



January-February 2021

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FIND THE Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association ONLINE AT bwnapdx.org

BWNA Calendar of Events Community Events

There are no community events scheduled for January and February; see page 3 for BWNA meeting schedule



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY JANUARY 18, 2021

New Neighbor Welcoming Project rebounds for 2021

by Al Ellis

Remember back in the day when Welcome Wagon representatives would make 'house calls' to new homeowners and renters, welcoming them to the neighborhood with gifts and coupons from local businesses? No? Well, perhaps that's because in 1998 the company replaced the in-person welcomes with mailings, purportedly due to an increase in two-income families that resulted in fewer people at home to accept the visits. But the basic Welcome Wagon concept, conceived by Memphis (Tennessee) marketing man Thomas Biggs in 1928, proved sound, historically inspired by stories of early Conestoga 'welcome wagons' greeting westward travelers and providing them with fresh food and water for the journey. Following suit, Biggs sought friendly, neighborhood-knowledgeable women as 'hostesses' to personally deliver the gift baskets to new residents. (Interestingly, Welcome Wagon eventually evolved into one of the first all-female American companies.)



Fast forward to a BWNA board meeting last winter, when a proposal was floated (by yours truly, who as a newlywed was on the receiving end of a much-appreciated Welcome Wagon apartment visit) to organize and implement a 'New Neighbor Welcoming Project' for Beaumont-Wilshire, a neighborhood with no shortage of newcomers to welcome. While the board was supportive of the idea, the devil lay in the details: how would newcomers be identified, what

would the welcome entail, and who would do the welcoming? For help in identifying newcomers, BWNA turned to former board member and retired Windermere broker Sally Baker, who utilized her real estate contacts to facilitate an agreement with First American Title to provide monthly lists of names and addresses of B-W residents with new titles of ownership. As for welcoming gifts, Beaumont Business Association (BBA) President Andy Frazier got the ball rolling by lining up BBA members willing to sign on to a discount card. Lastly, BWNA board members volunteered to make the home visits. The project was launched at the end of 2019, with packets including letters of welcome from BWNA and BBA presidents and discount cards good at over 30 local businesses and organizations. Welcomers found that surprised and grateful newcomers often invited them in for a cordial chat. The program looked promising.

Then came the pandemic, and home visits came to a screeching halt. So what then? Answer: reinvention. It was decided that distribution of welcome packets would be resumed by mail for the duration of the COVID crisis. Recipients would be asked to confirm via phone or e-mail that they had received their packets and were encouraged to offer questions and comments regarding the neighborhood, BWNA, BBA, or any aspect of the project. But a logistical problem remained to be resolved: the lists provided by First American Title did not differentiate between newcomer, refinancer, and developer, resulting in hit-and-miss welcomes (e.g., 'Welcome to the neighborhood! No? Oh, I see, you've lived here for 20 years and just recently refinanced'). To the rescue came Moran Homes Windermere real estate broker Jamie Van Hoorn (her ad premieres on page 4 in this issue), who had just recently moved into the B-W neighborhood from Rose City Park.



President's message

by Tim Gillespie

Signs of the times

On a walk a few days ago, I marveled as always at the hundreds of signs adorning yards on almost every block in our neighborhood. Many were political on the heels of our hotly contested November election, but even more were invitations to kindness and thoughtfulness.

I passed scores of "Black Lives Matter" and "All Are Welcome Here" signs, many clearly handmade by children, and multiple renditions of the biblical admonition to "Love Thy Neighbor." Stuck into countless lawns were versions of the American flag striped with slogans: "In our America...all people are equal, love wins, immigrants and refugees are welcome, disabilities are respected..." and so on.

A bright red poster announced that "Kindness, Patience, and Hope are also Highly Contagious. Don't Wait to Catch It...Be a Carrier." New to me was an eye-catching blue sign with rows of houses separated by roads of words reading, "We're Glad You're Our Neighbor" in Spanish, English, and Arabic.

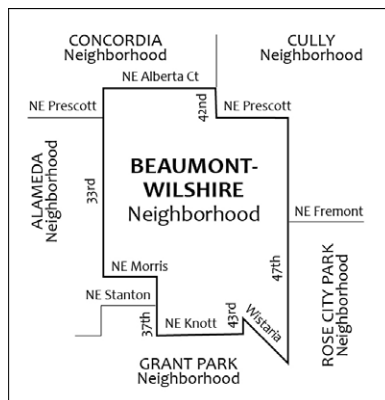
Then I walked by the fence at NE 45th and Brazee (slightly outside the Beaumont-Wilshire boundary, but only a short amble away) with its hundreds of colorful messages that have been painted on the wood since the start of the pandemic: "Stay confident, humble, compassionate, happy, creative, helpful—and cha cha cha!" "Persevere: the sun will come out tomorrow." "I have lost my smile, but don't worry...the dandelion has it." Most have that "We're all in this together" and "Stay connected!" attitude.

A cynic might say that it's easy to post a sign, easy to say words, and that actions are what count. But I see plenty of evidence that these yard sign

proclamations are matched by neighborly actions.

