected as Multnomah County Auditor.

"I didn't realize that I had so much support from people and organizations that I had worked with over the years," Anne said. "In 1986 I was elected to a second term as Auditor, but I resigned two years later to become Executive Director of Loaves & Fishes, a wonderful job I held for seven years."

After that Anne became a lobbyist for Healthy Start for Newborn Babies, a statewide initiative that took two legislative sessions before it became law.

Meanwhile, Richard continued to serve a key role in the development of our region's light rail network, starting with the approval of the Banfield line that opened in 1986. On the very day of its groundbreaking, it almost lost its crucial federal funding. The story of political brinkmanship that saved the day is too long to tell here, but if you see Richard Feeney, ask him to tell it. He was there and it is a delightful - and insightful - story!

Richard retired from TriMet in 2003, but he continued with part-time projects, including government affairs work for Portland State University, work on the Portland streetcar project as well as on the Lake Oswego trolley project. Most recently he worked with state Senator Lew Frederick to seek passage of a police reform bill in Oregon's last legislative session.

Richard says, "My most satisfying public service accomplishment is the work on TriMet's light rail system. My specific tasks (but I was not alone!) were to persuade the Federal and State governments to invest hundreds of millions of dollars for an alternative to an automobile-based transportation system that would coalesce the community, put a brake on sprawl, and protect the environment. And I had a ton of help. We built that system, and it is now (as of 2019) the fourth largest light rail system in the nation."

Anne retired in 2002, but kept as busy as ever with volunteer work. She served on the board of the Oregon Association of Survivors of Sex Abuse for six years, including four years as the

board chair. She also served eight years on the board of De La Salle North Catholic High School, as well as 16 years in various volunteer roles in the Madeleine Parish.

Reflecting on her diverse and often intense work over her life, Anne said, "My most satisfying accomplishment came during retirement, and that was helping to found De La Salle North Catholic High School for low income students, mostly African American, now located at NE 42nd and Killingsworth."

And still today Anne is active and involved, noting, "I enjoy my participation in the Portland Chapter of Contemplative Prayer, an ecumenical group started by Trinity Episcopal Church in NW Portland."

Anne and Richard Feeney's life of adventure, travel and most importantly, public service, is filled with achievements - and many humorous stories that Richard delights in telling. They also have four accomplished daughters, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

And it is to the next generation that they share these thoughts:

From Anne: "Public service is the highest human calling, since you get opportunities to directly influence policy affecting our city, state and the nation."

From Richard: "To young people contemplating public service: Please understand that public service is for the greater good of the whole community. So listen, be transparent, be fair and work hard! Political involvement is a form of direct service. Embrace it, and do it well!"

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Adaptive Reuse on NE Prescott: From Food King to the Evolve Collaborative *by Doug Decker*

The former Prescott Fountain Building at 2903 NE Prescott has had many lives in its nearly 100 years: grocery store, soda fountain, butcher shop, antique store, barber shop, radio store, bakery, convenience store.

Built in 1922 by grocer Thomas H. Cowley, an immigrant from the Isle of Man, the building has been a time traveler, reconditioned and repurposed many times over. Built as a grocery store and meat market by Cowley for \$6,000, the building sold in 1927 and new owner Martha Sylvester reconditioned it to fill six different retail spaces within the 7,000-square foot building.

Today, most neighbors remember it as Food King Market, a handy place to pick up a gallon of milk or a missing ingredient without having to make the full trip to the big store a few miles away. Older residents will remember it simply as “Hunderups,” or the Prescott Fountain, where you could run a tab and get an ice-cold bottle of Coke.

As a retail location, it’s always been like that: providing convenience, a local touch, and a sense of identity to its surrounding residential neighborhood. Former Food King owners David and Kaybee Lee—who opened Food King in the building in 1989—were likely to welcome you in with a smile. Over the years, those of us who lived nearby appreciated the Food King for its convenience, even as we noticed the building was showing a century of wear and tear.

In 2018, after 30 years running the store, the Lees decided it was too hard to compete with grocery stores that seemed to be moving ever closer to the neighborhood. For them, it was time to sell the business and the building, which they did in 2020 just before the pandemic hit. For the last 20 months, it’s been a sad sight, vacant and tagged with graffiti.

Recent construction activity at the site has piqued neighborhood interest as the building appears to be coming back to life. We’ve been glad to see it hasn’t been a tear down, and we’ve wondered what’s next. The transition to its next chapter is an interesting neighborhood story.

Christian Freissler, who lives just up the street and was a frequent shopper at Food King, was in for a convenient gallon of milk one day before the “for sale” sign went up. He overheard the Lees talking about closing up shop and selling the building.

Freissler is the founder of Evolve Collaborative, a northeast Portland-based product design agency founded in 2014. He and his partners had been thinking about buying a building to serve as a headquarters for their 15-person design firm. After Freissler’s visit with the Lees, the seed was planted.

Evolve had moved offices several times during its seven years of operation, occupying different rented spaces, but Freissler and his partners felt owning a building would be an important investment in creating a secure and sustainable future for the business. When he began to consider the possibilities of the Prescott Fountain building, he and his team got excited.

