Concordia News

A free publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association | ConcordiaPDX.org

November 2026

Protecting the slough (pg. 3)



Story of the co-op (pg. 6)



CNA Mission Statement

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

Concordia News

is a free monthly publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association. Newspapers are delivered to all residences and many community locations in the Concordia neighborhood.

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Prosper Portland Board Approves Middle-Income Housing Acquisition

By Yume Delegato
Prosper Portland

On September 2nd, Prosper Portland's Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of 30th & K, a Class B multifamily apartment community containing one studio, five one-bedroom, and 24 two-bedroom units, located three blocks north of the Alberta Arts District at NE 30th and Knott St. This acquisition represents the first property-level execution of Prosper Portland's Middle-Income Housing Preservation Strategy.

Adopted in December 2025, the agency's Middle-Income Housing Preservation Strategy is designed to address a critical affordability gap in middle-income housing and to complement existing programs such as the State of Oregon's Middle-Income Revolving Loan Fund and the agency's Middle-Income Construction Loan Program.

Currently, few public subsidies exist in Portland for multifamily housing for households earning between 80% to 120% Median Family Income (MFI) in Portland, leaving an unserved bracket in the affordability continuum. Meanwhile, private developers have struggled to procure financing and deliver new medium-density multifamily housing for this income group due to high development costs.

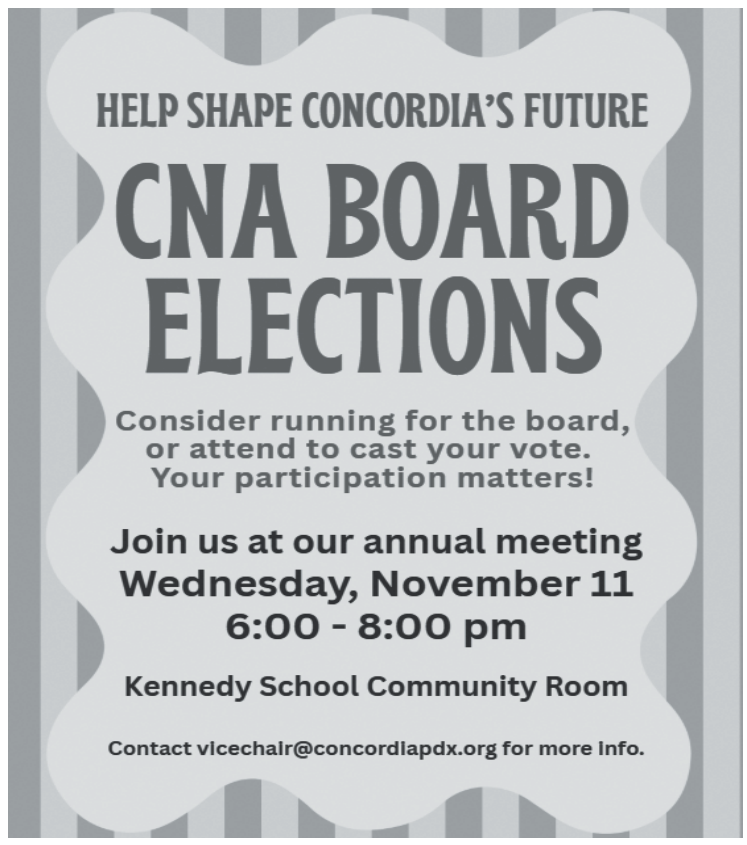
The strategy establishes a framework for acquiring newer, institutionally maintained properties affordable to households earning 80% to 120% MFI and operating those properties under a limited-profit cost-recovery model. This has the potential to create a permanently middle-income housing portfolio that is financially self-sustaining without ongoing public subsidy, and affordable to Portland's middle income employment base, while providing housing stability independent of future market fluctuations.



The purchase of the 30th & K Apartments is the first acquisition as part of the agency's Middle-Income Housing Preservation Strategy. Photo from *30kpdx.com*.

"This…action by our Board of Commissioners is an important step in addressing the city's housing crisis and delivering on the goals set out in City Council's 2045 Housing Needs Analysis," says Cornell Wesley, executive director of Prosper Portland. "We know that Portland has a critical shortage of two- and three-bedroom apartments, so I am pleased that this acquisition helps preserve affordability in 'the missing middle' – a segment that is critically needed to help attract and keep living-wage jobs to Portland. We hope that this will provide a replicable model for future acquisitions."

Available 2-bedroom units are more info can be found at *30kpdx.com*.





Meet the Board

By Dina Sage, Concordia News Managing Editor

Donn Dennis on CNA Changes Over the Years and Being in *A League of Their Own*

The Concordia Neighborhood Association board is a group of 13 volunteers who all live in, work in or own property in Concordia. They are dedicated to helping the community and meet once a month to discuss neighborhood issues and plan events.

When and why did you join the Concordia Neighborhood Association?

My wife, Eileen, and I were living in Southern California. She was working in the movie industry and had been on several movies in Portland, and I was getting ready to retire. Southern California had gotten too crowded for us and I had visited Portland on a couple of her movies and we liked the city so much we decided to relocate up here. Luckily, we found a mid-century home by Portland builder Kenneth Birkemeier near the Kennedy School. Retired, in a new city, and with not much to do, I happened to run into the then current chairperson of the CNA board, and he encouraged me to attend a meeting. I did and joined the board in 2016 as an at-large member.

Tell me about your professional background.

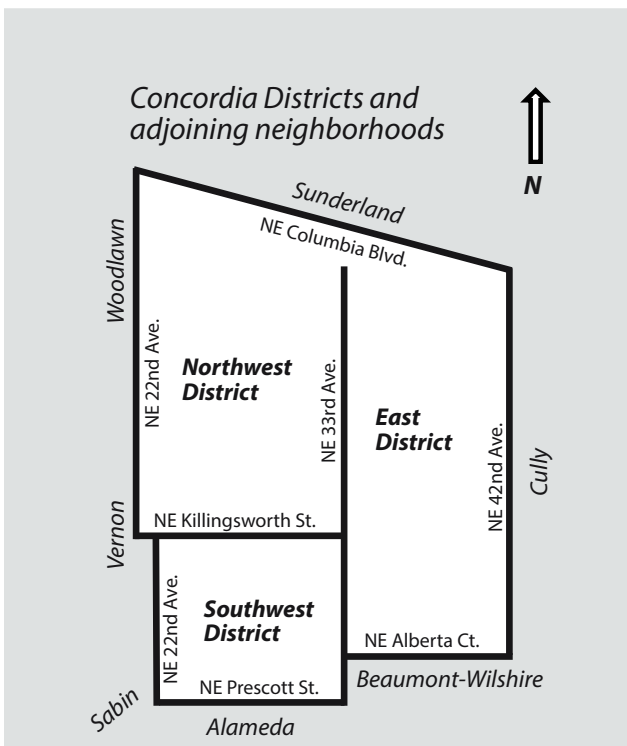
Kind of an odd story. After graduating from the University of California system, I began my working career in higher education, then segued into human resources administration, first in banking then in retail and manufacturing. One of these jobs took me to Indiana, where my wife and I got to be extras in the 1992 Tom Hanks movie, *A League of Their Own*. I played the coach of the South Bend Blue Sox, the team that always lost to Hanks' Rockford Peaches in the movie. That started my wife's career in the movie industry which eventually led to our relocation to Portland.

What has changed since you joined?

When I first joined, I was one of the older board members. Current members Robert Bowles and Ike Harris were also members then, but the majority of the board was quite young, so the issues of the day were different than now. For example, one younger member then wanted the board to petition the city to build a set of bicycle trails in Fernhill Park, which led to some lively board discussions since a number of us felt this would prove a danger to the children who use the park. Also, the Portland city government has changed from an at-large representation model to a district representation model, creating new challenges and potentials for neighborhood associations such as the CNA.

What do you love about Concordia?

Pretty much everything! An inclusive neighborhood, with two beautiful parks, a University of Oregon campus, retail establishments, and a wealth of restaurants and entertainment venues on Alberta Street. You can virtually walk to everything. What's not to like?



