



CONCORDIA NEWS

A free publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association

June 2023

Laundry Sports



Chris Yen shares the history of his business, Laundry Sports Shop, a vintage clothing store in Concordia. *Story on Page 7.*

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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Juneteenth



Portland Juneteenth parade participants carry a banner honoring Clara Peoples, who founded Portland's Juneteenth celebration. Photo courtesy of Juneteenth Oregon

Board member on Juneteenth

By Kepper Petzing
Contributing writer

On June 19, 1865, two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which freed people in Confederate territories from slavery, Union Army General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas. He read out General Order Number 3, informing everyone that the Union had won the Civil War, and slavery was abolished in the United States. This date is now celebrated as Juneteenth.

Juneteenth in Portland

Oregon was the only state to enter the Union with a clause excluding Blacks in its constitution. The Fourteenth Amendment, which made exclusion illegal, was passed in 1868. Understandably, few Black people moved to Oregon until their labor was needed in the Portland shipyards during World War II.

Clara Peoples was one such person. She moved here from Muskogee, OK, and was surprised to learn that Juneteenth was not celebrated here. In 1945 she led her fellow workers in the Kaiser shipyards in the first Juneteenth celebration in Oregon.

Peoples continued to work for official recognition of Juneteenth but she and her family were displaced by the 1948 Vanport flood, and moved to 1406 NE Ainsworth St., a redlined restricted area. In 1972, she helped organize Portland's



Kepper Petzing has lived in Concordia for 40 years, where, with their partner Lowen, they raised two children. They are nonbinary. They love community and are grateful for Concordia News.

first official Juneteenth celebration, enjoyed annually ever since. It earned Peoples the nickname, "Mother of Juneteenth."

Peoples died in 2015, the annual parade was named the Clara Peoples Freedom Trail Parade and Juneteenth was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021.

Board member's thoughts

"Growing up in Mississippi, Juneteenth was never heard of," Isham "Ike" Harris, Concordia Neighborhood Association board member said. "Afro-American history is a very rich history. It is a oneness with American history, but it isn't taught that way."

"I applaud the people who are making a special effort to get the 1619 Project taught," Harris added, referring to a journalistic endeavor to revise American history to include Blacks that were enslaved in the Virginia colony as early as the year 1619. "There are voices [today] trying to shut that history down, which is really a bad thing because life is generational. You don't want the next generation coming up behind you to be ignorant of their own history."

Reparations

"The fact that Juneteenth is a paid holiday; a federal holiday today – that is a good thing," Harris said, "but as far as I'm concerned it is unfinished business... All those hundreds of years of slavery represent economic deprivation. People were working for free. Until America reparates Afro-Americans with dollars and cents, [there is no closure]."

"We should not see ourselves as people who are satisfied with just having a holiday picnic," Harris said. "I'm also calling out my own people. There should be more protests for reparation payments. Picnics and fairs are good, but it doesn't pay for free labor. And when



Isham "Ike" Harris

you keep that history away from the younger generation, they don't know that their great foreparents built this country for free."

Our newest holiday

Juneteenth has been called America's second Independence Day. Every year the Juneteenth Oregon organization leads us in celebration, with a parade down Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., live music performances, vendors, educational booths, community resources, and a Miss Juneteenth pageant.

Join in this free festival at Lillis-Albina Park on June 17-18 and look for events around the city. Info: Facebook.com/juneteenthoregon15.



From the Board

Chair leaves

Kieran Lee, CNA board chair, resigns

Hello Concordia! I hope this month’s newspaper finds you with sunshine through your windows and pollinators in your yard. Every so often we must ask ourselves to simplify and prioritize, which, after our recent years through the pandemic, I’m sure most of you can empathize with. After enduring a few family-related uncertainties in recent months, I have decided to refocus my time and energy onto my family. In this light, I’d like to take the opportunity to announce my stepping

down as chair of the Concordia Neighborhood Association Board. I have greatly enjoyed my tenure as chair and I believe the position will be in good hands as the board and association continue to facilitate events and help progress our community forward. I plan to remain active in the community and will still see you around the neighborhood! Never hesitate to say hello, but for now and from this medium, I say farewell. All the best, Kieran Lee

