

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

WinterFest 2015
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you would like to join in the fun, let us know.”

WinterFest Background Info:

Around 2009 Gary Boehm headed up a team of community leaders, residents and business owners to apply for the National Trust Main Street Program. We were the first community within a city to get the designation. During this period the coalition determined that a Christmas tree had not been in the Plaza for over 15 years. It was a task the group would soon change.

Allerdice was given the honors of finding a tree and a neighbor just happened to have a 20-plus-foot tree. Neighbors Tom Stubblefield, Joe Adamski, Robin Plance, along with Steve Weir, Sarah Anderson and a host of community members took the time to go cut and set it up in the plaza. Mayor Sam Adams came and lit that first tree.

In 2010 Mayor Adams and a host of others created what would soon become the Portland Main Street Program. It was with the help of The St. Johns Boosters under Gary Boehm who put up the original matched funds of \$20,000.00 to bring St. Johns into the Portland Main Street programs. In late fall, Holly Heidbrecht was hired as the Executive Director, she came in to help finalize the second holiday event and First official WinterFest.

Since, then much has happened and there are many to thank, such as: Steve Weir who plays Scrooge, Richard Colvin as Tiny Tim, Rie Newman who was greeter, coordinator and the makeup artist. Tom Stubblefield took care of decorations, lights, trees, and basically anything we asked of him. Thai Cottage who has always supplied hot cocoa to the volunteers. Nena from the St. Johns Bookstore who always had a child friendly event to inspire young readers. Weir Cyclery who became the Tree Sponsor for many years bringing in a living tree that found its way to the Bluff as part of historical groves of trees. Gayla and The St. Johns Review have always been our sounding board to announce and inform the community of this event. We are forever grateful for unwavering support. Pattie Dietz as Mrs. Clause roasting Marshmallows with the kids. It’s one of her favorite past times, and she has already voiced her space for this season. Allerdice said, “The truth about this event, is that it takes all of us to make it work.”

Because of the nature of the real world, WinterFest moved outside of Main Street around 2012 due to restructuring, and from there the event happen via generous donations and exceptional volunteers. But the goal has always been the same: To engage the community in being stewards of the History of St. Johns, and raise the funds to install the Edgewater Lampposts.

The group has the support of the SJ Farmers Market. President-Simone Streeter was instrumental in creating the First ever Winters Farmers Market, which has always partnered with WinterFest in the lighting of the tree.

Our Bridge has always been a source of great pride. Part of the beauty being those Gothic inspires which the Lamps mimic, named

the Edgewater, they mimic the tenacity of this dynamic community of the waters edge. Years ago the St. Johns Main Street Design Team did an analysis of what it would cost to install the lamps down Philadelphia and then up and down Lombard. It has always been a goal to see the entire community of organizations become partners to this endeavor. Each taking on a role to promote and sponsor a post. It was suggested that each post sponsored have a plaque of the donors who purchased it. Allerdice said, “Today, we are looking at how to make this goal a reality. One of these is to turn WinterFest in to a Street Fair. Which is why we are looking at moving this from a nonprofit to a profit event. It would give us the revenue to make this goal a reality.”

The first ever check to help pay for a Lamppost was given to the Boosters last year by Laura Woodruff. Allerdice said, “Let’s not make it the last. John England and I, and a wonderful cast of volunteers have been discussing what it would cost to put one in the Plaza as an inspiration. Anyone else want to help us make that a reality? And, how many would love to see the Edgewater Lamp post in our Historical Business District? Think about it. We would love to hear from you.”

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Tree Lighting, which honors the History of St. Johns. So come join the fun on Dec. 6, and bring your singing voices. They plan on doing some caroling!!

Michael Verbout receives Spirit of Portland Award

You hear his name often around North Portland - he is the community’s best steward. He plans special events; he keeps people informed of all things important, he fights for what is best for local schools, he gives, and gives and gives, so it is befitting that Michael Verbout has been honored by Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz to receive a Spirit of Portland award.

