



CONCORDIA NEWS

A free publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association

February 2022

Let there be music

Pandemic permitting, efforts are underway to revive the Concerts in the Park series city wide this summer, including at Fernhill Park. Stay tuned for details and, if you'd like to volunteer to help make it a reality, contact Social@ConcordiaPDX.org.

CNA Mission Statement

To connect Concordia residents and businesses — inform, educate and report on activities, issues and opportunities of the neighborhood.

Concordia News

This free, monthly publication of CNA will abstain from publishing anything that could be construed as libel.

Copies are delivered to all residences and many community and business locations in the Concordia neighborhood.

Concordia News is printed on 40% post-consumer or better paper, manufactured at a local mill.

Find us online at:

ConcordiaPDX.org and
Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX

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PPS panel is thumbs down on SRV

By Mac Larsen &
Nancy Varekamp
CNA Media Team

The Portland Public Schools (PPS) Facilities and Operations Committee Jan. 19 decided against forwarding to the board of education the city's proposal to place a Safe Rest Village (SRV) at the Adams/Whitaker site.

See ConcordiaPDX.org/pps-panel-is-thumbs-down-on-srv for details about the committee's conversation.

It's the latest in a 52-year history of the Whitaker/Adams property between Cesar Chavez Boulevard and 42nd Avenue.

The acres immediately south of Fernhill Park was home between 1969 and 1981 to what has been described as Portland's most progressive secondary education facility, Adams High School.

Later Whitaker Middle School occupied the building, during which time it served as the backdrop for Portlander Gus Van Sant's movie "Elephant."

In 2007, a combination of radon and mold in the building prompted PPS to demolish it. The land sits grassy and vacant. To those who've lived in Concordia for longer than a decade, it may appear like the old school building was photoshopped away.

For 15 years, neighbors have pondered the property's future. Despite calls for a community center, an urban farm and retail development, PPS has announced no plans. In 2016, a school official told CNews, "PPS is land banking the site for future educational needs."

Fast forward to October 2021, when a team led by Portland commissioner Dan Ryan added the property to a list of more than 100 across the city being considered for SRVs to house houseless individuals.

What about the contaminants that resulted in demolishing the school building?

"PPS does not have current environmental data on the former Whitaker site," reported Jonathan Garcia, PPS



During the past 14 years, the Whitaker/Adams site has served as a place where mountain bikers and dogs with their humans congregate – or enjoy the large, grassy field alone.
Photo by Nancy Varekamp

Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) last month wrote to PPS to point out the city's request to site an SRV adjacent to a city park is in conflict with the city's own siting criteria.

chief of staff, in early January. "Radon is hazardous when it collects inside a structure.

"In the absence of a building on the site, we would have no reason to test at the moment," he added. "An environmental assessment would be part of any

long-term or permanent plan to develop the site."

Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) last month wrote to PPS to point out the city's request to site an SRV adjacent to a city park is in conflict with the city's own siting criteria. The letter also requested neighborhood involvement in any decision placing an SRV in Concordia. See the letter at ConcordiaPDX.org/FinalPPSBoardLetterWhitaker.

CNA chair Peter Keller said he thinks city's processes may exclude neighborhood involvement. "They seem to be reading it from more of a facilities and zoning perspective than one that includes community input," he said in early January.

The CNA Board of Directors will continue to seek neighborhood input in any decisions affecting the site, he assured Concordians.

In the meantime, neighbors continue to ponder.

Mac Larsen is a graduate student at the University of Oregon, pursuing a master's degree in journalism. He grew up in Concordia neighborhood and can be found frequently on Alberta Street, complaining about all the construction.

Nancy Varekamp is semiretired from her career in journalism, public relations and – her favorite work engagement – writing and editing targeted newsletters.

Want to pick up Concordia?

Concordia is looking a lot less littered these days, thanks to the 55 people who gathered to pick up discards in October and the 75 who joined the effort in December.

You're invited to join the 9 a.m. – noon volunteer crew Saturday, Feb. 5. Meet at Alberta Park.

Together, the first Concordia Neighborhood Litter Pick Ups resulted in gathering an estimated 5,000-plus pounds of trash. They filled 160 trash bags in 15 truckloads.

Fresh air and social distancing are part of the every-other-month litter pick up.

"Participating is COVID-friendly," reported Gina Levine. However, she asks volunteers to wear masks when they can't maintain six feet of distance from others. Gina, CNA advertising representative, and Javier Puga-Phillips, CNA Social Committee chair, lead the partnership between Concordia Neighborhood Association and SOLVE.