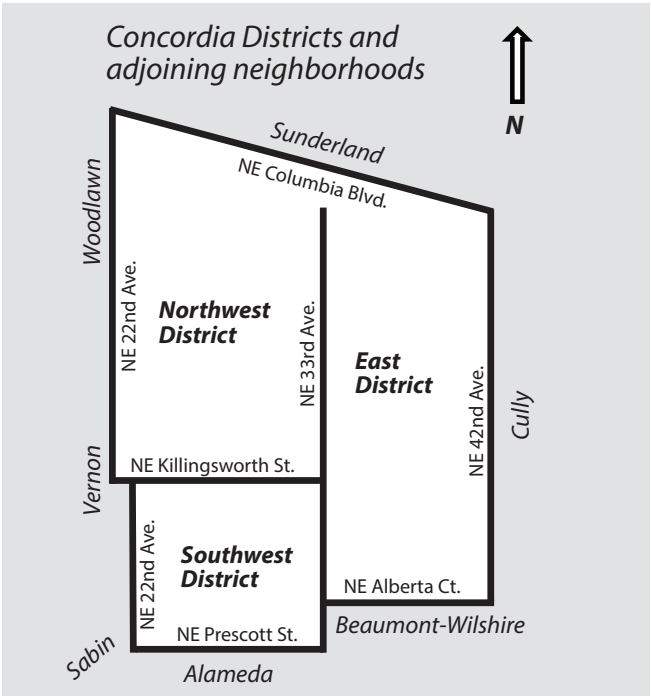
New editor

New editor assumes reins at CNews

By Dina Sage
CNews Managing Editor

Hello, Concordians! My name is Dina Sage, and I’ve been serving as the media team lead of this newspaper since May and will be taking over as editor at the beginning of June. The board has decided to combine the two roles into one and my new title is Managing Editor. First, I want to thank the current media team and the CNA board for their warm welcome and helpfulness in showing me the ropes. I am extremely excited to be joining this special community and looking forward to great days ahead! My editorial background includes work in industry-specific publications, proofreading, freelance writing, and book editing. I grew up in Southern California and first moved to Portland in 2009 where, after realizing one can hike, ski, eat at

a nice restaurant, and see a great live show all in one day, I decided to stay. Fourteen years later, I have a family here including my husband, 6-year-old daughter, one aging golden retriever, and two rambunctious cats. And I’m still lucky enough to enjoy Portland’s accessibility, green spaces, and neighborhood treasures. Like Portland’s spring weather, there are lots of exciting changes happening right now for Concordia News. We have new writers, business partners, advertisers, and lots of new ideas. If you’ve been thinking of attending Concordia Neighborhood Association meetings, media team meetings, or would like to write something for the paper, now’s a great time to get involved. Please feel free to drop me a line any time with your questions, suggestions, ideas, proposals, or feedback. We want to collaborate! Hoping to hear from you soon. You can contact me at MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org.



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

- ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMEetings
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Concordia Neighborhood Association

- Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, June 7, 6 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room with call in option, see box below, contact Brittany van der Salm, AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org
- General Membership Meeting**
Wednesday, June 7, 7 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room with call in option, see box below, contact Brittany van der Salm, AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Social Committee**
For information about upcoming events contact Brittany van der Salm at AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org or Social@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Media Team Meeting**
Last Monday of the month, Monday, June 26, 6 p.m., venue: remote, see box below, contact Dina Sage, MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting**
3rd Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, June 21, 7 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room with call in option, see box below, contact Rich Burton, LandUse@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Finance Committee Meeting**
Last Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, June 28, 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 Brittany van der Salm at AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org or CNARoomKennedy@gmail.com
- CONTACTS**
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- North Community Safety Team**
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- 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
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CNA Needs a New Board Chair

The Concordia Neighborhood Association calls for nominations for a new board Chair. Nominees must be residents, property owners, business licensees, from an educational institution, from a governmental agency, or from a nonprofit organization located within the boundaries of the Concordia neighborhood, and must be at least 14 years of age.

Nominations will be heard and a vote for the position will be held at the General Membership meeting on June 7, 2023 at 7 p.m. See Page 2 for ways to attend this meeting.

Duties of the chair can be found in the CNA bylaws, Article VII, Section H: ConcordiaPDX.org/about-cna/bylaws/

For more information or questions, please contact Brittany van der Salm, Vice-Chair, at al6@ConcordiaPDX.org.



