

# **BWNA** NEWSLETTER

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

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# **OUR MISSION:**

The mission of BWNA is to enhance the safety, beauty, participation, and community connections for all who live and work in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood.

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association BWNApdx.org



A sunny day for a photo op to celebrate BWNA's donation to Beaumont Family Resiliency Fund with proceeds from BWNA's Art & Garden Tour. From left: tour hosts Kate Krider and Patti Koehler, BWNA board member; Sandy Bacharach, Co-President, Beaumont Middle School PTA; Patty Nelson, BWNA President; Peter Gearin, tour host; Dr. Harriette Vimegnon, BMS Principal; and Susan Trabucco, tour host, BWNA board member and newsletter editor. Not pictured: tour hosts Dale Latham, Marilyn Happold Latham, Kehrnan Shaw, and Janet Jump. Photo by a willing passerby.

# BWNA WORK ENRICHES BMS RESILIENCY FUND

by Susan Trabucco

ate last fall, when the dust finally settled on the BWNA Art & Garden Tour accounting, net proceeds from that BWNA-sponsored event totaled \$1,450 — well over early estimates and all of it earmarked for donation to the Beaumont Family Resiliency Fund. Additionally, \$660 secured by BWNA from Central NE Neighbors for a resiliency grant was donated to the fund.

The resiliency fund, comprised only of donations, is administered by the Beaumont Middle School PTA. It's used by the school for families experiencing emergencies that impact a student's well-being and ability to be successful in school.

"We truly appreciate your support," said Dr. Harriette Vimegnon, BMS principal. "Your contributions will directly help students and families."

(continued on 3)



IS THE COYOTE POPULATION ON THE RISE?, p 10 Or does it just seem like it?



A SPOT FOR SPIRITS OPENS ON FREMONT, p 14 Meet Liquor Garden owner Dawson Marchant



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A NEW YEAR,

# A NEW MISSION

by Patty Nelson, BWNA Board President

appy New Year, Beaumont-Wilshire neighbors! What does 2024 have in store for our neighborhood? With that question in mind, the BWNA board

held its annual retreat in November, and we brainstormed ideas for this year. Here are some highlights from that meeting.

We were excited by how well-received the Movie in the Park was and discussed applying for it again this year, perhaps adding some type of pre-movie activity.

The Art & Garden Tour was also a big hit, and neighbors have already expressed interest in participating this year. After the success of the Fremont Street art project last year, we plan to complete street art at the marked crossing at Amalfi's this year. Some new ideas, such as a neighborhood yard sale and holding a graffiti clean-up event, were also discussed.

We have a talented and engaged board whose members raised a number of ideas to improve our collaboration and communication within the board as we move forward. The BWNA bylaws are our governance document, setting forth our operating structure. We acknowledged a

need to formalize our standard operating procedures by documenting and adopting policies. We will also clarify, document, and adopt committee and officer responsibilities.

the year to come.

The board also adopted a new mission

BWNA is to enhance the safety, beauty, participation, and community connections for all who live and work in the Beaumont-

I was encouraged by our board retreat, both working through some challenges experienced last year and setting a productive path forward.

The year ahead looks bright, and together we can enhance the safety, beauty, participation, and community connections in our neighborhood. You can help us make these dreams a reality by volunteering. Watch for updates in our newsletter and monthly email and on our website. To receive the monthly email, be sure to subscribe by signing up on our website at bwnapdx.org.

Wishing you health, happiness, and community in 2024.

We will work on these in

statement to guide us: "The mission of

Wilshire neighborhood."

Residents are encouraged to participate. Contact committee chairs for details.

**Areas of Interest** 

**OUR ORGANIZATION** 

**BWNA Board** 

Patty Nelson 503-281-8035 President@BWNApdx.org

Patti Koehler 971-678-0824

Karla Lenox 503-686-5915

Treasurer@BWNApdx.org

Aaron Breakstone Colin O'Neill

Tim Gillespie gillespi@teleport.com

Kathy Madore, Community Organizer

beaumontbusinesses@gmail.com

bbaboardpresident@gmail.com

Rob Lee

John Sandie

Susan Trabucco

**At-Large Board Members** 

**Immediate Past President** 

**Related Organizations** 

Wesley Callaway, President

**Central Northeast Neighbors** 

Board Liaison: Patty Nelson

**Beaumont Business Association** 

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Sam Balto

Jon Hays

Angela Frome

Gary Hancock

Vice-President

Al Ellis 503-287-0477

### **Beaumont Middle School Cmte** Tim Gillespie, chair 503-287-6272

**Crime Prevention and Safety Cmte** Bill Markwart, co-chair 503-282-4610 Patty Nelson, co-chair 503-281-8035

### **Events Committee**

John Sandie, chair 219-508-4162

Friends of Wilshire Park Committee Gary Hancock, chair 503-367-0862

### **Land Use Committee**

Tim Root root.timothy@gmail.com

### **Newsletter Team**

Editor: Susan Trabucco 503-440-7732 Editor@BWNApdx.org

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Jane Feinberg, Design@BWNApdx.org

Myrna Sheie 224-659-1537

Georgina Head 360-739-7896 John Sandie 219-508-4162

### **Transportation Committee**

Colin O'Neill, chair 503-803-0015

### Website (BWNApdx.org)

Jane Feinberg, Design@BWNApdx.org

The mission of BWNA is to enhance the safety, beauty, participation, and community connections for all who live and work in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood. ""



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# **BMS RESILIENCY FUND**

continued from page 1

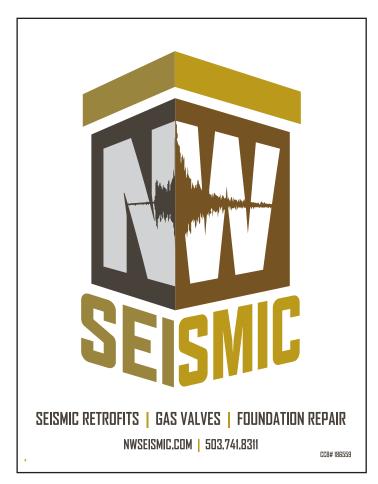
Patty Nelson, BWNA board president, acknowledged BWNA's commitment to BMS. "Our community is stronger with partnerships; we're pleased our neighborhood association is able to help those in need."