CNA Board of Directors

Chair | *Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org* Matt Roberts
Vice Chair | *ViceChair@ConcordiaPDX.org* Cathy McCarthy
East 1 | *East1@ConcordiaPDX.org* Donn Dennis
East 2 | *East2@ConcordiaPDX.org* Amanda Krzyzanowski
Northwest 1 | *NW1@ConcordiaPDX.org* Isham "Ike" Harris
Northwest 2 | *NW2@ConcordiaPDX.org* Chuck Triplett
Southwest 1 | *SW1@ConcordiaPDX.org* Brian Schutte
Southwest 2 | *SW2@ConcordiaPDX.org* Lucy Morrow
At Large 1 | *AL1@ConcordiaPDX.org* Robert Bowles
At Large 2 | *AL2@ConcordiaPDX.org* OPEN
At Large 3 | *AL3@ConcordiaPDX.org* John McSherry
At Large 4 | *AL4@ConcordiaPDX.org* Cathy McCarthy
At Large 5 | *AL5@ConcordiaPDX.org* Michelle Fitzgerald
At Large 6 | *AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org* Autumn Voirol

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*



On October 14th, Mayor Keith Wilson spoke to the Concordia Neighborhood Association and community members at Kennedy School.

Photo by John McSherry.

Concordia Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting
2nd Wednesday of the month (except August and December), Wednesday, November 11th at 6 pm, McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room with call in option, see box below, contact *Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org*

Social Committee Meeting
Monday, November 16th at 6 pm
Please contact Cathy McCarthy for details at *social@concordiapdx.org*

Media Team Meeting
Thursday, November 26th, Contact Dina Sage for location, *MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org*.

Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 9th, 6 - 7:30 pm
Contact Amanda Krzyzanowski for details at *LandUse@concordiapdx.org*.

Friends of the Commons Committee Meeting
Monday, November 2nd, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Contact Lucy Morrow for details at *SW2@concordiapdx.org*.

Finance Committee Meeting
For more info, contact the treasurer at *Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org*.

Community Room Rental
For info and scheduling, visit *concordiapdx.org/community-room-rental* or contact Cynthia Coburn at *CNARoomKennedy@ gmail.com*.

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CNA Treasurer
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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: Courtney Burns, *CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org*

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The CNA newspaper can be accessed online at:
ConcordiaPDX.org/CNews-issues.

The Concordia Neighborhood Association stands with all who live, work, and visit our neighborhood. We are committed to fostering a community where everyone feels safe, welcome, and free from fear or intimidation.



Slough Stew: Stories on the Columbia

Final Thoughts

By Keith Daellenbach
Contributing Writer

The fragmented Columbia River Slough is Oregon's most industrialized watershed. Though it is one of the most historically abused and polluted waterways in Oregon, various restoration and protection projects through the years have brought positive developments. With the completion of the Big Pipe project in 2011 and an earlier Columbia Slough pipeline section in 2000, there was a 99 percent reduction in raw sewage overflow into the slough. Prior to 2000, the slough received approximately 50 annual untreated sewage overflows which are now all but eliminated.

There are many current opportunities to restore the slough, including volunteer cleanup of abandoned homeless camps along its banks and litter in the waterway itself, with partnering stewardship organizations including SOLVE (originally called Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism), the Columbia Slough Watershed Council (CSWC), Metro RID (Regional Illegal Dumping), the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LWEP), Mosaic Ecology, and Allwood Recyclers.

"I was disheartened by the amount of trash in the water and along the banks," says Paul Taylor, an enterprising yet humble hive of energy and fellow Concordian, who started kayaking in the slough during the 2020 COVID lockdown. Then, one day, he decided to do something about it.

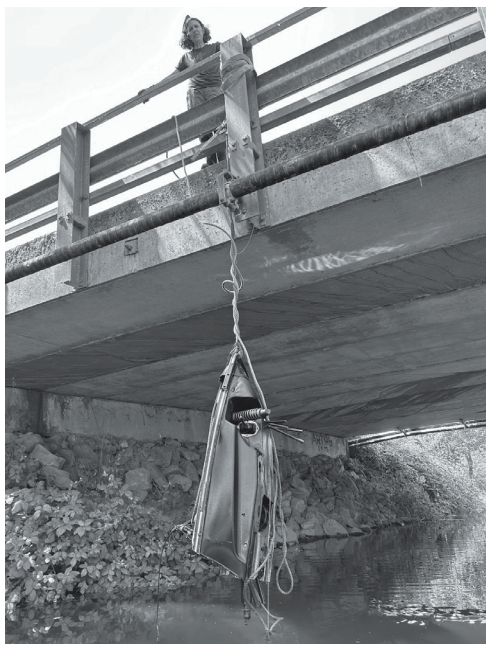
"I started picking up the trash." Through SOLVE's Oregon Adopt-A-River program, Taylor focused his efforts primarily in the middle slough including a two-mile section between the city's Whitaker Ponds Natural Area, north to NE Cornfoot Road (adjacent to PDX) and east to NE Alderwood Road. With a few friends and his wife, Hope, Paul's herculean effort netted removal of over 35,000 pounds of trash, more than 500 tires and 11 derelict watercraft.

The Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, which has plans for future stormwater treatment infrastructure in Concordia, grades the Slough a D- for its habitat score and, according to Paul, "there are swaths of the slough where only blackberry grows and not a single tree." Paul also started a project at the corner of NE 47th Avenue and NE Cornfoot Road to "remove 9,000 square feet of blackberry and replace it with native plants and trees with the main goal being to introduce 80 new trees to the banks of the slough." Paul also advocates for and restores bird perches used by fish-hunting birds and other animals in the slough though his Protect the Perch initiative (*ptaylorrun.wixsite.com/protect-theperch*).

As Concordia neighbors, we can pitch in, too. In addition to cleanup and habitat restoration, the following are ways you can help protect the slough today.











A myriad of unusual items have been removed from the Columbia slough. Photos courtesy of Paul Taylor.

- Never dispose volatile organic compounds (VOC's) like solvents, paint thinners, or gasoline, into the ground or storm drain
- Fix motor oil leaks in vehicles
- Control invasive plants and reduce or avoid the use of fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides in your garden
- Remove unnecessary pavement and replace it with trees and native plants in your yards, schools, and businesses
- Dispose of hazardous products (such as expired medications, batteries, cleaning materials, yard chemicals, motor oil, and paint) at Metro's hazardous waste facilities for free

Let's continue building on the momentum to care for and restore our neighborhood's amazing civic treasure. As Paul says, "it's a drop in the bucket, but you have to start somewhere." Even with the industry and flood control, the Columbia Slough remains a vibrant and complex ecosystem. It is a place to rejuvenate with a surprising amount of solitude, natural habitats, and abundant wildlife, so get out there and explore it!



Keith Daellenbach is a mechanical engineer and outdoor enthusiast who loves mountain climbing, skiing, biking, canoeing, and beekeeping with his wife Amy and son Micah.

"Absolutely Gorgeous"



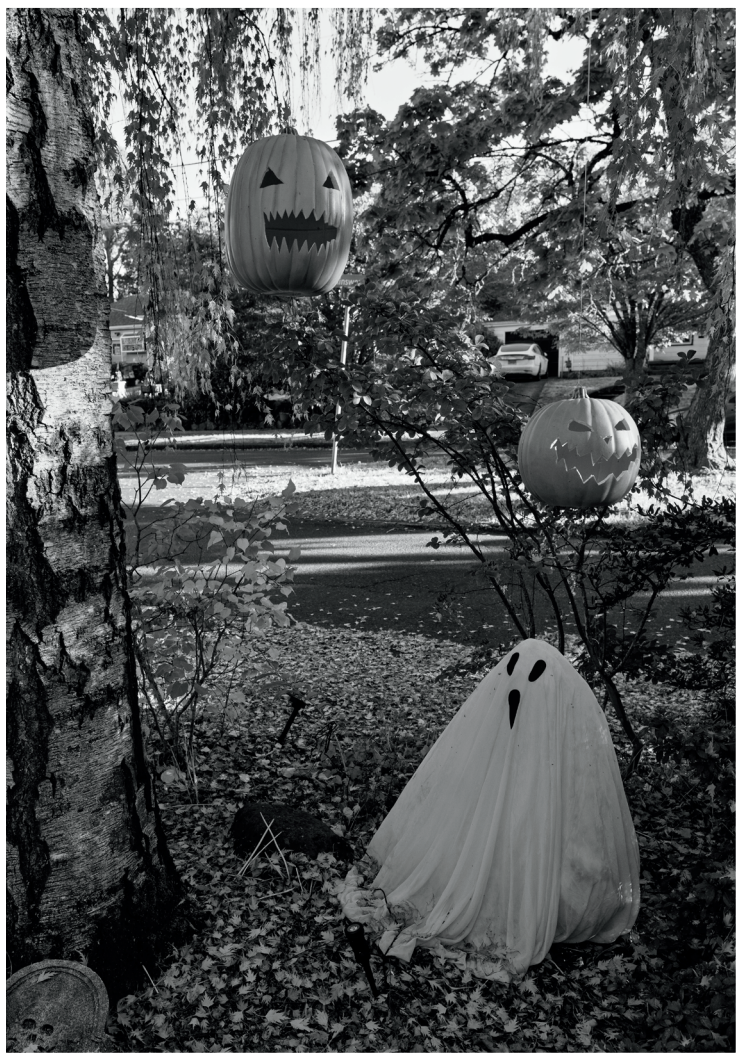
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Colorful trees, Halloween decor and fun festivities abound in Concordia this fall!

