Volunteers turned out in December to reduce more than 4,000 pounds of litter from Concordia. Photo by Gina Levine

Tools and equipment are provided. You're asked to pack a cell phone and bottled water. Public restrooms are available. Wearing a backpack is a good idea so you have both hands free to pick up litter.

Details are on Page 8. Pre-registration is required at SolveOregon.org/opportunity/a0C8W00000V8b0j.

From the Board

By Peter Keller, CNA Chair



Year starts at a quick pace here in Concordia

I hope everyone had a nice holiday season and was able to take time out to spend with friends and loved ones. I saw some of you at the holiday party Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) hosted at Teote. Social Committee chair Javier Puga-Phillips has big plans for 2022 events, including early indications

We asked that the Concordia neighborhood be included in the decision-making process.

that Concerts in the Park may be back this summer! Although the CNA Board of Directors took December off, we made up for it with a very busy meeting in January. We filled two of our three open board seats. John McSherry was re-appointed to At Large 3. We also appointed Ben Taylor to At Large 5. We still have the Southwest 1 board position open and hope to fill it at our next meeting, Feb. 2. (See directly below for those CNA district boundaries.) The CNA board also appointed our 2022 board officers and approved these committee appointments:

- Vice chair: Brittany van der Salm
- Treasurer: Heather Pashley
- Secretary: Joseph Fraley
- Media Team liaisons: John McSherry and Heather Pashley

- NECN liaison: Joseph Fraley with Brittany van der Salm as backup

In October it was leaked to the news media that city commissioner Dan Ryan’s staff had sent a proposal to Portland Public Schools (PPS) about leasing the Whitaker/Adams property – which it owns and is adjacent to Fernhill Park – for use as a Safe Rest Village (SRV). The CNA board reached out to the commissioner’s SRV team. They responded saying they are vetting the site and have not officially announced it. They referred us and neighbors to Portland.gov/ryan/safe-rest-villages. Due to the media coverage, Concordia neighbors raised their concerns about locating an SRV next to a park and two blocks from De La Salle High School. In support of those concerns, the CNA board penned a letter to the PPS Board of Education. We asked that the Concordia neighborhood be included in the decision-making process. PPS board member Gary Hollands, our Zone 5 representative, responded saying the PPS Facilities and Operations Committee might make a recommendation – for or against an SRV on the site – Jan. 19, which is very late for the deadline for this issue of CNews. See Mac Larsen’s story about this topic on Page 1 for details and where to find more information. The CNA board will continue to watch this closely and offer you updates via ConcordiaPDX.org/current-topics/srvupdates and Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX.

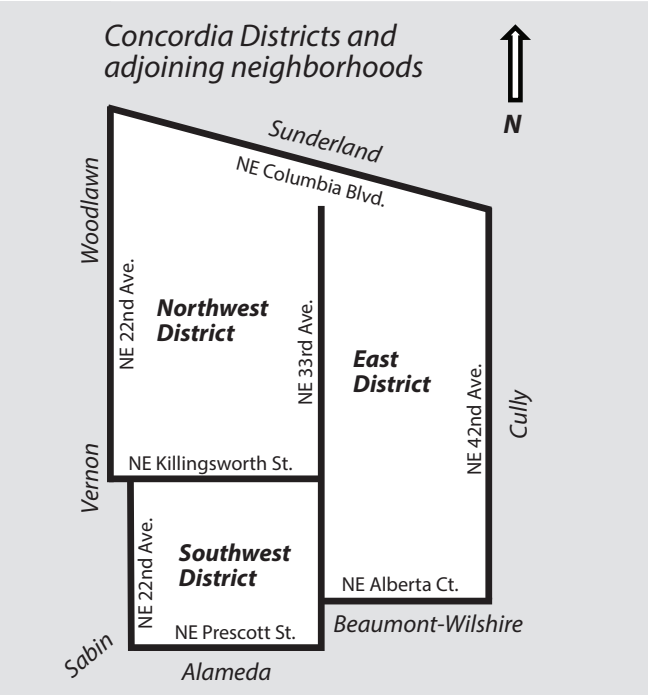
Native Portlander Peter Keller has lived in Concordia since 1997. He runs a small marketing agency with partner Max, out of their home studio. He loves exploring outdoors with and without his dogs.

