

**May-June 2017**

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FIND THE Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association online at [www.bwna.us](http://www.bwna.us)

**BWNA Calendar of Events**

**Monday, May 8**  
7:00-8:30 p.m.  
BWNA Board Meeting  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
Skidmore/37th  
Library Meeting Room

**Thursday, June 1**  
4:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Cully Farmers Market  
NE 42nd and Alberta  
(See article in this issue.)

**Friday, June 9**  
BWNA newsletter submission deadline for July–August issue. E-mail articles to Al Ellis, [editor@bwna.us](mailto:editor@bwna.us). E-mail photos and ads to Amy Gwilliam, [design@bwna.us](mailto:design@bwna.us)

**Monday, June 12**  
7:00-8:30 p.m.  
BWNA General Meeting  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
Skidmore/37th  
Fellowship Hall

*calendar continues on page 3*

## Beaumont Middle School—music to the ears of our community

by Pat Bellamah

When I moved to the neighborhood a year ago, I knew there was a school just around the corner, but I didn't give it much thought until the first warm Saturday morning when waves of enthusiastic cheering washed through the open windows. Ah, I thought, it must be the middle school. Soon, joining this weekly serenade was the lunchtime concert of the marching band parading through the streets as they polished their steps and tunes. Proximity alone revealed two key facts about Beaumont Middle School: it is deeply embedded in the community and music is essential to the school's identity.

Despite the relentless budget cuts that all Oregon public schools are facing, Beaumont employs a full-time music teacher. Principal Harriette Jackson Vimegnon takes pride in the fact that the school offers beginning, intermediate, and advanced band, insuring that students at all levels are able to participate. Students who persevere through the first two years can join the marching band in the 8th grade. In addition to the band, there are two jazz ensembles: the Jazz Academy, which any student can join, and the Ambassadors, for which one must audition. These programs require a high level of commitment from the students. Most students take jazz or band for three years, with a one-hour class every day. In addition, the jazz band practices two hours per week before school in the mornings—a notable commitment both for the students and their parents who get them there for practice. The result is more than just a brief exposure to music for the students, but a real immersion experience for those who are interested.

About half of the students at Beaumont M.S. participate in one of the bands. "It helps to create a community of students who love music," said Ms. Vimegnon. "They perform at school assemblies and other programs, and it gets the parents involved with the school." Members of BWNA who attended the Taste of Beaumont meeting on April 10 got to see and hear for



themselves the remarkable accomplishment of the young musicians of the Jazz Ambassadors and their band director, Cynthia Plank (pictured above), when they performed before the meeting. The audience responded enthusiastically to every number, impressed by the musicality, discipline, and professionalism Ms. Plank elicited from her 7th- and 8th- grade performers.

The 594 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at Beaumont M.S. are drawn from Alameda and Rigler elementary schools. The student body is 10.7% African American, 2.6% Asian, 21.7% Hispanic, 1.2% Native American, 0.4% Pacific Islander, 56.0% white, and 7.4% multiple races. But the diversity goes beyond ethnic. Beaumont draws students from a broad economic spectrum, and this also contributes to the heterogeneity of the Beaumont M.S. community. Relying largely on the generosity of the families of Beaumont students, the school runs a clothing closet and a food bank for kids who need assistance. At Thanksgiving and over the holidays, the food bank goes beyond non-perishables to taking and distributing fresh food for families who may not otherwise have enough for a festive meal. A neighborhood women's organization called Tuesday Mornings donates Fred Meyer gift cards to the school, which in turn gives them to families in need. Cash donations to the school can enable them to provide more gift certificates, which are the most flexible gift for families.