Patty also expressed appreciation for the B-W gardeners and artists who made the event a success. "Without these dedicated neighbors, we couldn't have raised this money for BMS," she said. "We hope to continue to support this worthy cause."

To donate to the 2023-2024 BMS Resiliency Fund, visit my.cheddarup.com/c/beaumont-family-resiliency-fund-23-24.



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# **BWNA MEETINGS, ADS & ARTICLES INFO**

Check "Upcoming Events" page on BWNA website for venue and/or Zoom link information regarding General and Board meetings.

For Zoom links to FoWP Committee meetings, contact Committee Chair Gary Hancock via outside503@aol.com

Mon, Jan. 8: Board meeting, starts 7 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 10: FOWP Committee meeting via Zoom, starts 7 p.m.

Mon, Feb. 12: General meeting, starts 7 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 15: FOWP Committee meeting via Zoom, starts 7 p.m.

# Newsletter Article & Ad Submission Info Articles

Would you like to write for the newsletter, have an idea or opinion you'd like to voice, or have a Letter to the Board or Editor? If so, email Editor@BWNApdx.org.

### Advertising

Advertising is appreciated and accepted as space is available. For ad rates and instructions, visit BWNApdx.org/newsletter-submissions.

### **Deadlines**

We publish the 1st of Jan., March, May, July, Sept. & Nov. Pre-approved articles & ads must be submitted by the 1st of the month PRIOR to a publishing date.

Submit articles to Editor@BWNApdx.org. Photos, graphics, and ads to Design@BWNApdx.org.

# March 15, 2024 Save the Date!

To get down (or up) and dirty to help beautify our neighborhood at this BWNA graffitti clean-up event.



Look for more details in the March-April newsletter and in our monthly email updates.

**Volunteer. Meet People. Do Good. Have Fun!** 

### **CORRECTION**

The address for Perch Furniture was incorrect in the November-December newsletter. The correct address is 4519 NE Fremont St. The editor regrets this error.

### LOOKING FOR BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES?

We'll save you the energy! Timing and other difficulties kept the BWNA Board & Committee Updates from making this edition; we hope to include this information in future newsletters.

Readers interested in committee updates and details about what took place at the November board retreat and November and December board meetings can find this information on the BWNA website. Board actions taken during those meetings include approving a social media policy, adding an Events Committee, and approving two neighborhood traffic safety proposals put forth by a board member.

At the December general meeting, a representative from Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) provided an update on the NE Alameda and Fremont diverter, a PBOT pilot project.

December meeting minutes will be posted sometime after board approval at BWNA's January board meeting.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Newsletter Distribution Peeps Needed!**

The BWNA newsletter distribution team is seeking people to hand-deliver the BWNA newsletter to a prescribed route in



the neighborhood either every other month or in a fill-in capacity. Meet people, get a walk in, and have fun! Email John Sandie at SandieFam@gmail.com or Georgina Head at Georginafh@outlook.com.

### **Newsletter Events Sleuth Needed**

The newsletter team is looking for someone to search out interesting events in and near Beaumont-Wilshire for publication in the newsletter and inclusion in BWNA's monthly email to subscribers. This is fun way to get involved with the newsletter team and help keep readers informed of the myriad things to do

nearby. Email Editor@BWNApdx.org for more details.

# Make Stuff Happen with BWNA's NEW Events Committee!

Would you like to hear music in the neighborhood? Do you think a bicycle road rally would be a hoot? Do you love crafting and think a neighborhood craft fair would be fun? If so, consider connecting with BWNA's new Events Committee. With more human resources to help out, our neighborhood can do more fun things! If you have an idea for an event or activity or an area of interest in which you'd like to get involved, email Events Committee chair John Sandie at SandieFam@gmail.com.





# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 15 (Monday) 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### MLK Jr. Breakfast

Location: Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The Skanner Foundation invites the community to share breakfast and celebrate the life, work, and vision of civil rights icon The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. with its 38th annual breakfast celebration. For more info visit tinyurl.com/mr35wnre; Cost: TBD

January 18 (Thursday) 5:30 – 7 p.m.

### **Electrification 101**

Location: Prince Coffee, 4523 NE Fremont St.

Hear from ElectrifyPDX about the advantages of electrifying your home from reducing household emissions to saving money on energy bills. Drinks and snacks will be available. Sponsored by Elizabeth Nathan, realtor with Urban Nest. See ad on page 20 for more info.

January 20 (Saturday) 1 - 3 p.m.

# **Electrification Open House**

Location: 3225 NE 29th Ave.

Learn from Alameda homeowners and their contractors who electrified three of their homes. Learn about current tax credits and upcoming rebates and incentives. Register for this free event at tinyurl.com/5daj8mmx. See page 13 for more info.

January 22 – February 19 (Mondays; 5 sessions) 6 – 7 p.m.

# Me and White Supremacy Book Circle

Location: Alder Commons, 4212 NE Prescott St.

Join the folks at Alder Commons in reading Layla F. Saad's 28-day workbook, *Me and White Supremacy*. The author describes the book as "a one-of-a-kind personal antiracism tool structured to help people with white privilege understand and take ownership of their participation in the oppressive system of white supremacy." For more info visit tinyurl.com/24ce3nxs.