Liam is a filmmaker originally from Michigan who moved to Portland in 2022 and now calls the Concordia neighborhood home. Most mornings you can find him walking his dog around the block with his cat following close behind.

Photos by Liam White.

New Trees Find Homes in the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum



Friends of Trees Executive Director and a representative from Portland Urban Forestry joined the Concordia Tree Team to plant a California nutmeg yew in the Ainsworth median opposite Alberta Park. Photo by Jim Gersbach.

By Jim Gersbach
Contributing Writer

In the spring, volunteers with the Concordia Tree Team (CTT) received permission from Portland Urban Forestry to plant three new trees in the median blocks of Ainsworth.

As Ainsworth Linear Arboretum founder, I purchased the three new trees at local nurseries and donated them to be planted. The trees replaced Norway maples which had died of old age and been removed. CTT volunteers Brick Street and Spenser Tangman have been diligently watering the trees. All four survived their first summer thanks to diligent watering by Concordia Tree Team volunteer waterers who adopted them.

About the trees:

Astrofire tupelo (Nyssa sylvatica 'Astrofire')

Tupelos are native across much of the eastern USA. A deciduous tree, their fall color often varies from yellow to orange or red. Astrofire is a rare cultivar with particularly good scarlet color. Unlike most cultivars which have been bred to not have the typical blue fruits of the species, Astrofire is supposed to get fruit. This is good news for birds, who relish the blueberry-sized fruit. The tiny flowers are surprisingly rich sources of nectar for bees and other pollinators. Tupelos can live 150 years or longer, putting them on par with many oaks as one of the longer living Portland street trees.

Engelmann oak

Native to Southern California, this evergreen oak has lost much of its habitat to relentless urban expansion, and is now considered endangered in its home range. With attractive grayish-blue leaves, Engelmann oaks withstand heat and drought, both issues that increasingly stress many Northwest street trees. The species is named after Georg Engelmann, a prominent German-American physician and botanist from the 19th century.



This evergreen oak is listed as endangered, with declining numbers in its native Southern California habitat due to urban development and introduced pests.

Quercus affinis

Although first brought to scientific attention in 1836, this semi-evergreen oak of Mexican pine-oak forests was not brought into cultivation until the 1980s. It remains rare in the U.S. and like the Engelmann oak was obtained from Cistus Nursery on Sauvie Island, the only known source in Oregon. Its most notable feature is its new leaves, which emerge a bronze-red. Fast growing, it can reach 90 feet or taller. It does not yet have a common name in English.

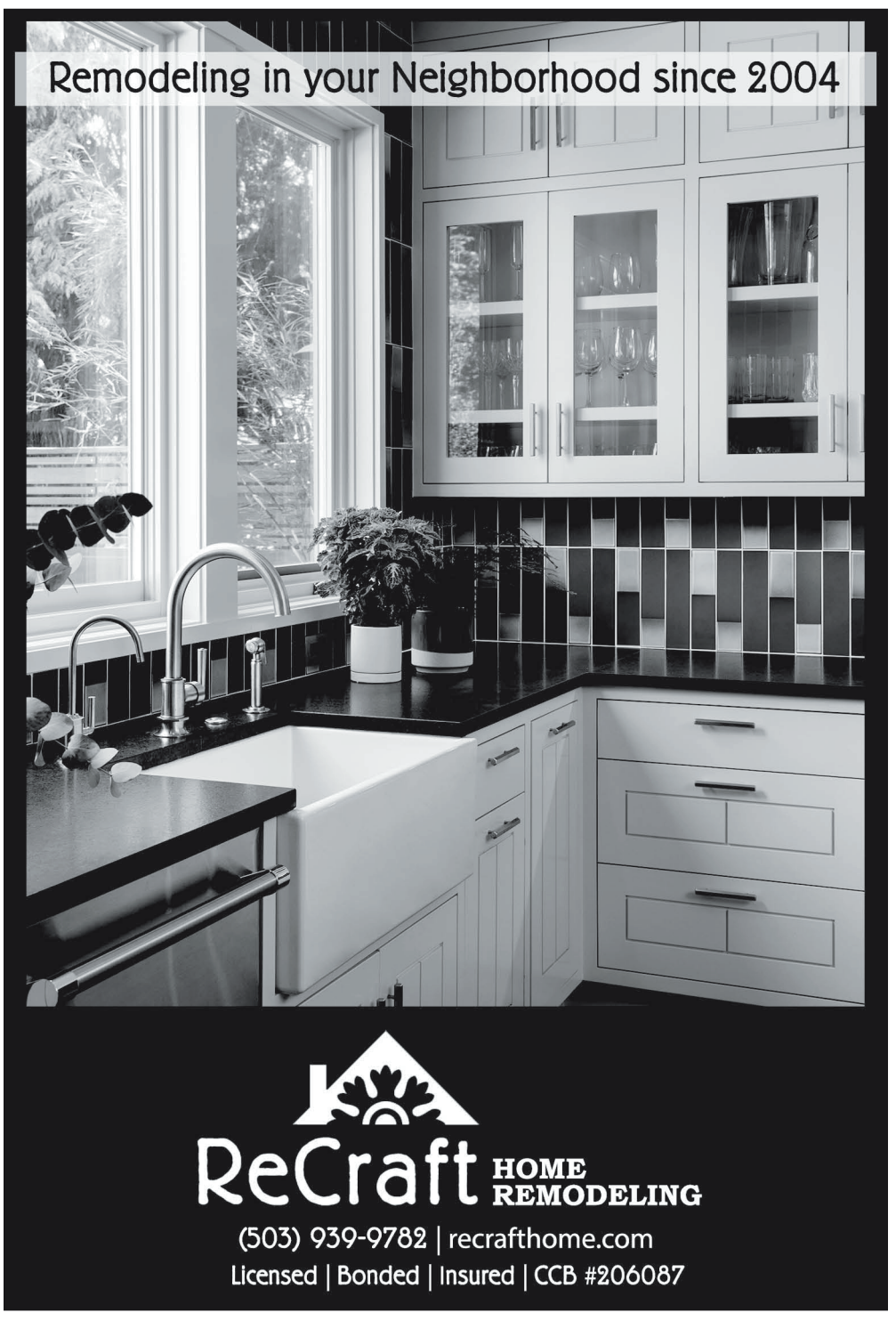
Next time you drive down Ainsworth, make sure to admire Concordia's newest trees.



A native Oregonian, Jim Gersbach has lived in the Concordia neighborhood since 2002. He founded the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum back in 2005 and was involved in helping create the Cully Concordia International Grove and the Concordia Learning Landscape Arboretum.



This blue Atlas cedar planted near the western end of the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum in early June is endangered and decreasing in the North African mountains that are its native habitat.



Special Spaces

The Alberta Co-op and Building a Business Community



Corner of NE 15th and Alberta, c. 1954. Photo courtesy of City of Portland Archives.

By Leo Newman
Contributing Writer

The Alberta Cooperative Grocery occupies the main floor of a beautiful golden-brick building on the corner of Alberta Street and 15th Avenue. This streetcar era gem, decorated with crimson brick cornices, has continually operated as a mixed-use building, with a business on the ground floor and apartments overhead since its construction in 1911.

Prior Tenants

One of its first tenants was the Vernon Grocery, which operated until about 1920. The storefront wore many faces in the ensuing decades, holding a paint shop, a few antique stores and a Goodwill.

The property appears to have briefly served as the headquarters of the *Clarion Defender*, an African-American Newspaper run by Jimmy "Bang Bang" Walker between 1965 and 1973. In 1970, Walker ran as a Republican for the Oregon legislature representing Portland's northern subdistrict. Shortly after losing the election in November, the former boxer made headlines for punching the landlord, who was upset that Walker had set up his campaign headquarters in an apartment on the second floor.