Additionally, there's an assistance program targeted more specifically at encouraging students to "do the right things," Ms. Vimegnon

*article continues on page 3*



## President's message

by Tim Hemstreet

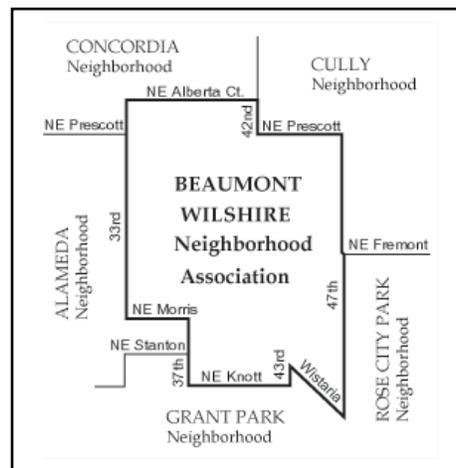
## Contributing to the well-being of a fantastic neighborhood

Sixteen years ago my wife and I decided to make this neighborhood our home and bought a cute little bungalow in need of work. We've made many changes to our home to accommodate our growing family and have tried to do that in a manner that preserved the character we loved. We feel very grateful to be able to live in this fantastic neighborhood of well-tended homes and gardens, caring neighbors, and interesting businesses and dining opportunities. Having grown up on the west side in Beaverton, there seemed to be constant changes—widening streets and new housing and commercial buildings where there were once forests and farms. Thus, moving to Northeast Portland I thought of the neighborhood as fully developed and more immune to change. But change and evolution is inevitable—and changes are afoot in our city and neighborhood.

One of the roles of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association (BWNA) is to help our neighborhood navigate these changes and work to protect the neighborhood we love. BWNA strives to be a representative voice for the neighborhood by advocating for policies that will preserve the livability that drew us all here in the first place. BWNA has had many successes in influencing city policies with that goal, but it takes neighborhood volunteers to follow the issues, attend the meetings, and develop the narratives that can advance the neighborhood's interests and concerns.

Another important role of BWNA is to help foster community and connections among the residents of our neighborhood—individuals, families, and our local businesses. BWNA strives to do this through community events such as the Taste of Beaumont, National Night Out Picnic, and communications through this newsletter, our website ([www.bwna.us](http://www.bwna.us)), and e-mail to provide information relevant to our

neighborhood. Having been on the BWNA Board for the past two years, I'm excited to now have the opportunity to serve in the capacity of President alongside, and in the footsteps of, very dedicated officers and board members that similarly care about our neighborhood and involve themselves in this important work. I hope that you will look to your neighborhood association as a resource and as a place to engage in the conversation about how our neighborhood should evolve as Portland does. And I encourage you to actively participate by attending a board or general meeting (listed in the newsletter's "BWNA Calendar of Events" column), volunteering to help support an event, or perhaps stepping up to fill our last remaining vacant at-large board position. But contributing to BWNA can also be as simple as communicating something you feel may be of interest or concern to your neighbors. Don't hesitate to convey your thoughts and information about the neighborhood to me or to any other board member (listed in the newsletter's "Officers, Board Members, & Committees" column) or via submission of a "Letter to the Board" newsletter editorial to editor Al Ellis (instructions on our website). I look forward to helping to keep BWNA functioning well as a resource for our neighborhood.



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## Editor's notes

by Al Ellis

This issue kicks off with a President's Message from newly-elected BWNA President Tim Hemstreet—an impressive guy with just the right makeup for the top BWNA leadership position—mild-mannered, bright, focused. Attesting to those attributes and more is an interview we did with Tim not long after he joined the board, which can be easily accessed via the BWNA website ([www.bwna.us](http://www.bwna.us)) by simply clicking on “Newsletter issues” at the top of home page, then on “September/October 2015” (p. 6).

Tim's ascendancy to the presidency not only ended months of vacancy, but also proved a motivator for others to serve, including a couple of our newsletter regulars: gardening guru Barb Strunk to serve as Secretary and recipe connoisseur (of “Kathy's Kitchen” renown) Kathy Campbell to serve as Vice President. As with Tim (and most other board members), Kathy and Barb have been subjects of interview articles by Mark Mohammadpour—Kathy in the July/August 2014 issue (p. 5), Barb in the September/October 2014 issue (p. 5). You also may recall my tooting the “Editor's Notes” horn for Barb in the previous issue (March/April 2016). Rounding out this outstanding officer corps is super-efficient, dependable Karla Lenox returning as Treasurer, about whom you can read in the May/June 2016 issue (p.4). Karla's also our point person in reminding advertisers to pay on time.