Concordia Neighborhood Association

- Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m., venue: see box below, contact Peter Keller, Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org
- General Membership Meeting**
Wednesday, March 2, 7 p.m., venue: see box below
- Social Committee**
If you’d like to volunteer to help plan fun, community building events, contact Javier Puga-Phillips at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org.
- Media Team**
1st Tuesday of the month, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 6 p.m., venue: see box below, contact Gordon Riggs, MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Land Use & Transportation Committee**
Meetings for 2022 are TBD, contact Peter Keller, Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Finance Committee**
Last Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m., venue: see box below, contact Heather Pashley, Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Community Room Rental**
For info and scheduling, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/community-room-rental or contact Javier Puga-Phillips at CNARoomKennedy@gmail.com.
- CONTACTS**
- CNA Chair**
Peter Keller, Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org
- CNA Vice Chair**
Brittany van der Salm, AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org
- CNA Secretary**
Joseph Fraley, Secretary@ConcordiaPDX.org
- CNA Treasurer**
Heather Pashley, Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org
- North Community Safety Team**
Jacob Brostoff & Daniel Franco-Nunez, north.pdxteam@PortlandOregon.gov, 503.823.4064

SUBMISSIONS & ADVERTISING
Submissions to Concordia News: Deadline is the 10th of the month preceding the upcoming monthly publication. Contact CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org Submissions to CNA Website: Submit nonprofit news & events to MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org Advertising: Gina Levine, CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.891.7178

MEDIA TEAM
CNA Board Liaisons: Heather Pashley, John McSherry
Media Team Lead: Gordon Riggs, MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.515.8209
CNews Editor: Nancy Varekamp, CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.740.5245
CNews Graphic Designer: Gordon Riggs
Media Team: Chris Baker, Erin Cooper, Kathy Crabtree, Keith Daellenbach, Steve Elder, Tamara Anne Fowler, Tami Fung, Gina Levine, Vanessa Miali, Gordon Riggs, Rob Rogers, Marsha Sandman, Nancy Varekamp, Karen Wells, Carrie Wenninger, Tara Williams



- CNA Board of Directors**
Chair | Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org Peter Keller
East 1 | East1@ConcordiaPDX.org Heather Pashley
East 2 | East2@ConcordiaPDX.org Joseph Fraley
Northwest 1 | NW1@ConcordiaPDX.org Isham “Ike” Harris
Northwest 2 | NW2@ConcordiaPDX.org Amelie Marian
Southwest 1 | SW1@ConcordiaPDX.org Garlynn Woodsong
Southwest 2 | SW2@ConcordiaPDX.org Matt Boyd
At Large 1 | AL1@ConcordiaPDX.org Robert Bowles
At Large 2 | AL2@ConcordiaPDX.org John Fitzgerald
At Large 3 | AL3@ConcordiaPDX.org John McSherry
At Large 4 | AL4@ConcordiaPDX.org Javier Puga-Phillips
At Large 5 | AL5@ConcordiaPDX.org Ben Taylor
At Large 6 | AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org Brittany van der Salm
- CNA meeting venues**
Phone numbers and/or URLs to attend virtual CNA meetings:
- Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX
 - ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings

CNA seeks qualified candidates for the Concordia News editor paid contractor position

Put your talents to work by joining the media team as editor for Concordia News. Provide a vital function for the monthly paper serving Concordia neighbors and businesses.



For a full description of the duties & requirements of this important contractor position, visit:
ConcordiaPDX.org/get-involved/CNews-editor-position
To apply, contact Peter Keller at: Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org



Concordia Art Works

Plaque commemorates memorable neighbor

By Nancy Varekamp
CNews Editor

A lasting piece of street art across the neighborhood border in Cully is the memorial plaque on the grounds of the U.S. Bank on 42nd Avenue at Alberta Street. It honors Eddie “The Weatherman” Morgan, whose murderers still haven’t

“Eddie ‘The Weatherman’ Morgan – May the Sun Always Shine on You.”

been identified since the Memorial Day 1994 shooting. It reads, “Eddie ‘The Weatherman’ Morgan – May the Sun Always Shine on You.” Developmentally challenged, Eddie is reported to have lived with his mother and sister on Alberta Street, not far east of where he died at the spot marked by the plaque. According to media reports, it was 4 a.m. when neighbors heard gun shots, observed three people making their getaway in a car and found Eddie dead or dying. Opinions about why Eddie was killed floated through the neighborhood and the Portland media in the days and weeks that followed. None have been substantiated, but the general opinion was that his killers didn’t know Eddie.