The bad press was not damaging enough to keep Walker from greeting children as Santa at the *Clarion Defender's* Christmas party the following month, which took place at the paper's office.

An antique shop called The End of The Rainbow occupied the storefront until around 1981. The property likely remained boarded up until the early '90's, when it was recuperated by realtor and gallery owner Rosalyn Hill.

Rosalyn Hill

If one were to point to any 'architect' of the Alberta renewal project, it would probably be Rosalyn Hill. Hill grew up near Alberta in the '50s and '60s, when the street abounded in shops and cafes, several of them Black-owned businesses. Though urban renewal initiatives led to the building of city resources like I-5 and the Oregon Convention Center, they also dispossessed North Portland's Black community of its real estate and spelled the end for Black-owned institutions along Alberta Street.

Hill wanted to institute a kind of community-centered response to urban renewal that fostered prosperity in working class areas. In the late '80s, Alberta business consultant Sam Brooks lobbied Mayor Bud Clark and the city council to allocate money and expertise to revitalizing inner-North and Northeast Portland.

"In the next five years I think you will find that North and Northeast have significantly changed," Brooks told the Oregonian in 1988. "In 10 years I think you would not recognize it."

Around this time, Brooks led a study at Portland State University that proposed implanting something of an artists' colony among the boarded-up properties along NE Alberta St. In attendance of the study was Rosalyn Hill.

Tired of studies and daydreaming, Hill sprang to action, and in due time, fulfilled Brooks' prophecy. Her first purchase was a lot on Alberta and 14th place, where she opened Rosalyn's Garden Coffee House (now the Tin Shed Garden Cafe).

By 1998, Hill owned every building on the south side of Alberta between 14th Place and 16th Avenue. Her empire stretched as far west as the Bye and Bye on 10th, making her perhaps the most preeminent among the 'socially-minded landlords' to usher in the era of the Alberta Arts District.

Hill selected only community-minded tenants with public-facing businesses. Her rules included no bars on windows and no locked doors during business hours.

"I told my renters, 'you have to interact with the community,'" Hill said.

Hill was instrumental in the introduction of art galleries and studios along Alberta Street through the '90s.

The Alberta Co-op

In 2001, she rented the storefront to Bill Boyd, who had plans to open a cooperative grocery store. Since 1997, Boyd had organized a collective buying club, in which a group pooled money to buy groceries wholesale from local producers at reduced costs.

The spirit of collective ownership was alive and well on this slice of Alberta. In 1991, a group of families bought up five houses along the corner of NE 19th and Going and established a 'co-housing' project, complete with shared gardens, livestock, and cisterns to collect rainwater. The 'On-Going' community was an incubator for Boyd's project.

After gathering $75,000 in starting capital, The Alberta Cooperative Grocery was able to open its doors to the public. The store stocked local produce and dairy products from local farmers, as well as bulk spices and grains and some prepared foods. Members paid a $36 annual fee and received a discount at the store, as well as at several other businesses along Alberta.

Though Alberta's heyday of collective living is well behind us, the Alberta Co-op has expanded and now sells household items, gardening tools and a vast selection of literature on the subject of collective business models, opened earlier this year on the eastern end of the block.

Today, the Co-op's annual membership fee is $180, which can be made in monthly payments of $15.



Leo Newman is a freelance reporter and paralegal based in NE Portland. He covers housing and development, immigration policy and the environment.

An Urban Lens

Kids, Independence, and the Neighborhood

By Garlynn Woodsong
Contributing Writer

There is a moment in childhood when the neighborhood suddenly gets bigger.

First, a child can walk to a friend's house alone. Then maybe ride a bike around the block. Eventually the boundaries expand: to school, the park, the library, the local grocer, or somewhere else that previously required an adult and a car. Each small journey represents something important. A child is learning how to navigate the world. For parents, of course, these moments can also be terrifying.

That tension between independence and safety tells us something important about the places we build. A good neighborhood does more than provide homes for children. It gradually gives them access to a larger world.

That requires destinations close enough to reach: schools, parks, shops, libraries, friends' houses, and places to explore. But distance is only part of the equation. The journey itself has to feel safe enough that parents are willing to loosen the reins.

Sidewalks matter. So do slower streets, safe crossings, neighborhood greenways, and intersections designed around the vulnerability of the person crossing them rather than simply the convenience of someone driving through.



A child's world gets bigger when the neighborhood itself becomes something they can safely explore on their own. Photo by Garlynn Woodsong.

But there is another kind of safety that is harder to engineer. When children walk or bicycle through a neighborhood, they become known. The neighbor gardening out front recognizes them. The local grocer sees them regularly. Other parents notice them passing by. Children gradually develop their own mental map not only of streets and places, but of people.

That web of informal relationships is part of what makes a neighborhood a community. It also gives children something increasingly rare: independence. When every trip requires an adult driver, children experience their community largely from the back seat. Their freedom depends upon someone else's schedule. But when everyday destinations are nearby and the streets connecting them feel safe, children can begin making some decisions for themselves.

Maybe they bike to a friend's house. Walk to get a snack. Meet someone at the park. Take the long way home simply because they can. Those experiences build confidence, judgment, and a sense of belonging that cannot be replicated by being driven everywhere.

And designing for children has benefits far beyond childhood. A street comfortable enough for a ten-year-old to cross is usually better for an eighty-year-old, too. A continuous sidewalk helps someone pushing a stroller, using a wheelchair, or carrying groceries. Nearby destinations make life easier for teenagers who cannot drive and older adults who no longer want to.

In that sense, children are a useful measure of whether a neighborhood works.

As another school year continues, we might look around Concordia and ask a simple question: How much of our neighborhood can our kids safely discover for themselves? The answer tells us quite a lot about the community we have built, and the one we still have an opportunity to create.



Garlynn Woodsong is a Concordia neighbor, planner, and dad who cares deeply about the city his son will inherit. His work centers on housing, climate action, and the everyday design of walkable, people focused communities. He welcomes ideas and questions from readers at garlynn42@gmail.com.



Speaking of...

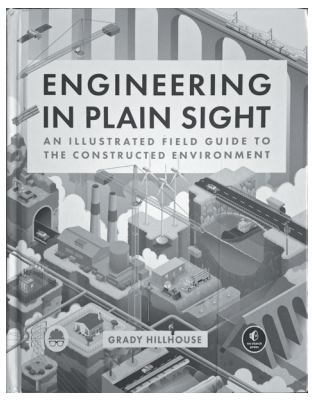
Uncommon Appreciation of the Commonplace

By Caprice Lawless
Contributing Writer

As a former Colorado mountaineer and outdoors enthusiast, living now in a big city like Portland presents an entirely different landscape to befriend. It is rich with new people and new diversions, but also rich with things to identify and to understand. Readily available are identification guides focusing on flora and fauna, but what about the ordinary features of the manmade environment?

For example, I'm sure I'm not the only one who has wondered about the purpose of various wires strung from pole to pole along the street. Similarly, of what use are the toddler-sized, tightly locked, green refrigerators on street corners? What do we call those barbed-wire-fenced pens of high-voltage wires with gray cones that dot the neighborhoods? Are they related to their smaller counterparts nesting high overhead on power poles? Underfoot across the urban wilderness are metal grates of all description, exhausting or inhaling air, but for what purpose? Other grates fitted with curbs drain away water, but where does it all go? Scraps of cryptic text, either etched onto small, brass plaques or stamped into the concrete are common sidewalk features; I count two of them on my block alone. Who reads these, and why?

I'm sure I'm not the only one who wants to know how the built environment has been nailed together, so to speak. We hear a lot about crumbling infrastructure these days. Are the aforementioned crumbling, then? And to what degree are they compromised? As environmentalist Baba Dioum put it, "In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught."



Luckily, teaching this to the non-engineer is Grady Hillhouse, author of the indispensable *Engineering in Plain Sight: An Illustrated Field Guide to the Constructed Environment* (No Starch Press, 2023). A gift from a good friend, it is a book I refer to often after a drive around town or up the Columbia Gorge. Topics covered include the electrical grid, communications, roadways, bridges, tunnels, railways, dams, levees, coastal structures, municipal water, wastewater, and construction. He also hosts the *Practical Engineering* channel on YouTube, covering a variety of related topics, including engineering marvels by animals such as beavers.

His readily understood explanations often further pique curiosity about each topic, however. This is a good thing, for a deeper awareness can foster deeper affinity. For example, after reading his chapter on municipal water, I wanted to know exactly where my water in Portland flows, several engineered steps before it emits from my kitchen faucet. I posed this question to a friend I met through Concordia Commons Scrabble games, Mike Boosalis. Thankfully, he dug into his sources to find the answer. A few weeks later, he presented his findings to me and his wife, Bridget, in a personalized, mini TED Talk (with slides!) at the Old Gold one evening.