Given the limited space available for articles in a bimonthly publication like ours, online archives of past issues are especially beneficial for BWNA, providing a convenient and resourceful way to reference information from the past that's germane to the present (e.g., board profile articles with pertinent information about just-elected officers). Another handy information-providing vehicle at BWNA's disposal is the online blog at [www.bwna.us](http://www.bwna.us). When Beaumont-Wilshire-related announcements occur between issues and/or are too lengthy to fit, the blog functions as an organic extension of the newsletter. Check it out for updates.

With a tip of the hat to end of the academic year, this issue includes an article about our neighborhood's most centrally-located school—Beaumont Middle School—featuring an interview with dynamic Principal Harriette Vimegnon. Then it's back to the future with an article about a local effort to reunite Beaumont 8th grade classmates from 55 years ago! And in a “Letter to the Board” editorial, longtime B-W resident John Carson (aka “Johnnie Carson” as a kid) takes us back to his days as a student at Meek School as he reminisces about vacant lots, snakes, and changes... (with a preservationist's edge woven into the story by yours truly).

Lastly, some missing links (as it were) from an article on the topic of “adult budgeting” by B-W resident Jackie Waters in the last issue (p. 5). With apologies:

<https://www.thebalance.com/how-to-track-your-expenses-2385695>

<https://www.closetbox.com/resources/moving-boxes>

<http://www.thesimpledollar.com/best-rewards-credit-cards/>

<https://www.usa.gov/saving-investing>

## Beaumont Middle School, continued

said. She has been working to engage Beaumont-Wilshire businesses in this effort. One coup they scored this year will be hard to beat: a generous benefactor donated season tickets to the Blazers home games—two tickets per game—which lucky deserving students won by upping their own game as students. Movie tickets are also coveted awards. BWNA did its part as well by setting aside a few Taste of Beaumont door prizes for donation to the program.

The community that is Beaumont M.S. extends beyond academics and school hours to provide students with a range of opportunities to learn new skills and have fun via the SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) Community School Extended Day Program. Run by Sue Coffman, under the auspices of Portland Parks and Recreation, SUN is a program for academic support, enrichment, arts, and recreation. The offerings include a before school study club, a “Books & Bagels” reading group, a Latino Network, and a chess and board game club. The Portland Police Bureau offers a course called “Girls' Strength, Training in Self-Defense Options,” where girls can learn verbal and physical self-defense skills. There's a business club, an improv/theater club, a range of sports and recreational clubs, including belly dancing, and many other offerings.

Visiting Beaumont M.S., I couldn't help but think how much school had changed since I was a kid. The programs offered reveal a mindset of doing whatever it takes to keep kids from falling through the cracks. The school strives to be a much more comprehensive presence in the lives of its students than schools had to be when I was young. I don't imagine that any of this comes easily, especially as the school must relentlessly raise money for things as routine as school supplies and as vital as staffing, which is on the block again next year due to state budget cuts.

There are many ways to get involved in this lively school community. Contact Harriette Vimegnon at [vimegnon@pps.net](mailto:vimegnon@pps.net) and volunteer!

### BWNA Calendar of Events, cont.

#### Friday, July 7

6:30 to 10:30 p.m.  
Movie in the Park  
Wilshire Park, Skidmore/NE 33rd  
(See article in this issue.)

#### Monday, July 10

7:00-8:30 p.m.  
BWNA Board Meeting  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
Skidmore/37th  
Library Meeting Room

#### Wednesday, July 12

RSVP deadline for Beaumont Grade School Reunion, class of 1962  
(See article in this issue.)

# Letter to the Board

by John Carson (with input from Al Ellis)



Johnnie Carson with his adorable pet snakes, circa 1952.

As viable modest homes in our neighborhood are destroyed by developers in order to free up space for the building of profit-maximizing behemoths, I think back to my childhood growing up in Beaumont-Wilshire on 40th Avenue, when “vacant lot” was as common to a kid’s vocabulary as “peanut butter.” Reflecting on the changes in the area over the years, one that makes me chuckle is at the north end of our street at Alberta Court. Presently Joseph Meek

School occupies this location, but who remembers what was there previously? Back in the 1950’s this was one of the last remaining large vacant lots as the neighborhood built up. My guess is that construction in the area forced the snake and lizard population to take its last stand on this piece of real estate.