The sociable, cheerful 46-year-old man walked the length of 42nd Avenue daily. But first, he would call KGW TV’s weather reporters for a forecast. Eddie shared that with the many people he visited, which accounted for his nickname, “The Weatherman.” “He was a bright spot in people’s day around there,” the Portland Observer in 2019 quoted Pete Parsons, one of the KGW weathercasters. More than 10 years after Eddie’s death local artists Elvis Nagel & Smith recorded a song about Eddie, “Who Killed the Weatherman?” It’s available for free listening on Spotify.com The first of several verses is: Eddie was as harmless as a child Walking was the reason No matter what the season He was part of the neighborhood Just like the school and the bank where he stood Where you shot him down. Are you ever going to be found?

Editor’s note: Can you identify who placed the plaque and when – and name the person who adds seasonal décor? Send the info to CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org for sharing in the next CNews Updates column.



Nancy Varekamp is semiretired from her career in journalism, public relations and – her favorite work engagement – writing and editing targeted newsletters.



Solve the mystery the CNews writer hasn’t solved. Send info on who placed Eddie Morgan’s memorial plaque in front of the U.S. Bank, when and who tends it to CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org. Photo by Nancy Varekamp

2 fill CNA board positions


The December CNews reported four members of the Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) Board of Directors were re-elected at the November annual meeting. At the January board meeting, two more were appointed to the board: John McSherry to At Large 3 and Ben Taylor to At Large 5. At its Feb. 2 meeting, the board agenda calls for filling the one remaining open position, Southwest 1.



John McSherry




Ben Taylor




CNA is now on Instagram!

Follow us @CNAPDX




Have you checked out CNA’s Facebook page?

Keep informed of CNA activities and your neighbors’ comments.



Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX



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Shop adds a spoonful of sugar to Concordia

By Javier Puga-Phillips
CNA Board Member, AL4,
CNA Social Committee Chair

Concordia has a new ally to satisfy sweet-tooth cravings and to help celebrate any occasion. DB Dessert Company customizes festivities with personalized cakes, cupcakes, cookies and other pastry options.

“The business that I do is about love and happiness and celebration,” reported Damala Badon, owner of DB Dessert.

She grew up next door in Vernon and graduated from Concordia University. She opened DB Dessert at 2624 N.E. Alberta St. in October.

It’s the second bakery for DB Dessert, following two successful years at the northeast Glisan Street location. An opportunity to open the latest outlet on Alberta simply materialized.

Now she has plans to open a third shop soon in the Rockwood neighborhood. “Follow us on social media to be updated,” Damala encouraged. Those include

Facebook.com/DBDessertCompany and Instagram.com/DBDessertCompany, and the website is DBDessertCompany.com.

“My sons are my inspiration and support this adventure,” she pointed out. When she began her new career seven

When she began her new career seven years ago, all three children slept at the bakery while she baked through the night.

years ago, all three children slept at the bakery while she baked through the night.

In fact, her middle son in particular was her inspiration to teach herself how to make custom cakes. Nine years ago, when he was a toddler, he asked for a birthday cake that looked like a dog bone in a bowl. That’s when she was inspired to start carving sculptures from cake.

“Because he was kind of the driving force of me trying that out, his initials kind of represent what the company started on,” Damala explained. She actually has the same initials.

Today DB Dessert offers a wide variety of flavors and designs. It even offers



Damala Badon opened her second bakery in October, this one on Alberta Street. Both are rooted in family, and she credits her sons for supporting her success. Photo by Nancy Varekamp

custom cake combinations to satisfy any taste. Damala constantly looks for new flavors and designs to add to the menu.

Next up are classes, part of Damala’s hope to bring neighbors together and to help build community. Due to the continuing pandemic, a Valentine’s Day class may have to be online.

“We want to celebrate and be safe and cook together from the safety of your own home.” She hopes in the future to offer in-person classes.

Does she have advice for future

female entrepreneurs, especially women of color like herself? One pointer Damala offered is that she doesn’t let being afraid or scared keep her from setting goals and pursuing them.

“If your dreams don’t scare you, they are not big enough. The way that I operate in business is I try to operate in a space of fearlessness.”

Nota del editor: Artículo disponible en Español, visita ConcordiaPDX.org/DBDessert.



Javier Puga-Phillips holds the At Large 4 position on the Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) Board of Directors, manages rentals of the McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room and chairs the CNA Social Committee. He is a real estate professional locally, and he is a published author and motivational speaker in Latin America and Spain.



