



# CONCORDIA NEWS

A free publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association

December 2022

## Goodbye bus service?



TriMet is considering dropping bus service for Line 17, which serves Concordia. Story Page 3.

## 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.

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CNA

## CNA Board welcomes members

By Rob Cullivan  
CNews Editor

The Concordia Neighborhood Association elected six people to even-numbered positions on its board on Nov. 2, and also chose Kieran Lee as its new chair.

Each board member will serve a two-year term, and Lee will serve one year as chair.

CNews asked each elected official to tell our readers about themselves. Here's what they had to say.

**Kieran Lee** lives off Alberta Street and has resided in Concordia for almost two years. Lee works as an automotive engineer at Daimler Trucks, on Swan Island, and has volunteered in youth development with Big City Mountaineers as well as various STEM programs.



Kieran Lee

A graduate of Virginia Tech, with a bachelor's degree of science in mechanical engineering, Lee spent the past year serving in the board's At-Large 4 position.

"I am excited about the passion seen at the board level and of our community; that energy motivated me to continue to be an active member of Concordia as chair," he said.

Lee noted he wants CNA to continue to coordinate community events as well as promote CNews.

"As we come out of the pandemic, we also hope to encourage an equitable Concordia that listens and brings all community members together."

He added that he particularly enjoys living in Concordia for a variety of reasons, including its diversity, accessibility and local business community.

"The Guinness at TC O'Leary's isn't too bad, either," he said.

Lee said he will do his best to keep his ears open to Concordia's concerns.

"Please don't hesitate to reach out or stop and say 'Hey!' if you see me walking down the street!"

**Patricia M. McMahan** was elected to the **At Large 2** position and has lived on Northeast 23rd Avenue just off Alberta Street for two years, moving there from Southwest Portland.



Patricia M. McMahan



CNews Editor Rob Cullivan is a veteran journalist, publicist and grant writer who has written about everything from rock 'n' roll to religion. He possesses a deep affection for writers and photographers who hit deadline.

hill to climb and descend is the Alameda Ridge," she said. "Most people are friendly, and I like talking to anyone who smiles back. My neighbors on both sides have become my very good friends."

McMahan taught primary school in California for several years and moved to Oregon in 2004 after her son moved here in 2002. She has served as a docent at the Portland Art Museum and is a member of the European & American Art Council. In 2014, she earned a degree in art practices from Portland State University and has an art studio in her kitchen.

McMahan noted she was inspired to run for the board after attending CNA meetings and getting to know folks.

"I really didn't intend to get so involved, but here I am, and I hope to make a positive contribution."

**Rich Burton** was elected to the **At Large 4** position and resides with his partner north of Fernhill Park. He has three children as well as five grandchildren and has lived in Concordia for 13 years.



Rich Burton

A software/hardware engineering consultant, Burton attended Purdue University and noted he enjoys skateboarding, photography, playing music and walking around the neighborhood.

"Concordia is a wonderful neighborhood," Burton said. "People are friendly and have a strong sense of community. Local businesses, like Extracto Coffee Roasters and Wilder Bar, are great for neighborhood interactions. You can find me at Extracto almost every day of the year."

Burton said he's particularly interested in how houselessness and land use issues affect Concordia. In addition to serving on the CNA board, Burton is active with Skaters for Portland Parks and is also an artist and speaker for the Portland Winter Light festival, as well as a board member at Portland Community College's IACUC Committee.

**Brittany van der Salm** serves as vice chair of the board and was elected to the **At Large 6** position. She lives near 23rd Avenue and Jarrett Street with her husband, Paul, as well as two dogs and four cats. She's resided in Concordia since November 2019 and works as a health and human policy consultant for Mercer Government and Human Services. She has a bachelor's degree in English from Reed College and a master's in social work from Columbia University.



Brittany van der Salm

In her second term as a board member, she said she joined the board to become more involved in the community.

"Now I'm in it because I've seen what a great link CNA can be between local government and our neighborhood, and

that we can really add value and fun to our neighborhood," she said. "I love Concordia!"

She added that the CNA board hosted candidate and city charter reform forums during her term and that she hopes the board will "continue to bring city government to our neighborhood level so that we can have a really democratic process to things."

The board member said she's also excited about the University of Oregon locating its new campus in Concordia and hopes this will lead to a mutually beneficial relationship between the school and the neighborhood.

It's clear from her words that she's a Concordia booster.

"I almost feel guilty with how little I leave the neighborhood, but with spots like Gabbiano's, our food cart pod, Flour Market, and more, it's tough," she said. "We're also right between Alberta and Fernhill parks, which I think are two of Portland's best. And of course, there are so many interesting, kind and fun people! I love seeing neighbors and catching up."