“Living in the neighborhood, I’m quite sensitive to developers coming in, erasing buildings and putting up multi-story buildings,” said Feissler. “I’m proud of the fact that we’re going to keep the building and renovate it.”

Evolve hired architects Doug Skidmore and Heidi Beebe of Beebe Skidmore Architects. Skidmore describes the project like this: “We’re changing the function of a former



A 1955 PHOTO LOOKING NORTHEAST AT THE CORNER OF NE 29TH AND PRESCOTT. PHOTO COURTESY OF HISTORIC PHOTO ARCHIVE.



A 2009 PHOTO TAKEN FROM THE SAME ANGLE SHOWS THE FORMER FOOD KING MARKET IN OPERATION BEFORE IT CLOSED IN 2020.



ARCHITECT’S RENDERING OF THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING FACING NE PRESCOTT AVENUE. COURTESY BEEBE SKIDMORE ARCHITECTS.

mercantile building into creative office space and doing it in a way that is compatible with the neighborhood. It’s an exciting project in part because it is surrounded on all sides by residential neighborhoods.”

Windows dominate the Prescott Street side of the building—reminiscent of a schoolhouse—and the historic awning-style roofline of the original building will remain, complete with the ornate brackets (though the tiles are gone). Three forward-facing larger windows are embedded above in that awning roofline: two facing Prescott and one facing NE 29th, pulling light into the interior space. Inside, exposed original roof trusses and structural members show the building at work. Exterior materials will be stucco and wood combined with the existing masonry.

The main entry to the building will be about where the door to the market was on Prescott. Once inside, there will be a common area, and then two spaces: a larger one to the right that will be home to Evolve on the east side of the building, and a second, smaller space on the west side of the building in the area where the old Prescott

Fountain was located. Freissler, Skidmore, and team are still thinking about how that space will function, but Freissler has been imagining a gallery or some other community space.

The renovation conforms with zoning that favors low-density commercial use compatible with adjacent residential life, limiting each tenant to 5,000 square feet. “The idea is to not have a business that is any larger than a regular house lot,” said Skidmore. “It’s a way of scaling down and keeping the business size compatible with the neighborhood.”

Evolve hopes to be in its new quarters next spring.



Neighborhood historian Doug Decker prepares history studies of homes, leads history walks, and makes presentations to groups interested in learning about local history. To learn more about local history, and to look at the legacy of Mom-and-Pop groceries like Food King, visit Doug’s website www.alamedahistory.org, or write him at doug@alamedahistory.org.

Irvington Resident Helps Decode Virus at OHSU Lab *by Sonia Acharya*

Sonia Acharya, Ph.D, is an Irvington (and former Alameda) neighborhood resident and a Senior Research Assistant in Molecular and Medical Genetics at OHSU. Below, she provides insight into her work at the Oregon SARS-CoV2 Genome Sequencing Center, which has been at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic in Oregon.

The Covid-19 pandemic has blazed through the global population, leaving chaos and grief in its wake. But among the many things it has broken - lives, families, wealth, education, mental health, economies, supply chains - it has also brought some unique groups of people together in order to solve the many problems it has revealed and/or created. I'm a member of one of those groups, as a researcher at the Oregon SARS-CoV2 Genome Sequencing Center.

In an attempt to understand how this little virus, which appeared on the scene in the Chinese town of Wuhan, has spread so quickly and devastatingly over the world, researchers have spent an inordinate amount of time and money following changes in the virus's DNA sequence as it spreads.

The effort to do this has been spurred by two forces. One of these is the need to understand how the virus changes and evolves in the context of the selective forces of increased immunity, both to the antibodies it encounters from vaccine-immunized communities, and the somewhat different natural antibody response from un-immunized communities. This knowledge shapes how future boosters to the vaccines will be crafted.

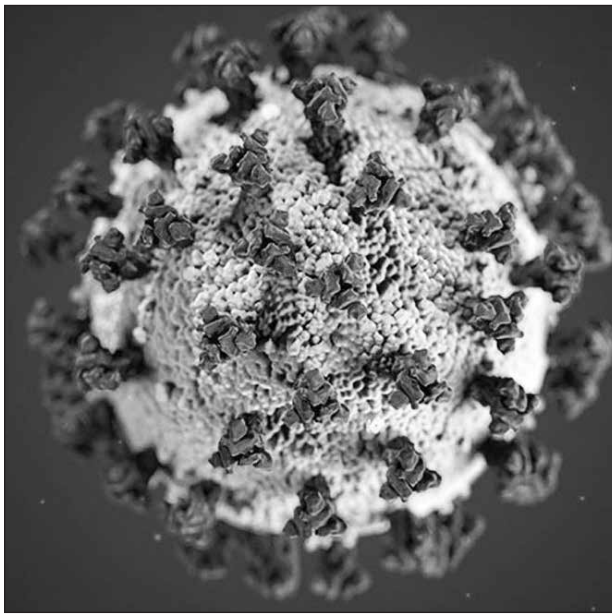
The second force is the need to understand the evolutionary shape of the virus's spread as it continues on its rampage around the world.

