



# BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association (BWNA) [www.bwna.us](http://www.bwna.us)

May • June 2012

## Beaumont Jazz Ambassadors wow overflow crowd at Taste of Beaumont

By Al Ellis

It was the day after Easter, with Passover still in swing, as BWNA President Al Ellis welcomed a packed house to the annual Taste of Beaumont General Meeting. Vibrant music from 20 talented Beaumont Middle School musicians—the “Beaumont Jazz Ambassadors” under the direction of dynamo band director Cynthia Plank—resonated throughout Bethany Lutheran Church’s Fellowship Hall. A long line formed to dine on samples from some of the community’s favorite local restaurants— Alameda Brewhouse, Alameda Café, Amalfi’s, Delphina’s, Fire on the Mountain, Papa Murphy’s, Pizza Nostra, and Red Fig. Additionally, Beaumont Market and Wilshire Market donated soft drinks and ice, and Beaumont Florist provided ten beautiful floral arrangements for the tables (which would be raffled off at the end of the evening).

Musicians delighted the audience with several toe-tapping pieces from the Big Band era and displayed outstanding talent for their age through a combination of group precision and individual flare on the solos. Director Plank noted that the performance was a dress rehearsal of sorts for an upcoming competition, and she exhorted her students to strive for



excellence—which they succeeded in doing to the approving applause of the audience. The musicians’ proud parents who had assisted earlier with hauling in instruments and equipment, captured photos.

While the band took a pizza break, Portland Police officers Martley and Brockman gave a Beaumont-Wilshire crime report and fielded questions afterwards. Officer Martley delivered the same message that officers had at past BWNA general meetings: namely, that Beaumont-Wilshire has one of the lowest incidences of serious crime in the area, with auto break-ins the most commonly reported problem.

After admonishing her musicians to brush their teeth before returning to play, Director Plank guided the group through a few more numbers, culminating in a peppery Latin dance number that had the room bouncing and smiling.

The business portion of the evening was delayed until after the students and parents had completed their clean-up. First on the agenda was approval of the minutes from February’s general meeting. Then Al Ellis (substituting for Treasurer Gwen McPherson, who had been hospitalized with a serious illness) gave the

*continued on page 5*

# Thank You!

This year’s participants for The Taste of Beaumont

Alameda Brewhouse • Alameda Café • Amalfi’s • Delphina’s Bakery • Fire on the Mountain • Papa Murphy’s Pizza • Pizza Nostra • The Red Fig • Beaumont Florist • Beaumont Market • Wilshire Market •

*It was a job well done and a special evening to remember for the neighborhood!*

Special thanks go out to Cynthia Plank and The Beaumont Jazz Ambassadors



## President's Message: In Touch with the Neighborhood

By Al Ellis

Spring and summer provide residents with a variety of opportunities to commune with what's going on in the neighborhood. Whether it's taking more walks or bicycle rides, more time in the yard, more activities in the park, or more shopping and dining in Beaumont-Wilshire's two business districts, the neighborhood's quality of life reaches out for us to experience, and it doesn't take long to see why Beaumont-Wilshire is considered one of the more desirable places to live in all of Northeast Portland. Still, like all neighborhoods, we have our issues and concerns, and how we deal with them, both individually and collectively, reflects on quality of life as well. That said, a neighborhood association's main function is to preserve and enhance the positives, while effectively addressing the negatives. But how best to accomplish this? I would suggest two primary factors as prerequisites:

1.) A neighborhood association is only as strong as the volunteers who give of their time and energy to make it work. It starts with the Board of Directors—the cadre of the organization. Frankly speaking, without a strong Board, there is little chance of getting anything done. Currently there are vacant positions on the BWNA Board that need filling, but as of yet, no takers. Disappointingly, of the multitudes who attended part or all of the Taste of Beaumont General Meeting last month, not one stepped forward to fill a vacant position. If you live within the Beaumont-Wilshire boundaries, can attend meetings on the second Monday evening of most months, and like the idea of providing a valuable service for your fellow neighbors, please contact me at [president@bwna.us](mailto:president@bwna.us). I'd

be happy to answer any questions you might have and would encourage you to attend a Board meeting (held on the second Monday of odd-numbered months) to get a firsthand look at who the members are and how we strive to work together as a team.