Our water comes from the wild Bull Run River, he discovered. Located miles away to the southeast, some of its water is removed from the stream, then rushes through a series of intake columns, screens, filters and pumps before it is delivered, with the touch of a handle, through thousands of faucets across Portland. Of course, learning about that required, a few weeks later, taking the friend who had given me the book a year earlier on a long car drive, way past Sandy, Oregon, to see for ourselves the stupendously frothy Bull Run River.

These are the types of adventures awaiting the inquisitive among us who want to visualize, say, the arches, beams, cables, cantilevers, girders and trusses working to keep us out of the river as we drive one of our 12 bridges across the Willamette.

Hillhouse's tightly written text and abundant illustrations depicting engineering provide the background that the rest of us need to see the extraordinary in the everyday all around us. Maybe you will take a pair of binoculars and a thermos of joe to St. Johns one winter day to watch ships unloading and loading cargo, with his chapter on all that goes on in ports, open beside you on a picnic table. Why shouldn't being able to spot gantry cranes on a dock be as captivating as spotting sandhill cranes in a field? Or maybe you will casually point out to passengers in your car, as you drive along Highway 84, how glad you are for the friendly insulator strings separating the deadly, high-voltage 1-, 2- and 3-phase transmission lines in nearby power poles.

Reading this book will make such drives more interesting, to say the least, as your mind will be packed with details about the tunnel you just drove through, the railway tracks to your right, the dam to your left, or the overpass up ahead. More importantly, appreciating Portland's nuanced infrastructure inspires wise investment in its maintenance. As Dioum advised, the first step to conservation is knowledge.



Caprice Lawless has written extensively on higher education, homesharing, technology, construction, and engineering. She moved to Oregon from Colorado in 2023, shortly after retiring from teaching college English and Journalism.



The Bull River Run is the source of Portland's tap water. Photo by Caprice Lawless.



Read. Wander. Learn.

Visit the library, explore art around campus, or join us for a lecture or event.

Scan to see what is coming up.

pdx.uoregon.edu/our-campus

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | PORTLAND

Speaking of...

More Appreciation

By Caprice Lawless
Contributing Writer

Once you try the Sunview Organic Raisins you'll realize you've been eating rough drafts of raisins all your life. Made from ambitious grapes who eat right and exercise, they are three or four times larger than the tiny, shriveled raisins we've consoled ourselves with until now. Furthermore, when you open a jar of them, you won't encounter the hoi polloi of dried purple grapes, but instead, fragrant, scholarly grapes who have spent their lifetimes to become the best red, black, or green raisins they could be. Their roots go back to the 1920s, when an immigrating Croatian family bought a plot of land in California's Central Valley, planted grapevines on it, and eventually convinced some of the vines to consider raisinhood. I introduced a few red Sunview Raisins to my bowl of Oregon's Bob's Red Mill oatmeal; a match made in heaven (both from New Seasons Market, 5320 NE 33rd Ave.).



Bird of the Month

Black-Capped Chickadee

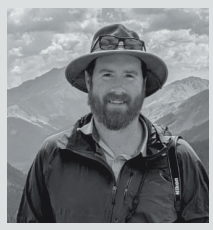


Black-capped chickadees are small and finch-like with a distinct black hat pattern on their heads. Photo by Mick Thompson.

By Brodie Cass Talbott
Contributing Writer

As many of our colorful summer visitors depart for warmer climes, black-capped chickadees are busy finding new flocks to spend the winter with here at home. They're small and gray, with black and white heads that may seem a bit oversized. In fact, they have one of the largest brain-to-body mass ratios in the animal world, which helps them remember all of their favorite food sources. You'll often notice them moving in a group (where they have complex social lives), and being followed by other birds, eager to take advantage of their local knowledge. Listen for their "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" calls in your neighborhood.

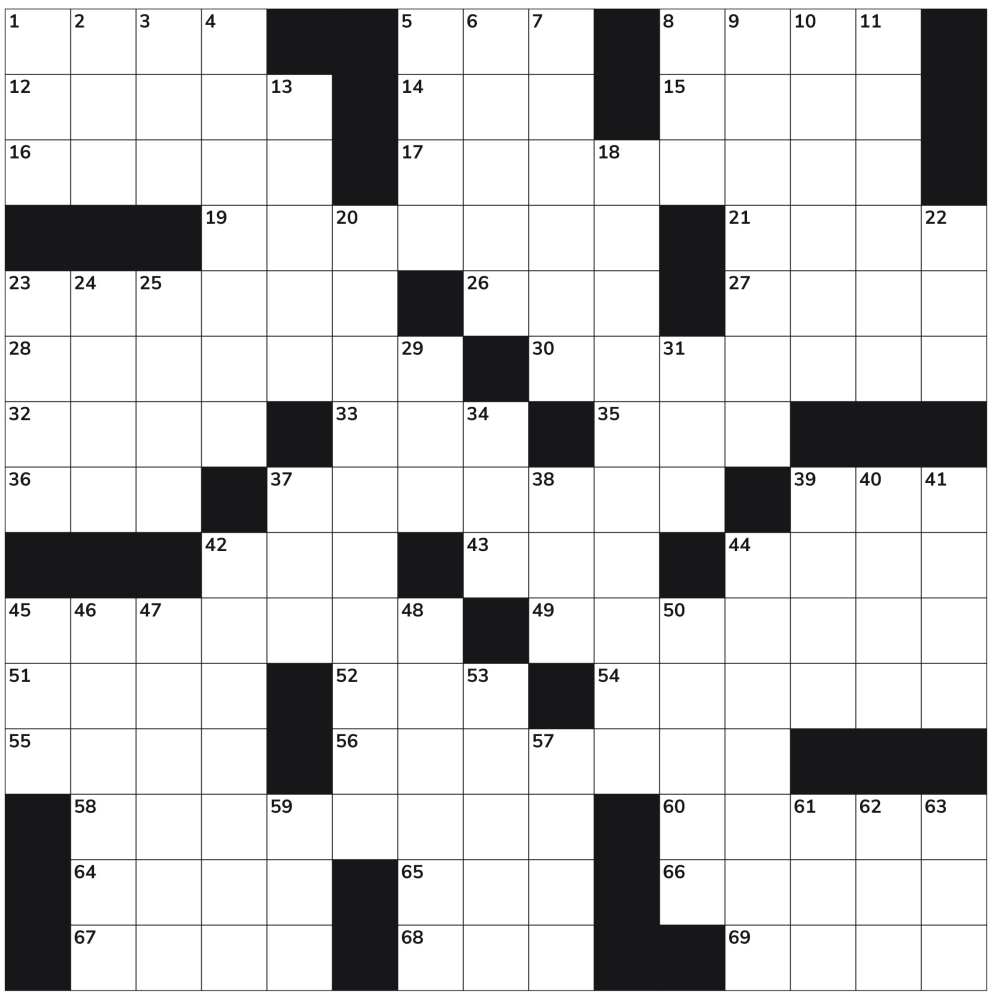
Learn more at *birdallianceoregon.org/go-outside/black-capped-chickadee/* and learn how you can create habitat for them in your yard at *backyardhabitats.org*.



Brodie Cass Talbott works for Bird Alliance of Oregon, leading birding and natural history trips. He lives in NE Portland.

