

BWNA

Newsletter of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association



March-April 2026

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THAI ASIAN-FUSION OPENS ON FREMONT *page 11*

Kate (left) and Kiki are the proud owners of Proud Thai, a new restaurant on NE Fremont. Photo by John Sandie.



Sameer Kanal

District 2 City Councilor

Will be at BWNA's next board meeting.

Join us!

March 9 @ 7 p.m.

at Sylvan Learning
4300 NE Fremont St., #150





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

by Al Ellis, BWNA Board President

"Some friends have expressed concern about how safe I am in Portland after what they hear from certain sources. Our city has problems, but it is not a 'hellscape.' It is not burning and never was ... It is shocking to be threatened with military force when there is no need ... Throughout Portland, neighbors plant gardens, form book groups, enjoy our beautiful outdoors, drink gallons of coffee and locally brewed beers, and look out for each other. Our communities are strong."

This quote was excerpted from an annual holiday letter written by a longtime college friend who lives nearby. The relevance and resonance of her message extend into spring.

Reality check: Ukraine is a war zone; Beaumont-Wilshire is not. Nor is the rest of our city with its 90-plus neighborhood associations building community, not bomb shelters.

Of particular relevance to BWNA is the last sentence of my friend's message: "Our communities are strong." So, what exactly does a neighborhood association do that contributes to a strong community? BWNA is guided by four purposes in its bylaws:

Serve as a conduit for intra-neighborhood communication

This newsletter is BWNA's most extensive communication vehicle, reaching over 2,700 B-W households and businesses, but it's an every-other-month publication. We also provide more timely information about events and current issues via our monthly community update emailed to nearly 600 residents. To receive these updates, subscribe via the BWNA website (BWNApdx.org/Subscribe).

Facilitate civic participation on the local level

A good place to start is our website's "Get Involved" page, which provides a host of volunteer opportunities, from serving on a committee to lending a hand on a project or event.

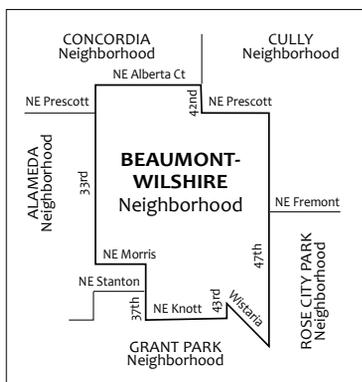
Provide an open forum for residents to be heard on neighborhood issues

There are opportunities for sharing your concerns at monthly meetings or by submitting an opinion piece for the newsletter on a topic of relevance to the neighborhood. Guest speakers, including local police officers, candidates, and elected officials, are featured periodically.

Undertake various projects for the good of the neighborhood

- Recent projects include
- Pedestrian Safety Flags
- Annual All-Neighborhood Block Party
- Public Plaza Initiative
- Art & Garden Tour
- Neighborhood Cleanup Events
- New Neighbor Welcoming Project

Especially in these challenging times, a community's strength is inextricably linked to resident participation. Be involved.



NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION

NE 33rd to NE 47th Ave and NE Prescott/Alberta Court to NE Stanton/Wisteria Drive.

2,700 copies printed and hand-delivered six times per year: Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., & Nov.

Readership estimated at 6,000.

The BWNA newsletter is produced and distributed in its entirety by volunteers!

OUR ORGANIZATION

BWNA Board

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Al Ellis (503) 287-0477
President@BWNApdx.org

Vice-President

Tim Gillespie gillespi@teleport.com

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Patti Koehler (971) 678-0824

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Treasurer@BWNApdx.org

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Tom Cuppernull	Colin O'Neill
Angela Frome	Tim Root
Crystal Grainger	John Sandie
David Knowles	Susan Trabucco

Immediate Past President

Patty Nelson (503) 281-8035

Related Organizations

Beaumont Business Association

beaumontbusinesses@gmail.com
Mary Myers, President
bbboardpresident@gmail.com

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods Board Liaison: Patty Nelson

Areas of Interest

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

Communication

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Bill Markwart, co-chair (503) 282-4610
Patty Nelson, co-chair (503) 281-8035

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NEWS BITS

FROM B-W
&
BEYOND

The Results are IN for Fremont Garage Food Cart Pod Survey

Did you vote for your cuisine preferences in the recent food cart survey? If you did, you weren't alone: The Fremont Garage developer, Daniel Silvey, reported that a whopping 585 people responded to the survey. As it was promoted only in BWNA's newsletter and in the January

emailed community update, that says people do indeed read this newsletter and the BWNA updates. And, of course, that our community members are super interested in food!

Ten food categories made the list. Here's how they stacked up based on percent of respondents:

- Mexican & Mediterranean (70%)
- Indian (56%) ▪ BBQ & American Comfort Food (40%)
- Japanese, Chinese & Thai (35%)
- Vegan/Vegetarian (31%) ▪ Italian (25%)

Silvey expressed appreciation for all of the helpful input and hopes he can deliver on what voters are hoping to find at the food cart pod, slated to open sometime in May.

"For sure, we'll be looking to find the best vendor matches for what the community is seeking," Silvey said.

Support Alameda Elementary School!

Are you able to give time, donate, or be a sponsor for Alameda Elementary School Foundation's annual Auction & Gala? The Saturday, April 25, event needs your help now to make it a success!

This is one of our local public elementary school's most important fundraisers; proceeds directly support classroom enrichment, student programs, teacher support, and initiatives that help ensure every Alameda student has what they need to succeed.

With Portland Public Schools facing a \$50 million dollar budget deficit for the upcoming school year, these efforts are more important than ever. To volunteer, email Stephanie at admin@friendsofalameda.com. To donate, sponsor, or contribute in another way, contact friendsofalameda@alamedaschool.org. For more information about the Auction & Gala, visit alamedaelementary.com/alameda-gala-auction-2026.