Commissioner Fritz sent the following message: “Mike is a lifelong resident of North Portland who dedicated his career in Portland Public Schools serving in his home area. Now retired, he donates countless hours supporting community cohesion and promoting North Portland neighborhoods. He truly exemplifies the Spirit of Portland.”

Verbout graduated from George K-8 and Roosevelt High School. After college he taught for 33 years in Portland Public Schools including serving as Principal at Applegate, Beach, and James John schools. He founded the Roosevelt High School Alumni Association in 2011, and continues as one of its most active supporters. He was



ing this honor means to him, but then shyly said, “It’s an honor, a privilege and I’m so thankful, and it is so appreciated. “ He then said, “Things would not happen without everyone who are selfless enough to allow me to work with them to make things happen.”

The Review congratulates Michael Verbout on receiving this prestigious award.

Kenton’s restaurant Po’Shines Café de la Soul at 8139 N. Denver is also receiving a Spirit of Portland award for Business Community Partner of the Year. The Review didn’t hear back from them for a statement, but we also congratulate them on receiving their important award.

The Spirit of Portland Award ceremony will be held Thursday November 17 from 6 - 8:30 pm at City Hall.

For a complete list of awards go to: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/spiritofportland>

Happy Halloween
—
Play Nice!!
‘Play Safe!!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rally Planned

Dear Editor,

The strongest support for the Farid Bolouri Development is the blind Lombard curve and the safety issue at Charleston. Believe me, I always have a wave of gratitude once I’ve crossed it! It doesn’t matter how slow the vehicles are traveling, they just appear out of nowhere. You don’t see them and you assume that they don’t see you. It feels dangerous. It is blind because the Huk Lab/ Weir Building blocks the line of sight.

Now imagine that you are a giant Genii and with your great hand you can magically lift the whole Huk Lab building and move it four or five feet away from the street. Instantly your vision down Lombard would be changed from 50 ft. to 150 ft. With the complete razing of Bolouri’s lot, as will be done, that offers a clean slate with which to build and something like this can be done. Simply put, if the sightline on Lombard is moved back four or five feet, the curve is no longer blind. In the making of the St. Johns Lombard Plan (SJLP) this option wasn’t even a consideration because the current structures were immovable markers. Any plan made had to work around these buildings. Now we don’t, for the buildings will no longer exist.

If the sightline is moved back, Charleston becomes as safe as any street on Lombard. Pedestrians can see approaching vehicles, and if they step onto the street, vehicles can see them. The current speed lim-

it is 25 mph, perhaps because it’s an entrance to a Business District the speed could be reduced to 20 mph. And it’s the same moderate traffic one finds in Downtown SJ. The urgency is dissipated. At this juncture, more conventional approaches to making it safe will do. For example at John Street, safety was achieved with a pedestrian crossing signal. This intersection, in the SJLP, was seen as a Gateway into our Community, and visibility into St. Johns was an important developmental aspect. An added benefit to moving the sightline back, is that vehicles on RT30/Lombard now have greater visibility into Downtown St Johns. More to the spirit of the St. Johns Lombard Plan, and a solution that couldn’t be foreseen in 2004. Where currently from Oswego you can see to Signal Pizza/ Peninsula Station, now you’d be able to see to John Street and beyond. A much warmer invitation for business entry.

In the Bolouri Development, because he squares his building at Charleston and because it’s bigger and taller, you will have a four-story wall of apartments that will not allow visibility into downtown St. Johns until just before you reach the proposed right turn stoplight. As you travel west you will be greeted full on by a four story apt. wall. It is a physical, visual, and psychological barrier, NOT an invitation into St. Johns.

Join us for a Save Ivy Island rally, Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2 pm, at Ivy Island. Info at 971.295.9842. John Teply

BRIDGE CITY CHURCH
a new church start-up in NoPo
MEETING AT BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH BUILDING
//SECOND SUNDAY NIGHT (SEPT-DEC)//5PM//
Family Meal to follow

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By Kay - the Light Bulb Lady

Dark Gray Days
are on their way!
Portland has early
evenings with gray rainy days
and very little sun which can
create a feeling of sleepiness.

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the sun to feel better and you
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