To do this, in the summer of 2020 a group of researchers from Oregon Health & Science University came together from various disciplines and requested a grant from the Murdock Foundation for funding to begin a sequencing program specifically for SARS-CoV2 (the name of the virus that causes Covid-19). The funding from this grant, along with other State and Federal money, helped establish the Oregon SARS-CoV2 Genome Sequencing Center.

While some OHSU labs within the Center worked to extract RNA samples from live samples, others exposed variants to antibodies to understand how they would react. Others primarily analyzed the variants. The joint lab, headed by OHSU scientists Andrew Adey, Ph.D and Brian O'Roak, Ph.D, did all the protocol development, sequencing and deposition of data to the GISAID database (The Global Initiative for Sharing All Influenza Data).

We were uniquely positioned to do fast, accurate, and inexpensive sequencing of SARS-Cov2 variants because we possessed skills in DNA sequencing of whole genomes, and technical expertise in Next Generation Sequencing technology development.

The summer of 2020 was spent perfecting the sequencing



DIGITAL REPRESENTATION OF THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES COVID-19.

protocol for speed and efficiency using the reagents available in Andrew Adey's technology development lab. In fact, I would argue that if it hadn't been for the creative technology development in his lab, we would not be able to do what we are doing now.

But it wasn't easy. We had to accurately and inexpensively process hundreds of patient samples at a time. Our data had to be useable and our protocol practicable so we could assign variant lineages, track dangerous variants (variants of concern or VOC's), watch them evolve in real-time, and upload that data to the global database. In which part of its genome was the virus going to change over time as more and more people became immune to the Delta variant?

The protocol development phase was run by two scientists, Brendan O'Connell, Ph.D and Ruth Nichols O'Connell, Ph.D. Both Ruth and Brendan had expertise in genome sequencing, having trained in DNA labs sequencing Neanderthals, woolly mammoths and dire wolves. They were also married, which allowed them to work together in the lab.

Newly enforced Covid restrictions had taken effect and sent most of us home to work remotely on papers and data analysis. Only two people at a time could be in the lab, for four hours a day, separated by lab bays six feet apart. Ruth and Brendan counted as one person, so they could work together safely on a nice, streamlined pipeline for sequencing Covid.

By November of 2020 when the Alpha (B.1.1.7, UK) variant was ascendant, sequencing started in earnest. We had a fresh-out-of-college technician trying to do the bulk of the sequencing with Ruth and Brendan's help. Eventually she was joined by another technician trying to handle the influx of tubes and plates, and deal with an unfamiliar protocol. Ruth and Brendan were trying to take care of their two-year-old child and return to their bread and butter projects.

I returned in January from a family leave taking care of my own family in those days of Zoom school and social isolation.

By February, the E384K mutation that allowed the virus to evade the immune response was found in three variants (B.1.351, South Africa; P.1 or B.1.1.28, Brazil; and B.1.1.7, UK). Both of the previous technicians left in May and I was training a third new one. By then we had simplified the protocol so that it was not as time intensive. But Covid was spreading quickly and coming in unanticipated waves.

Like most of the world we were - and are - dealing with supply chain issues. I don't think people realize how much single-use plastic scientists rely on. Most of our work is so sensitive that the vessels we use can't be reused. Pipet tips and tubes are used in massive quantities, and they are housed in sturdy plastic containers, particularly the ones used for our Bravo robot.

Even the clean DNase/RNase free water we used for experiments is in scarce supply because of the plastics shortage. We've had to start making our own again. The incredibly expensive sequencing kits and reagents used for DNA quantification rely on a functional supply chain. We often had back orders that were six to eight months in arrears. So we saved and skimped, counting every pipet tip for every experiment to see how many we would need. We even bought tips for our robot on eBay.

Despite all of the challenges, we managed to assess an impressive 300-400 SARS-CoV2 virus sequences a week.

Our new challenge is managing the ever-present, tiny little bits of DNA from the virus, remnants of our Covid sequencing. With the copious amount of sequencing we were doing, even with all our precautions the pieces of DNA from the virus are all over the lab. We are living and breathing Covid, but not in the obvious way.

Those little bits of DNA saturate everything. They're in our skin, our hair, sometimes even generating borderline positive Covid tests even though no one has had symptoms. These tiny bits of DNA can't hurt anyone, but made me shower and wash my clothes every night - and in retrospect, I probably should have wiped my shoes down too.

But science keeps going on, and life is slowly getting back to normal. Grants are being funded that are not Covid-related. Graduate students are finally meeting advisors they had only seen on Zoom. Scientists are slowly moving back to their regular projects. People are healing, both mentally and physically. New babies are being born, and new career paths are being forged as our talented OHSU technicians leave for new careers in epidemiology and bioinformatics.