B-W Book Club Idea Takes Flight

When B-W residents Bev Yashar and Karen Kun submitted information to this newsletter's editor with the aim of running their idea of a neighborhood-centric book club up the proverbial flagpole, they didn't know how much interest they'd see from a News Bit in

the January-February edition. The answer, it turns out, is a lot. Sign-ups were at 45 people at the close date of the survey initiated by the duo.

"Karen and I are excited to have so many people interested in being part of a book club in our community," Bev said in an email to those who filled out the survey questions.

"We have a group with diverse reading interests," she added, "but a shared hope of building community."

Their task now is to organize folks into interest areas and establish preliminary meeting times and places. Kudos to Bev and Karen for working to bring people in our neighborhood together!

New Speed Displays in Beaumont Village

New digital speed displays were recently installed on NE Fremont Street near the west and east entries to Beaumont Village. These signs provide real-time feedback to drivers entering the commercial zone, making the area safer and more walkable for everyone.

Data from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) and traffic-safety studies show that these displays have an immediate impact. Most drivers slow down by 4 mph, while the fastest drivers typically reduce their speed by 7 mph. That sounds like a small shift, but it significantly improves safety for pedestrians. Even a 2 mph reduction in speed cuts the pedestrian fatality risk by 22%. Slower speeds also improve a driver's field of vision, making it easier to spot pedestrians crossing or cyclists merging onto streets.

Thanks to PBOT for their continued efforts to help make our neighborhood safer for everyone.



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PUBLIC STREET PLAZA UPDATE

by Aaron Breakstone, BWNA Board Member

In November 2025, BWNA and the Beaumont Business Association (BBA) partnered to respond to an open call from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) for neighborhood groups interested in participating in the city's Public Street Plaza Program. The stated aim of these public plazas is to create "community-oriented public spaces where business and the neighborhood come together."

While applications were being reviewed, the joint BBA/BWNA team conducted initial research on possible locations and identified NE 44th Avenue at Fremont as the most promising option. At the end of January, PBOT notified the team that its application was one of four selected to advance for further consideration in Round 2. At our press deadline, an outreach effort to gauge neighborhood sentiment was underway. Submittal of the final proposal to PBOT was due by March 1.

If neighbors and nearby businesses are supportive of moving forward and the BBA/BWNA proposal is approved by PBOT, a plaza planning phase would occur over several months this spring. This

planning effort, along with later plaza programming and oversight, would be undertaken by a committee made up of BBA and BWNA board members and other interested residents and local business representatives. The plaza would operate on a trial basis during the summer months of 2026, followed by an evaluation by PBOT that would be the basis for any discussions around potential continuation.

A summary of outreach findings and information on next steps will be shared in an upcoming community update that will be emailed to subscribers. If you'd like to receive this information and haven't yet signed up, visit BWNApdx.org/Subscribe.

Aaron has lived in Beaumont-Wilshire for 15 years. He and his wife, 12-year-old son, and 4-year-old dog spend lots of time roaming the neighborhood and love having so many destinations within walking distance from their front door.



Aaron Breakstone



Run for a seat on the BWNA Board!

Annual board elections are
April 13 at 7 p.m. (Monday)

Email President@BWNApdx.org to inquire.

BWNA BOARD & GENERAL MEETINGS

Mon, Mar. 9 @ 7 p.m.: Board meeting
Mon, Apr. 13 @ 7 p.m.: General meeting

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Events

Tues., Mar. 3 @ 7 p.m.
Tues., Apr. 7 @ 7 p.m.

For meeting location, contact committee chair John Sandie via SandieFam@gmail.com

Communication

Wed., Mar. 18 @ 4:30 p.m.
Tues., Apr. 21 @ 4:30 p.m.

For meeting location, contact committee chair Michelle Rudd via pdx.stmptwn@gmail.com

Newsletter Team

Meets every other month.

For details email Susan Trabucco via Editor@BWNApdx

ARTICLES & ADS

Articles

We invite you to write for the newsletter or submit an opinion piece or letter to the editor or board.
Email Editor@BWNApdx.org

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 publishing date. Submit articles to Editor@BWNApdx.org

Advertising

Ads are accepted as space allows. For ad rates and instructions, visit BWNApdx.org/Ad-rates

Climate Action Night

Hosted by Grant High School's
Climate Action Team (CAT)

WHO?

- Electrify PDX
- Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF)
- Guest & CAT speakers

WHAT?

- Tech, games, and hands-on activities
- Free food & admission
- Learn more below

WHEN?

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

WHERE?

Grant High School
Library and Upper Commons

This event is open to everyone, with free admission, food, and real talk from Portland's climate leaders and CAT members.

Find out how to take action for our Earth.

Learn about what our program is doing for the environment, our four challenges, and the climate crisis.

Learn more and RSVP
at cateam.me/CAT-Website



SAVE THE DATE!
SAT., JULY 11
 9 AM – 3 PM

**NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE
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A Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association Event

No Fees! More Details in the May-June Newsletter!



Save the Date!
 Sat., July 18 • 11 AM - 4 PM

**2026
 ART & GARDEN
 TOUR**

A Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Assoc. Event

- 5 Gardens
- Art Displays/Sales
- All in the Neighborhood
- All for a Good Cause!

Look for details in the May-June BWNA newsletter!

UPCOMING



EVENTS

March 7 (Saturday) 1 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Nogginfest Brain Fair 2026

Location: Leaven Community Center, 5431 NE 20th Ave.
 Organizers say this is the largest student-run, accessible, FREE, all-ages, public celebration of music, art, brain research, and interdisciplinary neuroscience in the Pacific Northwest! Find art and science booths, hold a real brain, talk to a scientist, and enjoy live music at this community event.

Northwest Noggin is a robust, creative, entirely volunteer-driven non-profit organization that brings together scientists, artists, and students of all ages to contribute their expertise, listen and learn from others, enthuse young people about science and art, share area educational resources, and inform and excite the public about ongoing, taxpayer-supported neuroscience research. For more information visit nwnoggin.org.

