

ELIOT NEWS

A Publication of Eliot Neighborhood Association
Volume 22 • Number 1
Winter 2013

Freezing Fog in Eliot

Photo Essay By Jason Franklin

A series of photographs scattered throughout the Eliot News on pages 1, 2 and 4.



“Rose” NE Rodney



“Hoops” Lillis Albina Park

Construction on MLK

By Allan Rudwick

I’ve lived in Eliot for 5 years now, and Martin Luther King, Junior Boulevard (MLK) is less than half a block from my house. If I had to use one word to describe it I would say ‘highway’ probably. The traffic is what defines MLK, slow and busy at rush hour, and fast and sparse throughout the rest of the day.

However, perhaps those days are changing. With 4 projects under construction right now, MLK will become more of a residential street over the next year. From south to north, we have a 2-story 14-unit apartment building at the southwest corner of NE Morris and MLK. This project will not have parking, but is on a block with a surplus of parking currently and the site is so small that

(Continued on page 3)



Above: The Eliot-MLK Apartments will be 4 stories when complete and house 50

Eliot News needs Help

By Allan Rudwick

The Eliot Newspaper is a publication of the Eliot Neighborhood Association and has been published for the past 22 years. In recent times, former Board Chair Clint Lundmark has been the Editor, Advertising contact, Layout manager, and a major content creator for the paper. This is a tremendous amount of work for one person—too much for me long-term—to do as I am quickly finding out, and I would like to thank Clint for the amount of work he has done for the paper over the past year.

The Eliot News is a neighborhood owned and run paper. We are supported by a grant from the City of Portland’s Office of Neighborhood Involvement, but most of our support comes from advertisers, volunteer authors,

editors, and volunteer deliverers.

The Eliot news needs your stories. As passionate as I am about development and the infrastructure of Eliot, that does not a compelling paper make. Often when I ask for articles, I am asked what I need. I want restaurant reviews, stories about people who have lived here, and the people who might make Eliot a thriving neighborhood in the future. This is your paper, so put your stories of life, fun, and festivities in it.

The Eliot News needs you to reach out and find a company to advertise in our paper. Would your favorite restaurant, service shop or hangout want some publicity? Advertisement rates are competitive. (See the back page for more information.)

To help, contact Allan at news@eliotneighborhood.org •

Our Little Free Library

By The Sporseens

The Little Free Library concept is designed to promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide. Eliot Neighborhood now has a first Little Free Library and we are now on the map at www.littlefreelibrary.org. The mission of the Little Free Library is a way to share books and build community. Stop by and check it out at 515 NE Graham St. We are trying to help build a sense of community and that takes you!

Pictured at Left: Our Little Free Library on NE Graham •



Eliot Neighborhood Association Spring General Membership Meeting

April 8th 2012 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Emanuel Hospital
Medical Office Building
501 N Graham St Portland OR

Eliot Neighbors, please join us for the Eliot Neighborhood Association Spring General Membership Meeting. Find out about what’s new in the neighborhood and how you can be involved. All positions on Eliot’s board are open and up for election. If you have a business or live in the neighborhood you can be elected to the board.

For the complete agenda see:
<http://eliotneighborhood.org/category/association/agenda/>

Eliot Neighborhood Association

The Eliot Neighborhood Association is a nonprofit corporation whose members are the residents and business owners of the Eliot Neighborhood. Its purpose is to inform Eliot residents about issues affecting the neighborhood through meetings, newsletters and other activities. Members of the neighborhood association must be over 14 years old and live, own property, have a business, or represent a nonprofit within the neighborhood. The Eliot Neighborhood Association was founded in 1969. It is recognized by the City of Portland, is a member of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Inc., and has representatives on several other groups and committees.

Eliot Board

Board Officers

- Allan Rudwick - Chair, Interim Newsletter Editor
chair@eliotneighborhood.org - 503-703-3910
- Angela Kremer - Vice Chair
angelahkremer@gmail.com - 503-284-9136
- Nancy Zimmermann - Treasurer -
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- Kristen Yates - Recorder
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- Patricia Montgomery - needachange@comcast.net - 503-758-1263

Land Use and Transportation Committee

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- Allan Rudwick - Vice Chair arudwick@gmail.com - 503-703-3910
- Alexa Heidrich - recorder - amheidrich@gmail.com - 503-327-4715
- Clint Lundmark - clintlundmark@gmail.com - 503-552-8678
- Laurie Simpson - laurie@mosiarch.com - 503-280-1005
- Jason Franklin - jasonwfranklin@gmail.com - 503-341-6246
- Kirsten Jenkins - kirstenjenkins@hotmail.com - 503-515-6633

Eliot Monthly Meetings

If you live or work in Eliot, you are welcome and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of the Eliot Neighborhood Association, which are held the second Monday of each month at 7 pm at Emanuel Hospital. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, stay informed about what's going on in Eliot, help build a stronger community, and have input into decisions that may affect you. Also consider joining a committee or becoming a board member. Emanuel Hospital, Medical Office Building, West Conference Room, 501 N. Graham St. Meeting location will be announced on the website and outside of the meeting room door if the room is changed.

