

North Portland's Community Newspaper - Bi-Weekly - reviewnewspaper@gmail.com - www.stjohnsreview.com - 503-283-5086

Introducing: Roosevelt High School's 2015 Rose Festival Princess Erika Manzo

L. Patrick's Day was special this year for Erika Manzo because it was on March 17 that she was crowned to represent Roosevelt High School as this year's Rose Festival Princess.

Erika is 18 years old and a senior. Her parents are Veronica Silva de Manzo and Carlos O. Manzo and her siblings are Andrea, Carla and Carlos Manzo.

Erika said she plans on attending a four-year university to major in Biomedical Sciences and minor in Spanish to pursue a career as a Biomedical Engineer at the Teleton CRIT Center in San Antonia, Texas.

She has participated in many activities at Roosevelt, which includes President of the National Honors Society, Robotics Club, representative of the Portland district in the Cesar Chavez Student Conference (2015), AP Scholar Award, and dual-enrollment at the University of Portland.

When at home Ericka said, "I practice Folklorico Mexican Dancing. I like spending time with my family, and speaking on the phone with my grandparents. I love reading a good book whenever I can, and watching my little brother draw."



Downtown St. Johns is a favorite place for her to spend time. "I'm

Contest Pictures

Two new businesses to open at St. Johns' downtown entrance

Both plan on Spring openings on the once unsightly lot

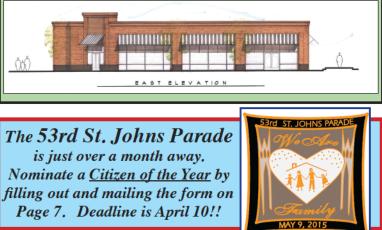
By Gayla Patton St. Johns Review Editor

For many years the lot at the corner of Lombard between Richmond and Oswego sat empty and in most cases was an eyesore for the community. Although many were leery when the 7-11 was built, it did improve the entrance into the community, but the rest of the corner, although improved with grass and some paint to the empty shack, sat empty waiting for tenants. Now, however, two new businesses are under construction with planned openings in late May, or June. Both tenants will share the 3,845-square foot building and completion will create an even better aesthetic for St. Johns' eastside entrance into the downtown area.

Soon to open, will be a Nature's Pet Market (NPM) and a Zoom Care at 8179 N. Lombard.

Zoom Care's 1,598-square foot building is opening with a five-year lease with two fiveyear lease extension options.

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glad I've had the opportunity to grow up in this community. There are so many things to do, and it has a beautiful view of the bridge. I love that during the winter, especially when knitted covers are put on the cement posts around the plaza."

She said her proudest moment was when she got to meet Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. "Having the opportunity to write her a letter and meet her in person was such an inspiration."

Her favorite Rose Festival event is the Queen's Coronation, She said, "As a kid, I don't have any memories of the Rose Festival. When I was a freshman and witnessed the coronation, I knew I wanted to run for Princess when I had the opportunity. It was my first exposure to the Rose Festival celebration."

Congratulations to Erika as this year's Roosevelt High School representative.

Selected for this issue:

reviewnewspaper@gmail.com The <u>Masthead</u> for this issue of the paper was taken by **BRI**-AN WADDEL. He said, "It is a reflection of the bridge from a nearby pond."

The Photo of the Week pictured on page 8 was taken by CHERI CUMMINS. It was selected because of the beautiful formations of clouds, sky, & sun with of course, the bridge shadowed in the foreground. If you have a photo you'd like to enter into the contest, send them in to the Review soon. You could win \$100 for your unique angle, beautiful setting, or spectacular image of the St. Johns Bridge.

Full contest rules are on page 2 of this issue.

The Aspire Project offers kids a chance to achieve their dreams

By Erin Fried

Often we list all the reasons why our dreams should be put aside. "The timing is wrong," or "I don't have the right experience." But what if we were to pursue our dreams with full perseverance? What if we had the courage? What if...

Sue and Dan Darrow asked these same questions about their dream: To establish a dance and academic space where all passionate North Portland youth and economically at-risk students have the chance to achieve their aspirations, whatever they may be. This dream would allow Sue to give back to the community that had once supported her as a single mother and would empower the community's underserved children to work hard and seek positive avenues to reach their goals, while encouraging the child, their families and their communities. So with conviction and courage, in 2009 they established The Aspire Project.

They began first by teaching classes in SUN schools, then adding a studio, and today, like the changing of a pumpkin into a carriage, growing into a new

> Continued on Page 3 "The Aspire Project"