March 16 (Monday) 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Intro to Northeast Village PDX

Location: Rose City Park United Methodist Church, Conference Room (in office building)
 5830 NE Alameda St.

Northeast Village, a program of the Northeast Community Center, is a vibrant and engaging community of older adults (60+) living in 18 neighborhoods in Northeast Portland. This presentation will explain how you or someone you love can become a member. The Village creates connections, shares skills and expertise, and provides services to members such as rides, help with yard work, tech support, and social visits, along with social activities such as coffee gatherings, book groups, and arts and craft groups. For more info call (503) 895-2750 or email info@nevillagepdx.org.

March 18 (Wednesday) 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Climate Action Night

Location: Grant High School Library and Upper Commons
 This free event, hosted by Grant High School's Climate Action Team (CAT), is open to everyone, with free admission, food, and talks by Portland's climate leaders and CAT members. Find out how to take action for our Earth. See announcement on page 5 for more information.

March 28 (Saturday) 10 a.m. – Noon

Book & Puzzle Exchange – NE Village PDX

Location: Rose City Park United Methodist Church, Parlor (in church basement), 5830 NE Alameda St.

This event is open to the public. Bring any books and puzzles (in good condition) to donate and swap them for new ones. Any unclaimed book will be donated to the Friends of Multnomah County Library.

April 4 (Saturday) 10 a.m. Don't be late; it's over quickly!

Concordia Neighborhood Association's Annual Egg Hunt

Location: Fernhill Park (near playground)

Come join the neighborhood fun at CNA's annual Egg Hunt! Bring your little ones for a rousing outdoor event. Volunteers are needed to stuff eggs on March 28 and to set up on April 4. To help out, sign up at tinyurl.com/yn645sxh.

Got Events? Email Editor@BWNApdx.org

LIZ ERICKSON

compiled by Polly Webber, BWNA Newsletter Team



Liz Erickson

BWNA values its many neighborhood volunteers, including board and committee members and those who can help only occasionally. In this edition, we'd like to introduce you to Liz Erickson, volunteer writer for BWNA's newsletter team.

How long have you lived in the neighborhood, and what motivated you to start volunteering for the BWNA newsletter?

We moved to the neighborhood in spring 2009. I worked part-time, so was able to stay home with our 2 year old. I saw a call for newsletter deliverers in a BWNA newsletter and was compelled to reach out. I had time to offer and was out and about in the neighborhood daily with my toddler, so why not deliver newsletters at the same time? Later, while biking or jogging around and after completing Metro's Master Recycler program, I noticed garbage and recycling carts set out, and I'd think, "The truck can't service those carts set so close together," or "Those garden hoses shouldn't be in the recycling cart," and "I ought to write something for the newsletter." It turns out, Al Ellis, BWNA newsletter editor at the time, was open to the idea of me writing articles on sustainability and recycling.

Of the articles you've written, which is your favorite?

In the September-October 2021 newsletter, I wrote about Ridwell, a subscription recycling service, when it got started in Portland. I'm still often asked questions about it, such as how it works and my opinion of the service.

What would you tell others who are considering volunteering?

Why wait? What's great about volunteering for the neighborhood — whether it's serving on the board, joining a committee, helping with a project, or writing for the newsletter — any time and effort you contribute is appreciated. I've met wonderful fellow volunteers who are also my neighbors. I like learning more about where I live — the people, the history, the places, the stories. Engagement at the local level is an action most people can take that improves our quality of life and enriches our sense of community

Polly Webber is a real estate agent with Cascade Hasson Sotheby's. Born and raised in Beaumont-Wilshire, she lives in the home her grandparents once owned, next door to the house she grew up in — where her mother still lives — making her a lifelong member of our close-knit community.



Polly Webber



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OUR NEIGHBORHOOD: IMPROVING ON PERFECTION?

by Chris Rauber, BWNA Newsletter Team



Beaumont-Wilshire neighbor Robin Shallcross expressed a wish for a forum that would include all three of Portland's District 2 elected officials. Photo by Chris Rauber.

No place or neighborhood is perfect, but Beaumont-Wilshire ain't bad, no matter how you look at it.

Crime is low, property values relatively high. Local schools are good — and getting better. Most residents seem pretty content with their lives and immediate surroundings, even as the broader world's problems become more intrusive.

But neighbors I talked with agreed there are things that need fixing. Parking issues remain a concern to many. While BWNA's Flags on Fremont program, which was extended to a few spots on NE 33rd Avenue, does help, there's fear that too many drivers continue to treat Fremont, 33rd, and 42nd as thoroughfares, not neighborhood streets lined with homes, small businesses, and schools, and also serving children, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Speeding, Inattentive Drivers Biggest Threat

Although too many pedestrians dart between parked cars or cross busy streets in the middle of the block, especially in the Beaumont Village area, speeding cars and inattentive drivers are viewed by some as the biggest danger.

"When larger vehicles are parked close to intersections, it's impossible to see around them to safely make a turn or cross the intersection," says longtime B-W resident Raelene Eckert. "Signage restricting parking in such areas would be a great improvement," she added, "as would flashing pedestrian crosswalks in busy areas like Beaumont Village."

“ When larger vehicles are parked close to intersections, it's impossible to see around them to safely make a turn or cross the street. ”

Several neighbors asked us to highlight these continuing dangers and concerns; some suggested specifically that the BWNA Board ask officials from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to attend a board meeting or other B-W gathering to discuss the traffic situation. BWNA has requested such attention from PBOT, in fact, only to be told B-W is a low priority, because other areas are more dangerous.

Neighbors Wonder About PBOT's Priorities

What are PBOT's priorities when it comes to pedestrian safety, bike lanes, street lighting, new ADA-inspired sidewalk ramps, and other safety-related issues, they wonder? How are the budget decisions made that affect B-W? Why does the city seem to view our streets as safe enough, when many of those who live here disagree?