As a ten-year-old, it was not uncommon to find an occasional garter snake or blue tail lizard in the area, but not anything like what was to be found at the north end of 40th. Here, the reptile population was so concentrated that the neighbor kids called it the Snake Pit! One summer, someone suggested making a project out of seeing how many snakes we could catch in one excursion. Our expedition rounded up over 100 specimens! We brought them home in jars and boxes, even threading some into the handlebars of our bikes. Our new pets were placed in large screen-covered cardboard boxes in my backyard. We were quite proud of our accomplishment, but after a few days, it became apparent that feeding them would be next to impossible, and we didn’t want 100 dead snakes on our hands. So the decision was reluctantly made to give them their freedom. The neighbors were furious. You would think a Passover plague had been initiated on our block!

Now it is almost 65 years later and our wildlife population has dramatically shifted—snakes and lizards replaced by squirrels, raccoons, possums, even coyotes. But the new “plague” on the block is manmade: “demolition fever.” More power to BWNA and UNR in fighting the good fight.



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# Getting to know your community at Cully Farmers Market

by Alexey Moore

Beginning June 1 (4-8 p.m. every Thursday in June, July, and August and 4-7 p.m. in September), come hang out at the Cully Farmers Market at NE 42nd and Alberta and support a lively rural scene in a city setting. Meet and support the urban farmers of the Cully, Beaumont-Wilshire, and Concordia neighborhoods, and enjoy the eclectic music in this season’s band lineup.

Here are three opportunities to participate:

- Affordable booths and spaces are available for those who wish to sell homegrown food or handmade products. Sign up for a spot at our free community table.

- Drop off produce donations on market day, with proceeds from sales supporting the Neighbor Voucher Program, which provides free Cully Farmers Market tokens to families who can’t easily afford groceries.
- A free booth or tent can be provided for anyone interested in leading a workshop related to food and/or health.

For more information, contact Alexey at [www.cullyfarmersmarket.org](http://www.cullyfarmersmarket.org) or 520-730-9701.

## Gardening and Nature for Health

by Barb Strunk

*Nature is not a place to visit, it is home.*

(Gary Snyder)

Life is stressful and uses up lots of emotional energy. To be healthy we need to get away from the traffic, devices, and timelines. Our city is growing and changing, and it becomes even more important that we protect and nurture our personal and public natural spaces. We in Beaumont-Wilshire are very lucky to still have space for our own gardens, spaces that are crucial to our emotional health. Our garden is a place for me to create and restore my balance. I can set aside the deadlines and the news and be with plants, weather, and the birds and insects that visit our garden. Here I exercise a positive part of my psyche. Our garden also allows me to use my analytical tendencies. I think about why a plant is doing well or why it isn't. I study the plant: where did it originate? What soil, light and weather does it need? What can I do to create conditions best for the plant? I am thinking about positive things and can lay aside the stress of the world for a while. It is said that gardeners are optimistic by nature.

Sitting in the garden—just looking—is something I have done since childhood. I sit on the back steps observing and soaking up the peace. This time of the year I look closely, observing bulbs emerging, counting the seedlings from my older plants, potting up some of those young plants to share with friends. This gives me hope.

A growing body of research shows the restorative power of nature, the connection to nature that is basic to human health. Human capacity is increased by the power of nature. The more high-tech our lives become, the more we need gardens, parks, and wild space to achieve a physical and emotional balance. As Richard Louv writes, "In relationship with nature the high-performance human will conserve and create natural habitat—and new economic potential—where we live, learn, work, and play."

Planning for the future of our city must include as a priority the preservation of older, smaller homes and their garden space so that those privileged to live in a single-family home have some green space in which to dream and create. For those people who do not have personal natural space, it is crucial for the health of our city to preserve and create natural infrastructure such as parks, community gardens, and wild space.

Environmental stewardship goes hand-in-hand with building for future populations.

Resources: Richard Louv, *The Nature Principle: Reconnecting with Life in a Virtual Age*. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. 2012. (An enjoyable and interesting read.) and The Intertwine Alliance—a coalition of 150+ public, private, and nonprofit organizations working to integrate nature more deeply into the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. For details, go to <http://www.theintertwine.org/>

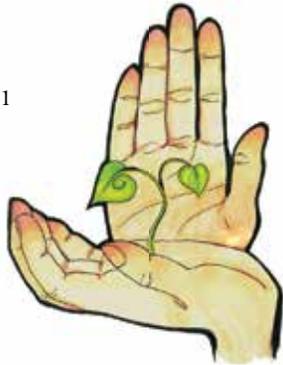
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A woman with dark hair and a patterned scarf is looking through her fingers held up to her eyes, as if she is looking through a camera viewfinder. The background is dark. Text is overlaid on the image.