**Megan Gobble** was elected to represent **Southwest 2**. Residing on 29th Avenue and Sumner Street, Gobble and her husband, Patrick, have a grown daughter as well as three grandchildren living nearby. Gobble has lived in Portland for 27 years, seven of those in Concordia.



Megan Gobble

A recently retired nurse and engineer, Gobble serves as secretary of the Columbia River Volkssport Club, a walking group, and is also a landlord. She has worked as a nurse for the VA and has been active in Girl Scouts, Sierra Club, PTA and square dancing. She holds bachelor's degrees in physical sciences as well as nursing. Her goals as a board member include keeping Concordia diverse, promoting usable alleys and working with local businesses, families, and the University of Oregon.

Gobble said Concordia is noted for its accessibility: "Shopping, dining, entertainment, all can be done without using a car. And the eclectic nature of our streets and houses, 110-plus-year-old bungalows next to modern townhomes, makes it fun to walk and enjoy the view."

**Matt Roberts** was elected to the **Northwest 2** position. Married with two adult children, Roberts does not live in Concordia but noted that he serves as the University of Oregon's assistant vice president for community relations, and will gladly answer questions from folks about the new UO campus, located on the grounds of the former Concordia University.



Matt Roberts

Story continued on Page 7

From the Board

By Peter Keller, CNA Chair



One door closes ...

We had an exciting election at our annual meeting on Nov. 2, and I'm happy to report that all open seats were filled! In January, I'll be handing the proverbial baton to **Kieran Lee**, who was elected to the CNA Chair position for 2023. Kieran was already serving on the CNA Board in the At-Large 4 position. I'm very happy that he'll be leading the board in 2023 and wish him the best! Because it was an even year, all even-numbered

*People are the solution. So, find your community and give what you can.*

CNA Board seats were up for election. The following CNA Board members have stepped down from their positions, and I want to thank them for their volunteer service. It's been a pleasure serving with all of you:

**East 2: Joseph Fraley**  
**NW 2: Amelie Marian**  
**SW 2: Matt Boyd**  
**At Large 2: John Fitzgerald**

The newly elected 2023, even-numbered CNA board members are:

**East 2: Astrid Furstner**  
**NW 2: Matt Roberts**  
**SW 2: Megan Gobble**  
**At Large 2: Patricia McMahan**  
**At Large 4: Rich Burton**  
**At Large 6: Brittany van der Salm**

You can read more about all the new members on Page 1.

Thanks to everyone who participated, and a special thanks to Jona Davis, from the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, who administered the election. It was great to see the excitement and interest from the community to serve the Concordia neighborhood.

**Election changes**

As I write this, we have just gotten the results of our local and national mid-term elections. We have a new city charter in Portland, something that hasn't happened for over 100 years! My sincerest hope is that it results in a more representative City Council, which is the promise.

**Final thoughts**

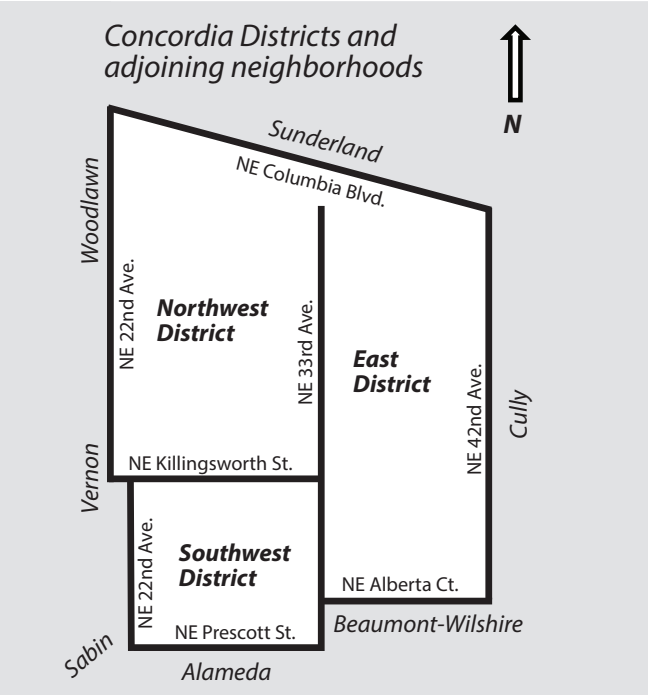
Since joining the CNA Board as Chair in 2021, I've had a rapid civics education. These last two years, I've paid a lot closer attention to what's happening right here in Concordia and Portland. It's been eye opening.