I see a friend setting off to deliver supplies to a women's shelter. Saturday morning green bags dot many Beaumont-Wilshire front porches—groceries to be donated to food banks and shelters through the Portland Food Project. I note that Grand Central Bakery on Fremont gives customers the opportunity to buy and donate "community loaves" that the folks there will deliver to Portland's Lift UP food pantry. Volunteers in BWNA's Friends of Wilshire Park committee continue to raise funds and provide labor to make tremendous improvements on that well-loved open space. Neighbors join in a charity gift-giving exchange. Folks volunteer to address racism and discrimination, traffic problems, homelessness, economic uncertainty. People check in on each other during the pandemic. Most of these are acts that don't loudly announce themselves, but simply try to forward the values of staying connected and extending a hand.

Any quarantine crankiness I feel fades away as I consider the many small acts of neighborliness around us. Thanks for living up to the spirit of our yard signs.



Our Organization

BWNA Board

President

Tim Gillespie 503-287-6272
president@bwnapdx.org

Vice-President

Andrew Rinke 503-893-2504

Secretary

Barbara Strunk 503-284-7502

Treasurer

Karla Lenox 503-686-5915
treasurer@bwnapdx.org

At-Large Board Members

Al Ellis 503-287-0477
Gary Hancock 503-367-0862
Laurie Holtz 621-327-5595
John Sandie 219-508-4162
Rich Woyma 971-488-0140
(five open positions)

Immediate Past President

Tim Hemstreet 503-239-6231

Related Organizations

Beaumont Business Association

Kathy Madore
beaumontbusinesses@gmail.com

Central Northeast Neighbors Board

Barbara Strunk 503-284-7502

Areas of Interest

Residents are encouraged to participate. Contact committee chairs for details

- **Beaumont Middle School Committee**
Tim Gillespie, chair 503-287-6272
- **Communications Committee**
Rich Woyma, chair 971-488-0140
- **Crime Prevention Committee**
Bill Markwart, chair 503-282-4610
- **Land Use Committee**
Tim Hemstreet, chair 503-239-6231
- **Friends of Wilshire Park Committee**
Gary Hancock, chair 503-367-0862
- **Newsletter Team**
Chair: Al Ellis, editor@bwnapdx.org
Graphic Design:
Jane Feinberg, design@bwnapdx.org
Copy Editor:
Myrna Sheie 224-659-1537
Distribution:
Georgina Head 360-739-7896
John Sandie 219-508-4162
- **Transportation Committee**
John Sandie, chair 219-508-4162
- **Website (www.bwnapdx.org)**
Rich Woyma 971-488-0140



Editor's notes

by Al Ellis

Life-altering crises like the pandemic give pause for reflection on the nuances

of normalcy. Remember when it was no big deal to shake hands with—let alone hug—friends and neighbors? Remember when it was nothing special to attend indoor gatherings? Remember when it was routine to dine out? And the list of “remember whens” goes on ad infinitum—actions we didn’t think twice about prior to COVID-19. That said, deviating from the norm has not been without a silver lining or two along the way, and among the more unlikely beneficiaries have been organizations like BWNA, dependent on communication and participation for their very survival.

But silver linings aside for a moment, it’s certainly been no walk in the park for BWNA since the coronavirus roared in last spring: annual elections canceled, neighborhood cleanup canceled, Movie in the Park canceled, all-neighborhood August picnic canceled, New Neighbor Welcoming Project on hold, newsletter delivery interrupted, and most disruptive of all, in-person board and general meetings postponed indefinitely. But uncharted waters give rise to innovate-or-sink exigency. Take for example a “constitutional predicament” stemming from BWNA bylaw provisions that limit board members to two-year terms and require that half the positions to be subject to election every April—and only in April—leaving half of our board in electoral limbo. The conundrum was finally resolved via resourceful interpretation of an “elastic clause” (as it were) in Article I of the bylaws: *To perform all activities related to purposes enumerated above.* How, reasoned the board, could stated purposes in the bylaws be effectively performed with half of the members missing, including the president?! Thus was the underlying rationale

for the board’s decision to extend incumbent member terms until next April (or perhaps the April after that!) as well as permitting interim voting by e-mail and/or at Zoom meetings.

Curious? Click on the “Bylaws” link atop the home page at www.bwnapdx.org.

Now back to those “silver linings” referenced earlier—and no better place to start than our newsletter. When door-to-door delivery of the hard copy was disrupted this past summer, access to the newsletter became digital by default—a rather dubious prospect, given residents’ comfort level and familiarity with home delivery combined with relative unfamiliarity with the new website address resulting from the redesign of the website. Enter the silver linings: responding to a BWNA publicity campaign to draw attention to the new website and digital-only access to the newsletter, residents flocked to read the newsletter online in record numbers, resulting in boosted visibility for both the color version of the newsletter and the nascent website. That in turn motivated the board to create a Communications Committee charged with synergizing the website and newsletter to facilitate participation. But perhaps the most impactful pandemic-linked silver lining for BWNA was the necessitated switch to Zoom, affording the opportunity for neighbors to become actively involved in BWNA meetings from the comfort of their own easy chairs. Check “Upcoming Events” page on BWNA website (www.bwnapdx.org) Zoom link information.