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## Spring cleaning for BWNA bylaws at June general meeting

by Al Ellis

Ever have the inclination to comb through the current Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association Bylaws? (What, you have something better to do with your time?!) Well, that's exactly what an informal subcommittee decided to take on last March, resulting in proposed amendments—some simple housekeeping measures (e.g., correcting awkward wording and inconsistent nomenclature) and some of a more substantive nature (e.g., revising duties for the president and vice president). Scrutinized by the board in early April at a special board meeting dedicated for the purpose, the amendments were tweaked and refined, then recommended for adoption at the June 12 general meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of general meeting attendees is required for ratification of each amendment.

Interested now? Hope so. Riveting reading it is not, but bylaws are BWNA's constitutional foundation, with every sentence counting. So one of these sunny spring days, give it a try. Go to the BWNA website blog ([www.bwna.us](http://www.bwna.us)), where you'll find bylaws posted with amendments in italics. (For the sake of comparison, current bylaws can be accessed by clicking on the "About" link at the top of the page, then on the "Bylaws" link.) BWNA looks to concerned residents for validation on June 12.

## May/June family-friendly events promote pet adoption

by Diane Charlton

Editor's note: *Diane is a former editor of this newsletter and currently serves on the Cat Adoption Team Board of Directors, the Pacific Northwest's largest feline shelter and adoption agency.*

As showery spring makes the ever-so-gradual transition into sultry summer, pet owners look forward to increasing opportunities for shirtsleeve outings with their dogs (of course bringing bags to pick up after them), while indoor cats lie sunbathing at home on windowsills, purring contently for their "people." May and June also usher in family-friendly local events to share with your pets or perhaps add a new "furry family member" to our great neighborhood. A few to consider:

- For starters, during the weekend of May 5-7, participate in PetSmart's National Adoption Weekend at all PetSmart stores.
- A week later—on Saturday, May 13—make it over to Portland's Waterfront Park for the biggest outdoor event of the year in support of Oregon Humane Society's mission of finding "forever homes" for pets—the fun-filled 30th annual Doggiedash, with thousands of likeminded animal lovers running or walking the course, perusing booths, and enjoying an outdoor lunch ([oregonhumane.org/doggiedash](http://oregonhumane.org/doggiedash)).
- Then, especially for the kitty lovers among us—on Saturday, June 24th—Kitten Palooza, the kitten adoption event of the year where 100+ adorable kittens wait to meet your family (Cat Adoption Team, 14175 SW Galbreath Drive, Sherwood, OR. [catadoptionteam.org](http://catadoptionteam.org)).

Here's to sunshiny days ahead for you and your pets!

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## Where were you in '62?

by Al Ellis

Can't relate to 1962? Think of the fun times depicted in "Happy Days" or "American Graffiti"...or perhaps recall the year when the world came closest to blundering into a thermonuclear war (i.e., Cuban Missile Crisis). But for the 8th-grade "baby boomers" at Beaumont Grade School, 1962 was a magical memory year—in fact, a collective milestone: promotion from 8th grade to high school!

Fast forward to the summer of 2017, and reunion beckons. The Beaumont Grade School Class of 1962 will celebrate its 55th reunion on July 21 at Amalfi's (4703 NE Fremont) from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. The participation cost is \$16.50 and includes Italian buffet of antipasto, mini meatballs, Caesar salad, pizza, coffee, and soda (no-host bar for alcoholic drinks). Classmates are asked to RSVP no later than July 12 to organizer David Kern ([kernfam07@msn.com](mailto:kernfam07@msn.com) or 360-904-7669). David can also be contacted for a full list of classmates, along with some of the 1962 Beaumont Grade School staff—the more the merrier.

So spread the word...and be there or be square!