Mostly, the lesson I take is that there are a lot of ways people can contribute locally. Community is broadly defined, but ultimately it feels good to meet new people and give your time for something other than yourself. That's what a lot of us are missing these days, connection with others and giving.

Our city has no shortage of problems, and apparently even if the money is there, it's not always the solution. People are the solution. So, find your community and give what you can.

See you in the neighborhood!

*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.*



- CNA Board of Directors**
- Chair | Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org Peter Keller
- East 1 | East1@ConcordiaPDX.org Heather Pashley
- East 2 | East2@ConcordiaPDX.org open position
- Northwest 1 | NW1@ConcordiaPDX.org Isham "Ike" Harris
- Northwest 2 | NW2@ConcordiaPDX.org open position
- Southwest 1 | SW1@ConcordiaPDX.org Javier Puga-Phillips
- 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 Kieran Lee
- At Large 5 | AL5@ConcordiaPDX.org Ben Taylor
- At Large 6 | AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org Brittany van der Salm

**CNA meeting venues, how to attend**

To learn how to attend CNA meetings in-person (when available) or remotely, visit:

- ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings
- Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX

Concordia Neighborhood Association

**Board Meeting**  
1st Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 7 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room with call in option, see box below, contact Peter Keller, Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org

**General Membership Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 1, 7 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room with call in option, see box below, contact Peter Keller, Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org

**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 Monday of the month, Monday, Jan. 2, 6 p.m., venue: remote, see box below, contact Shawn Mihalik, MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org

**Finance Committee**  
Last Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m., venue: 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**  
open position
- 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: Leigh Shelton, CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.875.8410

**MEDIA TEAM**

CNA Board Liaisons: Heather Pashley, John McSherry

Media Team Lead: Shawn Mihalik, MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org, 330.502.8452

CNews Editor: Rob Cullivan, CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNews Graphic Designer: Gordon Riggs, CNewsDesigner@ConcordiaPDX.org

Media Team: Erin Cooper, Rob Cullivan, Keith Daellenbach, Jon Dickman, Steve Elder, Michael French, Tami Fung, Gina Levine, Shawn Mihalik, Javier Puga-Phillips, Gordon Riggs, Rob Rogers, Marsha Sandman, Leigh Shelton

**YOU are Invited!**

**Concordia Neighborhood Holiday Party**

Wednesday Dec. 14, 4 to 9 p.m. at Teote Alberta , 2700 N.E. Alberta St.

★ Entertainment by Robin Jackson and Lewis Childs

★ Silent Auction

★ Food provided and adult beverages for sale



Please RSVP Social@ConcordiaPDX.org so we have an accurate headcount.



**Concordia Neighborhood Litter Pickup**

Care about your neighborhood? Want to help?

**What:** Join SOLVE and your neighbors for a litter pick up in the Concordia Neighborhood.

**When:** Saturday, December 3, 9:00 a.m. – noon

**Where:** Meet in Alberta Park, NE Ainsworth & 22nd

**Registration:** Pre-registration is required! Please sign up ahead of time and fill out the volunteer waiver form:

**SOLVEoregon.org/opportunity/a0C8W00000V9M9R**

**Questions?** Contact Javier Puga-Phillips at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org or call 323.573.1516.

**More info:** ConcordiaPDX.org/NeighborhoodLitterPickUp





Photo by Jon Dickman

TriMet

# Future of TriMet Bus Line 17 is uncertain

By Shawn Mihalik  
CNA Media Team Lead

TriMet may drop service for Bus Line 17 at the north end of its current route at Northeast Broadway Street due to low ridership. Currently, Line 17 runs 136th Avenue and Holgate Street to 24th Avenue and Dekum Street. The potential route change would affect Concordia residents, eliminating the Concordia portion of the route entirely, and is part of the Draft Service Concept of TriMet’s “Forward Together” initiative, which aims to adapt to changes in ridership brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic by making a series of updates to TriMet bus routes in the near future.



Shawn Mihalik is a novelist, photographer, martial artist, and the Concordia Neighborhood Association’s media team lead.