Here’s to new rays of hope and silver linings on the horizon for 2021.

Finally, welcome to our newest advertiser, realtor Jamie Van Hoorn with Moran Homes, Windermere Realty Trust!

Calendar of Events (cont.)

BWNA Meetings

NOTE:

Check “Upcoming Events” page on BWNA website (www.bwnapdx.org) for venue and/or Zoom link information

Monday, January 11: Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 13: Friends of Wilshire Park Committee Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, February 8: General Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 10: Friends of Wilshire Park Committee Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

BWNA Newsletter

Submission Deadline

Friday, February 12 (for the March-April 2021 newsletter)

Email articles and Letter to the Board editorials to Al Ellis (editor@bwnapdx.org)

Email photos, graphics, and ads to Jane Feinberg (design@bwnapdx.org)

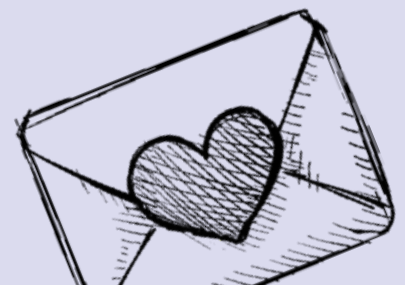
Ad Payment

Please make checks payable to BWNA and mail to the following address on or before the submission deadline (see above):

c/o The Postal Station
2000 NE 42nd Avenue, Suite D #394
Portland, OR 97213-1397

Instructions for Article and Ad Submission

Information about submission of articles and “Letter to the Board” editorials as well as a step-by-step procedure for selection, payment, and submission of ads are provided on the BWNA website (www.bwnapdx.org). Click on “Newsletter/About the Newsletter” at the top of the home page.



Farmland heritage for B-W neighborhood

by Barbara Linssen

Editor's Note: B-W resident Barbara Linssen submitted this article in response to our request for "fun facts" about the neighborhood in the Nov./Dec., 2020, issue. Please follow suit. Send me your B-W fun facts (editor@bwnapdx.org). Thanks.

Did you know a farm existed near Wilshire Park for several decades as the land all around was filled in with houses? The farm was approximately an acre and a half and lasted until about 1949. The following link takes you to a 1943 aerial photo that shows the whole plot along the south side of Shaver Street still intact: <https://alamedahistory.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/wilshire-park-1943-aerial.jpg>.

Zoom in and you can see that 34th and 35th avenues butt into the farm plot. But also notice the footpaths worn through to Shaver and the park. The farm plot included the large yellow house at 3922 NE 33rd, built in 1914, and continued eastward to the mid-block between 35th Place and 35th Avenue.

The whole neighborhood was built up by the 1920s and 30s, including almost all the houses we see today, except for this section, which filled in much later. A number of the houses currently in this plot date from the 1950s and later. A half-dozen ranch houses filled

in the last vacant lots in 1975. My house, a modern infill, replaced one of these 1975 ranch houses. My neighbor south of me has a storm drain in her driveway, and I now understand why it exists, because for decades that was the end of the street.

Sanborn fire insurance maps are a fascinating resource if you'd like to explore more. They are on the library website and are hand-drawn, showing the exact location and size of every building, shed, garage, and outhouse. To save time, go directly to sheet #1220, and from there you can figure out which direction to take your search. Additionally, check out local history compiled by historian Doug Decker: <https://friendsofwilshirepark.org/author/dougdecker>.



Do you know a neighbor who could use a helping hand?

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Questions about real estate? Just ask! As a Beaumont-Wilshire resident and a Realtor with Moran Homes of Windermere Realty Trust, I'm happy to provide a complimentary property analysis or answer any and all your Qs about the market. Wishing you a very happy New Year!

- Jamie (and my tiny sidekick, Feisty)

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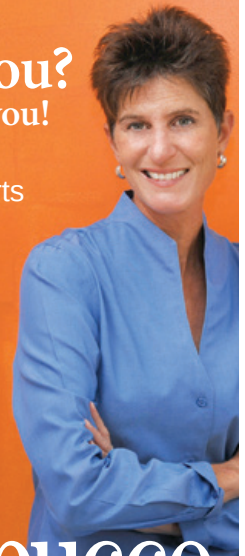
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BWNA joins forces with Beaumont Middle School in lending a hand to needy families

by Tim Gillespie

Because many of the usual BWNA projects have been put on hold due to the coronavirus, the board has been exploring other ways to be helpful to neighbors during these challenging days. Given the economic hardships and job losses caused by pandemic-induced shutdowns, the board sought a way to help struggling families in the local community. BWNA reached out to Beaumont Middle School Principal Harriette Vimegnon, asking if there were a way to identify families of students who could use some extra help. She responded immediately and enthusiastically, explaining that the school was working with a Portland nonprofit to help with food resources, but wondered if BWNA might be able to supply gift cards to help with other household necessities, such as hygiene products, supplies for infants (e.g., formula and diapers), and other items. Counselors and teachers at the school and other community partners would collaborate in selecting recipients and disseminating the cards. The BWNA board enthusiastically welcomed Ms. Vimegnon's proposal, and the ball started rolling.