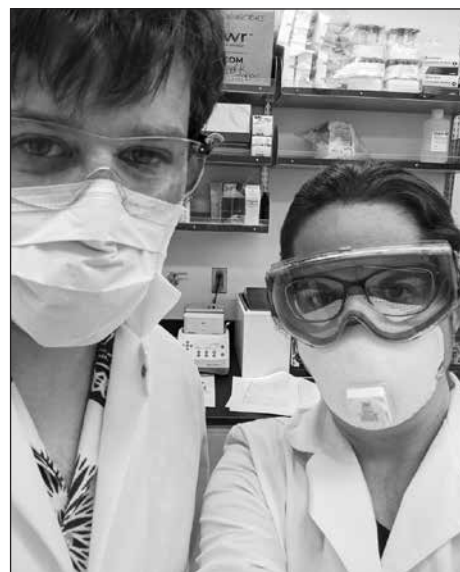
Currently, the Delta variant and its offshoots are playing havoc with the world, and who knows what new variants will rear their ugly heads in the coming months. But we now have the tools to find out. The lab just acquired a new, expensive DNA sequencing machine called the NextSeq2000, which sounds a bit like the Nimbus2000 Quidditch broom from Harry Potter. Funny how the coronavirus even looks a little like a snitch. May we have Potter's skills in chasing it from the sky!



SONIA ACHARYA



BRIAN O'ROAK



BRENDAN O'CONNELL AND RUTH NICHOLS O'CONNELL



ANDREW ADEY

Alameda Resident Finds Startup for Remote Office Workers *by Kristy Olsen*

Brian Hendrickson may be a local Alameda neighborhood resident, but he has aspirations to turn his new business venture into a global force.

Brian has teamed up with another local, Amina Moreau, and software engineer iLan Epstein to found Radious, a platform that connects local residents who have ADUs, in-law units or home offices with working professionals, who then rent those spaces to work in by the day.

Because guests are still working remotely - but not at home - a Radious office aims to provide a much shorter commute, local space for meetings or presentations, and a better work/life balance. Employees want remote options that are cozy, safe, and close to home, and companies are teaming up with Radious to provide that.

“In addition to upsides for working professionals, the platform offers advantages for Radious hosts, too,” Brian explains. “Hosting on Radious means no more laundry, less wear and tear than with overnight vacation rentals (such as Airbnb or VRBO), and potentially even more money due to the more professional nature of the guests.”

Brian is committed to supporting his local community and economy. He was born in Portland, and attended The Madeleine School, Beaumont Middle School, and Grant High School. He has an entrepreneurial background, and prior to founding Radious he was a driving force in developing the official player rating software for the increasingly popular sport, Pickleball. He and his wife, Tara, have two boys, Ty (15) and Alec (13).

For more information about Radious, visit <https://radious.pro>



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(Alameda School Strong Start, continued from page 1)

...math curriculum and creating more flexible, project-based and hands-on experiences that integrate math, science, social studies, art and reading. “Group work has increased significantly,” Goldstein said. “The ability for teachers to use flexible grouping is such a critical instructional tool, especially with a wide variety of learners.”

The school also continues to take advantage of technology; students in grades three through five each have their own Chromebook which they take to and from school, while younger students only use them in the classroom.

According to Goldstein, “Chromebooks really help. Take math, for example: students who are already pretty advanced get pushed along, but we also can identify and work with students who are struggling. Still, we are wary of spending too much time on computers.”

The staff is working to integrate more equity, diversity and inclusion into the Alameda experience. “Alameda is a very white school, in a white city, in a pretty white state. A part of our mission as educators is to be intentional about bringing diverse voices and stories into our school,” Goldstein said. Staff is examining data for subgroups to be certain that children of color and those with special needs are getting the support they need to thrive academically and socially.

Once the school bus driver shortage can be addressed, the staff hopes to plan field trips to explore the diverse Portland community beyond Alameda. The PTA’s equity committee and the Alameda Foundation also are exploring ways to support equity; for example, they are now sharing proceeds of restaurant fundraising events with Beaumont Middle School and Rigler Elementary (which, like Alameda, feeds into Beaumont.)

Alameda’s enrollment is down this year, as it is in many schools, Goldstein said. His hope is that with the availability of children’s vaccines and continuing decline in Covid-19 cases, families who have kept students home because of Covid-19 concerns will return to the classroom. When they do, they will be welcomed by committed teachers and staff.

“Our teachers are pretty amazing. Many who taught when I was a teacher at Alameda are still here,” Goldstein said. “It’s great, not just in terms of their teaching experience but also in knowing the community. Others have experience teaching in other districts, which is really valuable. And we have some new teachers who bring in fresh ideas. On top of that, we have an incredible support staff – paraeducators, office, library and counseling staff.

“These are people who are deeply committed to students. Teaching is a high-challenge, high-reward profession. It’s really tough at times – no doubt about it – but the reward is always there.”



PUDDLETOWN HAS A WIDE SELECTION OF GAMES AND PUZZLES, PLUS SPACE FOR GAMERS TO GATHER.



BRANCH & BREEZE OFFERS WAREHOUSE-STYLE SHOPPING AND CUSTOMER-CENTERED EVENTS

Community-Centered New Businesses Open on NE Fremont by David Spencer

Unlike other parts of the city, Beaumont Village has few empty storefronts. Some businesses, like Amalfi’s and Beaumont Hardware, have been there for generations. This year, two new businesses have brought unique offerings to the community, and as different as they are from each other, they both appeal to customers with a specific affinity.