2.) Communication with constituents is the next most important factor in keeping a neighborhood association productive and relevant. BWNA does this in four ways: general meetings (on the second Monday of even-numbered months, except August, when the National Night Out Picnic substitutes), this Newsletter, the BWNA Web site, and blog (which has a link to our Facebook page).

The most direct way to communicate and participate in BWNA is to attend general meetings every other month at Bethany Lutheran Church (corner of Skidmore and 37th). Secondly, read our bi-monthly Newsletter and respond with a "Letter to the Board" about a local issue of your choice. Third, submit an article or announcement for the Newsletter or blog via [editor@bwna.us](mailto:editor@bwna.us). The reality is that a neighborhood association will get nowhere fast without active participation from its residents. And speaking of participation, Newsletter Distribution Coordinator Serah Breakstone is always in need of volunteers to distribute newsletters to residences, and one neighbor did step up at Taste of Beaumont. How about you? Serah is at [sryano@comcast.net](mailto:sryano@comcast.net). Sense of community underlies quality of life. BWNA can be your community hub.

### Write a Letter to the Board

The Board of Directors welcomes letters concerning local neighborhood issues. Writers are asked to limit letters to 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity and will be published as space allows, including on our website/blog ([www.bwna.us](http://www.bwna.us)).

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Url: <http://www.cnncoalition.org>

## A rose garden 38 years in the making

By Dave Anderson

At the age of 89, Ellen Elliff is hitting the gym to get back in shape. Her roses need her to get rid of the walker and get back in the garden.

Elliff is the owner of the house at Northeast 41st Avenue and Klickitat Street, the one with hundreds of rose bushes. Elliff isn't sure of the precise number – it's somewhere between 200 and 250. She's especially fond of the white JFK and the red Mr. Lincoln and the pink Queen of Peace and the yellow Gold Medal.

"The favorite is usually the one I'm looking at right then," she says.

Ever since she started the rose garden in 1974, Elliff has won awards and admiration. Drivers stop to take photos and neighbors bring out-of-town visitors.

But about a year ago, Elliff fell down some stairs and spent 10 days in the hospital. Since then, she's had to use a walker or a cane. A couple of months ago, she joined the Hollywood 24-Hour Fitness. A couple times a week, she hangs her Trader Joe's shopping bags from her walker, gets on a bus and goes to the gym to regain her strength. In addition to gardening, she needs to get well so she can kneel in church.

In the meantime, her 65-year-old daughter, Patricia Orton, and a former tenant, Tracy Duncan, have helped out with the roses.

But growing healthy roses takes a lot of work – pruning, weeding, four feedings a year and hand watering in the summer.

That dedication and hard work impresses Betsy Ray, who has lived behind Elliff for 19 years. For years, Elliff would have a load of topsoil delivered to her house and then use a wheelbarrow to haul a bunch of it more than five blocks away, to a rental house she owns near McPeet's Portland Pub.



Ellen Elliff's rose garden, with nearly 250, is probably the biggest in the neighborhood.

"Ellen's a character, alright," Ray says.

Elliff started planting the roses 38 years ago. She and her husband, Roy Elliff, had built a retaining wall in the front yard. It seemed natural to plant roses atop the wall.

"Little by little, we just added on," she says. In the late 1970's, she won the city of Portland's Frank L. Beach Rose Visibility Award. Her husband died in 1978, but Elliff continued planting.

She's still perfecting the garden, adding trellises and climbing roses in the past couple years. The roses start blooming in May and continue until the first frost of fall.

"It's just a good place to grow roses," she says. "Roses are easy to grow if you give them tender, loving care. They want food and they want water and to be pruned properly."

Elliff used to make bouquets for St. Patrick Catholic Church in Northwest Portland. But she doesn't usually cut flowers to bring in the house. She wants everyone to enjoy them.

Elliff's roses and Ray's yard, at the corner of 42nd and Klickitat, form a bit of a garden district in the neighborhood. Ray has only eight roses, saying she prefers perennials that come back on their own, like lilies and delphiniums.