The project got a boost from BWNA's umbrella organization, Central Northeast Neighbors (CNN)—a coalition of nine local neighborhood associations (NAs). Funds had been left over from the last fiscal year because of activities that had to be canceled due to the pandemic, and the CNN staff decided to divide those monies among coalition NAs, encouraging them to use the funds for coronavirus relief efforts, but with no particular restrictions. Additionally, BWNA tapped into funding the board had set aside for participation in this year's Beaumont Middle School's Sparrow Project, which raises money to assist seriously handicapped kids. The project has

been postponed at least until the 2021-2022 academic year when, hopefully, in-building classes can resume on a regular basis.

In the end, the board approved the purchase of \$1,500 worth of \$50 gift cards from the Hollywood Fred Meyer store. After the 30 cards were delivered to the school in early December, Principal Vimegnon wrote, "We are very appreciative of your support... Our first three cards were given out this morning! The needs are definitely there. With the holidays coming up, your support will be greatly appreciated. We are grateful to work in a community that supports its neighbors. It is because of organizations like yours that we as Oregonians are able to thrive." (Side note from me: this is what Portland's all-volunteer neighborhood associations do. This is what neighborhoods are for.)

CNN Executive Director Alison Stoll reported that other NAs in the coalition have used the coronavirus relief allotments in a variety of ways, including matching SNAP (food stamp) funding at the Hollywood Farmers Market (thus supporting families as well as local farmers and entrepreneurs), distributing masks and hand sanitizers for neighbors in need, and providing basics for the homeless.

CNN itself used some of the unspent funds to work with member NAs to develop and print a COVID resource guide in English and in Spanish, with links to many other languages. Check it out on the following CNN website page: <http://cnncoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Covid-Resource-Guide-1.pdf>.



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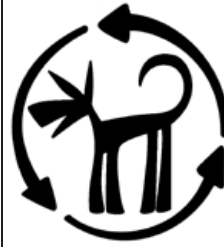
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Gardening for winter interest

by Barbara Strunk

We are lucky to live in the Pacific Northwest where our relatively mild winters allow plants to bloom and evergreens to continue looking good, even if not in bloom. I did a tour of my and my neighbors' gardens and came up with a surprisingly long list of plants that provide a show in winter.

One of my favorites is *Camellia sasanqua*. It blooms in October through December. This camellia with white, pink, or crimson flowers has smaller leaves and flowers and a more open shape than our spring blooming *Camellia japonica*. I have an even smaller form, *C. sasanqua* "Nana", that is only 12 inches tall and 30 inches wide after 5 years of growth. It has lovely 1-inch white flowers in late winter.

There are many evergreen shrubs that add to the winter garden. *Sarcococca* is grown for its tiny scented flowers during the winter. Plant it where you can enjoy its fragrance. Other winter bloomers are daphnes and some rhododendrons and evergreen azaleas. I was surprised during a walk at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden in early December to see a number of rhododendrons and azaleas in bloom. *Daphne bholua* and *D. mesereum* both bloom in January and February.



The form of plants can provide interest whether they are in bloom or not. My neighbors' and my hardy yuccas have wonderful evergreen structural forms in winter and great stalks of creamy bells in summer. Some yuccas to consider are *Y. gloriosa* "Bright Star," and *Y. filamentosa* "Bright Edge," both with yellow and green leaves. Plant them away from walkways, since the tips of the leaves are needle-sharp.

Other plants with interesting forms are small varieties of slow-growing pines, heather, and winter hardy succulents. In my rock garden is a tiny Mugo Pine variety "Reisengberg," that is only 9 inches tall and wide after 5 years of growth. *Sedum spectabile* (now renamed by botanists *Hylotelephium spectabile*) is noticeable in winter for its colored leaves near the ground and striking dried seed heads above the plants. Many other forms of sedum maintain their foliage color throughout the year and bloom in spring and summer. *Cornus* (dogwood) and *salix* (willow) stems provide bright yellow, orange, and red colors when not in leaf and can make a great backdrop for other plants.

continued on page 9

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Winter garden (continued)

One of the pleasures of living in our neighborhood is seeing the very early crocuses naturalizing and blooming in lawns and rock gardens. *Crocus tommasinianus* or “Snow Crocuses” are some of the very early varieties, blooming in January. Snowdrops also bloom early. Some early forms of narcissus and tulips provide color before other bulbs. Selecting a variety of bulbs according to when they bloom can give a show from late winter through the spring.

Hamamelis species, known as Witch Hazel, are small deciduous trees that present small, spidery, fragrant flowers in late winter.

“Jelena,” “Pallida,” and “Diane” are varieties that reliably bloom. The fall leaf color is spectacular.

Mahonia x media blooms in mid-December with long spires of fragrant yellow flowers and young foliage with a purple tinge. Many other types of *Mahonia* (Oregon Grape) flower early in the season and are very attractive plant forms throughout the year.

Choosing plants for form, color, and winter bloom can make a winter garden as varied and interesting as any other time of year.

New Neighbor Welcoming Project (continued)

Jamie volunteered to arrange for the new resident lists showing only transfers of ownership, not refinances, and she would extrapolate from there to separate newcomers from “investors.” Soon after, mailings began.

