

One Love for Alberta

continued **▲** from front

in the community, while only 43-cents stays when spent at a chain.

In a recent community "vision" session, local residents, neighbors and business owners came together to form an agenda. They decided that cleaning up the streets should be a first priority.

Implementing the same premise as urban neighborhoods across the nation, the Main Street program divides their volunteers among four committees: promotions, organization, business development, and design, with an added overlay of sustainability.

Together, Main Street installed garbage cans up and down Alberta, all locally made out of recycled street signs.

In an effort to attract more people to the neighborhood and thus, boost the local economy, Alberta Main Street convinced local business owners to invest in "small façade improvements" that would

make their buildings more attractive to customers.

Though seven applied, only two longtime buildings, the Community Cycling Center and Al Forno Ferruza, were awarded \$5,000 grants and matched by the owners. Both businesses were able to fix up the front of their buildings on relatively low budgets.

Eager to help Alberta's businesses stay in business, Wittenburg said Alberta Main Street began a seminar series for local business owners to network, share information, and work together to successfully appeal to not only residents, but those visiting from Portland's suburbs or out of town.

While Wittenburg seeks to make positive changes to the district of Alberta, she is committed to keeping the existing community involved and seeks more diversity on her volunteer committees.

Alberta "is not as diverse as it once was, but we want to maintain the diversity that still exists," she said.



In a whirl of red skirts, beaded and bangled belly dancers sway their hips in sequence as they make their way down Alberta Street during last year's Alberta Street Fair Parade.

Alberta Street Fair Set for 14th Year

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In 1997, Alberta's first street fair was called a "resounding success" when about 100 people showed up. This year, 15,000 to 20,000 people are expected to flock a 20 block stretch in celebration of

the 14th annual Alberta Street Fair on Saturday, Aug. 13.

Over 20 bands will perform on three different stages while more than 150 street vendors, artists, and talented eccentrics, local and foreign, keep neighbors, friends, families, and kids entertained until the sun falls under the sidewalks.

"The street fair is a community day," said Sara Wittenburg, lady-in-charge of the summer fair and executive director of Alberta Main Street. "It's about bringing people together, celebrating our community, and having fun."

In a heightened effort to entertain the youngest of fair-goers and those young at heart, the day kicks off at 11 a.m. with the Kid's Parade and the Curious Garden

comedy show and a Kids Corner with fun activities just for kids.

Performances for the musically mature begin at 1 p.m., with bands ranging from classical pianist, Chuck Michaelson, to a dancing caravan of gypsies, Gypsy Heart Tribal, to the African rebel rock group, Dusu Mali Band.

The day draws to an end at 7 p.m. with the last performance showing at 6:15 p.m. Featuring some of Portland's finest brews, the beer garden will remain open until 9:30 p.m. with the freshest beats from DJ Hoya wrapping up the night.

The Alberta Street Fair event is free with a suggested donation of \$2. For more details, visit albertamainst.org.

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JOIN US FOR CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY'S EXCITING SUMMER LINE UP:

FREE — **Opera in the Park** | Sun, Aug 7, 6 pm

Portland SummerFest presents *Carmen* by Georges Bizet, hosted by Concordia University on the Campus Green. www.portlandsummerfest.org

FREE — **Summer Story Time** | Tues, Aug 16, 10 am

Co-hosted by Multnomah County Library, children of all ages, along with their parents, are invited to the Jody Thurston Northwest Center for Children's Literature in Concordia's George R. White Library & Learning Center at 2800 NE Liberty St.

FREE — **Shakespeare-in-the-Park** | Sun, Aug 28, 3 pm

Much Ado About Nothing, performed by the Portland Actors Ensemble and directed by Asae Dean, hosted by Concordia University on the Campus Green. www.portlandactors.com

Shakespeare Conference | Sept 6-9

Hollywood filmmaker Roland Emmerich keynotes the four-day fall Shakespeare Conference, hosted by Concordia University's Richard Paul & Jane Roe Shakespeare Authorship Research Centre. For information, pricing, and more, visit www.authorshipstudies.org.

FREE — **Sunday Parkways** | Sun, Sept 25, 12-5 pm

Sponsors Concordia University and Trinity Lutheran School support Sunday Parkways. Visit us at the corner of NE 32nd Ave and NE Ainsworth St. www.portlandsundayparkways.com.

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Teen's Funeral

continued **▲** from front

that I work with who had the determination and strength of will and mind, and nothing, nothing got in her way."

In the thick of emotion honoring Vaughn's life, community elders called to end violence in the Portland area, "When are we going to come together as a community and say 'no longer can we stand for another young person dying on the side of the road, in somebody's house, in somebody's bedroom and buried on a hill.'"

Church elder Elmer Yarbough con-

tinued, "No longer can we stand for violence in this community. No longer can we turn a blind eye to what's going on in this community. We have to take a stand and say enough is enough."

Vaughn disappeared in mid-March, the same day Portland police say she was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Parish Bennette Jr., 16. Bennette remains in jail, held without bail on murder and manslaughter charges.

Bennette gave information that lead investigators to the spot on Rocky Butte where Vaughn's remains were left. As he awaits trial, Vaughn's mother, said the funeral was "just the beginning of the closure, there's still more to come,"

Louis said.

Last Thursday Correction:

Stephen Cole, vice-chair of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, recently spoke out about Last Thursday saying the city had selective hearing because it was only listening to the positive comments about Last Thursday events

on Alberta Street and ignoring the complaints.

His remarks were incorrectly attributed to NECN Executive Director Paige Coleman in the story on Last Thursday in our July 31 issue. We apologize for the error.

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