Challenges at Beaumont Market, Concerns About "Cluster" Housing

An additional concern, which the neighborhood association is already helping to tackle, is the can and bottle collection-related problem near Beaumont Market, created by the requirement that small grocery stores serve as BottleDrop redemption centers.

And, while there's concern that some single-family homes are being replaced by "cluster" housing developments of various sizes and impacts, that issue falls squarely under new state zoning laws, and is outside the neighborhood association's purview.

A Desire to Hear from our Elected Officials

Other neighbors would like to get insights from our elected officials, particularly the three District 2 City Council members who represent B-W, along with 27

other Northeast Portland neighborhoods: Sameer Kanal, Dan Ryan, and Elana Pirtle-Guiney.

Robin Shallcross, a 33-year B-W resident, would love BWNA to sponsor a forum (possibly in conjunction with other nearby neighborhoods) with Kanal, Ryan, and Pirtle-Guiney to discuss issues of importance to residents, explain how they feel our newly revamped City Council is working, and how (if?) the three of them are working in tandem to tackle issues and concerns in B-W and elsewhere in District 2.

Still, Robin says she and husband Otto Schell have joked for years that "any changes to our neighborhood are 'improving upon perfection.'" Many neighborhoods, in Portland and beyond, would love to have our challenges.

Chris Rauber and his wife moved to Portland and B-W in mid-2022 after many years in the San Francisco Bay Area. He wrote for the San Francisco Business Times and other publications. He was born in Oregon.



Chris Rauber

Editor's Note: Neighbors are always welcome at BWNA board and general meetings to air their concerns. Alternatively, email President@BWNApdx.org to reach Board President Al Ellis

BWNA LAUNCHES COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

by Al Ellis, BWNA Board President

While you're likely familiar with the BWNA bi-monthly newsletter, have you visited the BWNA website lately (BWNApdx.org)? Do you subscribe to the monthly community updates sent via email? All of these communication efforts are made with the goal of keeping our neighborhood informed about the workings of the neighborhood association board, its committees, BWNA-sponsored events, and other news, features, and information of interest to our community.

While a committee to keep all those communication channels in concert with each other was active earlier, it's been on hiatus for a few years.

An ad hoc (temporary or as needed) committee formed last year to improve upon the website with the help of volunteer webmaster Matt Grainger. The BWNA Board recently conferred full-fledged standing committee status to the group. The committee's primary goal is to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of BWNA's communication with residents via its website, newsletter, and community updates.

The new Communication Committee is comprised of Matt, Jane Feinberg, who is representing the newsletter, volunteer techies Michelle Rudd and Steve Avery, and yours truly.

Committee meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m., sometimes via Zoom and sometimes in person. If you're interested in participating, contact Chair Michelle Rudd (pdx.stmptwn@gmail.com). And if you aren't already receiving our monthly community updates, visit BWNA.pdx.org and click Subscribe.

A native of the San Francisco Bay area, Al Ellis is a longtime BWNA board member and former editor of this newsletter. Al taught Russian and social studies in Portland schools for over 30 years and has also been active in the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association; he currently serves as vice president. He and his wife Peggy have been B-W residents since 1990.



Al Ellis



BE IN THE KNOW!

Visit the BWNApdx.org to register your email address and keep up to date on neighborhood news, meetings, and activities. Click "Subscribe" at the top of the website home page or use the QR code.



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A WILSHIRE PARK LOVE STORY

WITH COFFEE, CONCERTS, AND A VERY GOOD DOG

by David Friedman, BWNA Newsletter Team



B-W residents Damian Erskine and Sarah Clarke make music together. Their dog, Apollo, is part of the family. Photo by David Friedman.

When you sit down with Sarah Clarke and Damian Erskine, you quickly realize their life together is stitched not only into Beaumont-Wilshire’s sidewalks, trees, and morning routines, but also into rehearsal schedules, late-night gigs, and a shared devotion to making music for a living.

Sarah is a true hometown kid. “I’ve lived in this neighborhood my whole life, essentially,” she says. She went to elementary school at Alameda, middle school at Beaumont, and Grant High School, and still speaks about Wilshire Park with reverence. “I played softball there every weekend for my entire childhood,” she recalls, along with watching crocuses bloom each spring with her mom.

Damian arrived in Portland in 2004, building a national reputation as a bassist, composer, and educator, touring widely and

recording across genres. Sarah, a seasoned vocalist, songwriter, and band leader, has long been part of the city’s music scene, balancing performing with teaching and studio work. She currently fronts the band The Motet. Their paths overlapped for years before the pandemic unexpectedly deepened their connection.

With venues shuttered, they hauled a generator and sound system into Wilshire Park and staged pop-up concerts with the band Outer Orbit, a funk-soul collective led by Galen Clark. “We’d bring our generator and pass a hat around and play music for the community,” Sarah says, amazed by the turnout. “People brought blankets and chairs and just dotted themselves around us and were dancing. It is one of the most positive community experiences.” Damian adds, “That’s where Sarah and I really started connecting and becoming friends.”

Their daily rhythm now is cozy and precise. Damian sets up the coffee at night; Sarah wakes each morning and “blearily pushes the button.” There’s the dog park, a walk home, then dinner for the household — Sarah, Damian, her mom, her 14-year-old son, and Apollo the dog (“He loves his dad more than me ... huge point of contention,” Sarah jokes). Later comes tea, TV, and resetting the coffee maker for tomorrow.

Neighborhood favorites roll off easily: Bagel Land for morning carbs, The Arrangement for Christmas shopping, patio music at Amalfi’s, and dependable nearby takeout when rehearsals or shows run long.

And on the rare night off? “Our second-favorite spot in Portland is that couch,” Sarah laughs. Damian grins: “Life is so loud, so we just stay home and listen to the sound of our ears ringing.”

Check out Sarah and Damian’s websites at SarahClarkeMusic.com and DamianErskine.com.