"You do all this work and it makes people smile, hopefully," Ray says.

Elliff has lived in her house since 1946, when her parents owned it. Neighbors have come and gone and it seems no one remains from the 1960's. She especially misses the man down the street who used to walk the neighborhood with a rabbit on his shoulder, stopping to feed it dandelions along the way.

But Elliff loves her neighborhood. She also wants to get back to Fremont Fest when she feels better.

"When I find a place I love, I stay put," she says. "I intend to stay here."

### BWNA Calendar

#### **Monday, May 14th • 7:00PM**

BWNA Board Meeting

Bethany Lutheran Church, Conference Room  
NE 37th Entrance

#### **Monday, June 11th • 7:00PM**

BWNA General Meeting

Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall  
NE Skidmore Entrance

#### **Friday, June 15th**

Deadline for ads and articles  
for the July - August 2012 newsletter

#### **Monday, July 9th • 7:00PM**

BWNA Board Meeting

Bethany Lutheran Church, Conference Room  
NE 37th Entrance

#### **Monday, August 13th • 7:00PM**

BWNA General Meeting

Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall  
NE Skidmore Entrance

BWNA's calendar is on the web!

Go to [www.bwna.us](http://www.bwna.us) and select BWNA Calendar

## A Taste of the Middle East to be Found in the Neighborhood

By Michael Gray

One of my favorite things about living in Beaumont-Wilshire is the fantastic restaurants in close proximity. My wife and I have enjoyed trying a number of these over the past year and a half since moving into the neighborhood.

A couple of months ago we had our first dining experience at Hoda's, and it didn't disappoint. The atmosphere is very cozy, and the staff extremely friendly. "We want people to feel like they are eating at home," says Hoda Khouri. This is evident in the presentation of the food as well, with a variety of dishes and flavors in portions that are meant to share.

Also separating the quality of food at Hoda's is their focus on fresh and local ingredients. "We

have been shopping for our ingredients at the local farmers markets for over 8 years now, and our beef is 100% grass-fed sourced from Lonely Lane Farms out of Mt. Angel. We want to deliver a product that is flavorful, fresh, and authentic." No butter or shortening is used in their dishes, only olive oil. They have a number of gluten-free and vegetarian dishes as well.

Hoda and Hani Khouri started in the restaurant business in 1999 with their location at SE 34th and Belmont, expanding to their second location on Fremont last year. Hoda had always enjoyed cooking her family's traditional Lebanese dishes, and with a growing family she felt the restaurant business would offer more flexibility

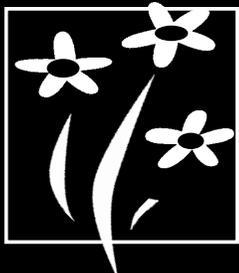
than her career as a social worker and Hani's as a loan officer. Now, their business has expanded to catering, providing food for all types of events. They even provide school lunch options to All Saints and Madeline.

I highly suggest a visit to Hoda's – try the "Taste of the Middle East for Two" for a great variety of traditional dishes. Also, mention this article and receive a complimentary humos appetizer.

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Treasurer's report and followed up with announcements about upcoming local events. Next, Board member and new BWNA Newsletter Distribution Coordinator Serah Breakstone paid tribute to the dedicated volunteers who deliver the newsletters to residences and businesses every other month. Distribution captains and on-foot distributors in attendance were asked to come to the front of the room to be recognized for their service and to receive extra raffle tickets as a token of the neighborhood's appreciation.

It was then time for nominations and elections for Board and officer positions. All but two of the positions had incumbents running unopposed. The incumbents were asked to say a few words about themselves and why they chose to serve on the Board. They also encouraged residents remaining in the room (whose number had dwindled considerably after the conclusion of the band's performance) to consider filling the two vacant Board positions, but there was only silence, and the Board positions remained unfilled. Elected by unanimous consent to two-year terms were President Al Ellis, Treasurer Gwen McPherson, and At-Large Board members Bob McKibben, Tom Melville, Bryan Green, Michael Gray, and Larry Freeborg. (The other half of the Board and officer positions will be up for election next year.)

