

Show respect - Even to people who don't deserve it,
Not as a reflection of their character, but as a reflection of yours

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Affordable Housing project Comes to Cathedral Park Neighborhood

By Barbara Quinn

A new much needed affordable housing project called Cathedral Village is planned for the Cathedral Park Neighborhood at 8614 N. Crawford Street between N. Burlington and N. Salem. The four-story building will be on the other side of the railroad tracks from the BES Water Lab near the Willamette River and the St. Johns Bridge.

According to Stef Kondor, representing the developer, Related NW, the 110 "family units," will consist of 11 three-bedroom, 45 two-bedroom, 39 one-bedroom and 15 studio apartments. It is estimated that it will be able to serve approximately 313 tenants whose income falls between 30-60% of Area Median Income. The completed building will feature generous community space on the ground floor for resident activities and programs, on-site management, secure bicycle storage, and parking in a central courtyard.

Outreach in St. Johns is expected to begin in April to present the project. It will include appropriate languages when needed. Kondor

said there will also be outreach to area schools to connect with local families who may be interested in rental of an apartment. It is expected that tenants will be found within the community. Eight units will be set aside for "homeless households or those at-risk of homelessness," although the developer admits that number is not hard and fast. A program called Permanent Supportive Housing is intended to serve the eight units and will offer more vulnerable tenants "wraparound case management and health services" through Catholic Charities (CC). Kondor said those tenants will be found through existing programs at Catholic Charities. The services might include language classes, referrals to food banks or health or mental health services. The developer said robust onsite support will be offered through a combination of resident services, property management, and case management. CC has a good track record in regard to management of the Kenton Women's Village and other projects and will be a continuing partner on the Cathedral Village.

Construction is set to start in November 2020 and is planned to be completed in February, 2022. The apartments are expected to be fully occupied by August of 2022.

Besides CC, the Portland Housing Bureau is making a \$16.3 million investment in Cathedral Village and the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) is contributing \$80,000 per year. The units will range in size from 384 sq. ft. to 1,056 sq. ft. Restricted rents will range from \$462-\$1,371 per month. Besides the City, the



View of Cathedral Village from N. Burlington at Crawford.
Courtesy of Related NW

project is a working partnership between Catholic Charities, the Archdiocese of Portland, and Providence under a new program called the Healthy Housing Initiative, a project of Catholic Charities U.S.A. (www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/our-ministry/affordable-housing/healthy-housing-initiative).

The initiative sets "three main goals to achieve in the next five years:

- 1) Reduce chronic homelessness by 20 percent;
- 2) Decrease hospital readmission rates for homeless persons by at least 25 percent; and
- 3) Connect 35 percent of newly housed persons to primary care and behavioral health services."

Interestingly, the Catholic Sentinel recently presented the project as a way to address chronic homelessness (Ambitious initiative launched to reduce chronic homelessness, Catholic Sentinel, 12/18/19, by K. Scott). The article states, "In an unprecedented partnership, three Oregon Catholic entities will apply creativity, smarts

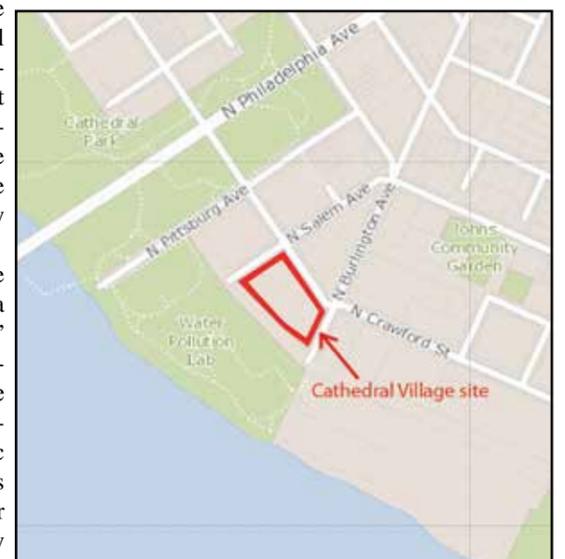
and ample roll-up-your-sleeves hard work to address a painful reality Portlanders observe daily: chronic homelessness...Catholic Charities of Oregon already has taken a first significant step toward meeting the goals of the initiative with the announcement this fall of Cathedral Village, an approximately 110-unit housing community in the St. Johns neighborhood of North Portland. The project targets low-income families and will include designated permanent supportive housing units for the those who've been chronically homeless."