Getting Into the Game

In July, Miles English opened Puddletown Puzzles and Games in the former Adorn space, at NE 41st and Fremont between Bagel Land and Beaumont Market. He had previously managed Guardian Games, a large retailer in SE Portland that carries games and accessories.

According to Miles, he and his wife, Jessie, are both game enthusiasts and were “looking to begin a new chapter.” They wanted to open a smaller-scale store with more customer interaction.

“We scoured Portland and found that the Beaumont Village area was the only one without other stores of this kind,” Miles says. After identifying their preferred location, they worked with realtor Tamer Riad to find the right space for a more intimate operation.

At an open game night, he and Jessie met James and Kirsten Brady, founders of Cloud Cap Games in southeast Portland. The Bradys became mentors, and helped with the Puddletown business plan.

Once Miles and Jessie secured the space on Fremont, they faced the challenge of building out display space. They ended up making many of their own fixtures,

“It was like a big erector set. It took lots of sanding and staining,” says Miles.

After 16 years’ experience in motorcycle retail sales – and as a parts manager at Motocorsa – Miles knew the importance of creating community among like-minded people. Puddletown provides a place for gamers to get together and explore. While the store had to suspend group games during the height of the pandemic, Miles is starting to think about events again. For example, Thursdays could become an open game night for people to meet fellow players and try board games.

He would like to offer learn-to-play events for groups, especially for school programs. To engage the community, he wants to build genuine interaction.

The store also offers trading cards, role playing games, and dice, and there’s a rewards program for frequent customers. If you drop by Puddletown, Miles is pretty sure he can find just the right game or puzzle for you!

Feathering Your Nest

In the spring of 2021, Liesl Meissner launched Breeze and Branch in the Fremont Commons at NE 46th and Fremont. She describes her business as a home-goods store that provides quality products created by local artists, and by companies that practice sustainability and transparency.

Previously, Liesl had worked for Tropical Salvage, a specialized furniture company that salvages wood from Indonesian logging operations and turns it into attractive, affordable furniture and homeware. The company opened a store on NE Fremont for a short time, but decided not to continue with the project.

In opening Breeze and Branch, Liesl saw her opportunity to combine warehouse-style shopping with customer-centered events. The space, which had previously been occupied by the restaurant Perlot, had a layout that allowed room for customers to appreciate a wide variety of goods. The large windows provided complementary light, and brought in curious passers-by. She just had to clean up and paint the former restaurant to make it work. The kitchen became her studio.

While the pandemic has slowed many businesses, it spurred people to improve their homes and that brought them to businesses like Breeze and Branch. Liesl works with her customers on the artwork and textures that distinguish their personal space.

She likes the relaxed feel of the Beaumont Village area.

“It feels like Sunday afternoon,” she says. “It’s like older Portland, where you could really get to know the community.”

She has ideas for extending the business, but wants to keep them reasonable. She’d like to include more local products, so the store is “close to the artists and knows their stories.” One of the jewelers the store works with, as well as a glass blower and a textile artist, all live in the nearby neighborhood.

Liesl enjoys holding events where customers can mingle and explore their creativity. On Sundays she co-hosts drop-in sessions, called “Drink and Draw,” with the bar next door in their shared courtyard. Folks can have a glass of their favorite beverage and design their own greeting cards for the holiday season. She hopes to add actual classes in the future.

What does success look like? Liesl would simply like her store to become a space for people to gather and feel at home.

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Alameda Tuesday Club Shows Resilience During Pandemic by Patty Linde

It all began in 1913, when members of the Alameda Tuesday Club began getting together to bring food to homeless families camped out at Wilshire Park. Those gatherings evolved into a women's service organization that is still thriving after 118 years.

On Tuesday, October 26, ATC members returned to Wilshire Park for their first face-to-face meeting since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Sporting winter coats, hats, and gloves, about 25 attendees gathered under the park shelter to sit by propane heaters and snack on hot cider and cookies. Pets were welcome, and several furry members 'barked' their gratitude for being included!

Up until the pandemic, the ATC held lunchtime meetings on the last Tuesday of every month. The meetings generally included speakers on a variety of topics, and each year the club awards a donation to one or more local organizations that focus on women and children in need. A park bench commemorating the ATC's 100th anniversary stands near the shelter where October's gathering took place.

The Covid-19 pandemic marks the second such event the ATC has survived. It's unclear what the protocol was during the 1918 flu pandemic, but during Covid, the group's monthly meetings transformed from in-home luncheons to other, innovative ways to keep members

connected. During the 2020 quarantine, club officers dropped uplifting monthly messages with small gifts at members' doors. In 2021, members began holding small "drop by" outdoor gatherings on porches and in driveways, culminating in the first large-scale gathering at Wilshire Park in October.

