



CONCORDIA NEWS

A free publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association | ConcordiaPDX.org

April 2026

New NET column
(pg. 6)



CNA Events
This Month

Annual Egg Hunt
April 4th, 10 am
Fernhill Park

Neighborhood Litter Pickup
April 18th, 10 am
Concordia Commons

CNA Mission Statement

To connect Concordia residents and businesses—inform, educate and report on activities, issues and opportunities of the neighborhood

Concordia News

is a free monthly publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association. Newspapers are delivered to all residences and many community locations in the Concordia neighborhood.

Concordia News is printed on 40% post-consumer or better paper, manufactured at a local mill.

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Jefferson High School to Be Modernized and Boundaries Reassigned



Jefferson High School redesign. Photo courtesy of Portland Public Schools.

By Mike Westling
Contributing Writer

Big changes are coming to Jefferson High School on NE Killingsworth, long known as the “School of Champions”. In May 2020, voters passed a bond measure funding the modernization of Jefferson High School, with additional funding approved in 2025. Construction will begin this spring, with a brand new, seismically resilient school building opening in fall 2029. New multiuse fields for baseball, softball, and soccer will be ready for play by the end of 2027.

During construction, Jefferson students will remain on-site attending classes in the existing high school building, similar to the modernizations at Roosevelt and Lincoln high schools in recent years.

Along with the new campus comes new school boundaries.

Since 2011, Portland Public School’s “Dual Assignment” policy has given students living within the Jefferson boundary the option to enroll at Jefferson or one of three other area high schools: Grant, McDaniel, or Roosevelt. The original intent of the policy was to support Jefferson’s Middle College program and partnership with Portland Community College (PCC), but it also led to fragmented enrollment across schools. In 2025, Jefferson’s enrollment was 391 students, with over 1,300 students in the catchment opting to attend other schools.

On January 13th, the PPS School Board voted to end Dual Assignment and return Jefferson High School to a comprehensive neighborhood school. To support this change, the board established new boundaries for Jefferson, Grant, McDaniel and Roosevelt high schools which will take effect

for the 2027-28 school year for incoming 9th graders (current 7th graders) and other new students.

The new Jefferson boundary will include students from Beach, Boise-Eliot/Humboldt, Chief Joseph, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Faubion, Sabin, Vernon, and Woodlawn Elementary School zones. Irvington will be part of the Grant boundary, and Peninsula will be assigned to Roosevelt, along with the Beach Spanish Immersion program. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Chinese Immersion program will continue to be part of Jefferson High School.

According to Portland Public Schools, these changes are the first step in a systemwide review of school boundaries. The next phase of school right-sizing will begin in 2026.

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Dedication of Linear Arboretum Set for April 25th

By Jim Gersbach
Contributing Writer

Portland Urban Forestry planted five new trees in the right-of-way on the north side of Alberta Park to replace trees that have died in recent years. After more than two decades of planting to diversify the original monoculture of Norway maples in the median, the Morton Arboretum’s national registry of arboretums has recognized the strip from Fernhill Park to MLK Jr. Blvd. as a Level 1 Arboretum. This is only the fourth one in the Portland

area. The others are Hoyt Arboretum, Leach Botanical Garden, and the Concordia Learning Landscape Arboretum at the former Meek Elementary School. The official dedication of the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum will be held on Saturday, April 25th and is open to the public.

I will lead a morning tree walk to kick off the day’s event at 9 a.m. Meet me at the northeast corner of MLK Jr. Blvd. and Ainsworth. That will be followed at 10:30 by a short



Ainsworth Linear Arboretum’s 20th anniversary celebration last year. Photo by Jim Gersbach.

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News from the NET

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Getting to Know Your Neighborhood Emergency Teams

By Ethan Jewett
NET Volunteer

Resilience is for Everyone

If a major earthquake or a significant regional emergency hit Portland today, what would happen in the first hour? While we often imagine sirens and emergency crews, the reality is that in a large-scale disaster, our professional first responders would be stretched thin. In those critical moments, the most important people in your life won't be paid professionals, they will instead be the neighbors standing on your sidewalk.

This is central to the idea behind Portland's Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) program and how we should all think about building a resilient community, block by block, neighbor by neighbor. Concordia News serves a sizable portion of the area served by Station 14 at Alberta Park, known as Fire Management Area 14. FMA 14 covers a vibrant and dense section of Northeast Portland, stretching from NE Williams over to NE 59th, and from the Columbia River down to NE Fremont. This includes the historic and busy neighborhoods of Concordia, King, Vernon, Woodlawn, and Humboldt. Your neighborhood's NET team is part of a localized volunteer network trained to provide immediate assistance when the city's systems are overwhelmed.

Unlike other parts of the city with steep hills, our challenges are rooted in our density. We have bustling commercial corridors like Alberta Street and Killingsworth, aging infrastructure, and a mix of long-term residents and new neighbors. In a disaster, our "grid" layout is our strength, but only if we know how to use it to check on one another.

Our Role in the Neighborhood

Your neighborhood NET team is composed of your neighbors, local business owners, retirees, teachers, and parents, who have completed the free training with the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM). We aren't "preppers" or "survivalists"; we are community members trained in basic medical triage, fire suppression, and organizing local resources.

In a crisis, you'll see us in our orange NET vests and red helmets. Our primary goals are to:

- Coordinate the Community: We help turn willing neighbors into organized teams to clear debris or check door-to-door.
- Establish Communication: When cell towers go down, we use amateur radio, Family Radio Service, and now mesh radios to get vital information to and from community members (that's you) and the city's Emergency Operations Center.
- Support the Vulnerable: We focus on ensuring that neighbors with disabilities or limited mobility aren't left behind.

The most important thing to know about the NET program is that we are here for everyone. Whether you've lived in Northeast for 40 years or just moved into a new apartment on Alberta Street, you are part of our neighborhood's safety plan.

Over the coming months, I'll be sharing simple, low-cost ways to make your household more resilient. We'll talk about how to store water in a small kitchen, how to navigate the local Basic Earthquake Emergency Communication Node at Alberta Park, and how to build a "neighborly" phone tree.

We are your FMA 14 NET teams. We're trained, we're local, and we're your neighbors.

For more information and to learn how to become a NET, check out portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams/volunteer.



Ethan Jewett has been a member of Portland NET for 18 years. He is co-Group Scoutmaster of the 55th Cascadia and an ACA-certified River Canoeing instructor and guide.



Three NE Portland NETs, including Woodlawn Assistant TL Brendan Dunn, securing the site of a downed power line. Photo by Ethan Jewett.

**ST. MICHAEL'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



**COME CELEBRATE
EASTER WITH US
APRIL 5TH, 2026**

Free Easter Breakfast
8:30-9:30 AM

Easter Festival Service
10:00 AM

St Michael's Lutheran Church
6700 NE 29th Portland, OR
(Corner of Dekum and 29th)
StMikesLutheran.org



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expertise
is in our
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