Still, the surest way of identifying newcomers is for their neighbors (or the newcomers themselves)—be they homeowners or renters—to alert BWNA. Please relay newcomer contact information via editor@bwnapdx.org and anticipate a friendly welcome. Big thanks!

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Wilshire Park project opportunities

by Peter Mogielnicki

The featured guest speaker at BWNA's December general meeting was Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) Mike Grosso, maintenance supervisor for all 38 Northeast Portland parks. Mike is the first level of approval for any Wilshire Park project and has been actively involved in the implementation of its NatureSpace and toddler play equipment upgrades.

A wide-ranging Q&A session was spearheaded by BWNA Friends of Wilshire Park Committee Chairperson Gary Hancock, beginning with a question about the impact of last November's passage of the PP&R levy. Mike responded that this was not a capital improvement bond, but primarily directed at mitigating the PP&R budget deficit, which had resulted in personnel cuts, cutbacks on recreation programs, and pool usage fees.

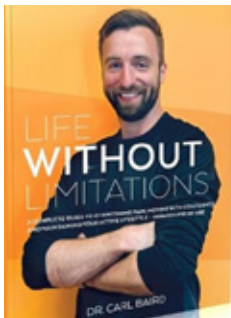
In response to questions about park improvement and enhancement, Mike said that "disadvantaged areas" (i.e., no park

within a ½-mile radius of a neighborhood) rate a priority. But in response to BWNA President Tim Gillespie's comments about how economically privileged school foundations share fundraised monies with disadvantaged schools, Mike suggested that such an initiative by Beaumont-Wilshire and Alameda neighborhood associations might improve Wilshire Park's chances for approval of projects. Asked about the inoperative wading pool in Wilshire Park, he noted that since conversion of the wading pool to a splash pad was already in an existing long queue of possible park upgrades, a plan to provide non-PP&R funding for such a project would in all likelihood move it forward in the queue. Also, the fact that the Wilshire Park children's play area is uniquely designed for very young children could bode well for future project consideration. And in a response to a suggestion by BWNA Vice President Andrew Rinke, Mike expressed support for collaborating with BWNA to get an information kiosk installed in the vicinity of the park pavilion. As for dog

continued on page 11

How to Solve Back Pain When Nothing Else Has Worked

by Leading Back Pain Expert, Dr. Carl Baird, DC, MS



Have you ever invested time and money on a solution to your back pain only to have the pain return weeks (if not days later)? Do you find yourself needing monthly adjustments, massages, or other treatments just to hold yourself together?

Or worse, maybe you've convinced yourself that nothing will work because these so called 'solutions' only leave you with temporary relief and a slightly emptier wallet. As a result, you tell

yourself that you've tried everything and come to 'accept' back pain as part of your life and feel forced to give up all the activities that bring you so much happiness.

My name is Dr. Carl Baird and every day I work with adults aged 40-70 who have tried so many different therapies in hopes of solving their back pain only to be let down again and again.

Having helped hundreds of people overcome back pain and get back to doing what the love – I can confidently say that a solution to your back pain does exist.

But it won't be found in some new therapy, pill, or surgery. It will only be found when we are willing to change our whole approach. When we address underlying causes of back pain that are commonly overlooked by your doctor, chiropractor, and even physical therapist.

In fact, I wrote a book on this very topic titled, "*Life Without Limitations: A Complete Guide to Overcoming Pain – Regardless of Age.*" The book offers a new approach to getting back to your favorite activities GUARANTEED to get you out of pain - even when nothing else has worked.

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Evolve Performance Healthcare

New Transportation Committee emerges

by John Sandie

In May, a Beaumont-Wilshire resident's request for traffic count/speed surveys on NE Skidmore Street by Wilshire Park (coupled with the resident's proactive—albeit unauthorized—traffic calming and expanded pedestrian walking zone initiatives) prompted BWNA to reactivate its Transportation Committee to deal directly with the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) regarding concerns about speeding on Skidmore, not coming to a complete stop (or sometimes not stopping at all) at the 37th Avenue intersection stop sign, and marginalization of pedestrians (especially walkers and joggers) as a result. There is no doubt that the pandemic has prompted many neighbors to rethink how streets and public spaces are used, and the revitalized Transportation Committee began gathering data and feedback on the Skidmore situation.

In response to the original request and subsequent prodding from BWNA, PBOT performed traffic surveys in June and October. A brief analysis of these surveys indicated there may not be a rash of ultra-high-speed vehicles (greater than 10+ over posted 20 mph speed limit) along Skidmore, but a large portion of drivers, approaching 50 percent, do exceed the limit to some extent. BWNA sought temporary inclusion of Skidmore into the Safe Streets Initiative program, similar to traffic restriction suggestions and barricades seen on 37th Avenue, but was rejected by PBOT, at least for the time being, due to funding issues. Meanwhile, talks between BWNA and PBOT continue to pursue other traffic calming ideas, and the new bike kiosk on Skidmore and 33rd does, inadvertently, cause a slowing of turning vehicles at that location.

