

# Star NEWS

★ SERVING NORTHEAST AND NORTH METROPOLITAN PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOODS ★ JUNE 2020 ★ VOLUME 37, NUMBER 12 ★



## #NEPDX ENDURES

NORTH AND NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS  
CELEBRATE ROSE FESTIVAL, GRADUATIONS AND  
MORE, MOVING TOWARD HOPE AND HEALING





★ STAR CELEBRATES ROSE FESTIVAL

# ROSE FESTIVAL *parades* IN PLACE *In Rose City Park*

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On Friday, May 22, the Portland Rose Festival kicked off its 2020 season with a virtual opening night concert and fireworks streamed on Facebook. This year's festival will be unlike any before. Most events and activities have been suspended, but the festival has inspired neighbors to gather and celebrate – against a myriad of historic and external forces – for the more than 100 years. Event coordinators have had to be creative, finding new ways to engage the community and keep the festival alive.

"The 2020 Rose Festival will be an example of how our community can both honor diversity and celebrate unity," said Rose Festival President Teri Bowles-Atherton, an Alameda and Beaumont school alum who graduated from St. Mary's Academy. "We are optimistically planning for a modified celebration and we look forward to being a messenger of hope and healing to our communities."

This spring, the festival asked members of the community to celebrate and inspire hope by decorating their front porches, windows or sidewalks for a porch parade. Neighbors with rose gardens visible from the street or sidewalks were also encouraged to participate.

Decorations will be displayed through the month and at least 150 registered locations in the metro area are marked with a Porch Parade or Roses for Hope lawn sign. A map of registered locations is available at [www.paradinginplace.com](http://www.paradinginplace.com), identifying areas to plan a walk or drive and enjoy the celebration.

On Saturday afternoon, May 23, a Rose Festival VIP procession drove through selected neighborhoods to thank creative community members for their participation. One neighborhood that drew special attention was in Rose City Park on Northeast 54th Avenue, between Siskiyou and Stanton Streets, where neighbors have worked hard during social-distancing requirements to support one another and connect their community.

One neighbor, Karen Joyce said that the neighborhood recognizes that small businesses are struggling.

"They worked so hard to bring their dreams to reality and then they just had everything swept out from under them," she said. "It's heartbreaking. We love our local businesses and want them to be around when all of this is all over. We miss them."

The Joyce family decorated their front porch in support of Tony Starlight's Showroom.

"He's been working really hard to keep his business afloat, support his fellow musicians and keep people entertained during these uncertain times," she said. "His live YouTube shows have been a great escape for us. We streamed one of his shows from our front porch float last Saturday and a bunch of the neighbors sat – at a distance – in the pouring rain and sang along."

In addition to the Porch Parade, on Saturday, June 6, at 2:00 p.m. the festival will host a Grand Petite Parade, featuring shoe box-size floats created by community members, a celebration of marching bands, equestrian units, and other Rose Festival parade favorites. For more information, visit [www.paradinginplace.com](http://www.paradinginplace.com). ★



Rose Festival Princess Carmella Thomas of Grant High School holds a sign and tiara as part of the Rose Court decorations outside her home. The rose sculptures were created by her grandmother with some help from Carmella.



A clown waves to people on the sidewalk while passing on Northeast 54th Avenue.



Mary Getty of the Royal Rosarians waves to parade goers on Northeast 54th Avenue.



Brian and Karen Aase pose on their front porch decorated in support of Garden Fever, a local plant nursery.



Royal Rosarian Drill Master Antonio Harris Sr. blows a whistle as the neighborhood car parade arrives on Northeast 54th Avenue.



Karen Joyce decorates her front porch as Tony Starlight's Showroom. Joyce and her neighbors have a tradition of going together to Starlight's Christmas show.