TriMet gathered input from the Portland community in the spring of 2022 around the Draft Service Concept, as well as recently via a now-closed online survey. Ostensibly, any changes made to TriMet bus service would have the aim of “focusing on ridership and improving connections to destinations for people with low and limited incomes.” Among the questions CNews wanted to ask TriMet is how this change will affect low-income riders who commute to higher-income neighborhoods for work. However, TriMet did not respond to repeated requests for interviews prior to the CNews deadline. Additionally, the 17 line is currently the only direct route from the Concordia Neighborhood, which will soon be home to a University of Oregon campus, to Downtown Portland. Residents and students who rely on this line would need to use an alternate, indirect, and more time-consuming route. TriMet’s website advises that riders would be able to take

Story continued on Page 8

## University of Oregon Readers chime in on possible campus uses

In the November issue of CNews, we invited our readers to chime in on possible community uses for the new University of Oregon campus, located on the former Concordia University campus. Here’s what they had to say.

Mike Henjum

“Thanks for organizing everyone’s ideas! Here’s a few quick ones that I’d like to see: Lectures or public discussions available to the general community, community access to the athletic facilities, including the indoor gym and outdoor track and field. Restoration of the old tennis courts for community use. Timing restrictions and fees would be reasonable. Community access to the library space could be nice, if there’s excess space above and beyond what is needed for the students and staff. Establishing a community membership rate and timing restrictions may be reasonable.”

Tom Huminski

“What about the sports field? It’s such an amazing facility, and I hope it will be made available—regularly—to the community. I remember when Concordia moved homes to build their field, and they promised to open it to the neighborhood. I don’t remember any times the field was open to the neighborhood. Thanks for passing this on.”

Soham Darwish

“I would like to see the library continue to host art exhibits and summer

music on the lawn. Also, have the library be open to the neighborhood and reinstate the community room in the library for events such as tax preparation assistance and other meetings. Allowing the stadium to be used for local sports events would be great too.”

Ben McLeod

“A simple, indoor community play space for babies and toddlers would be such a nice addition to this neighborhood. When the rain sets in, it’s tough to find walkable or bikeable places for young children and their parents to socialize, learn and grow together. Can we build that together?”

CNews invitation

Our invitation came in response to UO Portland Provost Jane Gordon’s remarks at a public forum in October, during which she said neighbors will be welcome to use the campus in a variety of ways. “We want to be a community-centered campus,” Gordon said. “We will do events that people will be invited to, whether they’re a lecture, conference, music or things the community puts on. We’re open to various ideas.” To share your ideas, contact UO by emailing [pdxinfo@uoregon.edu](mailto:pdxinfo@uoregon.edu). For more information, visit [pdx.uoregon.edu/northeast-pdx-campus](http://pdx.uoregon.edu/northeast-pdx-campus).

Story compiled by Leigh Shelton, CNews Advertising Representative, and Rob Cullivan, CNews Editor.



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Social Column

CNA invites neighbors to party

By Javier Puga-Phillips  
CNA Social Committee Chair

The holidays are here, and we'd like to invite all of our neighbors to Concordia's holiday party!

This year we are having our holiday party from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Teote Alberta, 2700 NE Alberta St. CNA will provide a buffet-style dinner, and the bar will be open for adult beverages.

In addition, we are lucky to have Robin Jackson and Lewis Childs performing holiday music for us from 5 p.m. onward. We will have some candy and prizes for children attending.

We plan to have a silent auction to raise funds for CNA, including art and gift certificates donated by our local businesses. Thank you, Astrid Furstner, for all your help and collaboration getting this silent auction ready and organized.

Vaccination cards are not required



Javier Puga-Phillips holds the Southwest 1 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.

this year, but vaccines are heavily encouraged. Please RSVP at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org for a head count, as we would like to make sure we have enough food for everyone.

Alberta Gnome

CNA would like to thank Maquette Reeverts, local artist and CNews contributing writer, as well as her team, for putting together this year's Alberta "Gnome for the Holidays." This is a fun free event for an opportunity to win prizes.

Grab a "Gnome Card" at Frock Boutique, 1439 NE Alberta St., Mimosa Pottery Studios, 1718 NE Alberta St. or Alberta Street Gallery, 1829 NE Alberta St. and hunt for gnomes. From Dec. 2-26, walk Northeast Alberta from NE 13th to NE 30th avenues and look for hidden gnomes at participant businesses listed on the Gnome Cards. Each gnome has a letter next to it, so write down the letter on the corresponding business square and reveal a hidden message.

Return your completed gnome card to any of the drop-off locations, including any of the locations mentioned above, and enter for an opportunity to win. You do not need to find them all to participate in the raffle, which takes place Dec. 27.

Last Thursday on Alberta

It was brought to my attention that Last Thursdays on Alberta are year-round affairs among our artists and galleries and do not take place only during the summer months.