February 24 – March 5

# **Black Restaurant Week**

Location: Various

Celebrate the flavors of African-American, African, and Caribbean cuisine during the 3rd annual Northwest Black Restaurant Week, which showcases Black-owned restaurants and culinary businesses across the NW region. Dine at one of the participating restaurants offering a special menu. For more info visit tinyurl.com/yvuk3xrt.

March 15 (Friday) SAVE THE DATE!

### **BWNA Graffiti Clean-Up**

BWNA will work with community members and partners to clean up graffiti in our neighborhood three times a year, beginning March 15. Look for more details in the March-April newsletter and in BWNA monthly emails. Not a subscriber to the monthly email? Sign up at BWNApdx.org/subscribe.

# Got Events? Email Editor@BWNApdx.org

# FOOD CART POD COMING TO FORMER

# BARRETT AUTOMOTIVE SITE

by Susan Trabucco

while back, Bill Barrett, owner of the long-running automotive repair business under his name at NE 44th and Fremont, made a call to a friend to discuss selling his property that housed it all. That friend connected Barrett with David and Daniel Silvey to consider the purchase. The Silveys are a father-son duo that comprises DBS Group, a real estate development enterprise. Things clicked, the purchase was made, and the rest, as they say, is history.

In November, the City of Portland notified BWNA of DBS's proposed food cart development at 4403 NE Fremont St., a portion of the property that served Barrett Automotive operations. The proposal is to remove the central building on the site and renovate the others to create a seven-unit food cart pod with indoor and outdoor seating, a bar, and other amenities.

A recent conversation with Daniel Silvey revealed more details about the motivation for the project, the plans, and the timeline.

When the Silveys checked out the area, one thing jumped out at them.

"There was no central gathering place in this retail-heavy business district, which a food cart pod often creates," said Silvey. "These places tend to bring people together."

The Silveys hope to play off the history of the place in designing the repurposed space.

"We'll maintain the industrial feel," said Silvey. "We hope to keep the character of what was there intact."

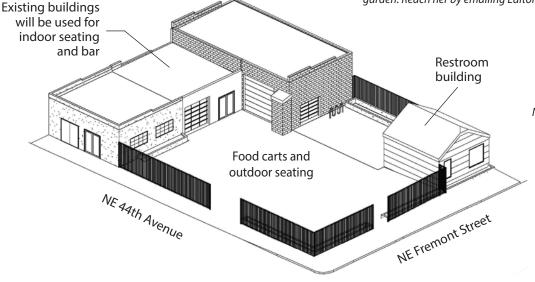
Some ideas being kicked around are to use the old Barrett's sign to announce the cart pod name, which has yet to be determined, as well as advertising the various food carts.

Specific carts haven't yet been chosen, but the Silveys are seeking a diversity of food offerings — and with only seven carts, feel they can be selective. Finding vendors from the neighborhood or nearby is also of interest. He encouraged those people to contact him even though the estimated time for the opening of the food cart pod is summer 2024. To reach Daniel Silvey call (503) 201-8537.

Susan Trabucco is the volunteer editor of this newsletter. She was the founder, editor, and publisher of a regional business journal. Susan and her husband have called B-W home since 2012, where she practices zonal denial in her tropical-ish garden. Reach her by emailing Editor@BWNApdx.org.



Susan Trabucco



The former Barrett Automotive site at NE 44th and Fremont will be developed as a food cart pod with indoor and outdoor seating areas and a genderneutral restroom building. Drawing by Woodblock Architecture.



# **NATURESPACE:**

# NURTURING NATURE IN WILSHIRE PARK

by Peter Mogielnicki

There's a story behind the bit of native habitat within the split rail fence in Wilshire Park. Once upon a time it was just a patch of struggling turf and, like turf everywhere, it was something of an ecological desert — no bees, no butterflies, no flowers, no berries, nothing for birds or anything else to eat.

Then, five years ago, a handful of neighbors began a conversation that ultimately led to the transformation of this patch of turf into the park's "NatureSpace." Thanks to the leadership of Eric Rosewall, Johnny Fain, and other supporters at Portland Parks & Recreation, the pro bono design collaboration from Jeff Farr of Lumo Landscape Design, and grants from local environmental programs, all the pieces necessary to achieve the vision fell into place.

On a beautiful fall day in 2018, 80 volunteers turned their green thumbs brown tucking 1,300 native plants into the park's rich soil. Today, the Wilshire Park NatureSpace is a spot where youngsters can climb onto and jump from a basalt column or huge tree stump and others can sit quietly on a fallen log and witness the seasonal evolution of a small patch of native Portland.

Of course, in January and February there is not much drama to the casual eye other than lots of winter dormancy. Even so, there is plenty of color to be had by looking down at the tapestry of fallen leaves, under which one can imagine cocoons, chrysalides, and other



In 2018, volunteers dug in to help with the initial planting of the Wilshire Park NatureSpace. Photo by Peter Mogielnicki.

arthropod life stages undergoing their miraculous transformations from larvae to adulthood. And even though they are leafy shrubs rather than conifers, the two red-barked madrone trees and the shrubby huckleberry are showing off their winter evergreen-ness. Meanwhile, at the tips of the vine maple and red currant branches, the tightly packaged buds of next spring's leaves reveal the promise of things to come.

The next newsletter will have more to say about things to look for in the NatureSpace in March and April.

A tapestry of leaves purposefully left in place in the Wilshire Park NatureSpace serves as winter refuge for arthropods and other insect life. Photo by Peter Mogielnicki.

In college Peter Mogielnicki vacillated between careers in writing or medicine. He chose the safer route but since retirement has enjoyed writing short essays for his blog at Cereflections.com, reading, working on environmental and biodiversity issues, and birding and identifying insects (bugging??) with his grandchildren.



