

# BWNA

Newsletter of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association



BWNA board members Patti Koehler, left, and Angela Frome display the flags procured for pedestrian use at several busy intersections along NE Fremont Street. Photo by Mike Frome.

## FLAGS ON FREMONT

WAVING THE WAY TO A SAFE STREET CROSSING

by Susan Trabucco

Facing concerns from residents about pedestrian safety on NE Fremont Street in Beaumont Village — and with no commitment from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to do anything about it — the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association is taking charge.

At the January BWNA board meeting, board members Angela Frome and Patti Koehler proposed that the association purchase and install flags for pedestrian use at several busy intersections along Fremont. The duo had researched other cities, including Kirkland, Wash., where flags had been used successfully to assist people in safely crossing the street.

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March-April 2025

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## OPEN SPACES

by Al Ellis, BWNA Board President

As the emergence of spring blossoms is a symbol of renewal and vitality, so is our neighborhood's awakening from the long, chilly winter a harbinger of vibrancy. It's out the door we go into the open spaces! Count the baby strollers, the dog walkers, the joggers, the bicyclists, the gardeners, the kids playing in the park.

For many years, BWNA had a Parks and Open Spaces Committee charged with making recommendations to the BWNA board on matters associated with Wilshire Park and other outdoor areas in the neighborhood. But after the committee chair moved, participation waned, eventually drying up completely.

Then came board member Gary Hancock to the rescue. An environmentalist at heart, in 2018 Gary took the lead in organizing a new committee called Friends of Wilshire Park (FoWP) to replace Parks and Open Spaces.

Focused on improving and enhancing Beaumont-Wilshire's lovely but senescent Wilshire Park, the committee solicited public input on park needs, prioritized those needs, and proposed projects costing tens of thousands of dollars — which Portland Parks & Recreation was willing to approve, provided the vast majority of the costs were funded by the neighborhood!

Thanks in no small part to Gary's passion, vision, and diligence, the ambitious fundraising goals were met and projects implemented. Read about this against-all-odds story at [friendsofwilshirepark.org/donate](http://friendsofwilshirepark.org/donate).

Mary Roney, head of volunteering and fundraising for FoWP, summed it up this way: "As a result of his leadership, the dogs have water, the kids have a playground, and we all have a serene NatureScape. Gary's efforts have contributed to a vibrant community space for all of us."

But another twist to the tale was in store: At last December's general meeting, Gary made the surprise announcement that he would be stepping down from his at-large board position to free up time for other environmental pursuits, thus creating two "open spaces" within BWNA — FoWP committee chair, since filled by Mary Roney, and an open board position. In addition, perhaps a new Open Spaces Committee will be created to focus on beautification (e.g., graffiti cleanup).

There's an opportunity for the community-minded to fill the remaining open board position. BWNA's annual elections will be held at a general meeting on April 14. Walk, jog, or ride over — no obligation. Meet neighbors and consider serving.

Questions? Contact me by emailing [President@BWNApdx.org](mailto:President@BWNApdx.org)

## OUR ORGANIZATION

### BWNA Board

#### President

Al Ellis 503-287-0477  
[President@BWNApdx.org](mailto:President@BWNApdx.org)

#### Vice-President

Tim Gillespie [gillespi@teleport.com](mailto:gillespi@teleport.com)

#### Secretary

Patti Koehler 971-678-0824

#### Treasurer

Karla Lenox 503-686-5915  
[Treasurer@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Treasurer@BWNApdx.org)

#### At-Large Board Members

Aaron Breakstone	Colin O'Neill
Tom Cuppernull	Tim Root
Angela Frome	John Sandie
David Knowles	Susan Trabucco
Rob Lee	

#### Immediate Past President

Patty Nelson 503-281-8035

## Related Organizations

### Beaumont Business Association

Kathy Madore, Community Organizer  
[beaumontbusinesses@gmail.com](mailto:beaumontbusinesses@gmail.com)

Mary Myers, President  
[bbboardpresident@gmail.com](mailto:bbboardpresident@gmail.com)

### Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

Board Liaison: Patty Nelson

## Areas of Interest

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

### Crime Prevention and Safety Cmte

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

### Events Committee

John Sandie, chair 219-508-4162

### Friends of Wilshire Park Committee

Mary Roney, chair  
[maryroney643@gmail.com](mailto:maryroney643@gmail.com)

### Land Use Committee

Tim Root, chair [root.timothy@gmail.com](mailto:root.timothy@gmail.com)

### Transportation Committee

Colin O'Neill, chair 503-803-0015

### Newsletter Team

Editor: Susan Trabucco 503-440-7732  
[Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org)

Graphic Design:  
Jane Feinberg, [Design@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Design@BWNApdx.org)

Copy Editor:  
Myrna Sheie 224-659-1537

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

### Website (BWNApdx.org)

Rob Lee [swollentongue@gmail.com](mailto:swollentongue@gmail.com)

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## Welcome

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to our many faithful advertisers, who  
continue to make this newsletter possible!