Share the Road

On a more serious note, we'd like to remind our drivers to please follow the speed limits on our streets. Remember that Alberta Street and 42nd Street are our commercial areas, and we have a lot of pedestrians walking those streets. We have seen some drivers in a rush and/or at high speed at Prescott and Killingsworth unnecessarily putting in danger the lives of our neighbors. Slow down, and let's share our streets with bikers and pedestrians alike.

As we wrap up this year, we'd like to thank all the people who made this year a success for our neighborhood. CNA hosted Bi-Monthly neighborhood pickups, and we picked up over 15 tons of trash from our street. We brought back our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Concerts in the park, National Night Out, Annual Yard Sales and other fun events.

Thank you to our Social Committee volunteers and businesses who have made 2022 a success, and Happy New Year!

Heart in Hand Lantern Walk



Every year, when the days get short and dark, the children from Heart in Hand Preschool, 5405 NE 30th Ave., and their families set out on a Lantern Walk in Wilshire Park. This year's walk took place Nov. 11 and drew about 40 children and adults. The children sing songs and carry handmade lanterns, and sing "This Little Light of Mine." Pictured here is Pippa PVK-Rue, age 4. Contributed photo

Faubion School host online Giving Tree

Faubion School, 2930 Dekum St., hosts a Giving Tree online through Dec. 14, to benefit students. Donors can fund such holiday gift purchases as gift cards, toys and clothes. For information, scan this QR code or visit Signup.com/go/iuHVPaz, or contact Christina Gomez, wraparound services coordinator, at 503-278-6871, or at cgomez@pps.net.



UO COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Join us for our next community event and hear updates and plans for building renovation at the new University of Oregon Portland campus.

Saturday, January 14  
10:30 a.m. - Noon

Library/Learning and Events Center  
2811 NE Holman St.

Questions?  
pdxinfo@uoregon.edu



pdx.uoregon.edu/northeast-pdx-campus



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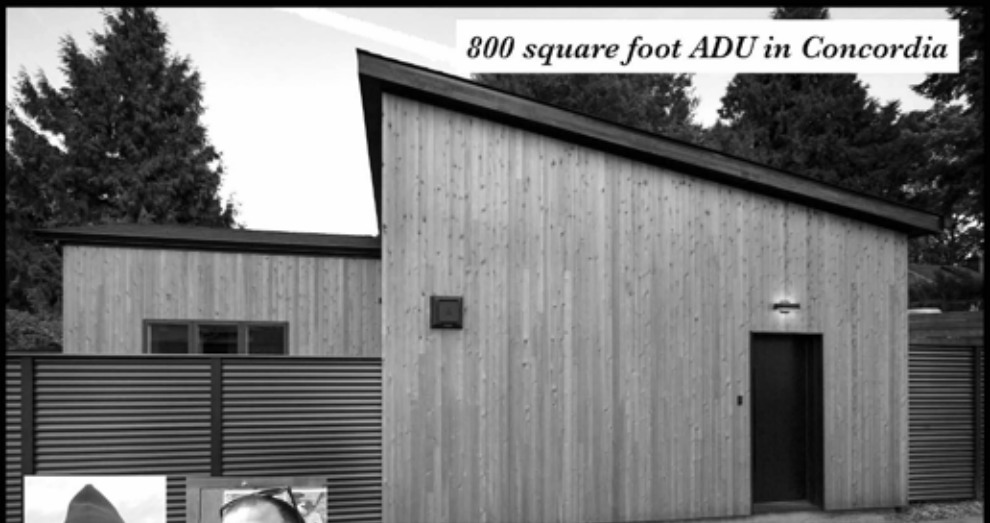
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# Having fun on Halloween



The Concordia Neighborhood Association handed out candy and treats to costumed trick-or-treaters on Halloween at Bar Cala, 2703 NE Alberta St. Photos by Peter Keller

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REALTY

Obituary

MerleAnn McVay, June 15, 1946 to Oct. 13, 2022

By Virginia Maxam and Jon Dickman

MerleAnn McVay, a Concordia resident for more than 30 years, died peacefully at Annabelle's Care Home in the early morning hours of Oct. 13 surrounded by friends, who were holding her hand and singing to her throughout the night. She died of congestive heart failure aggravated by complications from pneumonia. She was 76.

MerleAnn was an avid biker, hiker and backpacker, and she loved music. Her passionate love of animals was lifelong, including taking in cats with compromised health conditions and lovingly caring for them. She often took in people, as well, who needed a place to stay.

She lived an inspirational life during which she selflessly devoted herself to the service of others.

She worked for the State of Oregon Senior and Disabled Services as a risk intervention coordinator, then as a hospice social worker, followed by 27 years working as a bookkeeper at the Waucoma Bookstore while living in

Hood River.

