

COMMUNITY NEWS

Grimm again finds St. Johns is the perfect backdrop

The popular show is filming its fifth season here

By Jackie Larson
Review Reporter

“We’ve done a lot of filming in St. Johns in the last four years,” emphasizes key assistant shooting location manager Shaun Gavin. “We really like the bridge and down by the river, when we are looking for that kind of stuff. When we need a forest scene, Pier Park works really well.”



Pier Park for three days straight. Mostly at night so thankfully it had cooled down a bit. That park works for spooky night scenes,” Shaun said.

Where else would the descendant of a group of hunters known as Grimms fight to save humanity from sinister supernatural storybook characters who have infiltrated the real world and who roam present-day Portland, Oregon?

Gavin adds that St. Johns has always been welcoming to the crew, and that there is plenty of both old homes and trees. “We tend to gravitate toward older architecture.”

When will filming happen in St. Johns again? As this issue goes to print, the location managers aren’t sure yet. They get about one to two weeks’ notice; whenever they receive a script. Notification is always provided in advance to St. Johns Main Street and through social media notices regarding when and where parking will be blocked.

According to the NBC website, the first episode of this season airs October 30. Will you be tuning in to look for a few familiar landmarks?

Local residents have become quite familiar with the hit TV show cast and crew and settling in with cameras, crew, and casts for multi-day filming sessions. To many it appears to be a partnership that works. Onlookers like to see the cameras in action in their neighborhoods and get behind-the-scenes glimpses, while vendors benefit from a bit of foot traffic. Overall, 200 local people are employed thanks to the show being filmed entirely in the Portland and surrounding area.

During the first week of August, scenes for season five were filmed here. “We were at

Keep our unique landmark

Dear Editor,
I am writing to request the powers that be save Ivy Island. (The one people have worked so hard to get and maintain.) It is located close to that “blind corner” at the approach of St. Johns. It’s funny to me, and I think the majority of people that grew up in St. Johns, don’t think it is a “blind corner” at all.

Growing up in St. Johns, and still a member of the community, I am hoping that beautiful island that is so welcoming to our community stays put. With all the changes and influx of new people moving here, can’t we save some of our last unique landmarks? St. Johns is already not looking like the diamond in the rough it once was. Please keep the island.
Rhonda Wittkopp

Is it really in the St. Johns Lombard Plan?

Dear Editor,
About the Lombard/Ivy Island/Richmond development. I keep hearing how the authority for this project is the SJ/Lombard Plan. But this project looks only superficially like that plan.

In the drawing with the original plan, essentially the Lombard slip was blocked off and Ivy Island becomes a pleasant grassy knoll for pedestrians. The only buildings in the 2004 plan were the one-story structures of the current Huk Lab and the Hookah Lounge. The plan is unassuming and almost cute when compared to the current proposal. It does little to radically change the parking and traffic pat-

terns of St. Johns (except for the right turn lane,) and had no impact on James John Elementary School. It DID NOT involve a four-story mega structure, apartments, restaurants, retail stores and all the problems that we are discovering with that.

So, what are some of the problems?

- 1) Parking by James John Elementary will be non-existent. Using the Marvel 29 as an example of what’s to come, parking on Alta and under the bridge is becoming non-existent, as it’s becoming on Baltimore and as it’s rippling out towards Chicago. Ask anyone in these neighborhoods. I think we can expect a similar parking situation to happen from this new development on Lombard, John St, Charleston, and Richmond.
- 2) Increased traffic on Charleston and Smith. A good route for our new tenants to take to go to I-5 and Vancouver. Also those of us who live on the east end of SJ will now use Smith Street coming into SJ, rather than Lombard. We would do this to avoid the right turn congestion on Lombard, and also for the same reason, we won’t be using Oswego (and probably go two blocks down and use Charleston).
- 3) Increased traffic on Mohawk to avoid the right turn congestion on Lombard.
- 4) Lombard right turn congestion entering the SJ Business district.
- 5) A parking garage that will have its in and out traffic flow facing directly into James John Elementary School.
- 6) How is food and merchandise going to be delivered to the retail stores and restaurants? Where are the 20 ft. to 40 ft. delivery trucks going to park as they make their deliveries? On Charleston? Lombard? And if they can’t find a parking spot, as they do every place else, they’ll just park it in the middle of the street until they’re done.

7) Loss of Ivy Island. A charming and original segue into St Johns.

Why are we not asking for a smaller project? If the city declined to vacate its property and NOT give it to the developer, he would need to downsize. Smaller is more in tune with Downtown St Johns, Why not ask the city NOT to vacate its property? What’s wrong with that? A smaller project would lessen or completely dissolve the problems listed here. It also would be more in character with St Johns.

If you want to compare the original plan, it’s in the St Johns Library or just Google “St Johns/ Lombard Plan” (that’s it! Easy-peasy,) 2nd or 3rd entry down. Then go to page 38 to see the original plan for Lombard/Ivy Island/ Richmond.
John Teply Atelier Gallery

Protesters = money

Dear Editor,
Sometimes I don’t mind protesters but when it comes down to costing the taxpayers of St. Johns money, then I think Greenpeace should pay for the police/coast guard and whoever had to get paid to handle this incident.
CM Hinkle

Sending Letters To The Editor:

Letters to the St. Johns Review are welcome and encouraged. They must be legibly written, typed or emailed to the addresses at the top of this page. They must contain a name. Anonymous letters are not read or printed. Letters and the opinions expressed are not necessarily the views of the editor. Letters may be edited for grammar, spelling, or length, according to availability of room in the paper. The St. Johns Review newspaper nor the editor are responsible for opinions or content of letters.

Univ of Portland announces plans for new residence hall

University of Portland has announced plans to construct a new residence hall with room for approximately 270 students. The hall will be located on the UP campus adjacent to the newly constructed Beauchamp Recreation & Wellness Center. The University aims to have the project begin this summer and be completed prior to the start of the 2016-17 academic year.



new Beauchamp Recreation & Wellness Center, a renovated and expanded student lounge, and increased weekend and evening events via the Pilots After Dark program.

University of Portland’s President, Fr. Mark L. Poorman, C.S.C. notes, “One of the hallmarks of the UP experience is living and learning on the campus. A greater number of our students wish to remain in our residence halls throughout their college years and this new hall allows us to meet the demand for more on-campus living.”

The announcement of the new dormitory marks the latest achievement in a remarkable period of success for the University. It will be the 12th new or renovated campus facility to be completed since 2009, joining the new recreation and wellness center (Beauchamp Center); a completely renovated library (Clark Library); a state-of-the-art engineering hall (Shiley Hall); two new dormitories (Fields and Schoenfeldt Halls); a remodeled and vastly expanded dining

facility (Bauccio Commons); a bell tower; a renovated and expanded student lounge and dining facility (Pilot House – to be completed in Fall 2015); a renovated science building (Romanaggi Hall); an expanded and renovated multipurpose athletic and events facility (Chiles Center); and an upgraded baseball stadium (Joe Etzel Field).

In recent years UP has welcomed several record freshman classes – in size, academic achievement, and diversity; set a new record every year for the number of freshman applications; and been recognized both regionally and nationwide for its academic quality, number of competitive scholarships won by students and alumni, and its return on investment. In addition to campus improvements and garnering institutional recognition, the University has increased scholarships for students, established endowed chairs and professorships, and expanded faculty research opportunities.

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