Concordia Crossword

By Sam Cordes



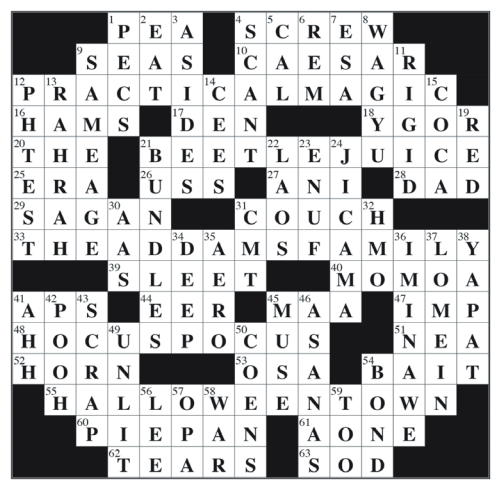
ACROSS

1 Things that have icons
5 "___-ching!"
8 Bonobos, e.g.
12 Wiped out
14 Pester
15 Actress Helen
16 With 17-Across, the opening words to the most recognized song in the English language according to the Guinness Book of World Records
17 See 16-Across
19 Tire-changing F1 group
21 "Let's talk privately," on social media
23 Swiss Hibiscus cuisine
26 Online marketing strategy, for short
27 "Family Guy" mom
28 Impersonating on Halloween
30 Baseballs and basketballs, but not footballs
32 Step on a ladder
33 Ticked off
35 Delivery docs
36 What a premium subscription may help you avoid
37 Fall sign
39 "Crazy Rich Asians" director Jon M. ___
42 "Now I understand!"
43 ___ Diego
44 Pasture sounds
45 "M-m-m-my ___" (1970s song lyric)
49 Uses a colander
51 Senegal neighbor
52 Years, in France
54 Breadwinner
55 Dog in "The Thin Man"
56 Mark for misconduct
58 Ten Hamiltons
60 With 44-Down, a cocktail with olive brine served at Gabbiano's
64 Essential component of protein synthesis, for short
65 "___ be my pleasure!"
66 Part of a drum kit
67 Anthem opener
68 These, in French
69 ___ of March

DOWN

1 "How relaxing!"
2 School fundraising org.
3 Vim
4 Enjoying, like hot cocoa
5 Financial news network
6 Some crime scene evidence
7 Sees eye to eye
8 "How relaxing!"
9 Name of the live duck who served as mascot of the University of Oregon in the 1920s
10 Charm
11 Really frustrate
13 Arranging in a knot
18 Basket such as a layup
20 Who Shane Hollander of "Heated Rivalry" plays for in the Olympics
22 Curvy letter
23 Taj Mahal city
24 Cranked up to 11, say
25 Wii Bowling targets
29 ___ Paulo, Brazil
31 "Sex and the City" network
34 Many characters on "Grey's Anatomy": Abbr.
37 "Shameless" network, for short
38 Pops
39 Nickel or dime
40 Fine-tune
41 The Beatles' "Back in the ___"
42 Greek name meaning "sacred" or "most holy"
44 See 60-Across
45 Wee, to a Scot
46 Nerf company
47 Takes in or lets out, say
48 Lacking vigor
50 Loots, as a fridge
53 Strike down, biblically
57 Wraps up
59 Cousin of a crow
61 "Totally tubular!"
62 Three, in Italian
63 Title of Ogie's spontaneous wedding poem in the 2007 film "Waitress"

OCTOBER'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS





Sam Cordes is a Concordia resident, software developer, and freelance crossword constructor. When he's not struggling to perfect at-home latte art, he can be found running around Alberta Park.

Like your neighborhood?

Opportunities abound to help support your community through Concordia Neighborhood Association programs. From executive leadership to social activities to land use to digital and print media, CNA needs you.

Ready to help?

Email Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org

Concordia Horoscopes Noviembre 2026

We enter the deep spirit time, Día de los Muertos. The time of the long moon and the cooler day. A time to voice your vote; it always matters. A time for de-colonizing traditions and stories so we may truly give thanks. November is calling us into a deeper awareness and deeper commitment to what we hold sacred. Are you ready to step in? The stars say yes.

Horoscopes are a look into the stars, the sun, planets, moon and us. Sun sign dates are listed below, and if you know your moon and rising signs check those out too! We hope the special "C-Tips" help you discover things that make our neighborhood and neighbors unique.

Scorpio (October 24th - November 21st) We're celebrating you, Scorpio. You're bringing the fog in, you're telling us to get a little sultrier, and you're inviting us all to tap into some deeper *bruja* magic. We learn from your steady strength. You put a lot of energy into the exterior world. This month, let others show up for you. Keep your strength up, lean into what is pleasurable, and know that we've got you. *C-Tip: It never hurts to hint at what you want — perhaps something handcrafted, where care has been placed with every stitch? We recently discovered Cicolani Leatherwork, custom goods made with love, right here in Concordia. Check them out on IG: @Cicolani_Leatherwork.*

Sagittarius (November 22nd - December 21st) Happy Birthday November Sagittarians! You don't have to go far to have a new and meaningful adventure. Doing something out of your ordinary will really spice up life for you this November. Your fierce spirit is a reminder to envision the future we want. If you see something that piques your curiosity, don't hold back; just go for it! *C-Tip: Meeting new people and engaging in community work can open new horizons for you. Your Sag energy would be fire on the Concordia Neighborhood Association Board of Directors or Social Committee (details on page 2 of the paper.)*

Capricorn (December 22nd - January 19th) The trees have shed most of their leaves and the days growing shorter. Creating comfort is an act of resilience in the face of challenges. Your winter solstice energy can help those around you really start to lean into the homey vibes. Blankets? Yes, please. Movie nights, check! Help yourself and those around you usher in some major hygge. *C-Tip: Coziness is not only found at home, but created in community. Gather your friends, throw on a scarf and brunch it up at Mémoire Cà Phê's new digs on Alberta and 29th.*

Aquarius (January 20th - February 18th) Aquarius, this is a time to call on all the things that fill your cup. November's energy may feel draining to you at times. At the start of the day, note at least one small, doable thing that will help you feel supported, grateful and alive. *C-Tip: Cinnamon is about warmth, protection and vital energy. Brew a tea, set a cinnamon stick by your bedside, or add the spice to your meals this month.*

Pisces (February 19th - March 20th) Embrace childlike energy this November. Put your earthly cares aside for a while and find yourself playing in the rain, or kicking through a leaf pile. Eat breakfast for dinner! Cuddle. Reclaim the things your small self once loved. *C-Tip: Lean heavily into nostalgia this November. Be inspired by browsing vinyl records and cover art at Music History near 30th and Killingsworth.*

Aries (March 21st - April 19th) Harness your heat this month, Aries. You are tuned in to injustice and November's elections will have you on high guard. Channel your energy towards community-building. Justice has always marched forward via people-powered movements. You have the fire, joy and spirit to bring people together. *C-Tip: With the moon in Aries on November 19th, it's a great time to gather a small group for the purpose of organizing. It doesn't need to be big; just start the convo and see what flows.*

Taurus (April 20th - May 20th) Our current sign of Scorpio sits opposite of you, Taurus, which means it's your half birthday! Let Scorpio's season usher in some reflective time for you. Where you may be compelled toward forward movement, your cooler sister Scorpio calls for you to linger awhile. *C-Tip: Let fall cooking inspire your mood. The season is about the simmer– cooking that is long, low and slow. Check out Vivienne Culinary Books on Alberta for some fresh ideas.*

Gemini (May 21st - June 21st) On November 24th, the full moon shines in your sign, Gemini, carrying with it a bright message of hope and healing. The moon is connected to the element of water which helps things move and flow. The silvery light of the moon touches places deep within you and offers a gentle levity. *C-Tip: On or around November 24th, create some space for creative or reflective solitude. Take a long shower in warm water. Look for the moon at night and if you can't see it due to clouds, know that its light is still there reaching you. Isn't this what hope is, after all?*

Cancer (June 22nd - July 22nd) Cry it out, Cancer. There is much to feel these days and the more we try to keep it together or hold it in, the less human we become. You are an oceanic being and salt tears will always lead you home. *C-Tip: Watch a sweet heartfelt tearjerker. An Oregon-made film, Getting Back, will be playing on November 19th at the Kennedy School Theater.*

Leo (July 23rd - August 22nd) Leo, you are a natural leader with your bright personality. Great leaders don't stay in the spotlight; they take time to shine it on others. In this season of giving, step back, notice the bright spots in others and be the first to give them their flowers. *C-Tip: Give someone actual flowers —whether drawn on a page, gathered on a neighborhood walk or carefully selected from Dogwood Flowers and Wine— you'll find that giving love deeply refreshes your energy.*

Virgo (August 23rd - September 22nd) Astrologers don't often highlight this, but Virgo, you are a deeply caring sign. While you aren't overly emotive, your care is often shown through small acts and attention. This November your heart is feeling deeply, and you need to move that emotion in a way that feels healing. *C-Tip: Native American Youth and Family Center is one of the many great organizations near Concordia. Check out the Get Involved page on their website. You can sign up for their e-news, browse events, buy from their wishlist and make a donation.*

Libra (September 23rd - October 23rd) The Indigenous act of thanksgiving is not a one day dinner, but a daily spiritual practice. It's a way of living and being in relation to the world that is reciprocal and caring and generous. Your Libra desire for harmony makes you a natural at following this thread. *C-Tip: Imagine...what would life centered around gratitude and reciprocity for the earth and for community feel like? This November, try to cultivate a daily practice of living life with the spirit of true thanks giving.*



The stars are better when they carry a little bit of mystery. Know that I am a fellow neighbor, and just one of the many stars in our little bit of the sky. I am happy to be circling the sun with you.