The article describes it as a "pilot project" occurring simultaneously in five cities all managed by Catholic Charities. Travis Phillips, director of community development and housing at CC

added in regard to the project, "The support piece is 'a recognition that people who have been chronically homeless need an extra hand. If someone has been living on the street and has a health problem or addiction or is a survivor of domestic violence, there is a lot of stuff to figure out all at once. Simply giving them a key to an apartment is not enough.'" In the Portland region, people are classified as chronically homeless if they've been without housing for more than one year in the past three years and have a disabling condition or are survivors of domestic violence. The project would not be transitional housing however. There would be no requirement to move after a certain period of time.

Since the Cathedral Park Neighborhood has had long-standing troubling experiences with a

"Affordable Housing"
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View from N. Salem and N. Crawford.
Courtesy of Related NW

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Roosevelt Student Accomplishes Extraordinary Scouting Achievement

Jared Alton earns all 138 merit badges offered in scouting

You could call Roosevelt High School senior Jared Alton a real go-getter. Jared has a 4.0 GPA, has participated on five different Roosevelt sports teams, played trumpet in Roosevelt's award-winning jazz band and has logged over 900 volunteer hours at the Red Cross office in North Portland.

Jared is also a member of Scout Troop 71, where he earned his Eagle Scout rank in November of 2018. The Eagle scout rank is the highest and most prestigious rank in Scouts BSA. Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of scouts have earned this rank.

But now Jared has done something even more extraordinary in scouting. He has earned all 138 merit badges offered by the national organization. This is a feat only accomplished by a handful of scouts across the nation each year. To put this accomplishment in perspective, scouting's Eagle rank requires a minimum of 21 merit badges to be earned. Of course, many scouts earn more than that, often in the 30-40 merit badge range. But to earn 138 merit badges is practically unheard of.

"In the thirty-two years I've been a scout leader, I've never seen anything like this," said Troop 71 Advancement Chair Dave Chaney. "The most merit badges I've seen a scout get is about fifty-five to sixty."

For his part, Jared is fairly matter-of-fact about how he accomplished this rare feat.

"I just didn't think about it," said the Roosevelt senior. "I saw no reason not to get more merit badges, so I just kept going."

A variety of badges

Scouting offers a wide variety of merit badges across many disciplines, including performing arts, the sciences, outdoor skills, and community service. Thirteen merit badges are required



Roosevelt student Jared Alton with his father (and Troop 71 Scoutmaster) Jeff Alton

for the Eagle Scout rank, including Citizenship in the Community & Nation, First Aid, Emergency Preparedness, Camping and Physical Fitness, among others. The remaining 120+ merit badges are electives, allowing each scout to pursue their individual interests.

Of course, Jared pursued them all. But he did have a few favorites, including the Aviation Merit Badge, where he got to fly an airplane out of the Troutdale Airport and up the Columbia Gorge.

"My favorite merit badges were Aviation, Scuba Diving, Dentistry, Shot Gun, and Surveying," said the Eagle Scout, reflecting on his own wide and varied interests.

A well rounded student with plans

As noted above, outside of scouting,

Jared is very active in his school and community. Currently, he is one of the editor/designers on the RHS yearbook team and is captain of the Roosevelt swim team. He has also participated in one or more seasons on the cross-country, track & field, golf and soccer teams at the school. Additionally, he has honed his musical performance skills over three years with

the school jazz band. Lastly, his 900 hours of community service at the Red Cross has spanned over five years. But at the heart of it all is what he has learned from scouting.

"Scouting has taught me to see good in everyone and always strive to do the right thing," said the Roosevelt senior.

Jared Alton will graduate from Roosevelt High in June and plans to attend the University of Portland where he will major in nursing and pre-med. His career goal and ambition is to one day become a pediatrician. With his accomplishments in scouting, school and the community, he is well on his way to achieving his goals.



RHS senior Jared Alton with Scout Troop 71 leader Margaret Martin



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PO's zip-code experiment failing

Complaints have been numerous in the Kenton neighborhood, and surrounding 97217 zip code areas since a program called "Consolidated Casing," was initiated in September 2019 by the Post Office. It was designed to speed up mail carriers and eliminate routes, however, there have been numerous neighbors complaining that mail has been arriving late, at the wrong location and with constantly changing letter carriers. It's also left mail carriers scrambling. All this led to a community meeting with Congressman Earl Blumenauer, at the Celebration Tabernacle in Kenton on Saturday, January 25, 2020.

With approximately 50 people in attendance Blumenauer listen to complaints and concerns regarding the new program. Residents voiced that it isn't just that their mail wasn't coming until late at night, but the overload and what it's doing to the carriers. Blumenauer said it was discouraging to hear but gives him some ammunition in his efforts to hold the Post Office accountable. He added, that he believes perhaps they just didn't think it through in the name of efficiency.

The program is being tested in 65 postal codes across the country and is a push toward privatizing mail delivery. It was intended to make mail delivery more efficient, but residents and postal workers have said it had the opposite effect.

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