Prescott Street

Meeting to address speeding, crashes

By Rob Cullivan and Kepper Petzing

Neighbors living along Northeast Prescott Street have one message for drivers: SLOW DOWN!!

Fed up with hundreds of vehicles daily speeding – and sometimes crashing on their street, residents are working together to ask the city of Portland to address traffic safety issues.

Traffic safety advocates will discuss their concerns at the General Membership Meeting of the Concordia Neighborhood Association at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, in the Community Room at McMenamins Kennedy School, 5736 N.E. 33 rd Ave.

The Prescott issue is planned to be addressed at 7:30 p.m.

Sabin leader

Kathleen McConnell, chair of the Sabin Community Association’s Land Use and Transportation Committee, said she wants to rally residents of five neighborhoods through which Prescott runs to put an end to vehicular speeding on her street. McConnell said residents of the Concordia, Sabin, King, Vernon and Alameda neighborhoods need to raise their voices about the issue.

“Visually, Prescott looks like a speedway,” she says, noting its posted limit is 25 mph, but hundreds of cars daily exceed the limit. “It invites people to speed through it.”

She and other residents would like to see the Portland Bureau of Transportation install speed bumps aka cushions as well as more stop signs on Prescott. She noted that one concerned resident has even started an Instagram page, “@slowdownonprescott” to collect photos and data on crashes.

Tiffany Allmandinger lives near the intersection of Prescott and 24 th streets. Had she known Prescott would be overrun by speeders, she would have never bought her house there five years ago, she says.

An astronautics engineer who’s also an amateur auto racer and semi-pro cyclist, Allmandinger says she’s familiar with how vehicles sound when they speed and estimates that only 10 percent of drivers on Prescott observe the 25-mph speed limit.

Every night, vehicle after vehicle drives anywhere from 45 to 90 mph past her house, she says. Her corner was the site of a fatal accident in 2020 when a speeding drunk driver was killed after crashing into a tree at 90 mph.

“At night it’s basically a racetrack,” Allmandinger says, adding that cars routinely recklessly pass each other.

A cat she owned was killed by a driver, she says, and a neighbor’s dog was injured after a hit and run. There are almost no stop signs or signals for much of Prescott in her area, she adds.

“I want the city to make it physically impossible for people to speed on Prescott,” she said. “You can’t get people to change their behavior, you have to

encourage them to change behavior. I would be happy to see a stop sign on every other block.”

PBOT response

Since learning of the residents’ concerns in 2018, PBOT has responded with some measures over the past few years to mitigate the traffic issues.

Prescott’s speed limit was reduced from 30 mph to 25, and the city pruned tree limbs as well as prohibited parking within 20 feet of intersections to increase pedestrian visibility, among other measures.

However, in a Jan. letter PBOT sent to the Sabin LUTC, an official noted that, as bad as Prescott is when it comes to crashes, it’s not as bad as other Portland streets. Due to budget constraints, among other factors, PBOT prioritizes addressing traffic safety issues in what is called the High Crash Network. The HCN is made up of 30 streets with the highest number of serious crashes in Portland. The HCN makes up 8% of Portland’s streets, and yet they account for 60% of fatal crashes.

“NE Prescott Street is not part of Portland’s High Crash Network,” PBOT told the Sabin LUTC.

PBOT has stated it plans to install at least two Speed Reader Boards, electronic signs that use radar to detect the speed of an approaching vehicle and display them, on Prescott. Dylan Rivera, PBOT public information officer, said his bureau is gathering information to further address neighbors’ concerns.

“We plan to take a closer look at the area later this year to see what we might be able to do to address safety concerns with signs and markings,” he says.



A car is upturned in this photo from a recent Northeast Prescott Street auto accident. Residents want Portland to take measures to stop speeders on the street. Photo by Javier Puga-Phillips

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Social column

Summer fun, fall events in Concordia

By Javier Puga-Phillips
CNA Social Committee Chair

Hey there, Concordia! It's already June, and I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who came out to celebrate Cinco de Mayo with us at Chilango PDX. Thank you, Wilder, for the gift certificates. We had a blast, and it was great to see so many familiar faces and meet some new ones too!