The evening ended on a festive note with the raffling off of free door prizes—first the ten floral arrangements from Beaumont Florist, then three gift certificates from Grand Central Bakery (which will be moving into the vacated Soluna Grill building on Fremont Street come June). Each gift certificate entitled the winner to a free loaf of bread each month for an entire year!

BWNA thanks all who contributed to the success of this year's Taste of Beaumont—the Beaumont Middle School musicians and their director Cynthia Plank, the local merchants who donated cuisine samples and door prizes, and last, but certainly not least, the dedicated crew of BWNA Board members who worked so



diligently in soliciting merchants to participate, moving heavy tables in and out of the hall, arranging the room, and staying late to clean up. On balance, it was a positive and productive evening, but not without its shortcomings—one of which was a shortage of food for the large turnout. The BWNA Board of Directors will

be discussing what went right, what didn't, and how to improve things for next year at its next meeting on Monday, May 14th, beginning at 7:00 PM at Bethany Lutheran Church. As always, Board meetings are open to the public, and your input is welcome.

# Neighborhood considers sign caps to identify Beaumont-Wilshire

By Dave Anderson

Beaumont-Wilshire might not have the same name recognition as the Hollywood, Irvington or Alameda neighborhoods. But a new effort by the neighborhood association could help change that.

The association is exploring the possibility of purchasing signs to identify the neighborhood.

Known as "sign caps," they go on top of existing street name signs. Nearby neighborhoods that have used sign caps include Roseway, Sullivan's Gulch and Dolph Park.

One of the city neighborhoods that recently

completed the first phase of such a project is South Burlingame in Southwest Portland. The neighborhood faced several challenges, including fundraising and dealing with city bureaucracy, said Leah Benazzi, a volunteer who coordinated the South Burlingame effort.

The city insisted that its crews install the caps and then kept increasing the cost to the neighborhood while delaying the project, Benazzi said.

The city requires that only its crews can install the sign caps for liability reasons, said Dave Hutson, a senior engineer with the city's Transportation Bureau. It charges actual costs for crews to do

the work during weekends when time allows, he said. The city used to charge \$20 per sign cap, but realized that was not the actual cost.

The city told South Burlingame it would cost \$54 per sign to install. The installation cost for Beaumont-Wilshire could be between \$50 and \$75 per sign for Beaumont-Wilshire, depending

Beaumont-Wilshire would need to raise more than \$3,000 if the neighborhood wanted 25 signs at the high estimate of \$135 each, which includes manufacture and city installation. The board has not yet discussed a fundraising plan.

The city specifications call for a standard cap of 24 inches long and 4-3/4 inches high, with



The neighborhood association will choose between two designs for sign caps in Beaumont-Wilshire. One is an original design that features the B-W and the other is the traditional roofline logo from Beaumont Village on Northeast Fremont Street. To vote for your favorite, go to the Beaumont Wilshire Neighbors page on Facebook and look for the poll.

a domed top nearly 8 inches high. Each neighborhood designs a logo to go in the domed area. South Burlingame used a hummingbird because one area of the neighborhood has been known as Hummingbird Hill. Colin O'Neill, a former Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood

Association board

member, is working on possible designs for our neighborhood.

South Burlingame used Traffic Safety Supply Co. Inc. (TSCC) of Southeast Portland to manufacture its signs. If Beaumont-Wilshire ordered 25 signs with a standard background color, the cost would be \$60 each, said Amy Sanchez of TSCC.

It took South Burlingame about a year to raise the money for its project, Benazzi said. Market of Choice on Southwest Terwilliger Boulevard and the Burlingame Fred Meyer each contributed \$500. The neighborhood association kicked in \$300. And a fundraising flyer sent to residents raised an initial \$1,200.

member, is working on possible designs for our neighborhood.

In Beaumont-Wilshire, the initial plan would start with about 20 to 25 signs placed on street signs inside the periphery of the neighborhood. Volunteers are working on developing a list of sign locations.

A second phase might move toward the interior of the neighborhood.

The board is likely to discuss the project at its May 14 board meeting and the June 11 general meeting.