Eliot News

Eliot News is published four times a year by the Eliot Neighborhood Association. It is delivered or mailed free of charge to every address in the neighborhood. It does not have a ISBN.

- Interim Editor, Layout, Advertising: Allan Rudwick
news@eliotneighborhood.org - 503-703-3910
- Delivery: Susan Bailey
baileywick97212@msn.com - 503-284-7010

Rights to articles are retained by the author. Opinions of the authors do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Eliot Neighborhood Association.

Eliot Email Groups:

eliotneighborhood@googlegroups.com - peer to peer email list for the neighborhood. Anyone can post to anyone.
eliotemallist@googlegroups.com - announces meetings 1x/month
board@eliotneighborhood.org, lutc@eliotneighborhood.org -internal



Eliot Neighborhood

www.eliotneighborhood.org
info@eliotneighborhood.org

Printed on recycled paper.

Upcoming Eliot Neighborhood Association Meetings

All meetings at Legacy Emanuel Hospital
Board Meeting - Monday February 11th - MOB West Conf
Land Use Committee - February 18th - Room 1035
Board Meeting - Monday March 11th - Room 2055
Land Use Committee - February 18th - Room 1035
General Membership Meeting - Monday April 8th
MOB West Conference
Land Use Committee - February 18th - Room 1035

For agendas and more information see eliotneighborhood.org.

Map of Eliot Neighborhood



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One Down, One to Go

By Mike Warwick

Readers of this column will know that the NE Quadrant phase of the Central City Plan update recently finished. The resulting Plan was approved by City Council. This plan is “advisory” and may be changed or modified subsequently. Concern about possible changes that would upset the compromises agreed to by the stakeholder committee resulted in a request that the committee be notified of any prospective changes and re-engaged to review and comment before they are adopted. It isn’t clear Council will be bound by that request, but here is hoping it will be.

One reason the plan is advisory is that it is part of the Central City Plan and that, in turn, is part of the larger Comprehensive Plan. Both of these “Plans” will change land use policies and land uses/zoning. The Central City Plan is proceeding quadrant by quadrant with all four expected to feed into the Comp Plan update. Generally speaking, the Comp Plan will not result in a city-wide scale of zoning changes. The Quadrant plans, will address local zoning

changes, although actual zone changes will be incorporated in the Comp Plan.

To be clear, any change in the allowed use of specific parcels of land (a change in zoning), is expected to be limited to Central City plans. The Comp Plan is expected to change the zoning code, which may allow (or limit) uses different than existing zones. For example, high density residential zones may be modified to allow more ground floor retail. This kind of change will change the way properties can be used or developed with existing zoning. Typically, these kinds of changes are the result of Planning Staff experience with current zones and zoning. If they see lots of request for zone changes for a specific purpose, such as to allow more ground floor retail, they will propose an amendment to the building code to permit that use “by right,” so property owners don’t have to ask for exceptions to the zoning. Simply stated, the Comp Plan won’t change zoning for individual properties city-wide. However, it is expected to change what is allowed within existing zones and potentially create new/eliminate old zones if there is a

need. In addition, it will change and adopt new Planning policies that may also allow landowners and developers greater flexibility. While this should benefit landowners and developers, it may disadvantage neighborhoods, especially older, established neighborhoods like Eliot. The Eliot Land Use Committee will participate actively in this process to protect Eliot’s interests.

Of particular interest to Eliot are some changes incorporated in the NE Quadrant Plan. These include allowed height restrictions north of Broadway for properties that abut historic Eliot and changes in residential zones west of Williams to allow continue use by existing commercial firms. Modification to the industrial zones used in parts of Lower Albina is also proposed. Other zone changes in Eliot are not expected at this time, although the Comp Plan intends to review the current “Institutional” zones city-wide, which includes the zoning for Emanuel Hospital.