Peter Mogielnicki

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# NORTHEAST VILLAGE PDX HELPS **NEIGHBORS** AGE IN PLACE

by Teri McKenzie, Northeast Village PDX Manager

ince its founding in 2016, Northeast Village PDX has become a source of community and connection for its members and volunteers alike. Northeast Village was started by a group of dedicated citizens who sought to find a way to grow old while remaining in their homes and who wished to remain active in their community. Inspired by the efforts of what is now Beacon Hill Village in Boston, Northeast Village was formed.

In January 2023, Northeast Village officially became a program of the Northeast Community Center and serves 17 neighborhoods in NE Portland, including Beaumont-Wilshire.

Using a neighbors-helping-neighbors model, volunteers provide members a range of services including transportation, yard work, tech support, assistance with home organization, friendly visits, and more. Additionally, members enjoy a host of social/educational activities, grief and caregivers' support groups, and special interest groups, including book, movie, art, and writers' groups and a men's cooking group, all of which have the added benefit of being close to home.

As a member-driven program, activities and programming are generated by Village members. Social events such as morning coffee groups, dinner outings, and Village-wide gatherings are central to Village life. Additionally, the Village hosts a variety of educational programs such as birdwatching outings, science presentations, workshops, death and dying programs, and more. These and other activities offer members opportunities to stay engaged and foster new connections, all of which are particularly important given the U.S. Surgeon General's report (tinyurl.com/ mucjh36a) on the epidemic of loneliness and isolation.

These activities and events are just a taste of what Village life has to offer. If you or a loved one is interested in learning more about membership or volunteer opportunities, the Village hosts monthly introductory presentations; more info can be found at tinyurl.com/53keh6mm or by calling (503) 895-2750.



Experiencing vision loss due to glaucoma, Northeast Village PDX member Lana Lyons, left, enjoys her time with Village volunteer Jane Braunger, who comes to Lana's home regularly to read to her. Submitted photo.



# **ISO Writers Seeking Fame!** Seeking fortune? You're barking up the wrong tree.

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But ... We'll give you a byline. Who knows where that will lead?

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# **BROUGHTON BEACH**

# IS FOR ON-LEASH DOGS ONLY

by Rachel Frennea, a B-W concerned citizen



was saddened to read the article about dog activity at Broughton Beach in the November-December 2023 BWNA newsletter.

The article implied in its wording, and the accompanying picture confirmed, that Wilshire Park Swim Club members allow their dogs off-leash at Broughton. Metro policy — proclaimed on a

sign at the entrance to this beach and provided at oregonmetro. gov/parks/broughton-beach — clearly states that dogs are allowed on-leash only at Broughton.

It's generally frustrating when people do not follow the rules in public spaces, but my main concern here is the damage these dogs directly cause to migrating birds. While a pup playfully chasing off a bird may not feel like much of a big deal, many migrating birds expend nearly all of their energy to arrive safely at Broughton to use it as a temporary home to rest, recover, and refuel from their tremendous journeys.

The impact of a dog forcing a completely exhausted bird to fly to safety can literally be life or death to some birds. Imagine



Signage at entrance to Broughton Beach. Photo by Jane Feinberg.

running a marathon and crossing the finish line with nothing left in you, and then being forced to run even more for your safety.

I would love to see the Wilshire Park Swim Club embrace the many off-leash areas all over Portland and do their part to protect the safety of the creatures with whom we share Broughton Beach.







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# ALDER COMMONS: NOT YOUR EVERYDAY COMMUNITY CENTER

by Patti Koehler & Susan Trabucco

lder Commons. The name has been bandied about for a few years, but if you haven't had the opportunity to find out more about it, here's a primer about this multifaceted, non-profit community center located at the southeast corner of NE 42nd Avenue and Prescott.

At one of BWNA's general meetings last year, attendees heard from invited guest, Alder Commons representative Rachel Munzig. She described the center as a hub for self-directed work and play.

"Its mission," Munzig said, "is to cultivate an equitable center of self-directed learners of all ages."

The organization accomplishes its mission through multigenerational programs that include affinity groups. For example, Munzig said members hold cooking classes, pop-up markets, and woodworking classes, and establish interest-based clubs. There are multi-week classes such as those offered through the Portland Underground Graduate School (PUGS); the two organizations merged in late 2022. Classes are sometimes available to members only and sometimes to the public for a fee.

The center's philosophy is "Everyone is a student, everyone is a teacher," Munzig said.

Alder Common's three core values include selfdetermination, collective liberation, and community support. Members determine what they want from the center, establish policies, and determine ways to help in the community.

The center uses a membership model similar to the YMCA. Members pay a monthly fee under one of three types of membership: individual, household, and organizational. The starting membership fee is \$60 per month, making it accessible to the 83 percent of its members who qualify as low income. Alder Commons seeks donations and grants and organizes fundraisers to support its ability to provide low-cost membership fees.

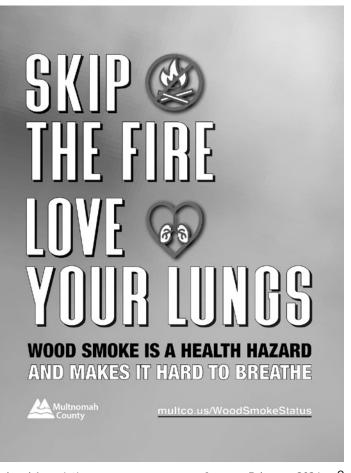
Alder Commons has accessible parking, two ADA-compliant restrooms, a lounge, a full wood-working shop, library, community kitchen, playroom, meeting room, working room, and backyard area for meeting and play. All of these amenities are available to members.

Alder Commons is located at 4212 NE Prescott St. For more information and to view its activities and events calendar, visit aldercommons.org.





Tucked away from the street, Alder Commons offers a welcoming, collaborative environment for its members. Submitted photo.