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# Teacher, family man Gary Hancock exudes positivity along with resolve to tackle problems

by Mark Mohammadpour

While annual BWNA elections are held every April at Taste of Beaumont, the BWNA Board is authorized in its bylaws to fill vacated positions by majority vote at any board meeting during the year. That's how Anna Gillespie (profiled in the March/



April issue) joined the board last January, and the same for Gary Hancock last March. Gary, who teaches fourth grade in the Centennial School District, has lived in the neighborhood for the last eight years with his wife Samantha and son Logan.

*What's your favorite part of living in the neighborhood?*

My family and I have lived in the area since 2008. My favorite part of the neighborhood is how quiet our neighborhood is at night and that I can walk to the park, to my son's school, and to restaurants.

*What's your favorite neighborhood store or restaurant, and why?*

It's a toss-up between Pip's Original Doughnuts and Pizzicato. At Pizzicato, my son and I love to grab a quick slice and a salad after one of his soccer or baseball games. As for Pip's, I go for the doughnuts! I believe they are the best in Portland.

*What are you excited about as far as participating on the board?*

I am excited to learn more about the issues facing our neighborhood and coming up solutions to some of our problems.

*What are the issues you're looking to help address as a member?*

The issues that I am concerned with are neighborhood crime, cars speeding through our residential streets, graffiti, and Wilshire Park improvements. I am looking forward to working with the board and the neighborhood to help solve these issues.

*Thank you for your service, Gary!*

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# Pacific Audiology Clinic co-owner, BW resident is here to help

by Susan Trabucco

Are you or someone you know challenged by hearing loss? Is hesitancy to seek a solution keeping you or a loved one from fully participating in conversations with friends, family, or co-workers? If so, there's help close-at-hand from two local audiology professionals, including one who hails from this neighborhood.



*Alisa Weinzimer, (left) a Beaumont Wilshire resident, and Allison Bradley, both Doctors of Audiology, are co-owners of Pacific Audiology Clinic with offices in NE and SW Portland, at the John's Landing Water Tower building on Macadam Avenue.*

Alisa Weinzimer and Allison Bradley are both Doctors of Audiology. They are co-owners of Pacific Audiology Clinic, a business they launched in 2007. The duo, colleagues prior to starting their own operation, has two locations from which they both work in Portland—one on the west side on Macadam Avenue in the John's Landing Water Tower building, and the other, a northeast side office—which may have moved by printing date to its new digs at 3502 NE Broadway. Expansion needs are at the heart of the move from longtime quarters on NE 33rd Avenue to the new Broadway location, which will triple the space they've had. In a recent interview with Alisa, a Beaumont-Wilshire resident since 1998, she explained the details: "We're averaging a growth rate of 20-30 percent per year. We need more support staff and are likely adding another clinician, so moving was a necessity," she said.

In addition to the extensive outreach and education efforts of Pacific Audiology, Alisa attributes the growth in business to increased awareness about hearing loss. Still, she said, the average time it takes for people to act on a concern about hearing loss is seven years: "People aren't sure what to do about their hearing loss after they accept they have a problem. They aren't sure what action to take."

Alisa said Pacific Audiology is excited about some advances in the field, which can make getting help more palatable to the hesitant. They include an extended wear, disposable hearing aid inserted by a specialist. The product lasts about 3 months: "It's ideal for patients with dexterity challenges, or who simply want the freedom to shower and be active without worrying about taking their hearing aids out."

For the technology-comfortable, Alisa noted there are now hearing aids that can be adjusted via an iPhone app when the sound environment around the patient becomes dynamic. The same app uses GPS to find lost hearing aids, too. Pacific Audiology also offers hearing aids which sport rechargeable batteries: "This is so much better than dumping old batteries into our landfill, and our patients really appreciate the benefit to our environment," said Alisa.

Outside the office, Alisa said folks may find her at Beaumont Hardware or Beaumont Market.

"I like to patronize the businesses within a mile of my home. Also, I chose my first northeast office location based on where I lived; my goal was to have no stoplights on my way to work!"

By the end of April, assuming all final permitting paperwork comes through as anticipated, find Pacific Audiology Clinic, a longtime advertiser in this newsletter, at its new east side location at 3502 NE Broadway, or call 503-284-1906. Find the west side location at 5331 SW Macadam Ave., #395. For more information visit [pacoregon.com](http://pacoregon.com).