Social committee meetings

Speaking of community events, I want to give a big shoutout to everyone who attended our first in-person Social Committee meeting of the year. Your presence and input were greatly appreciated. Social Committee meetings are generally scheduled for the first Friday of each month, sometimes online and sometimes in person. Business owners, please

reach out to Social@ConcordiaPDX.org if you are interested in hosting a Social Committee meeting.

Upcoming events

We've got some exciting events lined up for the rest of the year, and I wanted to share them with you all. First up, on

We've got some exciting events lined up for the rest of the year, and I wanted to share them with you all.

Saturday, June 3, we're having a neighborhood litter pickup event at Alberta Park, 1905 N.E. Killingsworth St. Volunteers will be meeting bright and early at 9 a.m., so bring your best trash-picking-up skills. It's a great opportunity to get some exercise, meet your neighbors, and make our community a better place.

In June, we've got two big events happening. Concordia's very first gay pride event will be held at the wine bar, Bonne Chance, 2209 N.E. Alberta St., on Thursday, June 15! The event starts at 3 p.m., so come out and show your support for our LGBTQ+ community members.

Then, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June

29, we're having a concert in Alberta Park. We're asking neighbors to gather at 5:30 p.m. This year, there will be a salsa band playing and we're moving the stage to the front of the park to create more shaded areas for our neighbors. It's going to be a blast, so mark your calendars!

In August, Concordia will celebrate National Night Out, an event to raise police awareness, and details are being finalized, so stay tuned for more information on that one.

In late summer, the Social Committee is hosting another neighborhood cleanup at Alberta Park on Saturday, Sept. 2, and then a yard sale over Labor Day weekend.

Volunteering

In October, the committee is planning a Halloween party, but it needs your help to make it happen. If you're interested in volunteering, planning, or coordinating, please let us know; we'd love to have you on board. Finally, in December, we're looking at having our holiday party at Teote Mezcaleria, 2700 N.E. Alberta St. More information will be coming soon.

Last but not least, the social committee needs your help with its Labor Day Yard Sale. It was a huge success last year, and we're hoping to make it even bigger and better this year. If you're interested in participating or volunteering, contact



Volunteers are needed for Concordia's Labor Day Yard Sale event. File photo

Social@ConcordiaPDX.org. We want to hear your ideas and suggestions to make this year's event even fun and inclusive.

That's all for now, folks. Keep an eye out for more updates and events coming your way, and stay safe and healthy.



Javier Puga-Phillips has served on the Southwest 1 position on the Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) Board of Directors, managed rentals of the McMennamins Kennedy School Community Room and has chaired 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.



Join us June 3 for a litter pick up event starting at Alberta Park. File photo



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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, June 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/a0C8W00000wL88XUAS

Questions? Contact Gina Levine at GinaMLevine@gmail.com or call 503.891.7178.

More info: ConcordiaPDX.org/NeighborhoodLitterPickUp



June fun

Free neighborhood fun this month

By Leigh Shelton
CNews Advertising Representative

Summer is finally here and the time is right, neighbor, to come out of your shell. It's the season of group bike rides and park dance parties, porch hangs with new neighbors and bounce house block parties. But in case you're struggling to work up your social spirit, here are some free events happening in the neighborhood this June to get you moving.

Sunday Parkways Northeast

The World Naked Bike Ride isn't until Sunday, Aug. 13, but you can prepare for that exhilarating group ride by joining Sunday Parkways Northeast, rolling through Concordia on June 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the City of Portland, this 6.2-mile route closes several major streets in our neighborhood to car traffic and circles four parks.

Last year, I attended and loved the live music and dancing at Fernhill and K^hunamokwst parks. I also loved the parade atmosphere that emerged along the route. The 2022 route was hot but neighbors rose to the occasion; setting up sprinklers, water stations and lemonade stands for participants. And I saw a few neighbors take advantage of the closed streets to throw some casual front yard/block parties.

The ride has no start or end and is free. Bring water and money for food trucks along the way. Visit Portland.gov/sunday-parkways/northeast-event-2023 to learn more.