# IS THE COYOTE POPULATION ON THE RISE, OR DOES IT JUST SEEM LIKE IT?

by Susan Trabucco

Beaumont-Wilshire residents have been asking a lot of questions about the coyote population in the neighborhood. We went to a local expert on the subject to get answers. The following responses to our questions are courtesy of Alameda resident Barbara Brower, professor emerita of geography at Portland State University. Barbara and her PSU students developed the Portland Urban Coyote Project over 10 years ago. The project tracks coyote sightings reported to its site by the Portland Metro community.

Q: Has the coyote population in B-W increased in the last year?

A: Are coyotes increasing? Three Northeast Portland neighborhood newsletters are running stories about coyotes this fall, all prompted by what some residents believe to be a surge in coyote numbers. While there are likely to be limited local fluctuations, coyotes are territorial, and local populations typically remain pretty stable over time.

The impression that coyote populations are on the rise is

more likely driven by seasonal changes in behavior and visibility rather than significant increases in population.

Q: Late fall last year, neighbors reported seeing coyotes in groups of three or more; in one instance five together at Wilshire Park. Is this typical?

A: Sightings increase in the fall and winter for a couple of reasons: there is less cover after leaf fall, and coyote families are out and about before the young disperse. Groups of multiple coyotes are to be expected. Like many canids, coyotes form pair bonds that persist from year to year; they are territorial, and the parents are likely to stay in an area where they find shelter and food. Their offspring must leave the family territory to find their own home range, usually in their first year, and hang out with their parents until that moment arrives.

Q: Do coyotes, especially groups of coyotes, pose a danger to humans?

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A: Nope. In all of North America, since record keeping began, coyotes have been responsible for just two human deaths. By contrast, dogs kill 30 to 50 people every year. A study investigating 46 years of coyote attacks on people in the U.S. and Canada counted 142 attacks; on average 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs every year. Despite the very low risk that coyotes represent and the ease with which one can guard against even that low risk, people remain afraid. Outdoor cats and unattended small dogs can be coyote targets, however.

# Q: What should a person do when confronted by a coyote or coyotes?

**A:** An actual confrontation — a hostile encounter with an aggressive coyote — would be very rare.

Parents defending a den or pups may challenge or attempt to scare off an intruder, and a coyote accustomed to being fed and too much at ease among people might stand its ground in an encounter. In such situations, the following strategies for diffusing hostility from other predators should be practiced:

- Stay calm; don't run.
- Make yourself appear larger.
- Walk away slowly while maintaining eye contact.

Much more common are benign encounters with coyotes. Young ones, curious and not yet experienced, may approach you. A coyote that appears to be stalking you as you walk your dog is more likely engaging in what is called escort behavior: following to make sure you move away from their den, perhaps. In these encounters, too, your behavior is very important.

A coyote investigating your garbage can or chicken coop, approaching uncomfortably close, or out and about at midday needs a

lesson in caution around humans, and hazing is the proper response. As a favor to the coyote, yourself, and your neighbors and local pets, you want to make the coyote afraid. Make loud noises, throw things; the coyote's survival depends on it being wary among humans. You do a wild animal no favors by feeding or trying to befriend it.

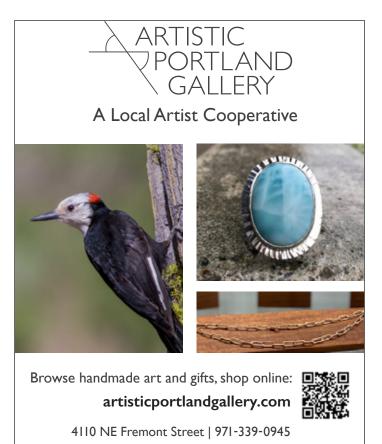
# Q: Neighbors concerned for their own safety or that of their pets have stated the City of Portland needs to control the local coyote population. Is this a necessary step?

**A:** The Portland Urban Coyote Project sightings map at tinyurl.com/69wwskbt shows upward of 13,000 coyote sightings in the Portland Metro area since 2015. The city would be hard pressed to do anything about such an abundant animal, even if it had the will and resources to try. Recall that despite 200 years of efforts to control coyotes in the U.S., their numbers and range have only grown.

# Q: What else do B-W readers need to understand about the urban coyote population?

A: Coyotes are here to stay, and we need to do our parts to ensure it's a peaceful coexistence. Don't feed them, on purpose or by accident; keep a close eye on small pets and small children; and learn how to keep coyotes wary of human contact. And, if you can, appreciate the fact that despite all the disruption we have caused the world of animals, here is a creature that has learned to live beside us, making the most of the urban environment.

Many other questions can be answered through the Portland Urban Coyote Project website portlandcoyote.com, which includes a tutorial and links to further resources. Or send an email with your questions to portlandcoyote@gmail.com.





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# DO YOU KNOW THE MUSHROOM MAN?

by John Sandie

did *not* know the mushroom man before I followed the sidewalk signs on NE Fremont and 50th to High Desert Spores and met Don Schmidt, the owner. His store sells mushroom spores and related growing medium and equipment. The spores sold here include several that will produce premium edible varieties of mushrooms, as well as allow microscopic imaging for spore classification. While none of the spores themselves contain psilocybin or psilocin, the end user is liable for local laws governing the growing of certain types of mushrooms.



Don Schmidt, pictured here in his shop, is the owner of High Desert Spores in Beaumont Village. Photo by John Sandie.

Originally from California, Don and his wife landed in Bend to expand their business interests — hence the name High Desert Spores. Finding a suitable rental property there that would accept their two dogs proved challenging, prompting a move to the Portland area about six years ago. A Milwaukie location had been their business base until they moved to the NE 50th site in early 2023.

The Beaumont-Wilshire location allowed more room for the business's expanding production needs, as well as offering room for a walk-in retail space that often acts as an ad hoc classroom in mushroom growing science — as it did for me during my visit.