After she moved to Northeast Portland, she worked as an accountant and massage therapist and taught yoga.

During that same period, she devoted her life as a passionate, tireless volunteer for a far-reaching service in which she served as a sponsor, attended national conventions, held treasurer and secretary positions and consistently welcomed newcomers in person and on the telephone, opening her home to large groups on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other holidays.

A close friend described her as someone who "lived her values, demonstrating loving kindness, deep caring, honesty, generosity and a delightfully zany sense of humor."

MerleAnn was preceded in death by her mother, Lois Altie McVay, most recently of Portland, who died this past June 2 at the age of 102. She was also preceded in death by her father, Byron McVay of Woodburn, Oregon.

She is survived by three cousins: Ginny Dobson and Robert Davis of



From left: Lois McVay and her daughter, MerleAnn McVay, pose with Serena the poodle. Both women passed away this year. Photo by Bob Wilson.

Eugene, and Bob Johnson of Orem, Utah.

MerleAnn's family and friends wish to deeply thank Annabelle Digrazia for all the tender loving care she gave in her care home to both MerleAnn and her mother Lois. They also appreciate the support she received by volunteers from NE Village PDX.



## Heart in Hand Preschool

20 years of Waldorf 2002-2022

OPEN HOUSE EVERY FIRST WEDNESDAY  
info and rsvp; [heartinhandpreschool.com](http://heartinhandpreschool.com)

Parent- Child Classes starting monthly



### The holiday party silent auction needs YOU!

The Social Committee is collecting items for the silent auction. Items should be new or unopened. Funds raised will help fund future member engagement events. Thank you for your participation! To donate for the auction, please contact Javier Puga-Phillips at [Social@ConcordiaPDX.org](mailto:Social@ConcordiaPDX.org).

See Pages 2 and 4 for more about the holiday party.



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# MAKE IT TO



## Vernon IB World School's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual



# Maker Fair!

**Shop Local!** find unique gifts  
**100% Hand-made** by Vernon students, staff, families and alumni. Your friends & family will love these **one-of-a-kind** gifts!

**Saturday DEC 3<sup>rd</sup> 1 to 5 PM**

Organic Jams And Pickles • Jewelry • Hand Knit/Crochet/Sewn Goods • Wood Crafts • Greeting Cards • Handmade Clothing • Ornaments • Original Art • Pottery • Plants • Home Decor • Baked Goods • And Much More!

 **Vernon IB World School**  
2044 NE Killingsworth St.

**[www.vernonpta.org](http://www.vernonpta.org)**

The Maker Fair is organized by the Vernon PTA. A percentage of the proceeds will support enhancements at Vernon such as field trips, art, music, STEAM, garden education and facility improvements.

# Board welcomes new members

Continued from Page 1

“Essentially, I am the UO’s state-wide liaison to local governments, neighborhoods, public agencies and many business and economic development organizations,” he said. “My office also oversees a good portion of the university’s support of external non-profit organizations.”

Roberts said he wanted to serve on the board because, “the University of Oregon would like to be fully engaged in the neighborhood and one of the best ways to learn how we can be helpful and good neighbors is through membership in the Community Asso-

ciation. Being new to the neighborhood, I’m here to learn and offer the university’s expertise in problem solving and convening.”

**Astrid Furstner** was elected to the **East 2** position. She and her husband, Brent, have one daughter and three dogs and live near 36th Avenue and Liberty Street. A resident of Concordia for six years, she is a woodworker, and her husband



Astrid Furstner

makes guitars. She said they can often be found at markets around town.

“I am a proud member of the Portland Indigenous Marketplace group of vendors and often participate in many BIPOC events.” A Latina immigrant as well as an indigenous Salvadoran, Furstner said she values diversity in Concordia and hopes to be “a voice for our pocket of the neighborhood in Northeast Concordia.”

When asked what she likes about Concordia, Furstner said her neighbors are “extraordinary,” and “we tend to keep a lookout for each other and have a genuine sense of friendship.”



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## News from the NET

# Fire safety for the holidays

By Erin Cooper  
Concordia/Vernon/Woodlawn  
Neighborhood Emergency Team

While our holiday traditions often bring people together in celebration, many can also significantly increase the risk of home fires. A few basic precautions can help keep everyone safe and enjoying the winter season.

### Tree safety

If you have a real tree for Christmas, make sure that it gets watered daily as long as it is in your home. This will keep it from drying out and becoming a highly flammable object.