Pedalpalooza bike rides

If something a bit more indie is your scene, try Pedalpalooza, Portland's summer bike fest. Peruse the online calendar to find literally hundreds of themed rides planned throughout summer. I like the sound of the 80s New Wave Retro Ride that rolls through Concordia on June 10 at 7 p.m. Start at Woodlawn City Park, at Northeast Dekum and 13th streets, and ride a casual 11 miles while grooving to the best synth



Leigh Shelton is the ad rep for Concordia News. She loves getting to know her Concordia neighbors and exploring ways we can better support each other. Reach out and say hi at CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org.

and new wave hits. Riders are strongly encouraged to come dressed for the 1980s. The ride will end at Tough Luck bar (21 and over) on 1771 N.E. Dekum St. The ride is free and for all ages.

Community Arts Center

Cully has a new Community Arts Center at 4524 N.E. Going St., which offers an open studio, after-school programs for kids, and classes in fiber arts, ceramic hand building, and art

It's the season of group bike rides and park dance parties, porch hangs with new neighbors and bounce house block parties.

fundamentals. On Saturday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., it's opening its doors for a free, family-friendly Craft Day and Open House.

Dance on Wheels Nights

Roll down to the playground at Vernon School, 2044 N.E. Killingsworth St., on Saturday nights this summer to Dance on Wheels, an all-ages gathering.



Medieval history enthusiasts gather every Sunday at 2 p.m. in Alberta Park for Belagarth. Photo by Leigh Shelton

Organizer Janet Strong started roller skating during the pandemic, after a long hiatus.

"Everything was such a bummer," she said. "I needed more joyful movement in my life." The informal roller-skating nights were such a hit that they're bringing them back for summer 2023. All wheels are welcome, including scooters, skateboards and bikes.

Strong brings the music; you can bring your own drinks and snacks. Strong says her favorite nights are when

another roller skate group shows up, clad in helmets and elbow pads, to practice their tricks. Gatherings are held from 5:30-8 p.m. on weekends, and most are planned one week in advance.

To get in the know, find Strong on Facebook or go see her in the main office of Vernon School, 2044 N.E. Killingsworth St., where she works. Note: this is an informal gathering, not school-sponsored.

Story continued on Page 6

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Free neighborhood fun

Continued from Page 5

Owl Fest concert

On Saturday, June 3, a much bigger party will go down at Vernon School. Join neighbors for a community-wide celebration at Owl Fest from 3- 7 p.m., an event that hosts hope to hold annually.

Two special parent bands have assembled to provide entertainment. Strong, from the roller parties, plays keyboards and sings in one band. She is pretty tight-lipped about the set list, but promises danceable cover songs that represent diverse artists and span the decades.

Owl Fest also promises games for all ages, food trucks, silent bidding and “Take the Cake” musical chairs.

Vernon PTA President Maya Pueo von Geldern says her group hopes to hold Owl Fest outdoors. Free to attend, but a wristband for unlimited games is \$5.

Belagarth Medieval Combat Society

Every Sunday at 2 p.m. in Alberta Park, 1905 N.E. Killingsworth St., a group of 15-20 folks battle it out at Belagarth, a medieval combat society. The “battle” takes place on the green field just south of the basketball court. I visited on a recent Sunday and observed a friendly, athletic and creative group of people gather to blow off some steam and have a lot of fun. Belagarth is more martial art than live action role play, although according to one organizer, Belagarth does include

storylines, and players are welcome to make up their own fantasies. The pace of the battle varies from methodical to fast and hard, depending on who’s engaged. The group welcomes all skill levels, and organizers say the rules are easy to learn. Participating is free and foam shields and swords can be borrowed to get you started. Get out of your comfort zone and give Belagarth a try.

Science Fiction Book Club

More into sitting for your socializing? Concordia’s sci-fi book store Parallel Worlds Bookshop, 2639 N.E. Alberta St., hosts an ongoing, monthly in-person Book Club. Owner Sam Jones told his Instagram followers that starting in June, the group will meet at a larger space upstairs at Dream House PDX, 412 N.E. Beech St.

June’s book is Ursula K. Le Guin’s classic, “The Lathe of Heaven,” and a discussion will take place on June 1 from 6:15 - 8:15 pm.

Singing group

Portland’s long-running free singing group, the Sacred Harp singers, meet twice monthly at McMenamins Kennedy School community room, 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave. Improve breathing and release tension by joining them on Sundays, June 11 or 25, at 4 p.m. Newcomers welcome.

Got a free activity planned for this summer? Tell us about it and we’ll feature your event in an upcoming issue. Email Dina Sage at CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org.

