

Houses

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townhouses.

For writer and historian Sandy Polishuk, this development battle has deep roots in Portland history.

“It’s an ongoing struggle to maintain the history as it is reflected in the physical things around us,” she said.

To that end, Polishuk and her group the History of Social Justice Organizing host an event next month documenting successful community efforts to protest the demolition of three historic houses in Northwest Portland years ago.

The event is Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m., at the Architectural Heritage Center, 701 SE Grand Ave. The discussion is free and open to the public.

On May 23, 1989, developer Philip J. Morford ordered the demolition of houses on NW Overton Street one day before the Portland Commission on Historical Landmarks was to consider their historical and architectural value.

The neighborhood responded by protesting. Some sat on the porch of the house,



The house on NE Going Street before demolition.



The same house afterwards with chalked protests.

“These communities care very much about the character of their neighborhood and their ability to have a say in their neighborhood.”

For Polishuk, activism doesn’t get any more grassroots than when neighbors fight against development. She described the scene 25 years ago when protestor Frank

‘These communities care very much about the character of their neighborhood and their ability to have a say in their neighborhood.’

—Sandy Polishuk

adamantly refusing to move. That day, 23 people were arrested; most were charged with trespass and obstruction of judicial administration.

After the showdown, the Northwest District Association and the neighborhood negotiation committee managed to save one house in its original place and move two other houses nearby.

For Polishuk, the demolition of old houses is more than an issue of nostalgia; it is a social justice issue where communities need to voice their concerns.

“I think that community empowerment is a social justice issue,” Polishuk said.

Garfield

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take any classes at Garfield and cannot be included in the headcount for staffing.

“The review also indicated that the remaining 20 students should not be included for a variety of reasons (e.g., they were athletics only, transferred to other schools and other factors).”

Last week hundreds of Garfield supporters thronged outside the red-brick school in a rainstorm to protest the proposed cut which – if carried out in mid-semester — would have left an estimated 150 students suddenly without one class per day and could keep as many from graduating on time.

For that reason the walk-out was held at 1:50 pm, a half hour before the end of the school day. Scores of parents and school supporters participated alongside students and staff.

“Please know that this adjustment is not expected to affect a teacher of a core required subject and will not occur immediately; the affected teacher is expected to stay in place at least through the end of the first

semester in order to minimize any disruptions to students’ schedules,” Nyland said Monday in a statement.

However school advocates – and many media reports – hammered the district for poor communication and what some say is a consistent refusal to give proper resources to schools that need them the most, including Garfield, where almost 40 percent of the student population

teachers to opt out of the “Measures of Academic Progress” test program.

“Seattle’s Garfield High School (where I graduated from and now teach history) has once again united the students, parents, and educators in common struggle,” he wrote last week on his blog, ‘I AM AN EDUCATOR.’

“Last Friday it was announced that our school had until the following Friday, October 24th, to raise

Last week hundreds of Garfield supporters thronged outside the red-brick school in a rainstorm to protest the proposed cut

qualifies for free or reduced price lunches.

Garfield history teacher Jesse Hagopian, himself a Garfield graduate, has galvanized the school community since he led last year’s successful boycott of high stakes standardized tests that led the Seattle schools to allow

\$92,000 or else one of the teachers in a core subject area would be displaced. We still don’t know which of us will be targeted for displacement, but we do know the pain of this cut will be severe.

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