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CNews writer experiences great satisfaction

By Marsha Sandman
CNA Media Team

No matter where someone is from or where they’re going, within them there is a story, and Concordia News writers enjoy finding and sharing those stories. When

passion, surprises, love, and history. Are you ready to share your skills? CNews welcomes both novice and experienced writers. You may be challenged. But you’ll be thoroughly satisfied. The basics are typically “who, what, when, where and why.” In between there’s

presence. As a writer, I personally prefer human interest stories. Memorable stories include a blind woodworker, chefs who bring their flavors from foreign homelands, teachers who encourage self-esteem through gardening, brave advocates, artists, cultural events, and many personal and evocative stories.

When I interviewed paper artist Calley Doderos, her creations unfolded into magical, glittery little houses. Each one was as unique and as wonderful as the artist.

I’m occasionally recognized for my stories when I’m out and about, and it gives me great satisfaction when people offer me story leads. Others come from the most surprising or mundane experiences.

Story leads come from everywhere, among them:

- A conversation at a neighborhood block party reveals a fascinating personal history.
 - A substantial change within the neighborhood leads to an interesting story.
 - A new or old business has a fascinating tale.
 - Even your neighbor could surprise you.
- The CNA Media Team meets monthly – currently via teleconference – to identify topics and solicit writers to volunteer to write about them. We always need writers and appreciate fresh ideas. Interviews can be in person, telephone



No spendy, complicated camera equipment was necessary to capture the personality of paper artist Calley Doderos in 2018. Marsha Sandman used her smart phone.

Are you ready to share your skills? CNews welcomes both novice and experienced writers. You may be challenged. You’ll be thoroughly satisfied.

we scratch the surface, surprising and evocative events unfold. I’ve had the privilege of meeting many Concordians as a volunteer CNews writer. Some stories poured out vividly, but others needed a little coaxing. I remember my first story about a very sweet-but-shy lady. I didn’t know where to go with the interview, and I questioned my writing skills. After a little gentle persuasion, her story unfolded with


“why, wow, creativity, history, questions, answers” and so much more. The CNews editor can help you find your groove. Subjects vary widely from personal and public history, neighborhood information, local change, challenges, businesses, services and a wide variety of others. Printed stories are typically limited to 400 words but, if you have more to say, that can be extended to CNews’ online

or videoconference. It depends on your comfort level.

If you’re interested in taking the journey with a wonderful group of writers, please contact me at MarshaJSandman@gmail.com.




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



What’s Selling in Concordia?

236	Homes sold in RMLS in last 12 months as of Jan. 10
-0.7%	Decrease in Average Sale Price since 2021
Avg. Sale Price in 2021: \$619,483	
Avg. Sale Price currently: \$615,438	
Avg. Days on market: 23	

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Please call or use the website to schedule an appointment to sell.

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Want to get involved locally?


Join us at the next Concordia Neighborhood Association Board Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m.

See **CNA meeting venues** box on Page 2 for information on how to attend.

All are welcome!

Want to get to know your neighbors?





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Collective encourages reimagining the world

By Carrie Wenninger
CNA Media Team

Imagine a joyful, bright, multi-purpose, open-air classroom and maker space attached to a single family home.

It's a space built with COVID-19 safety and community in mind to foster

What is reframing? It's looking at things in a new way to discover the positive and gather the flint of inspiration to create the future.



Carrie Wenninger lives on 29th Avenue in Concordia. She is a freelance writer, a mom, a world traveler and a small business marketing consultant. Contact her at WurdGurl@gmail.com.

creativity and curiosity, and it's carefully crafted and curated by two caring and visionary neighbors. It's a space that reimagines a new way of being, while also embracing and addressing current existing reality.

It's a space for children, elders, plus dreamers and imaginaries of every age to congregate, share and learn together.

Welcome to The Reframe Collective, the brainchild of Concordia couple Caitlin Quinn and Blue O'Connor at 6114 N.E. 35th Ave.