As Don walked me through the products on the display shelves, I learned about the different wood-based substrates or "homes" as well as the varying types of grains or "food" to support mushroom spore growth.

Also available are accessories for handling and cultivating custom mushroom-growing processes. As Don guided me through the production area, I was impressed with the amount of steam-sterilization equipment, semi-automated packaging, and the controlled environment employed during storing of the products.

The process of creating a "farm in a bag" via syringe injection of the spores into a prepackaged environment with proper mixes of substrates and grains makes for an easy method to enjoy the initial "fruiting" or growth of the mushrooms.

Obviously, besides the culinary aspect of mushrooms, there are also the cited medicinal impacts. Customers range from Oregon garden shops to individuals across the country.

High Desert Spores is located at 3605 NE 50th Ave. For more info visit highdesertspores.com.

# IMPROVE ENVIRONMENT, SAVE MONEY

# BY GOING ELECTRIC

by Will Musser, ElectrifyPDX Volunteer Advocate

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), signed into federal law in 2022, has many financial incentives for home improvements that mitigate climate change, save money, and improve health. One of the strongest themes within the IRA is that of electrification.

Rewiring America is a national nonprofit founded in 2020 to help consumers electrify everything and it has published a plethora of online resources to do so. Its online infographic provides an overview for both the "why" and "how" to electrify everything, and its online Savings Calculator helps households calculate the financial incentives, such as federal tax credits and rebates, stemming from the IRA for home improvements and appliance upgrades. The tax credits went into effect immediately when the IRA was signed into law, and the rebates are in the process of being finalized and implemented by state energy offices in accordance with guidance from the federal Department of Energy. The Oregon Department of Energy estimates these rebates will become available mid-2024 for Oregonians, in line with many other states.

To help consumers learn more about electrifying their households, Rewiring America is rolling out a revamped consumer website that covers topics like electrifying our kitchens, our cars, our clothes dryers, our water heaters, our home living spaces, our electrical supply, and upgrading electrical panels. Electrify Now and ElectrifyPDX are local organizations founded to promote electrification as well.

Where to Electrify Everything in your Home

9. Rooftop Solar PV Panels

1. Purchase Renewable Energy

1. Purchase Renewable Energy

2. Electric Clothes Dryer

3. Heat Pump Space Heating and Cooling

5. Electric Cooking

Through ElectrifyPDX, households register online to receive a yard sign that showcases milestone badges for electrification progress, as well as contractor recommendations. Electrify Now hosts online webinars about electrification topics and posts them to its YouTube channel

Alameda residents Will Musser and Jenny McClister started hosting Electrification Open Houses at their home in August 2022 so community members could experience electrification technologies for themselves. While serving as a homesite for the 2022 Go Zero Tour of Solar Oregon, Will learned about ElectrifyPDX from one of the attendees and has since become involved with it to advocate for electrification in and around Portland. He is beginning to conduct outreach on the benefits of and incentives for electrification with neighborhood associations and is available for in-person or virtual presentations. His next Electrification Open House is scheduled for January 20. To register for this free event, visit tinyurl.com/5daj8mmx.

Editor's Note: In other electrification news, on January 18 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Prince Coffee on Fremont, ElectrifyPDX will present at an event hosted by sponsor Elizabeth Nathan, a realtor with Urban Nest. See Upcoming Events on page 4 and the ad on page 20 for more info.

### **RELATED LINKS**

Rewiring America: rewiringamerica.org

Rewiring America Infographic: rewiring-america.netlify.app

**Rewiring America Savings Calculator:** rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator

### Rebates Info:

oregonlive.com/environment/2023/08/oregonians-wont-seeclean-energy-rebates-until-mid-2024.html

Rewiring America Revamped Consumer Website: rewiringamerica.org/consumer/my-home

Electrify Now: electrifynow.net

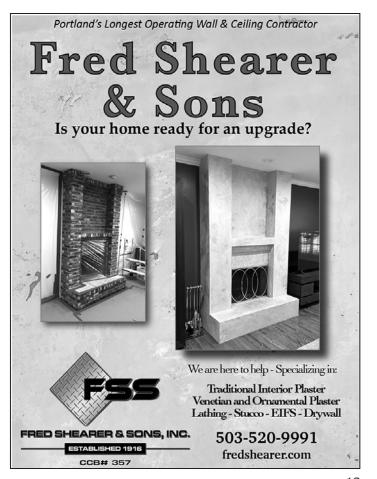
ElectrifyPDX: electrifypdx.org

Electrify Now/YouTube:

youtube.com/channel/UCqdWmkLFPxl0Kz6\_KqPt7MQ

Go Zero Tour of Oregon 2022:

sites.google.com/solaroregon.org/go-zero-tour-2022/ sites/musser-residence-portland



# A SPOT FOR SPIRITS OPENS IN BEAUMONT VILLAGE

by Susan Trabucco



An opportunity to open a liquor store in Beaumont Village spurred owner Dawson Marchant, pictured here, to do just that. Liquor Garden opened its doors on Fremont in November. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

ooking for a destination closer to home to purchase your favorite spirits? If so, make your way to Liquor Garden, which opened in Beaumont Village on NE Fremont in early November. Here, find neat rows of the usual variety of alcoholic beverages in a squeaky-clean, light-filled space.

The shop, which also sells a selection of finer wines and beers is, like all liquor stores in the state, regulated by the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC). Prices are set by the commission and stores must purchase their stock from the state.

Owner Dawson Marchant is no stranger to the community. He currently lives in Cully close to where that neighborhood converges with both Beaumont-Wilshire and Concordia. Marchant purchased his home in 2020, but he's lived in NE Portland for about 18 years. In his youth, he regularly visited an aunt and uncle who lived nearby.

"This neighborhood is comfortable to me," Marchant said. "I've been coming here for a long time to visit and to enjoy Fremont restaurants."