David Friedman, @friedart, is a visual artist specializing in papercutting, printmaking, and painting. He and his dog, Poppi @poppipdx, can be seen daily at Wilshire Park. His work is on display at the Alberta Street Gallery, daily 11-7.



David Friedman

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LEGO
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For K-6th graders

PROUD IN MANY WAYS

by John Sandie, BWNA Newsletter Team



The newsletter editor enjoyed a sumptuous lunch at Proud on NE Fremont recently. Dishes clockwise from bowl at top of photo are yellow curry, crispy shrimp donuts, pork belly bao buns, and curry dumplings. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

Last summer I was to report on Thai Time, a new restaurant scheduled to launch in the space vacated by Bang Bang on NE Fremont. I waited in limbo, however, as it failed to open. Then voilà — in November last year, Proud Thai and Asian Fusion popped up in that space. So, I was able to finish my newsletter story, but about a different Thai restaurant.

Owners Ketnipa (Kate) Jirareunpanya and Sudarat (Kiki) Sukkho grew up in Thailand, becoming friends when they attended the same university in Bangkok. At the time, neither was focused on the food industry — Kate’s interests were in information technology and Kiki’s in business — but both their families had been involved with food-related businesses when they were growing up.

The two pursued separate paths after college, but they later reconnected in San Francisco. Their families’ roots in Thai food brought them together on a couple of opportunities, where Kate focused on the “front” of the restaurant (working with staff and customers) and Kiki focused on the kitchen.

In 2025, the two women made the entrepreneurial leap of faith, looking for opportunities in Oregon and Boise, Idaho. They visited the site on Fremont and were so impressed by the neighborhood vibe (they both now reside in NE Portland) they made the decision to move their team to Portland.

The duo emphasized their concept of “friends’ sphere” — all are family both at work and in life. Hence the team consists of Kate, Kiki, their partners, and a few others they had worked closely with in California, all contributing to the businesses’ success wherever needed. The Proud name reflects their feeling about their family roots and food flavors.

Kate and Kiki wouldn’t let me leave without a sample of their pad see ew and pork belly bao buns; needless to say, I will be back for more.

Find Proud Thai at 4727 NE Fremont St. Hours of operation are every day from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. You can view their creative menu and order for pickup or delivery at proudeatery.com.

John Sandie relocated from the Midwest with his wife Kathy to be closer to children and grandchildren in the area, landing on Fremont Street in B-W in early 2011. In retirement they pursue their desires to make a difference locally, John by volunteering with the neighborhood association, Kathy with Alameda School. The duo is contentedly busy volunteering and keeping up with grandchildren.



John Sandie

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The Poetry Corner

by Chris Rauber

Poetry often stays in its corner
meek and mild and shy

But sometimes it roars and thunders
as history rushes by.

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NEWS FROM THE

BBA

BEAUMONT BUSINESS
ASSOCIATION

LOCAL BUSINESSES
WORKING TO ENHANCE
OUR COMMUNITY

DREW WATKINS

BRINGS FINANCIAL FOCUS TO BBA BOARD

by Scarlett Heydt, BBA Board Member



Late last year the Beaumont Business Association (BBA) welcomed Drew Watkins as its new treasurer, bringing financial expertise and a strong community-centered perspective to the board. Drew focuses on charitable planning as a financial advisor with Edward Jones and enjoys coaching his son's soccer team in his off time.

Drew joined the BBA board late last year when Edward Jones rejoined the association; he's personally been active on Fremont Street since 2006.

Drew said his decision to step into the role was motivated by service and connection. "I wanted to help the community and my neighbors with a real sense of people supporting small businesses," he said.

As treasurer, Drew is focused on stewardship and long-term improvement. "I want to leave the treasury better than I found it," he said, "ultimately by avoiding pitfalls and being smart with our money." He added that the BBA has "a highly ethical board that really wishes to use funds in the most advantageous way for the community."

Drew is particularly excited to support financial planning for upcoming initiatives, including the joint proposal by the BBA and BWNA for a temporary public plaza on Fremont Street. (See related article on page 5.) The project, which the BBA board voted to apply for at its last meeting of 2025, is waiting for approval for a grant application through the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

"The plaza," said Mary Myers, BBA board president, "reflects the BBA's continued efforts to strengthen the neighborhood through thoughtful investment and community-focused events."

She added, "We're super excited to have Drew on board to help out with it."

CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET STATS FOR BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE

7 Homes for Sale	\$574,900 Median List Price	31 Median Days on Market
4 Homes Under Contract	\$1,229,500 High Price	\$439,900 Low Price

The statistics above provide an up-to-date snapshot of the listed inventory as of February 15, 2026. Median days on market is a good indicator of the average length of time the current inventory has been on the market. Compiled by Polly Webber.

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SON HIT BY CAR IS A CALL TO ACTION

by Michael MacKenzie, Contributor

OPINION: WHAT I THINK

On Labor Day 2025, my middle-school-aged son was struck by a vehicle while crossing at the ADA ramp on NE 47th and Fremont. He was using the infrastructure exactly as intended, but a legally parked car blocked the sightline between him and the driver. What should have been a safe, accessible crossing became a point of failure.

This traumatic experience highlighted “daylighting” gaps in our neighborhood that often go unnoticed. Daylighting is the practice of removing obstructions near intersections so pedestrians and drivers can clearly see one another. At 47th and Fremont, the presence of an ADA ramp implies a safe place to cross. However, current parking rules did not account for sightlines at this and many other ramps along the corridor, where vehicles are allowed to park so close that pedestrians remain invisible to drivers until they step into the roadway.