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## Canvas and Cloth

By Baer Charlton

Have you ever put up with a jacket that didn't have enough shoulder or back, so when you reached for something, the cuff rode up your arm to your elbow? Or do you find you have to keep pulling the tops of your leggings up every time you move? Wish there was a logical minded place in the neighborhood to get a wedding dress altered or restyled? Your worries are over ladies. Guys, we get to continue quietly suffering—but then, we already knew that.

Canvas and Cloth, the new boutique that took over the space between Americana Frame and Tuk Tuk, is your new haven.

Proprietress Julia GaRey, jumped in with a push by her friend Rose (formally Roseabode). Both, along with many of their local designing friends, recognized the need for custom fitted and designed clothing. Clothing that ranged from every-day wear such as leggings that stay and move the way they are supposed to, to day-to-day dresses and tops and even bridal wear that is designed with Northwest sensitivities in mind. But that is not to say there aren't racks and racks of ready to wear goods as well as accessories, too.

Asked if this was about "trendy" wear, the young Julia responded with a pause and a warm smile, "we have couture for the younger set, certainly; but my mother and grandmother would find things they were comfortable with also." Her in-house label has specialized in classic coats and jackets, but is also expanding into flattering and comfortable knit and woven dresses with classic silhouettes, as well as soft and sexy lingerie.

Comfort is what it is all about. And comfort comes from a correct fit, which is where the diminutive Julia started as a young junior high school girl in Grants Pass. "As you can imagine, it was tough finding anything to wear in the range between children's and petit." Still a sub-petite, she finds that even in fashion-forward Portland, nobody was addressing the "Not Quite" body sizes and shapes. So from those first self-defense experiences in rural Oregon she has developed her style of "design from the body; not a pattern." Even those who are tall have it tough to get fitted correctly.

Nothing makes you feel great like clothes that are tailored to you, but being able to buy them right here in the neighborhood from a comfortable friendly face is a great second.

Stop in and check out the various local designers' goods at 4225 NE Fremont Street, Tuesday through Saturday from 11-6ish.

**Don't forget...**  
**BWNA Board Meeting**  
**Monday, May 14th • 7:00PM**

**BWNA General Meeting**  
**Monday, June 11th • 7:00PM**

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# Smallwares opens with a big vision

By Serah Breakstone

Johanna Ware opened her new restaurant, Smallwares, in February at the corner of 46th and Fremont, bringing a unique and welcome addition to the Beaumont food scene. I had a chance to talk with Johanna about her vision for the restaurant and what brought her to our neighborhood.

Johanna began her journey working in Portland's food industry and then spent seven years in New York cultivating her cooking skills and developing her own sense of taste and style. Her plan was always to come back to Portland and open a place of her own. After moving back to Portland, she worked at Nostrana for nearly two years and then began the daunting task of establishing

a new restaurant. Beaumont-Wilshire was a good fit for her because she and her husband live nearby and hope to buy a house in this neighborhood next year. She was able to secure a lease on Fremont (in the former Doc George's space) and has since redesigned the interior into a modern and comfortable space with a full bar and open kitchen.

The menu at Smallwares reflects Johanna's preference for bold flavors, spice balanced with acidity, and dishes that draw from a wide range of sources. She considers her food to be "inauthentic Asian" because there is an Asian theme, but she doesn't adhere to any traditions in terms of ingredients. She is more

interested in foods that fit well together to make an interesting and tasty dish. Smallwares offers a variety of small-ish plates that are



easily shared – an approach that encourages people to try more dishes and broaden their dining experience. Johanna expressed concern that people might find her menu somewhat perplexing because the dishes and ingredients may not be as familiar. She has very experienced and helpful people on her staff that are happy to guide customers through the menu and make suggestions. So while this isn't a restaurant review, the my personal experience has been that menu, while distinctive, is quite approachable and the flavors are at once familiar and new. Johanna expects that her menu will continue to evolve and she hopes her customers will provide feedback to help inform her

decisions. Smallwares has also recently added a kid's menu and Johanna mentioned that they are always willing to accommodate dietary restrictions (gluten-free, etc.) to the extent possible.