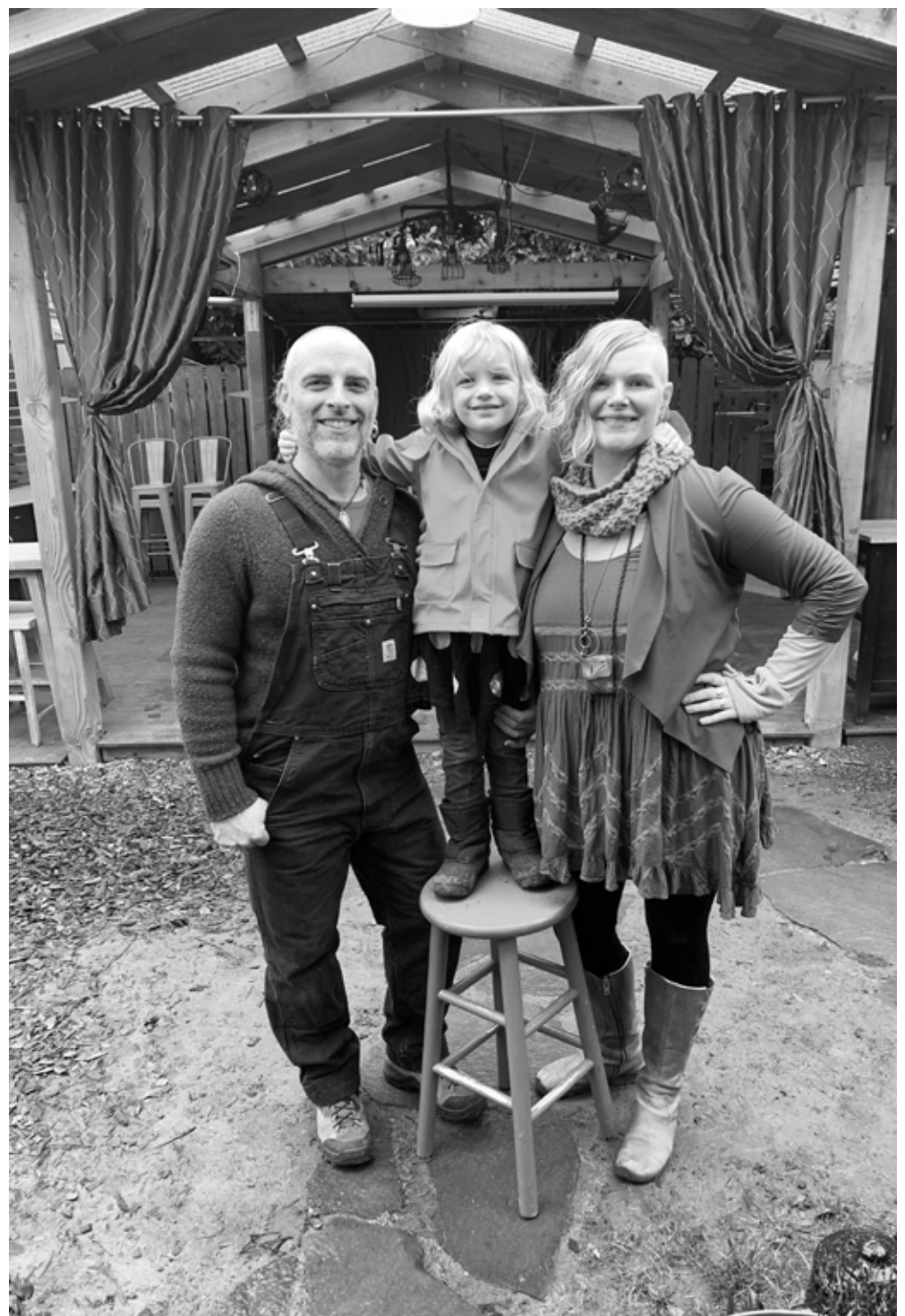
Caitlin, vivacious and dressed in juicy colors, holds a degree in costume design and had a long career as a public school teacher. Blue, a builder and mechanically-minded maker with a gentle and sincere smile, said he is happiest when dirty and helping.

The two ignited the spark for their shared venture when they became parents in 2017. "We had a very intentional conversation about the world we wanted for our child and about how we learn and grow in community," Caitlin explained. "It evolved from there."

What happens at The Reframe Collective? The briefest explanation might be intergenerational learning. But that doesn't even begin to touch on what's on offer.

Everything can be enjoyed, from preschool, experiential Tool School workshops and summer camps, to community-building events, in-person gatherings, online courses, clothing swaps and one-on-one consultations.

All are intended to foster empowerment, variety, communications,



The birth of their four-year-old child, Raynor, ignited the spark for Blue O'Connor and Caitlin Quinn to rethink – reframe – what they want the world to become. Photo by Nancy Varekamp

self-reliance, collaboration, problem solving, skill building, beauty making, celebration of meaningful phases of life and the paradigm-shifting work of reframing.

What is reframing? It's looking at things in a new way to discover the positive and gather the flint of inspiration to create the future.

"Our intent is to offer the community a library of possibilities," Caitlin shared, while Blue pointed out that they are long-time dreamers, not afraid of the process.

Now coming up on its second anniver-

sary in March, The Reframe Collective is more committed than ever to forge a new way forward. As the website reports, "Each moment holds a vital opportunity to remake the world."