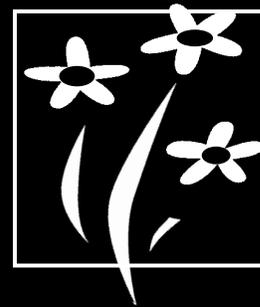


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## Movie event in Wilshire Park set for first Friday in July

by John Sandie

*No rain, no rain*

(1969 Woodstock)

Let's hope we don't get washed out again this summer. Keep the faith and mark your calendars for Friday, July 7, for the jointly-sponsored BWNA/ANA (Alameda Neighborhood Association) "Movie in the Park"—this year featuring the 2016 animated film "Sing."

Come out to the Wilshire Park ball diamonds by 6:30 to lay claim to your lawn space. Pre-movie musical entertainment and popcorn are included, courtesy of Portland Parks & Recreation, and food vendors are scheduled to be available for those wishing to augment picnic basket treats and the free popcorn.

So think positively and plan on a pleasant evening among the big firs with scores of neighborhood families communally enjoying some favorite tunes, picnic victuals, and the comedy musical hit "Sing" featuring the voices of Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane, Scarlett Johansson, John C. Reilly, Taron Egerton, and Tori Kelly. The plot involves a group of animals that enter a singing competition, hosted by a koala hoping to save the theater. And it's pretty hard to beat the price of admission!

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# Festive Taste of Beaumont serves as backdrop for BWNA changing of guard

by Al Ellis

An agony/ecstasy scenario confronted BWNA last April as the organization limped into its Taste of Beaumont gala—still without a president since John Sandie’s resignation last January and with at-large board positions to fill. But there was cause for optimism from the get-go, with the turnout robust, musical entertainment from the Beaumont Middle School Jazz Ambassadors first-rate, and donated cuisine samples, refreshments, and raffle prizes from local merchants in generous supply. The crowning touch (pun intended) came later in the evening during annual elections when, to everyone’s relief, board member Tim Hemstreet stepped up to assume the presidency, followed by Kathy Campbell elected as the new vice president and Barb Strunk as the new secretary, replacing longtime incumbents Bill Markwart and Jim Karlock, respectively. The three new officers join forces with incumbent Treasurer Karla Lenox to form BWNA’s reconstituted Executive Board team. As for at-large positions, incumbents Katy Fackler and Jack Bookwalter were reelected, and former board members Roger Price, Deb Harris, and Al Ellis returned to the fold, filling three of the four vacated positions. BWNA breathed a sign of relief.

But however vital these elections were for the well-being of our neighborhood association, they were far from the main attraction at Taste of Beaumont. Kicking off the evening was a greeting from Beaumont Middle School Principal Harriette Vimegnon

(interviewed in this issue), followed by the talented-beyond-their-years young musicians comprising the Jazz Ambassadors, directed by the charming and charismatic Cynthia Plank. Adding a touch of class to the event, which was held in the Beaumont Middle School cafeteria, were gorgeous floral table arrangements set on white tablecloths—the floral arrangements doubling as raffle prizes to lucky winners at the end of the evening. Additionally, beautifully crafted frames were set on each table for use as prizes. MC for the night was none other than BWNA Past President John Sandie, entertaining in his inimitable folksy style and always willing to lend a hand when the need arises.

Special recognition was paid to Bill Markwart and Jim Karlock, the two BWNA veterans who departed the board after many years of dedicated service as officers. And of course, big thanks go out to all the people and organizations who contributed to the success of this event, starting with attending B-W residents, BWNA board members, the Beaumont Middle School PTA, and Cynthia Plank and her Jazz Ambassadors, along with the following “good neighbor” merchants, without whom there would have been no food, refreshments, or door prizes: Alameda Brewhouse, Americana Frame, Bagel Land, Beaumont Florists, Beaumont Market, Everest M Market, Fire and Stone, Fire on the Mountain, Grand Central Market, Green Dog Pet Supply, NoHo’s, Papa Murphy’s, Pips, Pizzacato, Stanich’s, and Yo Choice.

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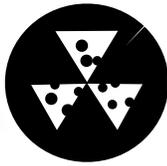


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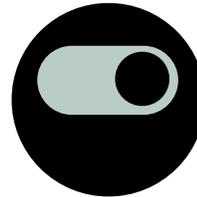
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