The conditions that contributed to this crash are built into the design of the Fremont corridor. The corridor between 40th and 50th avenues experiences predictable surges of pedestrian activity tied to a middle school and nearby businesses, yet it lacks consistent crossing infrastructure. Crosswalks along this corridor are too few and unevenly placed. For example, no striped crosswalk provides

access to the north side of the 47th Avenue block, where bike parking and student-frequented businesses draw regular pedestrian traffic. There are also no pedestrian-activated crossings anywhere along the corridor. As a result, high pedestrian activity mixes with drivers who often maintain higher speeds as they push through the neighborhood.

I initially shared these concerns with the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) in October, and there was no follow-up until late January, when the city communicated it had issued a work order to add sightlines near select curb ramps. (See related article on page 8.) While this step is welcome, improvements that could have been built into the street from the start are now being addressed slowly and incrementally.

Our infrastructure must match the reality of how we use our streets. Safe crossings require more than ramps; they require visibility, clear markings, and tools that allow pedestrians, especially children, to be seen and anticipated. We need a comprehensive review of parking setbacks, crossing consistency, and pedestrian-activated safety measures to ensure that “Safe Routes to School” and PBOT’s “Vision Zero” are realities, not just policy goals. We cannot afford to wait for the next collision to address these visible, preventable gaps.

Michael and his partner have lived in the neighborhood for 10 years. They have two sons; one attends Beaumont Middle School, and the other attends Grant High School.



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they are friendly, compassionate, and work together like a well-oiled machine. As a physical therapist myself, I appreciate their understanding of the whole body as it relates to dental issues. I also have brought my children as well as my elderly mom to the office. ”



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NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT CAROL TURNER

ADVOCATE, MOTHER, AND GOOD NEIGHBOR

by Jamie Gardner, BWNA Newsletter Team



Carol Turner and her husband David have called Beaumont-Wilshire home since 2002, but their Oregon roots stretch back to the 1970s. Over the decades, Carol has dedicated herself to serving her community, but if you ask her what matters most, her answer is immediate: “My most important job is being a mother,” she says, referring to her two adult children and five grandchildren.

Carol’s path into civic work began in the schools. When her kids were school age, she dove into education advocacy, focusing on school funding, which led to 12 years as an elected member of the Portland Public Schools Board. “Healthy public education is vital to our city,” she says. After that, she worked for Mayor Vera Katz as an education advocate for the City of Portland, then launched her own consulting business helping non-profits and government agencies build stronger boards and teams.

Carol is retired now but continues to follow her passion. She is the co-founder of Interfaith Alliance on Poverty and Shelter Now, organizations that focus on issues of poverty and houselessness in our region.

When I asked what she loves about Portland, she didn’t hesitate: “It’s a city where people really get involved.” Her advice for neighbors who want to make a difference? “These are challenging times nationally, but people can still make a difference locally. Get to know your city, county, and state representatives and speak with a moral voice.”

Carol loves Beaumont-Wilshire for its walkability to parks, schools, and quick trips to Pizzicato. She’s in two book clubs, and her newest passion is opera, where she now serves as secretary on the Portland Opera board.

Jamie Gardner is a Portland native and Windermere agent putting her UO journalism degree to use here – finally! She’s lived in Beaumont-Wilshire since 2020 with her husband and two dogs. When she’s not with clients or touring homes, Jamie loves to travel, tackle house projects, and enjoy the local food scene.

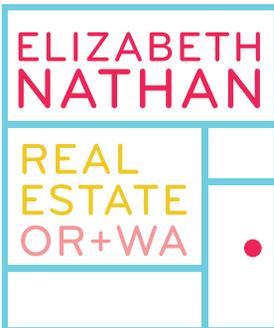


Jamie Gardner



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PAINTED HILLS MURAL IS THE REAL DEAL

by Michael Wright, aka, "Mike on a Bike," BWNA Newsletter Team



Artist Carla Deal in process on her commissioned Painted Hills mural in Beaumont-Wilshire. Submitted photo.

You don't have to drive 200 miles south and east to get a glimpse of one of Oregon's Seven Wonders if you live in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood. Just take a walk or a short bicycle ride to our easterly perimeter. At NE 47th Avenue near the corner of NE Shaver Street you will discover a scenic mural depicting the beautiful Painted Hills in the John Day Fossil Beds.

The mural, which stretches along a 50-foot fence, is the artwork of Portland artist/designer Carla Deal. This is not Carla's first rodeo painting large-scale artwork. You can also see her work on the wall of McPeet's Pub on NE Fremont Street.

Carla was commissioned to create this expansive mural by the homeowner, an environmental scientist who spends a lot of time in Central Oregon. I first discovered this beauty on a ride two years ago and believe it is one of the finest in our neighborhood.

Carla is what I would describe as a free spirit sort of artist. She gets a vision in her mind's eye and then creates the art "freestyle," much like a skier carving through powder down the slopes of Mount Hood. She prefers to use her brush strokes liberally, changing course

as she creates, sometimes incorporating thoughts and suggestions from passersby who often stop to watch her as she paints.

She told me that one very rewarding aspect of painting publicly in busy neighborhoods is the interaction she gets from those who stop to discuss her projects.

If you would like to see some more of Carla's artwork, current works are always on display at Little River Cafe on the banks of the Willamette River just north of Poet's Beach or check out her work at carladeal.com.

She's the real deal!

Alameda resident Michael Wright is a rewired (not a typo) sports agent who moved to PDX with his wife Sally in 2009 from New York City. Writing, cycling, and sports of all types are no longer side hustles, but full-time pursuits.



Michael Wright

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DON'T MURDER THE MURDER, CROWS ARE OUR FRIENDS

by Pamela Plimpton, BWNA Newsletter Team

The Mystery

“What has happened to the front lawn?” My husband pointed to a patch of grass about 3 feet in diameter. The grass’s roots were upended from the soil; there were small holes throughout at least an inch deep. The lawn looked as though it had been thatched and aerated. I couldn’t explain. A cat fight? A coyote’s tussle with its prey in the middle of the night?

No. It was crows. Not long after, I passed a house where two crows were busily tearing up the grass in the front yard. They were intent and efficient. They plunged their beaks into the turf and flipped the grass over, then pecked about in the soil.