According to a palpably enthusiastic Caitlin, "Everyone is a maker. Everyone is creative."

You can explore the Reframe Community at TheReframeCollective.com to sign up for the newsletter, check out the seasonal offerings and learn more about the preschool. Emails are welcome at ReframeNW@gmail.com.

Sojourn Church – A Neighborhood Church

Sojourn Church is having a winter (rain) coat/jacket & blanket drive in partnership with The Portland Rescue Mission.

Blankets and coats should be in good condition and can be dropped off Sundays between 8-11am at the Oregon Stamp Society building (4828 NE 33rd Ave.) or contact info@sojournpdx.org or 971-317-9892 to arrange porch pick up.

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Meet the Board

Pandemic life in Concordia is what it is

By Joseph Fraley
CNA Board Member, East 2

Happy New Year, neighbors! I hope it brings you peace and love. I’ve lived in Concordia since 2017 and joined the Concordia Neighborhood Association as a board member one year ago.

My family bought our house on tracking him down. A picture of me from our neighbor’s security camera opened her inaugural feed.

“Does anyone know this man?” the caption asked. “He seemed suspicious, but maybe he was just looking for his cat...”

The pandemic bled quietly into 2021, so we built a deck for safe gatherings with

Does anyone know this man? He seemed suspicious, but maybe he was just looking for his cat...

Roselawn Street in July 2019. My sister-in-law spent the early days of COVID-19 with us. The three of us pulled the pet-stained carpets, and signed our bedroom subfloor: “COVID Quarantine, April 2020.”

In September we built a fence so the dog and cat could safely enjoy the yard. The cat walked right under the gate and into the world. My wife Amanda signed up for NextDoor.com, looking for help

friends. We moved 6,000 pounds of dirt to make way. A mouthful of dirt ended up in the street out front, where it blew dust across cars and houses down the street.

We prayed for rain throughout the driest summer in a century. When our annual street cleaning day finally arrived, they did their best. Their brushes spread the mud like a paint roller over three blocks.

The annual Fernhill Park summer



Joseph Fraley is a five-year resident of Concordia and a one-year member of the Concordia Neighborhood Association Board of Directors. Like everyone here – and elsewhere – he finds ways to cope with the pandemic. That includes searching for his cat.

concerts and a movie night were canceled in the interest of public safety. So, we hung a used billboard tarp on the back of the house as a makeshift screen. I hand painted replicas of movie posters to announce a COVID-safe movie night every Saturday. One neighbor attended the first half of two movies.

My wife said, “I guess we’re all done working on the house...”

I look around. The kitchen cabinets

hang visibly crooked, like a prop from the gravitational anomaly in the San Francisco Bay area, the Mystery Spot. An ailing cherry tree upends all four fences at the back corner of our property. The broken shower tile leaks into the subfloor, and ultimately the crawlspace.

“I guess so,” I replied. “Maybe next summer we can get more neighbors to come out for movie night.”

CNews Updates
Holiday party greets 60



The Dec. 15 Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) Holiday party – promoted in earlier issues of CNews – drew 60 local residents and business people. CNA hosted the event at Teote and offers thanks for the discounts provided by that establishment and singer LaRhonda Steele, who entertained guests.

CU sale won’t be hindered

A Dec. 10 ruling by a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge – resulting from an August hearing in Portland – ruled a pending lawsuit won’t delay sale of the property. In 2020, shortly after Concordia University (CU) closed, Hotchalk Inc. filed suit against CU for \$300 million. Hotchalk is the California company that provided CU’s online education programs. The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) now owns the campus and is attempting to sell it. For CNews and other media reports about CU, the lawsuit and the LCEF’s efforts to sell the campus, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/current-topics/cusale.

Reserve a tree, plant more

Feb. 5 is the deadline to request a tree planted in your yard by Friends of Trees this spring. Visit Friendsoftrees.org to complete a request form. Friends of Trees volunteers intend to plant the trees March 12, and they’d like some help. To volunteer, contact Haley Miller at HaleyM@friendsoftrees.org. For a refresher on Friends of Trees, its mission and its efforts, see the September 2021 CNews story at ConcordiaPDX.org/2021/09/this-nonprofit-plants-trees-grows-community.