KENNEDY SCHOOL McMenamins

Friday, November 6
LINE DANCING w/ THE PNW STOMPEDERS
7pm · $11 adv, $16 at the door

Wednesday, November 11
VETERANS DAY
Discounts for all veterans and active duty service members all day long!

Wednesday, November 11
DRAG QUEEN BINGO w/ POISON WATERS
7pm · $23 adv, $28 at the door · 21 & over

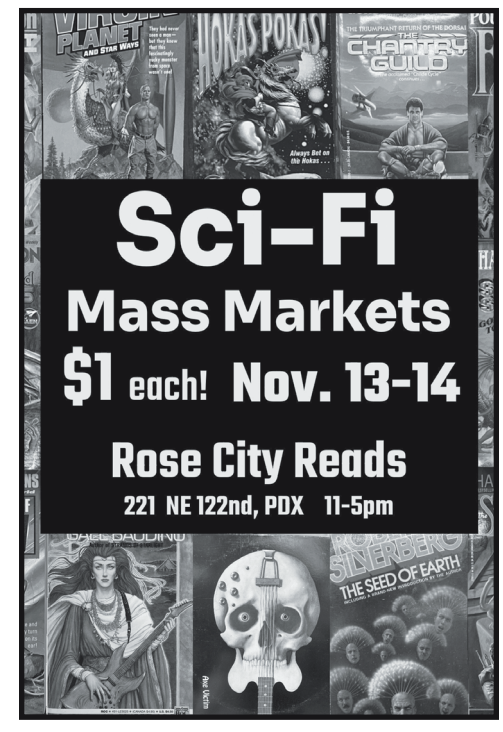
Saturday, November 14
111TH BIRTHDAY BASH
Face painting · Fairy hair tinseling
Food & drink specials · Live music 2-9pm:
Wuhlux · ReveleveR · Essie & The Hum

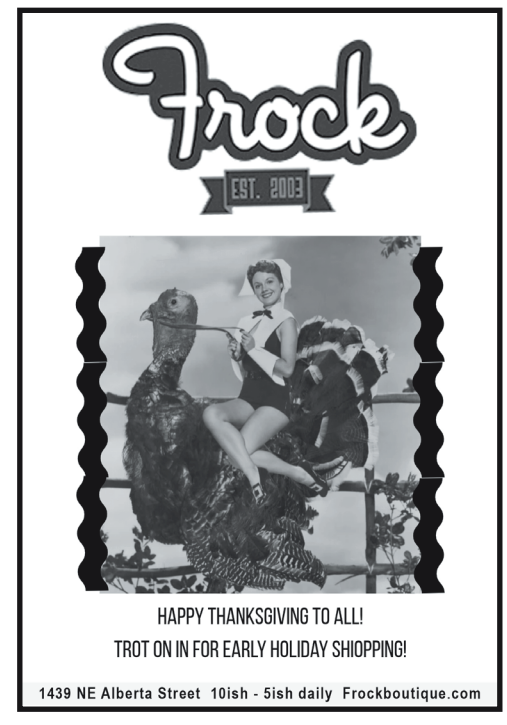
Thursday, November 26
THANKSGIVING BUFFET
Noon-5pm · Adults $55, Kids 5-12 $33
Kids 4 and under free
Reservations required: (503) 249-3983
Take Thanksgiving to go! 4-person feasts available to order now.

Saturday and Sunday, November 28 & 29
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
9am & noon · $36 per person
$265 for table of 8
Includes breakfast and non-alcoholic beverages

Monday, November 30
HISTORY PUB
Bringing Light & Color to Crater Lake
7pm · $5 adv, $6 at the door

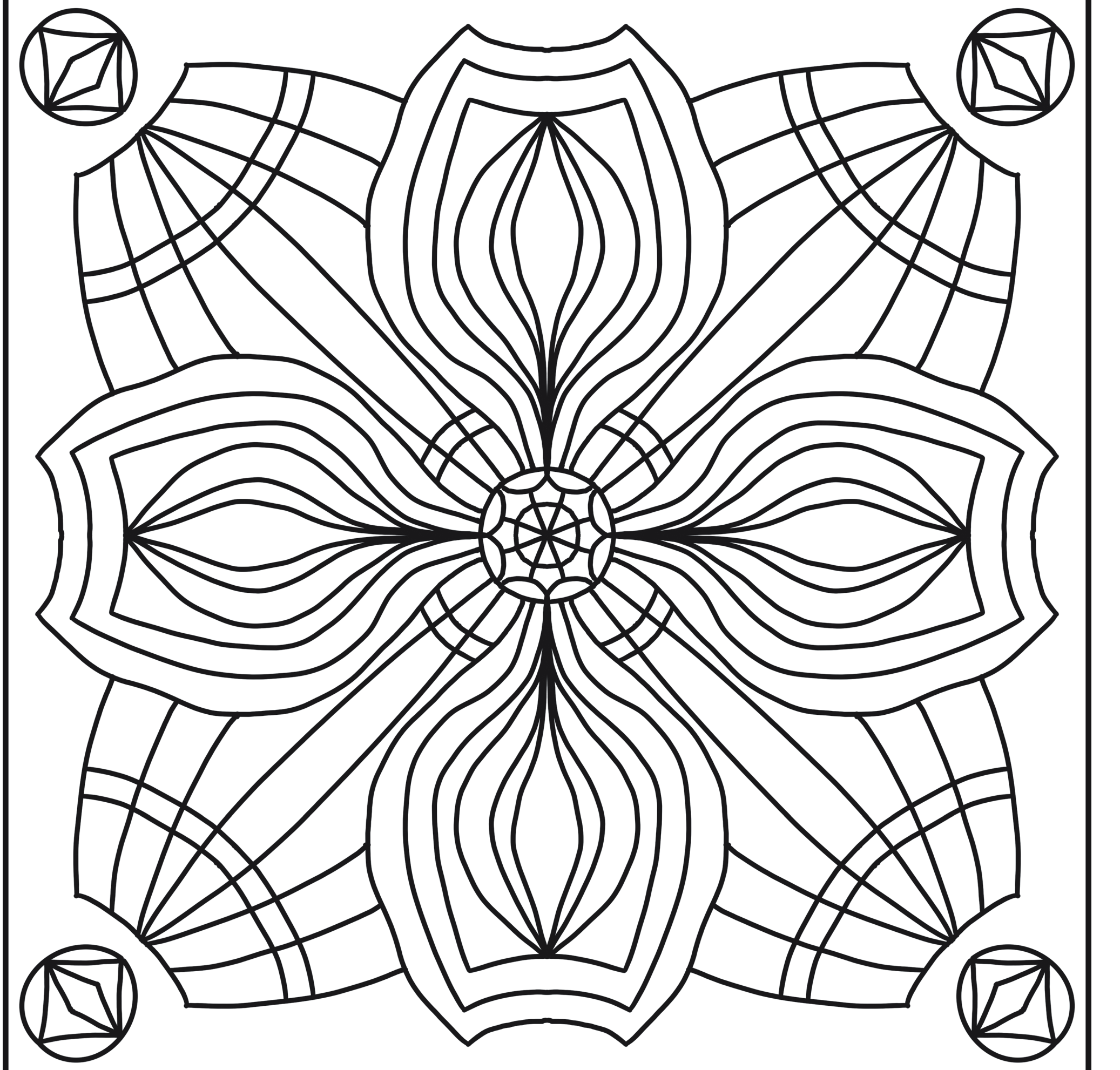
5736 NE 33rd Ave · Portland
(503) 249-3983
mcmenamins.com





Concordia Coloring Corner

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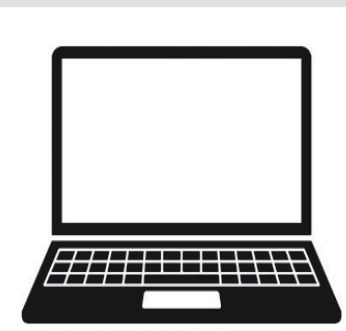


WOODLAWN
FARMERS MARKET
Holiday Market...December 5th, 11am-4pm
Your favorite crafters, bakers, farmers, and more!
Inside Classic Foods 817 NE Madrona St
Shop Local and Listen to Live Music | SNAP + DUFB ACCEPTED

The Concordia Neighborhood Association is looking for volunteers to help with the following:

- ❑ Website technical support and design updates
- ❑ Social media account creation and support

If you have any of these skills, reach out to *vicechair@concordiapdx.org* to learn more.