The Reason

According to Google’s AI, crows tear up Portland lawns in the fall and winter searching for tasty grubs, especially the invasive European chafer larvae. Grubs can destroy a lawn by damaging grass roots. The crows flip the de-rooted turf to get to the protein-rich grubs. Crows are a common sight, especially in areas like Northeast Portland. These intelligent birds exploit a rich food source, sometimes causing significant turf damage. However, the crows are actually doing the lawn-owner a favor. They help by eating the grubs that would otherwise destroy the lawn entirely, so it’s a trade-off between a little mess and total turf loss.

Seasonal Behavior

The turf tugging is common in the fall and winter as crows gather in large roosts before spreading out to forage. Northeast Portland provides plentiful feeding grounds. In the spring and summer, the birds’ behavior shifts from gathering in large murders of crows to creating small, territorial family units.

Murder (by the way) is the collective noun for a group of crows. It’s not any more unusual than *pride* of lions, *shrewdness* of apes, *gaggle* of geese, *rafter* of turkeys, or a *parliament* of owls, all of which may be products of a medieval trend, seen in texts like “The Book of Saint Albans” (1486), to create colorful, whimsical collective nouns for animals. Scientists refer to a *flock* of crows, but popular culture and bird enthusiasts use *murder* because it’s more

fun. In folklore tradition, crows were seen as ominous, as linked to death. It was believed that they gathered to judge and punish wrongdoers within their own flocks, sometimes leading to the death of the accused crow.

Spring is when you will hear the loud, relentless cawing of crows as they court for mates, pair, and build nests. Be careful if you walk under a tree that houses nesting crows. The adults may dive-bomb invaders of their space. Conversely, once crows have established their territory, if you are a consistent presence, crows will recognize you and befriend you. Watch for little gifts — a shiny trinket or a gum wrapper left for you on the ground.

Summer is time for family life. Year-old offspring often stay to help feed and protect the new nestlings who loudly beg for food.

Once a fledgling leaves the nest, it may be earth-bound for one to two weeks.

This is normal! The fledgling hops about, learning to fly, with family nearby feeding and protecting it.

Keep pets away, don’t feed it, and if it seems healthy but in danger (like in the street), gently herd it to a safer spot nearby, letting parents find it.

Next winter, the fledged young adult will keep your lawn free of grubs.



Sources

To learn more about crows, consult “Gifts of the Crow” by Dr. John Marzluff and Dr. Kaeli Swift and Marzluff’s and Swift’s articles in journals like *Science* and *Current Biology*. These sources highlight crows’ sophisticated abilities, including tool use, memory, “theory of mind,” and cultural transmission, often comparing them to primates in cognitive complexity.

Pamela Plimpton, a B-W resident since 1980, retired as a professor of English in 2020. Her interests include reading, writing, gardening, and singing with a community chorale. She and her husband enjoy playing golf, working out at the NE Community Center, traveling, and grandparenting their granddaughter.



Pamela Plimpton

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100 YEARS AGO, THE FORESTS OF LARCH MOUNTAIN SERVED B-W

by Matthew Carter, Contributor

Have you ever thought about where the wood in your home came from? Much of the lumber for the first houses in our neighborhood came from local forests, harvested during the era of steam logging.

When the first houses started going up in Beaumont-Wilshire, logging equipment had transitioned from animal powered to steam powered. Railroads were used to transport the logs to the region's rivers for distribution by boat or directly to sawmills.

Portland companies like Willamette Iron and Steel Works and Smith & Watson Iron Works built steam logging equipment and locomotives. B-W residents would have been employed by those companies and at the sawmills along the river that processed the logs.

The steam era was fading as the B-W build-out neared completion; railcars were replaced by trucks and steam by diesel.

100 Years Ago on Larch Mountain

Looking east from B-W, Larch Mountain with its distinctive Sherrard Point stands out on the skyline. (Strangely, larch trees are rare on Larch Mountain, but the noble fir was referred to as larch by loggers in the 19th century). Today the national forest on Larch Mountain is silent, often only disturbed by mushroom

“ There were skid roads — roads along which logs were dragged — and steam donkeys. ”

hunters who wander the forest floor seeking their motionless prey. One hundred years ago, the sounds of steam engines filled the air. Bridal Veil Lumbering Company began operations in the 19th century using water and animal power, ending with steam.

The company town of Palmer, on the slopes of Larch Mountain, had been established along Bridal Veil Creek. It had a post office, school, and 30 to 35 families living there full time to operate the sawmill.

“Peggy” Worked the Rails, Steam Donkeys Worked the Skid Roads

The mill at Palmer was served by a railroad that delivered logs to the mill pond. A steam locomotive named “Peggy” worked the network of steel rails powered by locally sourced renewable energy: firewood. Logs were rough sawn at Palmer Mill, then sent by flume (think Disneyland's Splash Mountain) to a sawmill in the Larch Mountain town of Bridal Veil along the Columbia River for finishing, and then on to carpenters who were building houses in B-W.

There were skid roads — roads along which logs were dragged — and steam donkeys. A steam donkey was a winch that dragged logs to the railroad for transportation to the mill. It was powered by burning firewood to boil water, creating steam for locomotion. You can see a display of steam donkeys at Camp 18 on Hwy. 26 east of Seaside. The town of Palmer was abandoned prior to WW2 and burned down by the U.S. Forest Service just after the war. Some bricks, periwinkle, and daffodils are all that remain. The finishing mill at Bridal Veil continued by making wooden cheese boxes for Kraft Foods until 1960.

Pieces of the Past can be Found Today

As loggers moved on, bent rails or other damaged items were left where they were last used. Today, still visible on large stumps in the area, are springboard notches. These were cuts



The author with an abandoned steam donkey in the Siuslaw National Forest. Photo by Quentin Carter.