The process of reviewing the “I” zone is in its early stages. In the 1970’s the City in league with Emanuel Hospital demolished a large swath of Eliot’s housing between Williams and Vancouver in anticipation of a federal funding for a major expansion.

Despite the fact the funding never arrived and the land was not developed, Emanuel continued to acquire new property. Eliot viewed this with alarm, based on experience elsewhere in the City where hospitals continued to nibble away at established neighborhoods. The result was the negotiation of an Institutional Management Plan (IMP) that restricts Emanuel’s expansion to its current boundaries. Experience with the IMP has been mixed, with some dissatisfaction by both parties. The Plan imposes significant “process” and expense and limits flexibility that both Eliot and Emanuel would like while providing Eliot with limited leverage over issues it values, such as the interface between the hospital campus and the residential area, which is currently composed of blank, mostly unattractive, parking structures. Opening the “I” zone process up could benefit both Emanuel and Eliot if it addresses mutual interests, but it could also simply grant institutions greater license at the expense of neighborhood livability. Again, the Eliot Land Use Committee intends to be actively engaged in this process to protect Eliot’s interests, as well as to accommodate the mutual needs of Emanuel as a valued neighbor and partner. ●

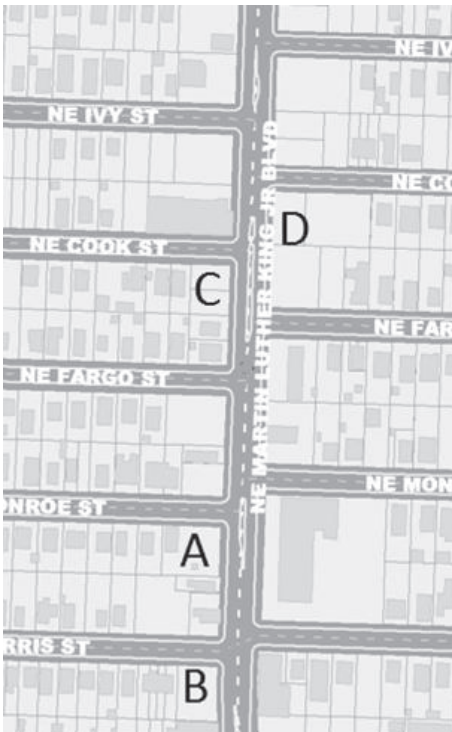
Construction on MLK

(Continued from page 1)

parking could probably fit into the plans. At the southwest corner of NE Monroe and MLK, ground is just breaking on a 5-story, 46 unit apartment building with 20 parking spaces. At NE Cook and MLK, a permit is filed for a near-clone of the Morris and MLK project: 2 stories, 14 units, no parking. On the other side of MLK, a 4-story partially subsidized project is going up. Dubbed the Eliot-MLK apartments, this project will take up the north half of the block between Fargo and Cook street. This is the only project on MLK with any retail space going in, it has the entire MLK street-frontage set aside for retail. This project has 50 units in it and a large amount of on-site parking behind the building. A potential second phase of the project would be on the south half of the block, but is just an idea at this point.

In the next year, we can expect

to see most of these projects finish, and there will be over 110 new units of housing and 200 new residents on MLK. Are you ready to welcome them? ●



Map of new projects on MLK in Eliot. Two story buildings (B,C) Four stories (D), Five stories (A)



2-story apartment building at the corner of Morris and MLK

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Pending Listings	bed	bath	sq ft	price
2750 NE Rodney Ave	3	3	1643	\$449,950
112 NE Ivy	3	3.1	2050	\$439,950
136 NE Ivy	3	3.1	2060	\$444,950
142 NE Ivy	3	3.1	2087	\$444,950

Sold Listings	bed	bath	sq ft	price
54 Sacramento	2	1	2569	\$261,800
16 NE Ivy	2	1	1682	\$309,200
311 NE Monroe	3	1	2806	\$310,000
633 NE Graham	3	2.1	2442	\$430,000
113 NE Fargo	3	2.1	1953	\$435,000

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Eliot Eateries

Breakfast/Coffee/Cafés

- Bridges Café
2716 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., 503-288-4169
- Eliot E-Mat Café
2808 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., 503-280-8889
- Goldrush Coffee Bar
2601 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., 503-331-5955
- Tiny’s Café
2031 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., 503-467-4199
- TwentySix Café
2723 NE 7th Ave, 503-284-6033