Do you have tech skills?

ALBERTA ROSE THEATRE

NOVEMBER 2026

1 Saloon Ensemble presents THE NITMARE B4 XMAS

2 WorldOregon presents DR. KATHARINE HAYHOE - CLIMATE ACTION & CONVERSATION ACROSS DIVIDES

3 GIRL WINTER FILM TOUR

4 DAVIDE DE PIERRO

5 FAN HALEN

6 CHRIS SMITHER

7 LIVE WIRE RADIO with Luke Burbank

8 SOUVENIRS celebrating the songs of JOHN PRINE

9 PSYCHEDELICS AND THE REIMAGINING OF AGING

10 HENRY DILTZ Behind the Lens

11 JOHN MCCUTCHEON

13 THE BIG TRANS COMEDY SHOW

14 MORTIFIED

15 The Aero Space presents MTV POLE JAMS a pole tribute to the music video era

16 JENNY TIAN

17 SUNDOWN 3 a salute to GORDON LIGHTFOOT

18 SCIENCE ON TAP Save the Planet: Recycle! or Not?

20 21 THE NEXT WALTZ a Portland all-star tribute to THE BAND

22 BALLET OF LIGHTS Sleeping Beauty in a sparkling show

27 RED LIGHT ROMEOS' YACHTSGIVING a Yacht Rock extravaganza

28 29 THE NEXT WALTZ

albertarosetheatre.com
3000 NE Alberta
503.764.4131

Concordia Community Events Calendar

ONE-TIME EVENTS

Sunday, November 1st, 2 pm
Table 17 by Douglas Lyons
PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE
Location: 602 NE Prescott St.
Two exes meet for dinner. What could go wrong?

Sunday, November 1st, 6 and 7:30 pm
Say My Name
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave
Dia de los Muertos art show

Monday, November 2nd, 5 - 9 pm
Comedy and Monday Night Football
ALBERTA STREET PUB
Location: 1036 NE Alberta St.
With Hazel del Hottie

Friday, November 6th, 7 - 9:30 pm
Line Dancing with the PNW Stompeders
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave
Country dance night

Wednesday, November 11th, 6 - 8 pm
CNA Annual Meeting and Elections
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave
Want to get involved in the community? Join and vote on our board of directors!

Wednesday, November 11th, 7 pm
Drag Queen Bingo with Poison Waters
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave

Saturday, November 14th, 7 - 9 pm
Opera on Tap
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave
Beers and rotating opera singers

Sunday, November 15th, 5–6 pm
Dungeness Book Release Celebration
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave
Local history and storytelling. Free, with refreshments

Monday, November 16th, 11 am - 12:30 pm
Intro to NE Village
ROSE CITY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Location: 5860 NE Alameda St.
Info session for potential members and volunteers

Tuesday, November 17th, 7 pm
OMSI Science Pub
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL HONORS BAR
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave.
Science + Beer = Fun

Tuesday, November 17th, 8 pm
Olivia Brian
WONDER BALLROOM
Location: 128 NE Russel St.
Pop singer-songwriter presents The Pixie Tour

Sunday, November 22nd, 10 am
Counting Our Blessings – A Special Thanksgiving Service
AINSWORTH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Location: 2941 NE Ainsworth St.

Sunday, November 22nd, 12:30 - 2:30 pm
Puzzles & Pretzels
NORTH PORTLAND LIBRARY
Location: 512 N Killingsworth St.
Munch artisan pretzels while completing jigsaw puzzles at this free event. Adults only.

Thursday, November 26th, 12 - 5 pm
Thanksgiving Buffet
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave

Saturday, November 28th, 8 pm
The Lovecats
WONDER BALLROOM
Location: 128 NE Russell St.
The Cure tribute band

ONGOING EVENTS

Thursday - Sunday performances November 1st - 8th
SAW The Musical: The Unauthorized Parody of Saw
ALBERTA ABBEY
Location: 126 NE Alberta St.

November 8th, 22nd and every second and fourth Sunday, 4 - 6 pm
Sacred Harp Singing
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave
Share your voice with community singers.

November 18th and every third Wednesday, 1-3 pm
Old Time String Band Social Jam
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave
Bring your instrument and join the neighborhood jam session.

November 20th and every third Friday, 7 pm
Fabric Grief Group
LEAVEN COMMUNITY CENTER
Location: 5431 NE 20th Ave.
Feel and be real with eco-theologian.

Friday, November 27th - Sunday, January 3rd, 11 am - 7 pm
The Gift Show
ALBERTA STREET GALLERY
Location: 1829 NE Alberta St.
30+ artists featuring hundreds of art pieces

Friday - Sunday performances starting November 27th
Black Nativity
ALBERTA ABBEY
Location: 126 NE Alberta St.
Langston Hughes' nativity story featuring scripture, poetry and dance

Every Monday, 3 - 4:30 pm
Social Samplers
MATT DISHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER
Location: 77 NE Knott St.
Make friends through PP&R-sponsored program that includes games, food and activities.

Every Monday, 5:30 - 7 pm
Drummers Awareness Class
NAYA FAMILY CENTER
Location: 5135 NE Colombia Blvd.
Drum with community and find your voice.

Every Monday, 7 - 9 pm
Portland Country Dance Community
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave

Every Monday, 7 - 10 pm
Bridgetown Trivia
ALBERTA STREET PUB
Location: 1036 NE Alberta St.

Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 2 - 4 pm
Adult Basketball
MATT DISHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER
Location: 77 NE Knott St.

Every Wednesday at 10:30 am
UO Portland Library Storytime
U OF O PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR
Location: 2800 NE Liberty Street
Family storytime and fun activities for all ages

Every Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Open Court : All Play Jam
CURIOUS COMEDY THEATER
Location: 5225 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Every Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Community Meals
LEAVEN COMMUNITY CENTER
Location: 5431 NE 20th Ave.

Every Wednesday, 6 - 10 pm
Wednesday Night Social
ALBERTA STREET PUB
Location: 1036 NE Alberta St.
Cigars, Dominos, and Music

Every Wednesday, 7 pm
Karaoke!
THE WAYPOST
Location: 3120 N Williams Ave.

Every Wednesday and Friday, 8 - 10 pm
Open Gym
NAYA FAMILY CENTER
Location: 5135 NE Columbia Blvd.

Every Thursday evening
Free Family-Friendly Game Night
FRANKIE SIPS I SNACKS
Location: 435 Rosa Parks Way
First and third Thursdays - Board games 3-7 pm
Second and Fourth Thursdays - Role-playing Games 4 -7 pm

Every Friday, 9:30 – 11:00 am
Coffee in the Commons
CONCORDIA COMMONS
Location: NE 30th Ave & Killingsworth St
Visit with neighbors over free coffee and treats.

Every Friday, 12:30 - 2:30 pm
Tech Help Drop-In
NORTH PORTLAND LIBRARY
Location: 512 N Killingsworth St.
Free tech help for mobile devices, websites, getting started and more

Every Friday, 1 - 4 pm
Loose Threads Needlecraft Circle
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave
Learn to knit, crochet or embroider or bring a craft of your own.

Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 - 9:15 pm
Curious Comedy Showdown
CURIOUS COMEDY THEATER
Location: 5225 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Six improv artists battle to see who has the quickest wit.

Saturdays and Sundays, 4 pm
History and Art Tour
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave
Learn about Kennedy School history and the art on its walls.

Every Sunday, 10 - 11:30 am
Christ's Commission Fellowship (CCF) Sunday Worship
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL
Location: 5736 NE 33rd Ave

Every Sunday, 10 am – 12 pm
Live Music – Various Artists
JUST BOB
Location: 2403 NE Alberta St.
Watch various live artists every Sunday at this café.

Every Sunday, 10 - 11:30 am
Upper Room Ministry Bible Talk
VIRTUAL
Contact Ike at (503) 901-0623 for more info.

Every Sunday, 7 pm
Open Mic
THE WAYPOST
Location: 3120 N Williams Ave.
Weekly open mic at intimate venue

Every Sunday, 9 - 11 pm
Soulful Sundays
ALBERTA STREET PUB
Location: 1036 NE Alberta St.
The Love Train band with Special Guest DJ Renz

Community Calendar Items

Submit information to *CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org* by the10th of the month preceding the event.