### Candles

Make sure that any candles, including menorahs and kinaras, are placed away from hanging curtains and decorations and aren’t in a place where they might be knocked over by children, pets or clumsy adults.



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](mailto:OceanListener@gmail.com).

### Fireplace

If you plan to use your fireplace for the first time in a while, have the chimney checked for any animal nests or debris that will prevent smoke from escaping. To make sure the fire stays in the fireplace, keep newspapers, firewood, blankets and other flammable objects a safe distance from the open flame.

### Extinguishers

Make sure fire extinguishers are readily accessible in places where you have fires or candles, and keep your extinguishers up-to-date. They should be replaced about every 10 years.

When using an extinguisher, remember to **P.A.S.S.**

- Pull the pin.
- Aim at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the handle.
- Sweep side to side.

Practice a dry run with your family members.

It is important not to overestimate the capacity of household fire extinguishers. If a fire is small and relatively contained, such as a in trash can, you can attempt to put it out once people in the house have been notified to evacuate and the fire department has been called. But a fire can double in size every 30 seconds, so it doesn’t take long to get out of control! Know your limits and evacuate if needed.

Stay safe, and have a happy holiday season!

## Alberta Street GNOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

December 2nd - 26th

Walk NE Alberta Street and look for hidden gnomes in store shops and windows, win prizes!

Free fun for all ages while supporting locally owned small businesses.

For more details, see the Social Column on Page 4.

More information at [Albertagnomes.com](http://Albertagnomes.com).



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**ALBERTA  
ROSE  
THEATRE**

DECEMBER 2022

1

WHITE ALBUM

2

X-MAS

a holiday circus spectacular and tribute to The Beatles featuring

3

The NowHere Band

4

+ Rose City Circus.

5

IT'S A

6

TONY STARLIGHT

7

CHRISTMAS

8

TWO SHOWS

9

BELONG ART

10

COMMUNITY CONCERT

11

MAGICAL

12

STRINGS

13

THE STINKFOOT

14

ORCHESTRA

15

featuring

16

NAPOLEON MURPHY BROCK

17

Booklover's

18

Burlesque

19

the holiday edition

20

3 Leg Torso presents

21

ELVES OF

22

The

23

Next

24

Generation

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FROSTLAND

26

GUNHILD

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CARLING

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Holiday

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Show

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KARLA BONOFF &

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LIVINGSTON TAYLOR

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Home for the Holidays

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THE KLEZMATICS

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Happy Joyous Hanukkah

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lyrics by Woody Guthrie

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CANDLELIGHT

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Vivaldi's Four Seasons

38

CANDLELIGHT

39

Holiday Special

40

NYE party

41

THE LOVE BALL

42

High Step Society

43

+ Saloon Ensemble

44

+ Pink Lady's

45

"Cat's Meow" Burlesque

46

albertarosetheatre.com

47

3000 NE Alberta

48

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# Community events calendar

Friday, Dec. 2, 4–6 pm  
**U-PAINT PDX POP-UP**  
**Location:** Flour Market, 5507 NE 30th Ave.  
Paint your own ceramic tiles.  
**Details:** toughdirttile.com

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1–5 pm  
**VERNON MAKER FAIR**  
**Location:** Vernon Elementary School, 2044 NE Killingsworth St.  
Winter craft event, where Vernon students, staff, family members and alumni sell their creative wares.  
**Details:** vernonpta.org/maker-fair

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 am to 4 pm  
**FAUBION SCHOOL HOLIDAY BAZAAR**  
**Location:** 2930 NE Dekum St.  
Bazaar will feature several different vendors, including small businesses, as well as treats. Proceeds benefit school wide events, teacher supplies, field trips and PTA supported activities.  
**Details:** facebook.com/FaubionSchool/

Saturdays 10 am to noon  
Mondays 4–6 pm  
**ST. CHARLES FOOD PANTRY**  
**Location:** 5310 NE 42nd Ave.  
“Shop” at the food pantry Mondays & Saturdays this month, or request contactless

delivery of food boxes.  
**Details:** stcharlespdx.org/food-help.html, 503-235-8431

Saturday, Dec. 17, 24  
**FOOD PANTRY**  
**Location:** 5209 NE 22nd Ave.  
Sharon Seventh Day Adventist Church hosts its food pantry the last two Saturdays each month.  
**Details:** sharonsda.net, office@SharonChurch.comcastbiz.net

## Vernon Fair

# Students make goods for winter fair

Contributed by Vernon School PTA

The Seventh Annual Vernon School Maker Fair takes place from 1–5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at Vernon Elementary School, 2044 NE Killingsworth St. The fair is a winter craft event open to the public, where Vernon students, staff, family members and alumni sell their creative wares.