In June, a questionnaire was distributed to residents living north of Wilshire Park along Skidmore Street to get feedback on various options for altering the use of this atypically wide street. Residents

were generally supportive of both traffic calming measures and/or singular special event use of this section of Skidmore. One particular event, something along the lines of a neighbor block party, has gained support within the Transportation Committee (if for no other reason for neighbors to experience this space from a different perspective). This would obviously require BWNA Board approval when large public gatherings are again permissible.

In addition to the Skidmore Street discussions, a visitor to our neighborhood contacted BWNA to bring attention to the safety issue of unmarked intersections within Beaumont-Wilshire. (As a side note, I had similar concerns when I moved here 10 years ago due to my life experience of always having stop signs on at least one side of intersections). Discussions with PBOT have not yet begun on this subject, but the Transportation Committee will be looking into whether the Bureau's historical position has changed.

Another issue recently directed to PBOT by a neighbor concerned the absence of American with Disabilities Act (ADA) sloped ramps at NE 33rd and Skidmore Street, and this inquiry received a positive response by PBOT. ADA access to the park is scheduled as a 2021 project.

The Transportation Committee has done much of its deliberation and communication via e-mail but has also held a couple of outdoor meetings with social distancing. If you would like to be notified of future meetings or have ideas about how to make our neighborhood safer for all modes of transportation, please e-mail info@bwnapdx.org with your request and/or thoughts. (NOTE: Discussions have also carried over into long and interesting threads on the NextDoor web site; search the site for the term "NE Skidmore.")



Wilshire Park projects (continued)

run projects, however, the message was not hopeful—at least in the short-run. Mike pointed out that because dog park issues in other parks have been controversial (e.g., for and against fences), PP&R has for the time being put a moratorium on dog park improvements.

The Friends of Wilshire Park (FoWP) Committee will continue to work closely with Mike Grosso and others in the community

to organize, fundraise, and implement park repair and enhancement projects. FoWP Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, and residents are encouraged to participate. For Zoom links to these meetings, contact Gary Hancock via e-mail (outside503@aol.com) or phone (503-367-0862).



A vegetarian winter-warming recipe from Kathy's Kitchen!
by Kathy Campbell

Cream of Asparagus Soup

2 lbs fresh asparagus	3 Tbs unsalted butter	1 tsp onion salt
2 c whole milk (plus 1 c for thinning, if needed)	3 Tbs flour	1/8 tsp freshly ground pepper
2 c chicken or vegetable stock	1 tsp kosher salt	1/2 c heavy cream

Bend the stem end of each asparagus spear until it breaks naturally and discard the tough ends. Fill a wide-bottomed saucepan with 1/2 inch of the stock. Arrange the asparagus spears in an even layer. Sprinkle with onion salt. Bring to a boil. Cover and steam for 3 to 5 minutes. Let cool to lukewarm, about 5 minutes. Puree the asparagus in a blender. You might need to add some stock.

Pour the milk and stock into separate small saucepans and place them over low heat. Heat the milk and the stock until small bubbles form around the edge of the pan, then remove them from the heat. Do not boil the liquids.

Place a heavy-bottomed saucepan over medium-low heat and add the butter. When the butter has melted and the foam begins to subside, sprinkle flour evenly over the butter. Stir with a whisk until the flour is completely blended with the butter and no lumps of flour are visible, about 2 minutes. This roux is used to thicken the soup.

Gradually add the hot milk to the roux while stirring gently with the whisk to dissolve any lumps of flour. Heat the mixture, still over medium-low heat, stirring often, until it is bubbling vigorously and has thickened, about 3 minutes. Gradually add the hot stock, stirring gently with a wooden spoon. Heat until a few bubbles break on the surface and then continue to cook, stirring very slowly, for about 3 minutes longer. The mixture should be pale beige and opaque. If the liquid starts to stick to the bottom of the pan, move the pan off the heat, whisk to recombine the ingredients, and let cool slightly.

Add the asparagus puree to the milk-stock mixture and stir until blended. Add the kosher salt and pepper, reduce the heat so that small bubbles only occasionally break the surface, cover and cook for 10 minutes. During this time, uncover the pan once or twice and stir the soup base to make sure it is not sticking to the bottom.

Stir in the cream. The soup should be on low heat. Stir constantly until hot, about 5 minutes. Do not allow it to boil. If the soup is too thick, you can add milk, 1/4 cup at a time. Remove the pan from the heat, let the soup cool, and serve.

Makes 4 servings

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Letters to the Board: Appreciation and pedestrian etiquette

Appreciation from the heart

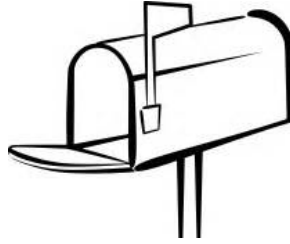
by Kathy Campbell

Editor's Note: Kathy Campbell, whose "Kathy's Kitchen" recipes are a regular feature in this newsletter, served on the board from 2013 to 2020, including as vice president.

I want to share how I ended up being on the BWNA Board and remained there for seven years. We had lived on a very busy block for 20 years and were anxious to move into more of a neighborhood. When we found our house here, we just felt like it was the right place at the right time for us.