The space at Smallwares also includes a sizable area in back that is soon to become Barwares, a drinking and eating lounge that will provide an alternative to the more "formal" dining room. Barwares, which she is hoping to open late April, will have a separate full bar, large fireplace, outdoor seating in the courtyard, and will stay open later than the restaurant. The full Smallwares menu, plus additional items, will be available in the bar area, and there will be some larger

tables that can be reserved for parties.

Johanna hopes that Smallwares will be a good fit on Fremont Street and she looks forward to being involved and getting to know more of her neighbors. She joined the Beaumont Business Association and has sent postcards out to nearby residents offering a discount on their first visit. For myself, I look forward to more evenings at Smallwares (my husband can't get enough of their kimchi) and am happy for the flair they are adding to our neighborhood.

You can check out Smallwares' menu and hours at: <http://www.smallwarespdx.com/>.

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# Procedures for placing newsletter ads or participating in fremont fest as vendor

By Al Ellis

At first glance, the title of this article may seem baffling. How does placing ads in the BWNA Newsletter relate to participating in Fremont Fest as a vendor? In only one way: inquiries to BWNA indicate that there's been confusion about how to go about accomplishing both of these tasks. So here's a clarification on procedures:

Placing an ad in the Newsletter: One of the sources of confusion is that BWNA Treasurer Gwen McPherson, who would normally handle all communications regarding ads (cost, deadlines, etc.) is, at this writing, recovering from a serious operation, and the time table for her recovery is uncertain. In the interim, all ad e-mail inquiries should be directed to editor@bwna.us. To pay for an ad, send checks made out to Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association (or BWNA) to the following address:

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association  
c/o Beaumont Business Association  
3519 NE 15th Avenue  
Suite 540  
Portland, OR. 97212

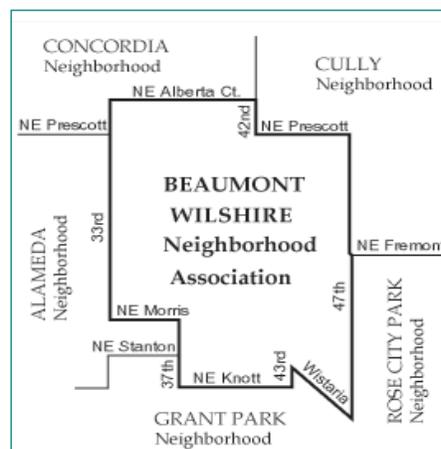
The reason the address is "c/o Beaumont Business Association" is because BWNA and BBA share the services of the same bookkeeper.

Participating in Fremont Fest as a vendor: The main confusion here is that many people mistakenly assume that BWNA is in charge of the Fest. Not so. The Beaumont Business Association is responsible for Fremont Fest, and has their vendor participation form online: <http://businessonfremont.com/forms/BBA-Vendor-f-03202012.pdf>

Additionally, the vendor form as well as general information about Fremont Fest and other Beaumont Business Association activities can be accessed via the BBA Web site: [www.businessonfremont.com](http://www.businessonfremont.com) BBA President Dan Johnson cautions that vendor space is limited and encourages vendors wanting to participate to submit their applications as soon as possible. I hope that clears things up a bit.

All residents, property owners, government agencies, business licensees, and non-profit organizations located within the boundaries of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association may consider themselves members of BWNA. Membership is free. Members are welcome to attend any BWNA business meeting.

## Beaumont-Wilshire Boundaries



## Volunteer to deliver newsletters!

Beaumont-Wilshire delivery carriers wanted

- 4-5 block radius
- 20-30 minute commitment
- Deliver every other month

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# June 11th General Meeting runs gamut from education to aviation