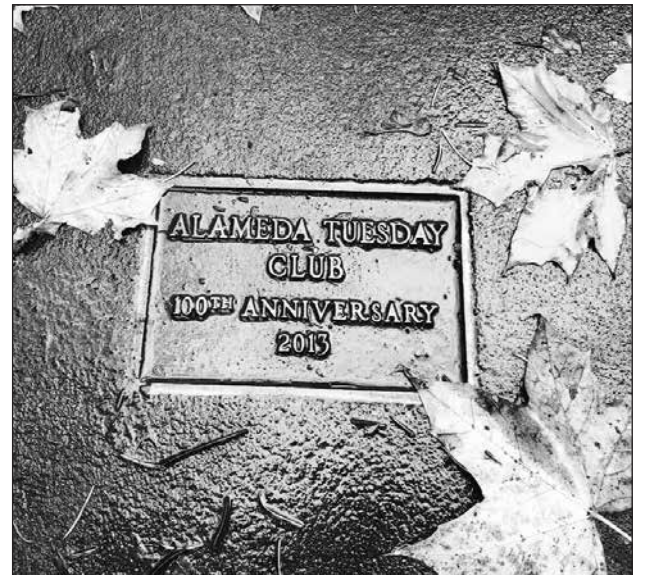
While indoor, in-person meetings are still a ways off, the club's 36 members continue to explore options for winter meetings, noting that they "will do whatever it takes" to stay together. As one longtime member noted, "I continue to kind of shake my head when I think of this group, and really, how nothing ever stops us."



WILSHIRE PARK BENCH DONATED BY THE ALAMEDA TUESDAY CLUB.



MARGO PRICE (L.) AND ANNETTE BENDINELLI HOST THE FIRST ATC GROUP EVENT SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC.



A PLAQUE NEAR THE PARK BENCH COMMEMORATES THE ATC'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

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solveoregon.org/solvecalendar
info@solveoregon.org
 503-943-2835

Report illegally dumped materials for removal including furniture, mattresses, and other bulky waste, bags of trash and loose trash not associated with encampments:
ridpatrol.oregonmetro.gov/report
 503-234-3000

Lead your own cleanup, get free cleanup supplies, and find assistance with disposal costs:
solveoregon.org/detrashpdx
peter@solveoregon.org
 971-346-2705

Report trash near encampments for pickup:
 Call 311 and a customer service representative can take a report for you over the phone. Or go to pdxreporter.org (select the "campsite reporting" icon).

Adopt your block and commit to regular cleanups:
adoptoneblock.org

Report an overflowing public trash can or issue with private trash containers:
wasteinfo@portlandoregon.gov
 503-823-7202

Report graffiti or request graffiti removal assistance:
pdxreporter.org or email graffiti@portlandoregon.gov

Get assistance removing an abandoned vehicle:
 Report an abandoned vehicle
pdxreporter.org
 503-823-7309

Request free supplies to remove graffiti in your community:
graffiti@portlandoregon.gov

Remove an abandoned shopping cart:
 888-55-CARTS

For more information, please visit:
portland.gov/cleanup-resources

October 2021



Friends of Wilshire Park Launch Fundraiser for Off-Leash Area

by John Sandie, Friends of Wilshire Park Committee Member

Over the last few years, Friends of Wilshire Park (FoWP) has worked to raise funds for the park's Nature Park area and the Children's Playground. Now FoWP is launching an ambitious fundraising campaign to raise approximately \$22,000 to bring a piped-in water source to the off-leash dog park.

This is a much-needed addition for this busy section of the park, and FoWP is relying on contributions from dog lovers who want to help quench their pet's thirst! While we appreciate the folks who continue to bring jugs of water from their homes, we can do better!

You might ask yourself, "How can I help raise \$22K for the dog park water fountain? Some ideas could include:

- If you are on Facebook, you might set a goal and ask your friends to support the project with a donation on your birthday, or as a holiday gift. Go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/add-water-to-the-dog-park-in-wilshire-park> (or use the QR code at bottom of this article)

- Pick up a packet of QR codes at the dog park and ask your neighbors, family, friends and fellow dog lovers to donate.

- Do you know of a company or an individual who might be willing to make a substantial contribution? Please reach out to Gary Hancock at outside503@aol.com. If your company has a matching gift program, you can double your gift!

- You've heard of counting sheep? Help count dogs and their human pets at a tabling event and talk to people about the project. Please reach out to Mary Roney (maryroney643@gmail.com) if you are interested.

In addition to raising money for the dog watering station, FoWP continues to coordinate with Portland Parks and Recreation on volunteer opportunities to enhance Wilshire Park. Recent projects have included the November 7 off-leash area mulch spreading event and the December 4 planting session that added over 400 plants to the park's expanding landscaped areas on both the north and south sides.

To get periodic updates on the dog park fundraising efforts and to learn about future volunteer opportunities, subscribe to our email list at friendsofwilshirepark.org.



VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES HELP OUT AT OCTOBER MULCH-SPREADING EVENT.



QR CODE FOR FOWP FUNDRAISER.

Wintertime Farmers Markets by Blythe Knott

Many people, myself very much included, think of farmers markets as being part of their summer routine. After all, that's when the fruits and vegetables that most of us consider staples of the markets are most widely available.