When he made the decision to open a liquor store, it was the OLCC that dictated the specifics of the spot, as they require a certain distance between competing stores. "They told me it had to be between NE 42nd and NE 57th, and it had to be on Fremont."

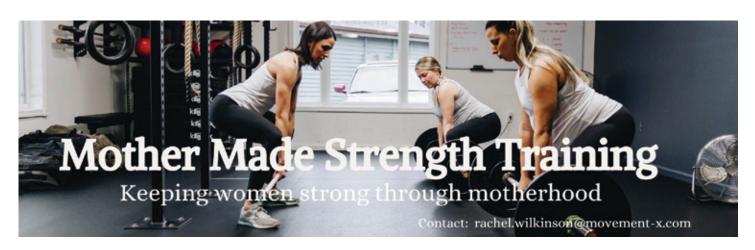
As serendipity would have it, Marchant found the spot for the Liquor Garden that fit the bill.

"When a couple of tenants moved out, it opened the space for my business," Marchant said.

Marchant hopes to have a vibe that's a little different from most liquor stores. He's working on a wine tasting area in the back of the shop and plays recorded music in the store. Mostly, Marchant wants people to feel welcome, as he was made to feel when he was working on getting the business open and since it opened.

"I really want to thank people in the neighborhood," he said. "Folks have come in and they've been so supportive. I've been very well received, and I appreciate it."

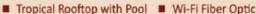
Liquor Garden is located at 4741 NE Fremont. Hours are Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. For more info visit LiquorGardenPDX.com or call (503) 206-5968.



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# URBAN FORESTRY VOLUNTEERS SPRUCE UP

# B-W, NEED RECRUITS

by Chris Rauber

Jeff King is the kind of guy you'd want to have in charge if your street trees were being pruned by a group of neighborhood volunteers

Calm, soft spoken, and knowledgeable, the 81-year-old retired energy policy expert has gone through training offered by Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and its Urban Forestry program.

He leads his team of seven volunteers – each fall in Beaumont-Wilshire and each spring in the nearby Alameda neighborhood – in identifying appropriate street trees for pruning and shaping.

The goal is to do "structural pruning" that helps young trees achieve an ideal shape by removing competing "leaders" or main trunks, crossing branches, dead wood, and suckers, and providing proper street and sidewalk clearance, King explains.

Such specimens are typically at least three years old and need to have a trunk diameter of 6 inches or less at breast height to meet City of Portland requirements for the program. Bigger trees require permits filed by homeowners, who can do the work themselves or hire a professional tree service.

The pruning service offered by the Urban Forestry volunteers is free, although a permit is required.

Each campaign – spring or fall – starts with reconnaissance by King and his team to locate likely pruning candidates. Once identified, the team gets a signed permission form from the homeowner or leaves a door hanger explaining how to sign up with PP&R for a free permit.

This fall's campaign in B-W included trimming about 27 trees. The team spent about eight hours on actual pruning, completing roughly three trees per hour. The team hopes to hold a meeting in January to plan for the future, attract new volunteers, and discuss possible moves into related activities, like organizing neighborhood tree walks or helping water street trees during hot Portland summers.

Limiting the group's growth, King said, is that he's currently the only team member who's gone through the city's training program, although other members "know the basics of good pruning."

If the Alameda/B-W program is going to expand, he needs backup.

Prospective volunteers should contact Jeff King at JKingeca@gmail.com, or get more info from PP&R via UFvolunteers@portlandoregon.gov.



SOLUTION FOR CRYPTOGRAM QUOTE ON PAGE 19: WHAT THE NEW YEAR BRINGS TO YOU WILL DEPEND A GREAT DEAL ON WHAT YOU BRING TO THE NEW YEAR.

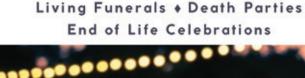


Beaumont-Wilshire and Alameda Urban Forestry volunteers from left to right: Jeff King, Roger Wolfe, Melinda Moeur, Mary Jaron Kelley. Not pictured: Frances Moore. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

Chris Rauber and his wife, Kim Williams, moved to Portland and B-W in the summer of 2022 after many years in the San Francisco Bay Area. He worked as a journalist at the S.F. Business Times and other publications. He was born in Oregon..



Chris Rauber





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# SECOND VALLEY EVENTS

Julie Bernstein, BW resident www.secondvalleyevents.com secondvalleyevents@gmail.com (503) 956-8868

# **PERSPECTIVES**

compiled by Polly Webber

It's a new year, and as the page turns on our paper or digital calendars, our thoughts often turn to what lies ahead. For this edition of Perspectives, we asked neighbors:

# "What are you looking forward to in 2024?"



"In 2024, I eagerly anticipate acquiring new skills, exploring unfamiliar destinations, embracing novel experiences, and cherishing moments with family and friends. I am especially excited for conquering the slopes of Mt. Hood snowboarding, followed by the joys of summer — camping, kayaking, and fishing in the warm embrace of seasonal weather." (*Jake*, 2 years in B-W)



"In 2024, I'm looking forward to lots of neighborhood walks, endless tacos and drinks at Tacovore, and plenty of time on Mt. Hood either snowboarding or hiking. I look forward to all the new experiences, joy, and lessons the new year will bring." (**Samantha**, 14 years in B-W)



"I'm looking forward to traveling and spending time with family and friends in the new year. With two kids in college on the east coast and one in high school, it is always great when we can gather to spend time together. Happy New Year!" (*Erika, 12 years in B-W*)



"For 2024 my hopes are to have the Ducks in the national championship, a monster spring salmon run for fishing, and big snow for skiing. Peace, family, and friends." (*Aaron, 12* years in *B-W*)



"I am looking forward to playing more soccer in the new year. But most especially, turning 16 this coming year and getting my driver's license." (Oscar, 12 years in B-W)

Polly Webber is a realtor and mom of two teenage girls. Born and raised in the neighborhood, she purchased and lives in the B-W home next door to her childhood home. Reach her by emailing polly.webber@cascadehassonsir.com.