The fair is a great learning experience for children, according to Janet Strong, the fair’s chair and a member of the parent-teacher association.

“The event inspires invention, creativity, curiosity and hands-on learning,” Strong said. “Many of the kids independently create their products and sell them. For other kids and their families, it’s a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to come together and work on a project and enjoy some great family time in the process.”

Vernon’s Maker Fair is special because outside professional vendors are not invited to sell at the fair, Strong said, noting Vernon’s students make up half of the vendors.

“The quality and variety of the products that the community and kids make is stunning,” she said. “This is an excellent opportunity for the extended community

to do some great hyperlocal shopping for the holidays, see what their neighborhood school is up to all while having a great time and contributing money to Vernon School.”

Items for sale include jams and pickles, jewelry, natural cleaning products, pottery, art, clothing, greeting cards and stationery; woven, knit and crocheted gifts; ornaments, natural beauty products, candles, tote bags, table linens, decor accessories, toys, emergency kits, baked goods, pet toys and treats, natural bath and body products and much more.

“Bring your friends, bring your family, bring your appetite for the wonderful concessions stand and prepare to be delighted,” Strong said.

Cash and credit card payments are accepted and personal shopping bags are much appreciated, she added.

# Future of Bus Line 17 Uncertain

Continued from Page 3

alternative routes via Line 8 on Northeast 15th Avenue, Line 70 on Northeast 33rd Avenue, and Line 77 on Northeast Broadway Street.

Despite concerns, TriMet says the possible changes would “bring bus service to 50,000 more people, weekend service to 100,000 more, and significant increases to frequent buses service to connect people and jobs” in the Portland Metro area.

The possible changes would have some upside for riders, including frequency of bus service along the portion of the route that runs along Holgate Street. Service, which recently increased to every 30 minutes in September, would further increase in frequency to every 20 minutes under the current iteration of the Draft Service Concept.

No decisions have been yet made regarding the Draft Service Concept. The Draft Service Concept committee will present the findings of its survey and community input, as well as potential updates to the Draft Service Concept, to the TriMet Board of Directors at a meeting on Dec. 14. Any approved changes would go into effect no sooner than September of 2023.

TriMet also says that “the full adoption of Forward Together is dependent on our recovery from our ongoing operator shortage.”

While the community feedback survey specific to the Draft Service Concept, and thus the Line 17 change, is currently closed, comments, questions, and suggestions about TriMet operations can be submitted at support.trimet.org.

## Camping ban

# City Hall discusses designated camping in Portland

By Brittany van der Salm  
CNA Board Member

Mayor Ted Wheeler’s office hosted a virtual Zoom meeting Nov. 10 for Portland neighborhood associations and others to discuss the future of designated camping in Portland.

The meeting followed a near unanimous vote by City Council earlier in November to approve a controversial ban on unsanctioned camping across Portland. The ban was passed through a series of five resolutions, which also called for the city to create six 250-person campsites as well as build 20,000 units of affordable housing by 2033. The ban on unsanctioned camping, as well as the establishment of sanctioned campsites, are set to phase in over the next 18 months.

Wheeler’s Director of Strategic Innovations, former Mayor Sam Adams, led the Zoom meeting of almost 400 invitees. Adams noted that unhoused people in Portland are facing a “humanitarian crisis,” and that there are approximately 800 camps scattered around the Portland area.

Much of the meeting focused on plans for the new camps. Adams relayed that camp sites will be located in areas removed from residential areas and business districts and will initially support 100 tents each, for up to 150 people, scaling up to full capacity at a later date.

No camping will be allowed within a 1,000-foot perimeter of designated sites.

The city plans to offer a 24/7 phone line for complaints or concerns about the campsites and will patrol campsites and surrounding areas 16 hours a day.

Camps will serve adults who will be required to have a referral from outreach workers. To enable these referrals, the city plans to hire 50 new outreach workers in the coming months.

The city plans to maintain a 15 to 1 staff to client ratio in camps, and to offer such services as bathrooms, food, and security, as well as connect campers to physical, mental and behavioral services. Camp residents will not be allowed to have fires, but they will be provided two full meals and a heavy snack each day.

Attendees in the meeting suggested a number of ideas and posed concerns and questions regarding the ban. Adams, and a briefly-appearing Wheeler, said that this meeting was intended to open lines of communication between Portland residents and the mayor’s office.



Brittany is a board member of the CNA, and has lived in the neighborhood since 2019. She works as a Medicaid disability policy consultant. Brittany loves to bake and bird watch.