But many of our local farmers markets are open all year! They feature interesting meats, vegetables, and non-food products that are sure to keep your pantry and house well-stocked through the winter season. Plus, they're a nice way to get some fresh air while supporting local growers and producers. Here's a list of some nearby markets that you can make part of your winter routine!

Portland State University

To me, the market to rule them all is the Portland State University Farmers Market. This one has everything: produce, meat, flowers, honey, crafts, food carts, music and cooking demonstrations. You name it! It's definitely worth the trip across the river. During the winter, the market operates at SW Park Ave. and Montgomery St. on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Hollywood

The Hollywood Farmers Market is what I would consider the neighborhood joint. Here you can find hot and cold

prepared foods, plus breads and cheeses, produce, and all the things that make a farmers market worth the visit. The market is open all winter on the first and third Saturdays of the month in the Grocery Outlet parking lot at NE 44th and Hancock. The hours are 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lloyd

Hollywood's "sister" market, the Lloyd Farmers Market, operates every Tuesday at the Oregon Square Courtyard on NE Holladay Street, between NE 7th and 9th Avenues. Hours are 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

Montavilla

Further to the east, the Montavilla Farmers Market - located at SE 77th and Stark - is open the second and fourth Sundays of the month during the winter. They even have a holiday market on December 19! The hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Hillsdale

Back over on the west side, I think the Hillsdale Farmers Market is really nice. Hillsdale is a cute neighborhood, so it's worth going there for more than just the market. The market is located on the Wilson High School (now Wells-Barnett High School) grounds. They're open Sundays year-round from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



MANY FARMERS MARKETS OFFER PRODUCE YEAR-ROUND.

Portland Saturday Market

If your taste in open-air markets runs more toward hand painted ceramics, dreamcatchers and jewelry (among many, many other things), there's always the iconic Portland Saturday Market! They're only open until December 18, but it's a great place to do some holiday shopping! The market is located on the waterfront at W. Burnside and Naito Parkway, and the hours are Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Happy shopping!



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Picture Windows: Ice Cream Castles In the Air by Gail Jeidy

Years ago, on a road trip through the remote prairies of middle America, we passed a dilapidated roadside attraction with a hand-painted sign out front: "A dream died here."

We didn't stop to snap the photo, but the humanity was so palpable, I feel like I did.

I'm retiring from teaching this fall which posits me on a threshold to new adventure. Teaching college creative writing is my third career. My second was creative director of my own ad agency and my first, teaching K-12 art. I plan to dip into the classroom now and then and keep on writing, but how will I nourish my creativity daily?

Waiting for a "sign", I paused in the "not-knowing place" to find my footing.

The real estate listings in our favorite beach town drew me in. One property stood out -- a 1930s era fixer-upper cabin with good bones. There were no interior photos, but lots of views of an expansive yard strewn with discarded vehicles and an old RV (easily removed!)

The price was right -- low! -- and there were 3,800 Zillow viewings in the short time the listing was live. The more I studied the offering, the more I knew this was the one. An 800-square-foot opportunity off a gravel road in an emerging neighborhood, backed by native growth, walking distance from a spectacular beach. A creative haven -- and one that family, friends (and our cat!) would love.

I reserved a dozen cottage-design books at the library and the next day, two were ready for pickup at the Hollywood branch. I love my library!

I opened the first book, and my movie rolled. We'd gut the interior, restore the wood floors, raise the ceiling to the rafters, add a sleeping berth above a kitchen with open shelving and corrugated metal ceiling. We'd salvage period wainscoting and other charms unique to old houses (like those in Alameda). There might be iron-forged hardware, antique fixtures or even a clinker-brick fireplace, topped by a hand-hewn mantel etched with stories. We'd pick up a gothic window for the entry from The Rebuilding Center and make larger windows all around. Nothing matchy-matchy, all wabi sabi. We'd extend outward to a secret garden and sow native plants.

I contacted our realtor to set up a viewing. Her response was non-committal -- the seller lives out of town. Days later, I inquired again. Her response: the owner has no key and the occupants, evicted months back and leaving soon, were currently ill.

A week later I prodded. "I've asked," she wrote. My doubt was growing. Does the owner want to sell or not? After four days, my realtor texted: "Asking again." A day later: "Good news!" The tenants had moved, and the owner would meet us at the property the next day.

By this time, I'd pored through my source books and filled pages of my journal with scribbles. I was driving the bus on this concept (five hours south!) while my passenger husband Ron worked via phone. We'd arrive before dark so we could see the cabin in waning light. I-5 construction set us back, then in my excitement, I missed the exit to the coast. We rerouted and got stuck in a delay on a one-lane country road. I grew cranky as five hours turned to six.

We inched past the property in the dark to witness multiple vehicles, moving activity and a man in the yard shooting us a death stare.

The next morning, I was like a kid on Christmas. We drove by the house an hour earlier than our appointed meet-up -- lots of junk in the yard but no human activity. Good! We ran to the market so I could buy a pair of reading glasses; I chose bright cherry-red frames. Better to read the fine print, my dear! Back at the property, we were first to arrive.