There was a copy of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association newsletter on the front porch. Upon reading it, I contacted Al Ellis, BWNA president at that time. He invited me to come to a board meeting, and they put me on the board right away. During those seven years, I was able to meet so many people within this neighborhood. It was a "dream come true" for me.

I treasure the work we did and the work that you all continue to do to make our neighborhood safe, inclusive, friendly, and a Mr. Rogers-type neighborhood to which many people want to move. Bless you for doing this work.



Pedestrian Etiquette

by Kathy Allen

I am not sure this is the appropriate forum for my issue, but thought I would start with BWNA. With more of us out walking these days and the pandemic raging, compliance with social distancing and mask recommendations is essential. To that end, I would like to address "pedestrian etiquette." As I walk around the Beaumont-Wilshire and Rose City Park neighborhoods, I try to adhere to the "rules of the road" and use the sidewalk to the right of the street. I frequently encounter other walkers coming toward me on the same sidewalk, resulting in either myself or the other party having to veer out into the street. Walking on the sidewalk in the direction the traffic is going would help avoid coming face to face with another pedestrian, not to mention unpredictable encounters between dogs.

I realize there are exceptions to my suggestion—for instance, one-way streets and streets with sidewalks on only one side—but the overwhelming majority of streets in the Beaumont-Wilshire/Rose City Park neighborhoods are two-way with sidewalks on both sides. I think it would be great if the BWNA board would take the lead in facilitating a grassroots "Right-of-Way Pedestrian Movement." Pedestrian etiquette can make a positive difference

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The Merchant's Collection in Beaumont Village brings furniture, stone-carved items from afar

by Susan Trabucco

The holidays are over, and COVID-19's hold on our country is likely for many more months, reducing access to travel, dining out, and other activities or large events that involve humans. So as winter rages on and we're mostly stuck inside, now is the perfect time to focus on home and hearth—or even add ambiance to the outdoor space on your patio or in your garden for safe-distance gatherings of friends and family.

The Merchant's Collection, which opened last August on NE 41st in Beaumont Village (BV), may have just the thing, or things, to help you cozy up your home and patio to help you endure the damp, chilly season. Here you'll find offerings that include one-of-a-kind stone statuary and furniture made of reclaimed teak or natural rattan, all handcrafted by artisans. You'll also find some locally created art pieces. Most of the furniture items in the store are of sustainably-harvested wood, and all the products—with the exception of the local artwork—are personally sourced from Indonesia by the store's owner, Robin Ady.

Ady is the sole-owner and presently the store's only employee. He moved to Portland with his wife, who works for Nike, several years ago. After purchasing a house near NE 14th and Fremont, his frequent drives to and from the airport to travel the country for his then-active audio-engineering business led him to pass through Beaumont Village on a regular basis. When the coronavirus struck, and his business withered, Ady decided to launch the second location of a business he and his brother owned in Texas. Hence, the The Merchant's Collection was born in BV. He explained, "I drove through Beaumont Village all the time, and I just developed a fondness for this quaint urban district."



Robin Ady is the owner of The Merchant's Collection, recently opened in the Dutch Building Annex on NE 41st Avenue. His shop features an abundance of exotic home and garden décor items from Indonesia, all hand-picked by Ady

Looking for space here led him to Darren Stowell, who had recently purchased the Dutch Village building and annex. "I loved the building, and Darren was great to work with," Ady said. "Our space is large and light-filled and displays our furniture and stone-work nicely."

Ady believes his merchandise is complementary to other import store offerings but is unique in that he carefully chooses each piece; there is no "middleman" making purchasing decisions for him: "I choose pieces I feel are interesting, and of great quality. And because it's all handcrafted or hand-carved, each piece is totally unique," Ady said. "I have to like it, and if I do, I find my customers do, too."

While opening his store during a pandemic adds a significant challenge to growing sales, Ady is optimistic for the future and looks forward to meeting fellow BV business owners and residents from the nearby neighborhood, noting "Just as I have relationships with my craftspeople and vendors, I'd like to have that with BV businesses and customers."

You'll find him in the store when he's open. (Hours vary with COVID constraints, but he's happy to have people call for an appointment.) In his off-time, Robin spends time snowboarding, golfing, running, or mountain biking, adding "My wife and I really enjoy the outdoor opportunities Portland offers, so we're very happy to be here."

The Merchant's Collection is located at 3430 NE 41st Avenue. For more information and myriad photos that beautifully display The Merchant's Collection product line, visit www.themerchantcollection.com or contact Ady by e-mail (robin@themerchantcollection.com) or by phone (503-862-3893).

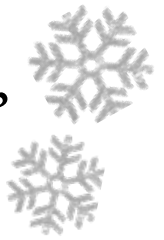
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We invite you to visit the new BWNA website at www.bwnapdx.org and register your email address so you can keep up to date on neighborhood news, meetings, and activities. Click "Subscribe" at the top of the website home page and enter your contact information.

Participate in the “Calming Flurry of Snowflakes Artistic Challenge”

by Andrew Rinke



From our last newsletter, we had a great showing of young artists' ducks and five lucky raffle winners!