News from the NET

Not just disaster preparedness



NET volunteers, like these pictured here, will staff various events in Portland this summer. Contributed photo by Friends of Portland NET

By Micha Wolf
Concordia/Vernon/Woodlawn
Neighborhood Emergency Team

Trained to respond in the event of a major disaster like an earthquake, flood, fire or downed power lines, Portland Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) have deployed in a variety of events:

- Assistance at 19 Covid testing and vaccination clinics.
- Staffing for warming shelters and cooling areas during severe weather events.
- Assistance in the Emergency Coordination Center and in coordination with 2-11; dispatched transportation to vaccine clinics and warming shelters.
- Operation of evacuation camping areas when wildfires in 2020 forced many in Clackamas County to evacuate.
- Assistance with and staffing at first aid stations at community events.

One such event is the upcoming Rose Festival at the beginning of June. PBEM (Portland Bureau of Emergency Management) and the Portland Rose Festival are requesting that NET volunteers/trainees/applicants conduct access control for the three major Rose Festival parades in June: the Saturday, June 3, Starlight; the Wednesday, June 7, Junior; and the Saturday, June 10, Grand Floral.

NET is attempting to fill 500 volunteer shifts across the three parade events, in what will possibly be the largest NET volunteer deployment yet attempted.

At the parades, NETs will supervise other NET volunteers as well as parade volunteers from the general public. They will staff a parade barricade, radio in any trouble, and answer questions from the public. In addition, medically trained NETs will staff a first aid tent during the Grand Floral Parade.

With the possibility of another hot summer and upcoming wildfires, NETs will also have the opportunity to get trained in helping animals in the aftermath of a disaster.

Sacramento CERT, or Community Emergency Response Team, is driving up to Portland to give 50 NET/CERT volunteers a class on sheltering animals in the aftermath of a disaster. They have serious real-world experience from the Paradise fire, as well as other events. The class will be held on June 17.

It is with this mindset and dedication that the local Neighborhood Emergency Teams make our city a community. Together, we can make a difference! To learn more or become involved in the Neighborhood Emergency Team, visit Portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams/volunteer.



Micha Wolf has retired from teaching primary school, loves being in nature and believes in building community through engagement.



Neighbors of our new campus will start to notice more daily activity as we work to install signs and fiber optic cables, spruce up landscaping and have temporary fencing in place while we complete building renovations.

Students and staff from the academic programs of law, school psychology, strategic communication, immersive media communications, and The Ballmer Institute for Children’s Behavioral Health will move to the campus by September.

pdx.uoregon.edu/northeast-pdx-campus



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Laundry Sports Store

Alberta Street shop sells clothes, history

By Dina Sage
CNews Managing Editor

Chris Yen never expected his sports-heavy childhood to lead to a career, but that’s exactly what happened.

In 2017, Yen opened Laundry, a sports retail store carrying hundreds of vintage jerseys, hats and tees. But Laundry, 1723 Alberta St., wasn’t a product of years of collecting and planning; Yen describes it as a “happy accident.”

“I was just trying something out; it was an experiment,” says Yen, 40, who holds a degree in English Literature and previously worked in publishing. The experiment succeeded: in 2017, Willamette Week called Laundry “the most original vintage shop Portland has seen in years.”

The shop has since worked with professional stylists to outfit stars like LeBron James and Odell Beckham, Jr., to name just a few. And in March of this year, it moved from Chinatown to its new home on Alberta Street.

“I’m happy with the prospect of the Concordia neighborhood,” says Yen, a



Dina Sage is thrilled to be the new editor for CNews. She’s looking forward to paddle boarding, bike riding and tasting new ice cream flavors this summer.

Phoenix, AZ, native and father of two. “There’s greater access to foot traffic and to residential families and children.”

On a rainy-May Monday, I decided to check out the store for myself. In its

“I’m happy with the prospect of the Concordia neighborhood.”

– Chris Yen

windows hang brightly colored items of clothing on a 1920s antique rack from a German department store. I step inside. The small shop is white and clean. In the middle of the front room, a 1960s metal garment conveyor holds more colorful jerseys. On the back wall, dozens of vintage ball caps line clean shelves below traditional Chinese woodwork. It’s clear that Laundry is something different and special.