Bars/Taverns

- 820
820 N Russell St., 503-284-5518
- Bill Ray’s Dive
2210 NE MLK Jr. Blvd.
- Gotham Tavern
2240 N Interstate Ave., 503-517-9911
- McMenamin’s White Eagle Café & Saloon
836 N Russell St., 503-282-6810
- Secret Society
116 NE Russell St.,503-493-3600
- Sloan’s Tavern
36 N Russell St., 503-287-2262
- Tavin’s Pub
102 NE Russell St., 503-719-4890
- Widmer Gasthaus Pub
929 N Russell St., 503-281-3333

Lunch/Dinner

- Chuck’s Market, J&S Grocery
2415 N Williams 503-281-6269
- Pepper Box 2737 NE MLK Jr.
- Mint 816 N Russell 503-284-5518
- OX 2225 NE MLK Jr. 503-284-3366
- Pizza A Go Go
3240 N Williams 503-335-0300
- Popeye’s Famous Fried Chicken
3120 NE MLK Jr. 503-281-8455
- Queen of Sheba
2413 NE MLK Jr. 503-287-6302
- Russell Street Bar-B-Que
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- Sparky’s Pizza 2434 NE MLK Jr 503-282-3000
- Toro Bravo 120 NE Russell 503-281-4464
- Tropicana Bar Be Cue 3217 N Williams 503-281-8696
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Is it time to reconsider our school names?

By Allan Rudwick

“This Board is opposed, as a matter of policy, to retaining the names of schools and other public institutions named for former slave owners and others who did not respect equal opportunity for all.” - Humboldt Neighborhood Association

This is a resolution passed by Humboldt Neighborhood Association (HNA). Clifford Walker, HNA board member, dropped in on our January Board meeting to discuss Eliot adopting a similar resolution. The HNA adopted this resolution with a unanimous vote after a year of discussion. Clifford got us talking at the January board meeting about this topic with the hope that we might eventually adopt a similar resolution. The most immediate (to Eliot) change that might come from this being widely adopted might be to rename Jefferson High School.

I grew up in Virginia, and went to a Thomas Jefferson High School, and the fact that he was a slave trader was certainly not highlighted to me. "Thomas Jefferson and slavery"—it is such

a common subject that it has its own Wikipedia article. I certainly do not want to be in the way of taking down signs of oppression, but at the same time, the primary author of the Declaration of Independence and a former President of the United States seems like a fair person to have a school named after.

From a pragmatic view, it also crossed my mind that Jefferson is one of the worst high schools in the system in terms of test scores, according to one metric, and the two worst by some metrics: Jefferson and Madison were both named after former slave traders. Perhaps renaming some of our worst-performing schools coupled with some changes at the schools wouldn't have a terrible effect on the school performance.

The Eliot Board decided that we would bring up this subject again at the April General Membership meeting. Drop by and weigh in

The Eliot General Membership meeting is April 14th at 7pm in the Legacy Emanuel Medical Office Building West conference room.

Clifford can be reached at negusstudio@aol.com. More at noslavetraders.com •



Above: “Bicyclist” - N Flint Photo by Jason Franklin

Its Your Paper

By Mike Warwick

The Eliot News is one of the primary ways our neighborhood association reaches out to our neighbors: ALL of them, some of whom are elderly and/or poor and do not have internet access and whose views would otherwise ignored. It is one of the few remaining ink and paper neighborhood association newsletters. To fulfill its purpose, the News needs to contain articles of interest as well as those, like my land use column, that inform. We have a lot of talented people in Eliot who may not realize this is THEIR paper, not the editor’s. One way to tap this talent and stimulate more interest is photo essays. If you have

a camera and interest in being in print, there are many possible subjects; here are a few: our independent coffee shops (each has its own character and clientele), interesting businesses (Bardy Trophy, Orobos Glass, Union Pacific railyards and Widmer of course), “destination” restaurants (Ox, Toro Bravo, Mint), local dining favorites (Russell Street), old and “historic” homes, non-profits (VOA, Port-City, Mount Hood Railroad Club), and for the voyeurs among us, backyard livestock (chicken, bees, goats), chicken coops (there are some neat ones), gardens ... you get the idea. Call or email the editor to get started. Do it now!