"Door's open," the owner said, leading the way in. A half-step later, she turned, "Sorry, it's kind of a mess."

Rain began to fall. My eyes skirted over the rotten window frame and the decomposing corner of the house where the vinyl siding had slid off.

And here's where my movie freezes. Low light images flicker in slow motion. Unsettling music plays.

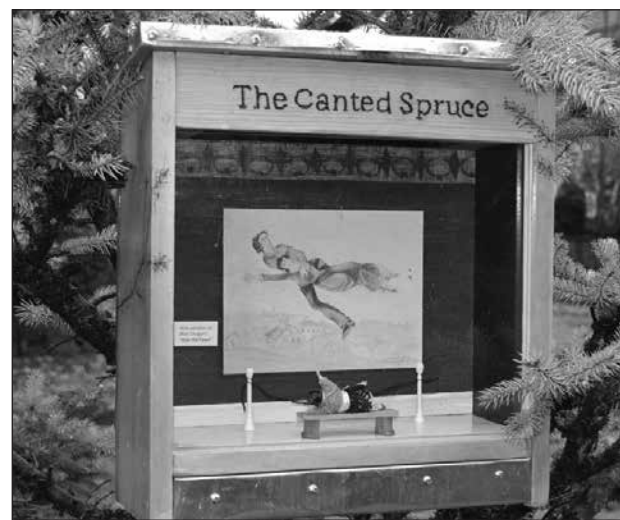
Filth on every surface. Broken bits of electronics. Cigarette butts. Caked dishes. Cans and bottles. What am I stepping on? A lump of debris. We inch forward on a narrow path, heel-toe on the snap-down "wood floor" past a "fireplace" of fake brick around a rusty heater. No period details. The only good bones here might be a skeleton.

Eyes wide open, faces thankfully masked, we entered the kitchen. Up ahead, the owner called back. "This is the largest bedroom." Then, to the air, "Oh, I didn't know anyone was still here."

A murmur. The owner flips the light switch.

"They shut off the power," a voice utters.

My realtor uses her phone to shine a light. I'm backing out, but,



THE CANTED SPRUCE, GAIL JEIDY'S SIDEWALK ART INSTALLATION.

at the owner's urging, peek in to see the size of the bedroom. It's tiny. A young adult, clearly on something, sits on the bed. I avert my eyes. And then -- a pit bull -- this is truth -- trots out to the kitchen and circles me. (A woman in this county was killed by one two weeks prior.) I keep my hands at my side. The dog wags its tail and does not bark. Paws skitter on the floor. A deer rifle rests on boxes of clutter in the corner.

My movie ends.

There's sadness regarding the inhabitants of this space, but that's a story for another time.

For my story, I had to rewind and erase the dream.

Ron, fearful all along that I would see something he couldn't and sign him up for work he didn't want, looked at me for a read. Non-verbally, we concluded this tumbledown was a tear down, and the land alone was nowhere worth the asking price.

"Do you know how many hours I've spent making plans," I said. "I've read books. Mapped out designs. Made lists." He looked at me with tender understanding followed by a hint of a tear. Or was that a twinkle? The corners of his mouth turned up.

My hand went to the top of my head and adjusted the red glasses resting there. "Why did I buy these stupid things? I look like a clown."

And so, the dream died there.

I haven't given up on a coastal property but in the meantime, I've corralled my creativity into a roadside (make that walk-side) attraction I plan to update every month or so. Check it out (above) or at NE 23 and Stanton.



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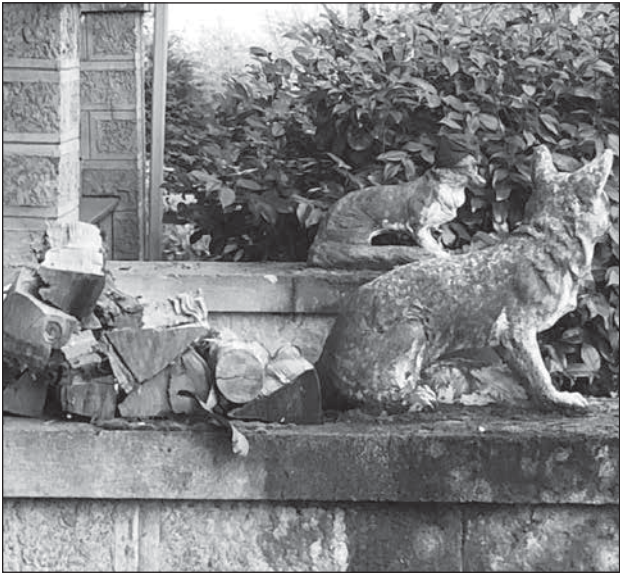
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AROUND ALAMEDA

These stacks of firewood spotted around Alameda inspired us to share the quotes below. May your fires burn bright this winter!

“Every man looks upon his wood-pile with a sort of affection.” – Henry David Thoreau

“I wish I was at home in my nice hole by the fire, with the kettle just beginning to sing.”

– J. R. R. Tolkien



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