Because sports retail companies didn’t start manufacturing broadly for fans as consumers until the 1980s [and not before then] Laundry carries mostly vintage items from that era until today. Yen estimates that 99% of his merchandise is sourced from within 30 miles of Portland.

“We buy from professional pickers and resellers, and sometimes from regular folks who have outgrown an article of clothing or a team,” says Yen. He sells lots of Damian Lillard, Brandon Roy, and Rasheed Wallace jerseys, but also carries merchandise from lesser-known sports team including The Breakers, who played football for the United States Football League in Portland circa 1985.

Also represented are the two women’s basketball teams that have played locally; Portland Power, an American Basketball League team active from 1996-1998, and Portland Fire, a WNBA team from 2020-2022.

Yen grew up in a Chinese family that first immigrated to the US in the 1870s. Under the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and The Geary Act of 1892, Chinese immigration was restricted and the Chinese already here required licenses to work. Opening up and working in hand laundries enabled them to support their families because it required no English and whites considered the work undesirable.

Yen says he chose the name Laundry because it connotes accessibility, and it emphasizes the strong impact clothes have on how people view each other. In addition, Yen wished to pay homage to the Chinese laundries that form an inte-



Chris Yen operates Laundry, a vintage sports retail store in Concordia. Photo by Dina Sage

gral part of his cultural heritage. That tribute is also reflected in the store’s décor, with its gorgeous Chinatown wood carvings and big red lantern in back.

The store is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every other day. Yen says he’s excited about the new location and hopes to sell some presents for Father’s Day

“The aim of the store is to try to tell a story.”



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Science on Tap

Lecture series brings science to people

What do space travel, menstruation, and bird calls all have in common? They are all topics presented by experts at Science on Tap, a lecture series created by the nonprofit Make You Think, Inc. and held at the Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 N.E. Alberta St., and other venues through October.

Science on Tap’s mission is to bring science education to the masses. Its

“Not everyone is on a college campus, and so we hope to bring science to where people are.”

– Rita Nygren

current format is the third iteration of local projects with similar goals, noted Rita Nygren, secretary of the Make You Think board and Science on Tap event volunteer since 2008.

“Not everyone is on a college campus, and so we hope to bring science to where people are,” Nygren says.

Funded mostly by ticket sales and staffed entirely by volunteers, Science on Tap events offer beer and wine for purchase. The format of each event begins



Science on Tap aims to bring science to the masses at Alberta Rose Theatre. Photo by Scott Frey

with trivia, includes a presentation on a special topic chosen by the guest scientist, author, or expert; and ends with an audience Q&A session.

Upcoming topics at the Alberta Rose Theatre include the science of making kombucha on Wednesday, July 23; how our brain processes visual information to manipulate our perception on Tuesday, Sept. 19; and the infrastructure required to prepare for the next big Cascadia earthquake on Wednesday, Oct. 4. All events begin at 7 p.m.

“Science on Tap is my favorite thing in the whole world!” says Jackie Wirz, another volunteer and one of three MCs for the events.

So, come on down to the Alberta Rose this summer, grab a cold one, and enjoy some quirky science education. For more information, visit scienceontap.org.

Community
Events
Calendar

Sunday, June 11
ALBERTA ROSE THEATRE
Location: 3000 NE Alberta St.
Artichoke Community Music 50th anniversary Celebration Concert, 5-10 pm
Performers include Glitterfox, Mary Flower, Arietta Ward, Matt Meighan, Tom May with Doug Smith and Gary Furlow, and Tom Swearingen. Proceeds benefit music nonprofit. Tickets: \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Livestream tickets are \$20. Silent auction online at go.charityauctiontoday.com.
Details: artichokemusic.org, albertarosetheatre.com

Saturdays 10 am to noon
Mondays 4–6 pm
ST. CHARLES FOOD PANTRY
Location: 5310 NE 42nd Ave.
“Shop” at the food pantry Mondays and Saturdays this month, or request contactless delivery of food boxes.
Details: stcharlespdx.org/food-help.html, 503.235.8431

Saturday, June 17, 24
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST FOOD PANTRY
Location: 5209 NE 22nd Ave.
Food pantry operates last two Saturdays of each month.
Details: sharonsda.net, office@SharonChurch.comcastbiz.net

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