The Editor of the Eliot News can be contacted at 503-703-3910 news@eliotneighborhood.org •

The Germans Left Churches

By Mike Warwick

When I sent the moldings in my home off to the stripper, I noted the name on the back appeared to be German. I also suspected the owner worked for the railroad because the front door is a custom size, probably to accommodate a window in the shape of a Union Pacific shield, which dates from the 1880s, and my home was built in 1908. A recent Oregonian article, (“NE Portland church tells story...” 1/12/2013) confirmed these suspicions. Although the article warned of the potential tragic loss of churched founded by German immigrants, it noted that these settlers were from the Volga region of Russia. The Portland residents first settled in Kansas and wisely (like my wife) left for a better life in Oregon. Volga Germans were close knit both in Russia and Portland, creating their own neighborhood centered along MLK and left behind churches strung along N. Rodney and 8th. Farmers in Russia, they kept livestock in their large lots and found work in the Albina sawmills and railyards. Civic life centered around their churches.

After two World Wars, Volga Germans began to distance themselves from their heritage and drifted away from “Little Russia” for suburbs and farms east of the cascades. Church going population declined. The churches and shops they left behind were occupied by residents of the black community driven from their homes by the City for construction of Memorial Coliseum, the Blanchard Block, and I-5. The last German congregation appears to have left the area in the 1970’s.

This is a very brief summary of Eliot’s German heritage. More can be found at volgagermans.net and from the Volga German studies program at Concordia University. Although these early Eliot residents left their churches as evidence of their presence, much of it has been buried by subsequent occupants and a rewrite of history that favors more recent Eliot residents. Worse, the histories of both populations are about to be lost as their unique institutions (such as the Cox and Cox funeral home – well parking lot anyway, and Morningstar church) fall to in-fill housing with no acknowledgement of what they re-



Above: St Mark’s Baptist Church was a former German church
Below: “Man” NE Rodney Photo by Jason Franklin



Street Tree Inventory Team

Help Us Get 100's of Trees Planted in the Eliot Neighborhood

Come and join us. We are organizing a street tree inventory team in the Eliot neighborhood. The goal is to identify available vacant spaces in the street planting strips to be able to plant hundreds of additional street trees in our neighborhood.

We are seeking out a group of neighbors who are also interested in urban forestry issues and working together to advocate for additional trees in our neighborhood. The inventory is the first step in the creation of a Neighborhood Tree Stewardship Plan. To be successful, this requires a group of committed citizens within the community to work together to accomplish tree-related goals to improve the urban forest.

The Street Tree Inventory will require the following:

1. Attend a planning workshop to learn how to conduct the inventory, and create our street tree plan.
2. Planning three to four inventory collection days in our community.
3. Recruit 20 volunteers per collection day, and a volunteer arborist.
4. “Team leader” training - learn how to conduct the tree inventory.
5. A post-inventory meeting to receive results and create a tree plan.
6. Present results to the neighborhood and receive their feedback

Portland Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry personnel will help us in this process. PP&R will provide:

Training for inventory organizers, training on tree identification and inventory methods for team leaders. a workshop leader, training, and supplies for each inventory work day, data entry, analysis and recommendations, final report and maps of trees in the neighborhood.

We will be applying for grants and seeking donations to pay for additional trees and to put at-risk youth and unemployed adults to work planting trees.

*If you would like to be involved with the Eliot Neighborhood Street Tree Inventory Team: contact: Spencer Burton - 503 803-2699
spencerburtonforportland@gmail.com*



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Thoughts on Neighborhood Development

By Alexa Heidrich

As a fairly recent transplant to Eliot I am excited for the developments along Williams and Vancouver. The addition of New Seasons and mixed use residential buildings are just the beginning of local economic growth, and this has the benefit of also increasing scrutiny of factors that affect Eliot as a walkable and healthy neighborhood. There is a general theory of walkability that requires satisfaction of four main criteria: it must be useful, safe, comfortable and interesting. Having a grocery store return to Eliot will meet the first criteria, and I for one will enjoy the proximity of my favorite place to shop. The nature of walking allows you to meander and find your most interesting and safe route, although the two can often be mutually exclusive. Safety for pedestrians, a very fragile group, requires well-lit paths, well-marked crossings, a buffering from cars and an overall sense of security. Residents of Eliot must deal with high traffic volumes, and a proximity to the freeway that compromises this sense of security.

At the December Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting, a subcommittee of the

Eliot Neighborhood Association, residents of Cook Street were able to discuss their concerns about traffic with a representative of the Portland Bureau of Transportation. They spoke about cars and trucks that use Cook Street as a high speed thoroughfare, which it is not designed for, and greatly compromises the health and safety of families on the street. By providing a cohesive voice, residents were able to advocate for temporary and permanent changes that would address their concerns. The City, in turn, was able to provide tangible measures to improve the safety of Cook Street, as part of the overall area transportation changes proposed for Williams and Vancouver. This is the benefit of new development and getting involved; residents can have a direct impact on the outcome and shape development to match neighborhood identity. Eliot has a rich history, and has experienced many changes through the years. As a resident of Eliot, it is important to me that future changes contribute to a higher quality of life, and provide interesting and safe routes to neighborhood amenities.