Please join us in this next challenge for **neighbors of all ages**. Once again, we will draw five participants at random, and this time we will offer a \$10 gift certificate to one of our Beaumont-Wilshire Fremont Street businesses of your choice.

At the core of the Calming Flurry of Snowflakes Artistic Challenge is a “Winter Snowflake Mandala.” A mandala is an ancient Eastern spiritual symbol of the universe and means “circle” in Sanskrit. Drawing and coloring a mandala can also be used as an aid to meditation, reducing stress and anxiety. Learn more and get inspired from our blog (www.bwnapdx.org and click Blog at the top of the home page), where, by the way, the 14 ducky drawings from the last issue’s contest are on display.

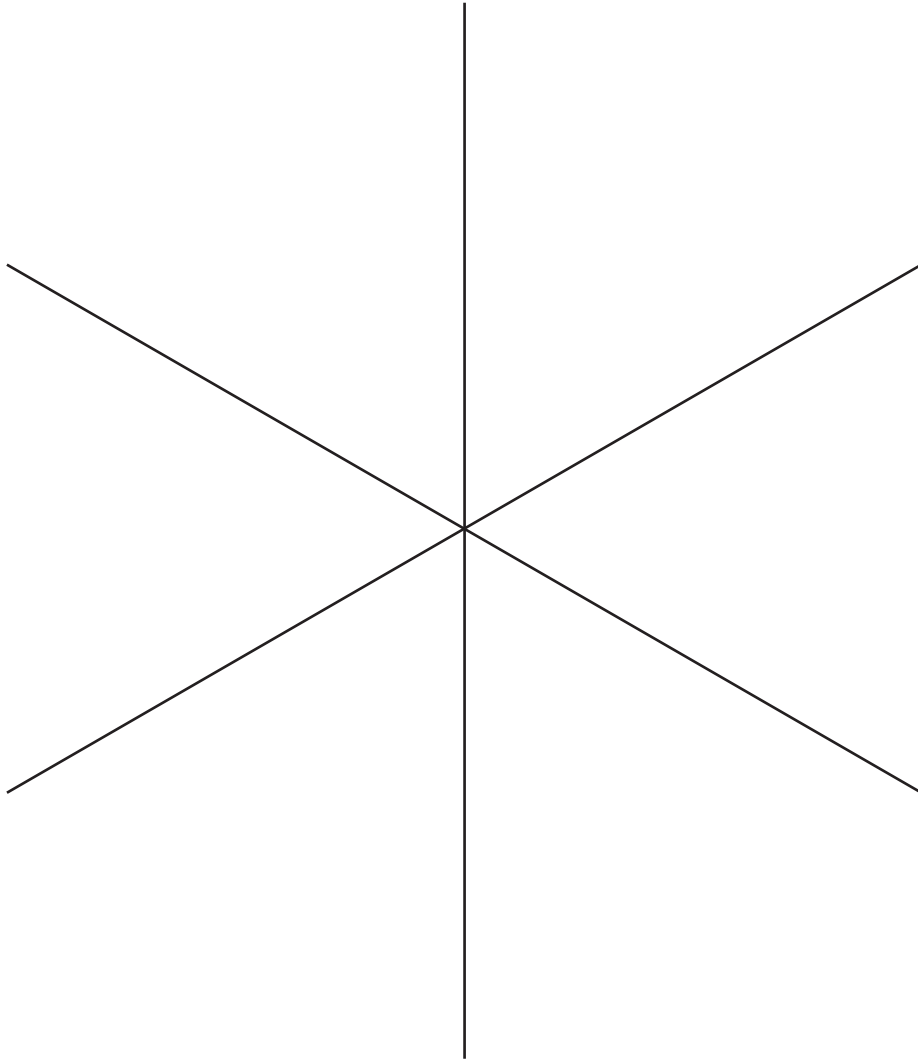


Using the design below as a starting point, create a snowflake in the style of a mandala.

You can use straight lines, curves, a rainbow of colors, or black and white.

Submit creations (color photo or scan) by e-mail to info@bwnapdx.org with the artist's name by February 14th. Contest winners will be announced after the deadline, and all submissions will be posted on our blog.

Let it snow!



Jim Arnal
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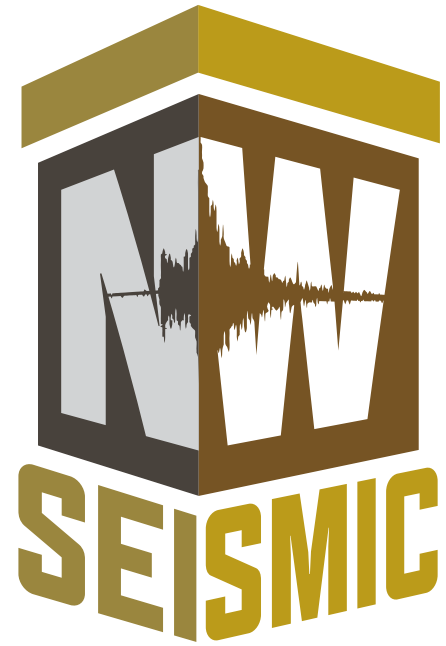


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