Let us know if you'd like to be interviewed for Perspectives! Email PWebber5678@gmail.com.

Polly Webber



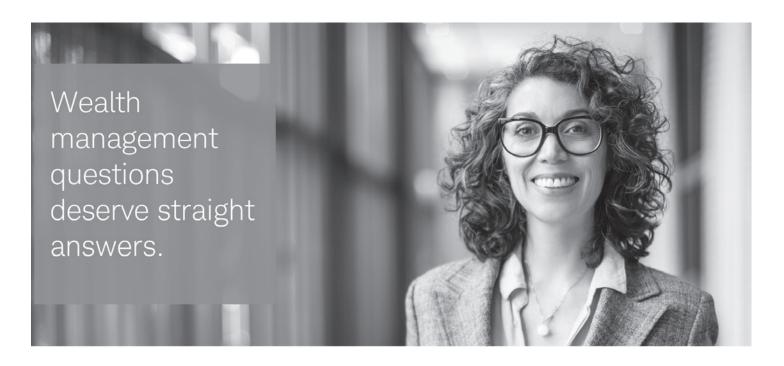
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# STIRRING THE POT

by Mark Cockcroft

his potage is a super silky and velvety bowl. The veggies and legumes combine for an ultra-luxe experience without the use of cream, and the browned butter adds richness while the pumpkin seeds provide a nice touch of textural contrast. I served my bowl with some store-bought spanakopita for a hearty meal.

### Curried Cream of Winter Squash, Cauliflower, and White Bean Soup w/Garam Masala Browned Butter & Toasted Pumpkin Seeds Serves 4 to 6

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp fresh ginger, grated
- 1½ Tbsp curry powder
- 1 Tbsp tomato paste
- 1 Tbsp white miso paste
- 1 lb winter squash, peeled, seeded and cubed (about 2½ c)
- 1 lb cauliflower florets (from one small to medium head)
- 4 c low-sodium vegetable or or chicken broth, plus more as needed

- 1 can (15 oz.) white beans, undrained (cannelli or navy beans work well, too)
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 4 Tbsp salted butter
- 1 tsp garam masala
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> c roasted pumpkin seeds, pine nuts, or slivered almonds

Fine sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Place a large pot over medium-low heat and add the oil. Add the onion and a good pinch of salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion has softened. Add the garlic and ginger and cook for another

minute. Add the tomato and miso pastes and cook for another minute or two. Add the squash, cauliflower, broth, and beans with their liquid. Stir to combine and raise the heat to bring just to a boil. Partially cover and lower heat to maintain a simmer. Cook for 25 to 30 minutes until everything is tender and the veggies are starting to fall apart.

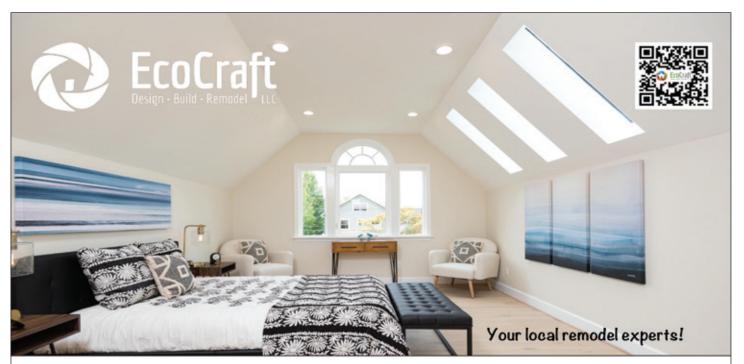
Use an immersion blender to puree
the soup directly in the pot. You can also
do this in batches in a blender, but first allow the
soup to cool a bit, remove center cap from blender lid, and cover with
a towel to allow steam to escape and prevent splatters. Add lemon juice
and taste the soup, adding salt and pepper to taste. You can also add a bit
more broth if the consistency is too thick for your liking. Keep warm.

Place a small sauté pan over medium heat and add the butter. It will foam while the water in the butter boils off. Watch the pan closely as it will quickly start to turn brown. Just as it turns brown add the garam masala and the pumpkin seeds (pine nuts or slivered almonds), stir to combine and remove from the heat to allow the residual heat to finish the cooking for a few minutes. Ladle the soup into bowls and serve with a spoonful of the seeds and a drizzle of the butter.

Mark Cockcroft has been a B-W resident since 2008, sharing home and life with wife Bonny Cushman and daughter Hazel. In addition to always thinking about his next meal, Mark loves to play his guitar and to spend time at Wilshire Park with the family dog, Cashew.



Mark Cockcroft



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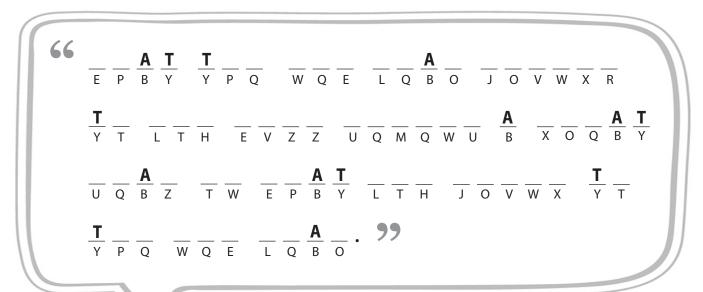
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# **CRYPTOGRAM QUOTE**

A cryptogram is a type of puzzle that has been encypted with a secret alphabet. To solve the cryptogram, replace one letter for another in each of the encrypted words. We've given you two clues to get started: B = A and Y = T. Now it's up to you to figure out the remaining letters.

Source: Vern McLellan



(Solution on page 15)



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