If you would like to know more about getting involved, please attend a Board or Land Use meeting. See the meeting schedule on page 2 and at www.eliotneighborhood.org •

Neighborhood Livability Partnership

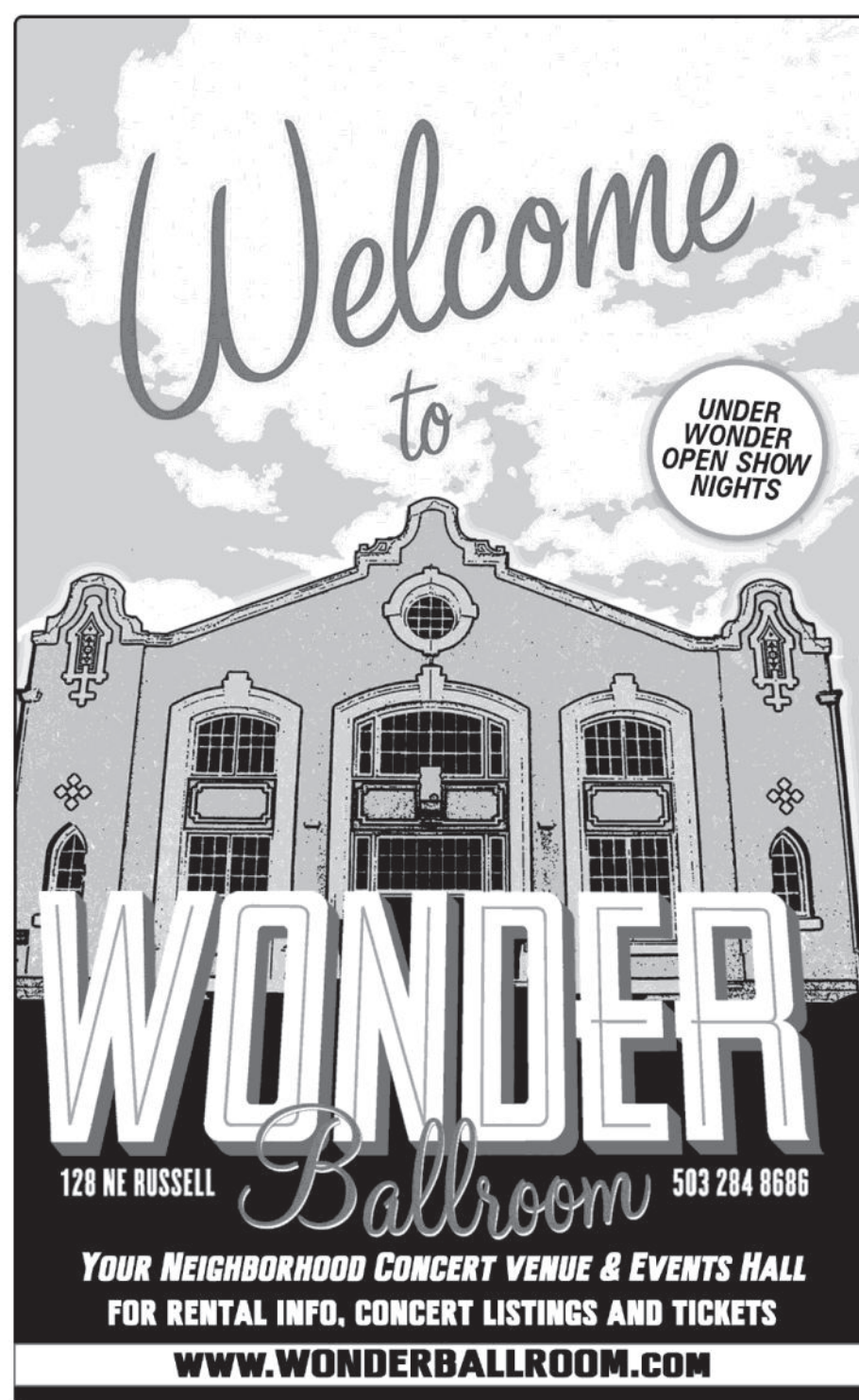
By Angela Kremer

The Eliot Neighborhood Association has a vital role in helping leaders connect to each other. Our meetings increase the sense of cohesion and community through partnerships and funding with other groups and through special initiatives. In April of 2012, a group of Eliot residents secured a partnership agreement, the Neighborhood Livability Partnership. The Partnership has three equal partners, the Eliot Neighborhood Board, the Lloyd District Community Association, and Portland Arena Management (PAM), the management group that oversees the Rose Quarter. Like all partnerships, each entity has shared goals and individual perspectives. The Partnership has been formalized with a signed Agreement between each of the three partners that focuses on preserving the historic character of Eliot while improving livability and accessibility.