(continued on page 19)

made by loggers above a tree's base, allowing a logger to work higher up the tree. These stumps speak to a time before chainsaws when trees were cut by hand axe and a long hand saw called a misery whip.

Searching for mushrooms on Larch Mountain, one may encounter pulleys, gears, railroad rails, and other artifacts of industrial activity at these old sites. Many railroad grades are still there; a few are used as hiking trails. A keen eye may see a locomotive brake shoe discarded long ago.

A walk through this forest is a walk through time. You can imagine what an artifact might be, what it was used for, who was here, and what it was like 100 years ago.

If you visit, be sure you have the necessary skills for going off trail, and remember cell phone coverage is often not available in the forest. And from this magical place, please take only photos.

Matthew Carter has lived in Beaumont-Wilshire for 34 years. His family history here runs deep: His parents graduated from Grant High School, as did his children. Now retired, he's been a BWNA newsletter delivery person for over 30 years!



Matthew Carter



B-W canine Archie with a Larch Mountain relic. Photo by Matthew Carter.



At Larch Mountain, a 100-year-old railroad grade. Photo by Matthew Carter

AVOID A FINE, KNOW THE NEW GAS LEAF BLOWER RULES

compiled by Liz Erickson, BWNA Newsletter Team

January 1 this year was the starting date for the phase out of gas-powered leaf blowers in Portland. For this year and in 2027, they can be used from October through December — the wet leaf season. A full year-round ban will begin January 1, 2028.

Gas leaf blowers produce both noise and air pollution, negatively impacting the environment, community health, and especially people using them frequently, like landscapers. Phasing out this equipment improves public health and the environment — for the benefit of all.

Portland City Code Chapter 17.101, which addressed the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, was passed in March 2024 after years of citizen activism. The policy applies to all property owners in Portland. This means that a property owner cannot use gas leaf blowers and must ensure that any contractor or property manager they hire does not use them. Electric leaf blowers are permitted year-round, and all leaf blowers must comply with the city's noise code.



If you observe a gas-powered leaf blower being used during the ban period, complaints can be filed online at portland.gov/ppd/noise/noise-concerns. If it's someone you have a relationship with, like a neighbor or friend, please consider “nudging” them to look into the new ordinance before reporting them. Violations may result in fines ranging from \$250 to \$1,000.

For more information visit portland.gov/bps/climate-action/leaf-blowers.

Liz Erickson has lived in the neighborhood with her husband and two children since 2009. Growing up in Beaverton, she remembers visiting grandparents on NE 42nd and walking to Rose's Ice Cream for a scoop of butter brickle. She's a Master Recycler volunteer with Metro and served in the Peace Corps in Morocco.



Liz Erickson

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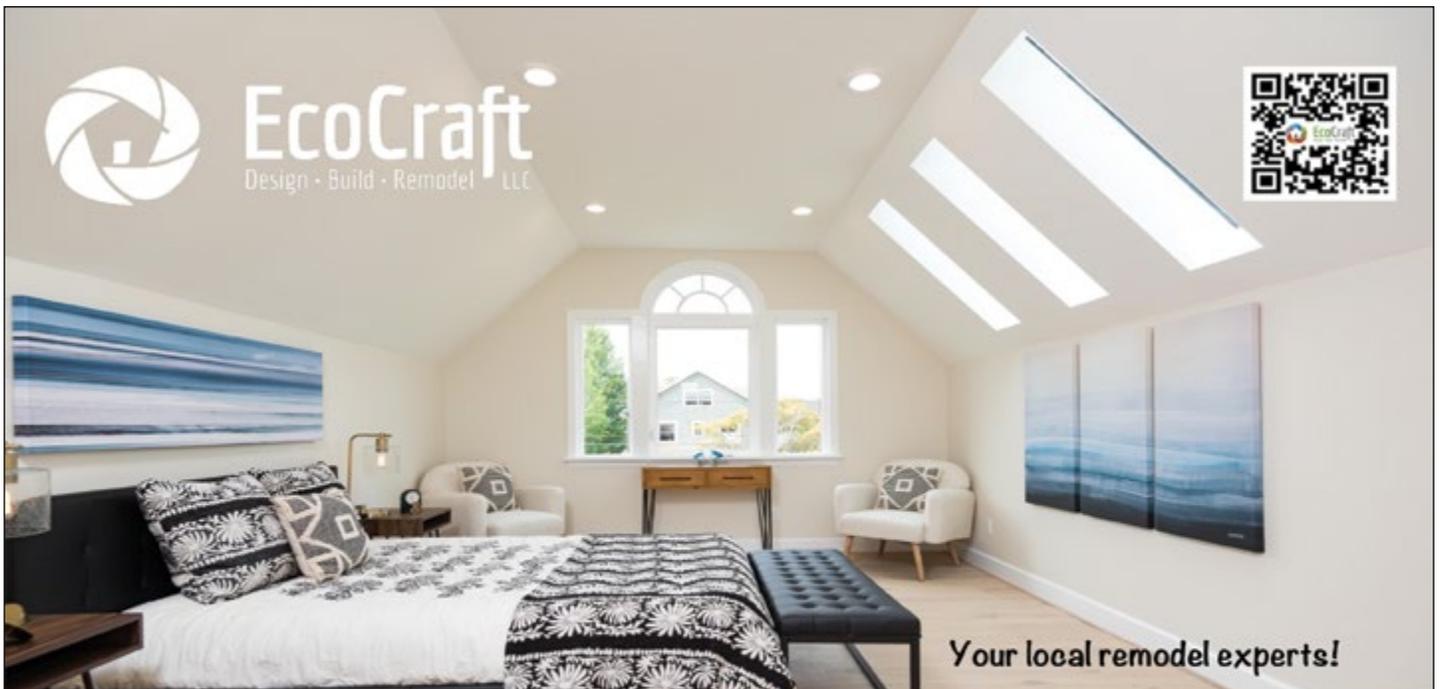
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