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11 FALL IN LOVE
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12 + 13
MORTIFIED

18 **BOOKLOVER'S BURLESQUE**
Cozy Classics

19 23rd annual Portland
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22 2022 Biamp
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25 **MOTHER HIPS**
+ Ashleigh Flynn
& the Riveters

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28 + MAR 1
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Community events calendar



Saturday, Feb. 5, 9am-noon
CONCORDIA NEIGHBORHOOD PICK UP
Location: Meet at Alberta Park
Join CNA, Solve & your neighbors to pick up litter in Concordia. Pre-registration required: solveoregon.org/opportunity/a0C8W00000V8b0j
Details: ConcordiaPDX.org/NeighborhoodLitterPickUp, CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.891.7178



Saturday, Feb. 5, 9am-noon
STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY
Location: Wilkes Creek Headwaters, 15401 NE Fremont
Columbia Slough Watershed Council & Portland Parks & Recreation invite volunteers to plant native trees & shrubs to help restore one of the only remaining surface creeks flowing into the Columbia Slough. Event is rain or shine, & gloves, tools, plants & instructions are provided
Details/registration: columbiaslough.org/events



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Saturdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 10am-noon
Mondays, 4-6pm, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28th
ST. CHARLES FOOD PANTRY
Location: 5310 NE 42nd
"Shop" at the food pantry Mondays & Saturdays this month, or request contactless delivery of food boxes. The 9.53-square-mile service area is 28th to 82nd & the Columbia River to Mason, including Dignity Village.
Details: stcharlespdx.org/food-help.html, svdppdxsc@outlook.com

Sundays, Feb 6, & 27, 10am-3pm
FREE VACCINE CLINIC
Location: Alder Commons, 4212 NE Prescott
No appointment or health insurance are required, immigration status doesn't matter, interpretation is available in English & Spanish, & there's free transportation to those who call 503.238.5790 the day of the event.
Details: aldercommons.org/calendar

Saturday, Feb. 19, 9am
STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY
Location: NE 112th deadend, just north of NE Marx
Columbia Slough Watershed Council invites volunteers to enhance the 112th Parkrose

Boat Launch. Plant native plants, say hi to salamanders, wave at great blue herons, & create critical habitat in this little corner of the slough.
Details/registration: columbiaslough.org/events

Saturdays, Feb. 19 & 26, 2-4pm
FOOD PANTRY
Location: 5209 NE 22nd Ave.
Sharon Seventh Day Adventist Church hosts its food pantry the last two Saturdays each month with restrictions & strict adherence to physical distancing procedures.
Details: sharonsda.net, office@SharonChurch.comcastbiz.net

Saturday, Feb. 26, 9am-noon
STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY
Location: Kelley Point Park
Columbia Slough Watershed Council & Portland Parks & Recreation invite volunteers to enhance one of the largest natural areas in the watershed by planting native plants. Coffee, water, snacks & tools provided.
Details/registration: columbiaslough.org/events

News from the NET

Tornados can happen in Oregon, too

By Erin E. Cooper
Concordia/Vernon/Woodlawn
Neighborhood Emergency Team

Although the Midwest and Southeast U.S. are known famously as Tornado Alley, dangerous tornadoes have occurred in all 50 states.

Knowing how to interpret the different types of warnings – and what

If you live in a mobile home or other unfixed structure, move to the house of a friend or neighbor, or a public shelter. In houses, leave the windows closed. Have sturdy shoes readily available, in case of broken glass.

- If a Tornado Warning is issued, a tornado has been observed, and you should take shelter immediately. Move to a basement or interior room – one

Unlike earthquakes, weather forecasters can generally anticipate the conditions that lead to tornado development.

to do to prepare for a tornado – can minimize damage and save lives if such one happens in Portland.

Unlike earthquakes, weather forecasters can generally anticipate the conditions that lead to tornado development. The average tornado warning provides 13 minutes of advance notice before the arrival of a tornado.

If you already have a plan in place, you will likely have time to make sure your family is as safe as possible. Follow the National Weather Service (NWS) online at Weather.gov/nwr or on radio for severe weather and tornado alerts.

NWS has two levels of notification for tornadoes.

- A Tornado Watch means the conditions may lead to tornadoes in your area, and you should be prepared to take action. Alert your family members and gather basic necessary items such as prescription medications, wallets and keys.

with no windows if possible – and cover yourself with a blanket or mattress. This minimizes damage from falling or flying debris. Wear a bike helmet to protect the head as much as possible.

If there is widespread tornado damage, the things that you will need are the same as those in your earthquake kit: water, food and other basic supplies.

For more specific information on tornadoes, visit NOAA.gov/stories/tornadoes-101.



Erin E. Cooper is a marine biologist living in Woodlawn. She spends a lot of time thinking about disasters and has been a NET member for many years.

Contact her at OceanListener@gmail.com.



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