The Neighborhood Partnership evolved out of the question residents asked themselves: "What are our conditions right

now and what do we want for a place to live and raise children or age in place?" Justin Zeulner, Senior Director of the Sustainability and Public Affairs for PAM, attended some meetings and investigated the impacts of games on the neighborhood and is now a key member of the Partnership. The goals of overcoming the parking, traffic and trash, were clear. To take immediate steps, the neighbors began talking to the Toyota dealer about employee parking and exhaust. These meetings with key partners led to reduced parking issues at times.

The neighbors also met with the Port City Development staff, from the Project Grow program which had focused on growing food as part of its programming. This led to another kind of partnership and a grant from the Bureau of Environmental Services to find land in Eliot in order to grow food collectively rather than on individual plots. Meeting again in resident's homes, the Lloyd District, Port City, PAM, and Eliot leaders joined forces with Emanuel to secure funds for the Albina Community Garden. As a result of these coalition efforts, the



Albina Garden is now accepting members on land owned by Emanuel Hospital, near the Russell Street end of the campus. Throughout all these meetings, the ability to work together led to visible improvements throughout Eliot while at the same time building of capacity and shared leadership between residents, nonprofits and businesses.

The Neighborhood Livability Partnership is designed for getting work done together while building collaborative actions like the Albina Garden. The Partnership is a signed agreement that was ratified by Board members of each entity and is governed by a steering committee. Ideally this will allow for the exchange of ideas and provide funds for improvement and action for the common good of all. Steering committee members meet monthly, allowing information exchange and weighing in on funding partnerships. For example, the Agreement contains the use of a Rose Quarter Comment Line monitored by PAM and reviewed by the oversight committee (503-963-3861 or e-mail rqcomments@rosequarter.com). Through comments, there is the potential of monitoring issues related to Rose Quarter operations impacting your neighborhood. This comment line is intended for non-emergency

matters (your local public authority should be called in an emergency). In addition, the independent Eliot Beautification Committee will plan to use an annual \$5000 grant (PAM funding for three years) for abating the issues of trash and increasing the livability and identity of the neighborhood.

Since they began meeting late last year, the Neighborhood Livability Partnership has accepted a proposal to join forces to study the parking patterns between the Lloyd District and Eliot and worked collaboratively during the N/NE Quadrant planning as part of the updated Portland Plan. The team has also discussed potential projects that might be effective in the Spring for beautification and heard the report of the first Eliot Beautification Committee which is still open to members. That committee is considering a wide range of options such as street trees, major sculpture or art, Historic Eliot street sign mastheads, a mural, and mosaic-sided trash containers. Partnerships with area businesses and the nonprofits will be essential for the success of the improved livability of the area. For more information contact Vice Chair and NLP representative Angela Kremer at angelahkremer@gmail.com – (503) 284-9136 •

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1890 Home Slated for Destruction

The Edwin Rayworth House

By Roy Roos

Another historic home in the Boise neighborhood nearby Eliot at 3605 N Albina is slated for demolition. A developer from Lake Oswego intends to replace this classic vintage home with a bland modern 2-family structure with a property split down the middle of the lot. This Queen Anne styled home is not a fancy Victorian era mansion but a decorative cottage, typical for a middle-classed resident in 1890. At the time this house was built, the Eliot, Boise, and King neighborhoods were within the limits of the City of Albina, consolidated by the City of Portland one year later. Our early community was ethnically and culturally diverse. Even though most of the houses were small and modest, every home had unique architectural characteristics. During the decades from the 1960s to the '80s, most of the houses of this era have been lost from commercial development and urban decay. Today, the surviving Victorian-era charm is threatened by intense development pressure. Our unique architectural landscape is under attack by developers who are replacing historic structures with bigger modern structures that increase population density. The Rayworth House is in an exceptional state of architectural preservation even though it is run-down today. The tragedy here is that a good restoration opportunity has been taken away from the community by a developer from the suburbs who will profit from his project.