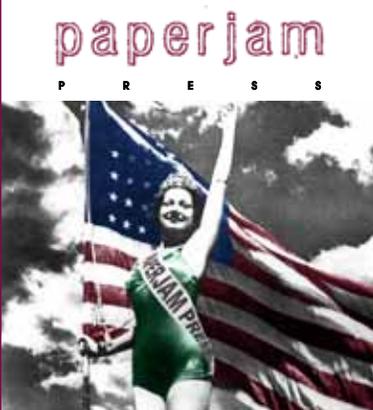
By Al Ellis

With the eventful 2011-2012 academic year rapidly coming to a close, BWNA's featured speaker for its June 11th General Meeting will be a specialist from the Portland Public Schools administration. The presentation will open with a brief review of changes the District plans to implement next fall, followed by questions and comments from the audience. Also on the agenda will be a neighborhood crime report by a local officer—again with emphasis on fielding questions and comments from the audience—and a community forum on the topic of excessive aviation noise, led by Beaumont-Wilshire activists Tom and Penelope Lichatowich, who have petitioned the Mayor and City Commissioners to decisively address this longstanding controversy involving neighborhoods located adjacent to or nearby the Oregon National Guard base at PDX.

Then it's on to Board member Dave Anderson, who will explain BWNA's proposed sign cap project and explore possible fund-raising strategies to finance it.

The meeting begins at 7:00PM and is held at Bethany Lutheran Church, on the corner of 37th Ave. and Skidmore St., just across from Wilshire Park. Enter via the designated walkway on the Skidmore side of the church. BWNA general meetings are held on the second Monday of even-numbered months, except for August, when the National Night Out Picnic (held on the first Tuesday in August) substitutes for the August general meeting. Thus, the upcoming June 11th meeting will be BWNA's last general meeting until October 8th. Board meetings are held in-between on the second Monday of odd-numbered months (July and September). With that in mind, neighbors are invited to use the opportunity to voice any neighborhood concerns they might have and present suggestions/proposals for the Board to consider over the summer.

The meeting adjourns around 8:30PM, and the light refreshments are available for noshing.



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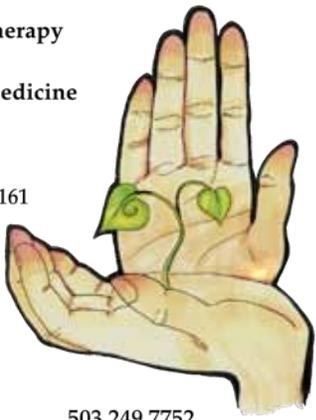
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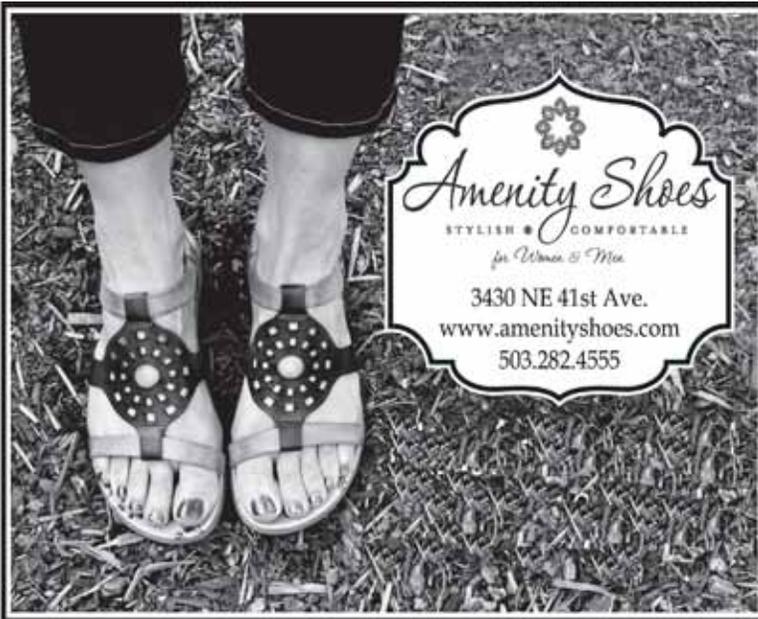
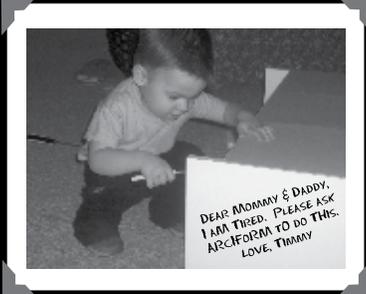
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## neighbor

(n ā ' b ə r)

*n.*  
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A fellow human.

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