Back in 1890, Edwin Rayworth, a painting contractor and wallpaper hanger, built this house here on N Albina Avenue. Originally, Albina Avenue was called Massachusetts Street, but that name was changed in 1891 once inside the jurisdiction of Portland. Edwin Rayworth was born in Canada in 1860, and his parents were immigrants from England. In 1884, they came to the States and settled into lower Albina later in the 1880s where building activity was strong and his trade flourished. Mr. Rayworth was either never-married or a young widower and had no children and lived in the house until about 1933. Also in the 1890s, a young couple also lived in the household with Edwin. They were Edward and Emma Reichard. Both were from Pennsylvania and were only a few years younger than Edwin. Edward Reichard was a coffee

salesman for Crown Coffee Company. It is not likely they were related, but they co-inhabited the house with Rayworth, who eventually turned over the title of the property to them and remained in the community through the 1930s. In 1941, the Reichards sold the house to Nick Schneider, who worked as a longshoreman, but he left at the end of World War II. Mabel Hinkson, the next owner, apparently lived elsewhere. By 1949, Thomas and Ora D. Flagg were the new owners and occupants. Thomas Flagg had a listed occupation as a "seaman" and remained here through the late 1980s. Around 1989, Norvell and Kathy Reed became the owners but lived elsewhere. In 2001, Dan Mohrmann purchased the house for his family. He had a vision to restore the house, which was in a state of disrepair, and started a slow restoration process. He worked in the trades and when the recession hit in 2008, the family went through financial hardship. Sadly, they lost the house from foreclosure from US Bank by 2010. In October, the property was acquired by Andrey Kashuba, the owner of Exceptional Homes by Andrey, Inc. based in Lake Oswego.

It is clear our old close-in neighborhoods are under attack from wealthy developers from the suburbs. We face architectural pillage by them because the city is promoting high density and has deaf ears for historic preservation. Portland has been noted for sustainable living, but the destruction of old buildings and replacement with modern structures is not sustainable and results in the waste of resources. The recent recession has created foreclosures on local residents, and developers have targeted these properties getting them at low prices and profiting from their destruction or radical alterations. Like the example 1890 house here, some of them are destroying historic buildings. This loss is great to the block here, and it is nearly the most original of the earliest houses built on the block. The historic buildings in our communities give us our sense of place and cultural memory. Our old neighborhoods help make Portland special and now in danger of becoming "anywhere USA".

Roy Roos is the author of the book "The History of Albina", available at Powells Books & Broadway Books •



The Edwin Rayworth House - Built in 1890

ELIOT NEWS AD RATES

Eliot News has a per issue circulation of 3,000 and is hand delivered or mailed to nearly 100% of the homes and businesses in the Eliot neighborhood.

Eliot News is an 8 page 11" x 17" black and white tabloid newspaper published four times a year in January, April, July and October.

Ad deadlines are December 15, March 15, June 15, and September 15.

Category	Size	1x	2x	3x	4x
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Full Page	10" W x 15.8" H	\$191	\$348	\$475	\$576

Ad rates and sizes effective January 1st 2012

Contact Allan Rudwick at news@eliotneighborhood.org or 503-703-3910

Crime in the Streets!

By Mike Warwick

Eliot's reputation as a high crime area, along with NE Portland generally, is undeserved. Crime statistics are skewed by criminal activity directed at visitors from out of the area to the Rose Quarter and Lloyd Center, primarily car prowls and thefts, but thefts from stores and offices as well. As the bank robber Willy Horton said, "You go where the money is." A recent incident on Thompson east of MLK offers a reminder that criminals are about. The first Sunday in the month an overnight visitor had her car broken into and trashed. While apparently pointless, the same night a car was stolen a block away on Tillamook, so apparently the vandals were actually frustrated car thieves. The following Friday, a

house on the other end of the block (close to 7th) was broken into at 10 AM. A window was broken to gain entry off the front porch and jewelry and other personal items were taken. Daylight burglaries are brazen acts. These incidents appear to be correlated with observations of more "strangers" walking neighborhood streets. Harsh weather does seem to increase the tendency of some people to choose to drive to their destination in someone else's car rather than walk in the wind and rain and to supplement their finances with other's possessions to pay for increased comfort. If you don't want to contribute to them involuntarily, you should be extra vigilant this time of year (as well as during the summer when open windows can prove tempting). •