# FLAGS ON FREMONT

(continued from page 1)

With a “go” from the BWNA for \$350 in funding for a pilot project to test the staying power of the flags and a \$150 donation from the Beaumont Business Association (BBA), the project, dubbed “Flags on Fremont,” will be implemented sometime in March.

Pedestrians will find receptacles with brightly colored flags at various places along Fremont. The idea is to take a flag when you’re about to cross and wave it to capture the attention of drivers. Once safely across the street, there’s another receptacle in which to place the flag for the next person to come along. Instructions for how to use the flags will be posted at each of the receptacles.

Mary Myers, BBA president and center director at Sylvan Learning at 43rd and Fremont, experiences first-hand the challenges of getting across the busy street.

“Even during the day, I show my intent to cross at a marked crosswalk, but often drivers refuse to stop,” Myers said. “The BBA is happy to help the neighborhood association on this project,” she added. “We want visitors to Fremont Street — and those who work here — to be safe, and hopefully the flags will help.”

The BWNA extends its thanks to Paperjam Press for the donation of design and printing of the weather-resistant instructional signs, and to Beaumont Hardware for providing the receptacle materials for the project at cost.

And parents? Anything you can do to help kids understand that the flags aren’t there for swordsmanship or other entertainment pursuits is appreciated, as tempting as we know it will likely be. Flags on Fremont will expand to more crossings, even outside the Fremont corridor potentially, if the flags don’t “walk off” at an unsustainable rate.

## True or False? Parking Within 20 Feet from a Crosswalk is Prohibited

It’s true! In Oregon, parking is prohibited within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection. That’s according to ORS 811.550(17). There are exceptions that include temporary, short-term parking for loading or unloading and pulling over for passing traffic. But for those nosing their cars or trucks right up to the crosswalk to park while visiting a friend, setting out on a shopping spree, or for a restaurant outing — it’s a flat-out “no-no.”

The why of this is that blind intersections have a proven track record of being dangerous for drivers and pedestrians.

According to a February 4 post from Bike Portland, the City of Portland has committed to “daylighting” 200 intersections over the next two years. This typically involves signage to restrict parking at certain locations near an intersection, in what PBOT calls “vision clearance.” The article states that 4,000 problem intersections have been identified. So, how to get our neighborhood prioritized?

The article reports that PBOT will respond to specific locations based on complaints. Anyone can call PBOT Parking Enforcement at (503) 823-5195 (and wait for option 3) to report a dangerous corner for consideration. So, if you’re concerned about safety at a crosswalk in our neighborhood where prohibited parking is taking place, dial away!

Find the full Bike Portland article at [tinyurl.com/5he786sa](https://tinyurl.com/5he786sa).

Julie Brown



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Email [President@BWNApdx.org](mailto:President@BWNApdx.org) to inquire.



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# SOBER LIVING CENTER REPS REASSURE BWNA BOARD, COMMUNITY

by Chris Rauber



Andrea Hood, left, and Cody Roberts presented information about the new sober living program at NE 42nd and Prescott during a recent BWNA general meeting. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

Representatives from 4D Recovery, which operates a sober living center for teenagers and younger adults at the southwest corner of NE 42nd and Prescott, told the BWNA board at its Feb. 10 meeting that things have been going well so far.

The center opened last November in the Society 42 building — the name given it by owner/developer Ethos Development. Originally constructed as a communal living property, the 44-bedroom center currently houses just 12 people recovering from substance abuse; full capacity is anticipated within several months.

The center is 4D's first housing project, according to Director of Operations Andrea Hood. It focuses on young people between 18 and 35, but admits some younger teenagers.

The nine-month program 4D provides is a re-entry path to society for young people coming out of months-long residential drug treatment centers. For the final three months of 4D's program, residents focus on job and job-hunting skills, including basics like picking up after themselves and being on time. Earlier, staying sober and making friends are the focus.

A major goal is "being mindful of the neighborhood, being a good neighbor," said Cody Roberts, director of peer services, who oversees recovery programs.

Despite a few glitches — like residents parking cars in the wrong places — Hood and Roberts told the BWNA board that things are going smoothly. Staffers make sure residents follow curfews, 8 a.m. daily check-ins, and other safety measures.

Roberts stressed that residents are admitted only after completing rehab at established treatment centers. None of them have committed violent crimes.

"We're helping them navigate life," Roberts said. "Have patience with us."

## NEWS BITS

FROM B-W  
&  
BEYOND

### Summer Free for All Movie is a 'Go' in 2025

BWNA recently learned its application to host a free movie in Wilshire Park this summer has been approved by Portland Parks & Recreation. At press time the specific August event date and movie selection were not available — while BWNA provides input on these to

PP&R, the agency makes the final decisions.

The Summer Free for All movie requires a \$1,000 payment to PP&R from the sponsoring neighborhood association. In 2025, as in the last few years, BWNA will partner with the Alameda Neighborhood Association to split that cost. Last year BWNA funded music and face-painting for the event and may do so again this year. More details to come.

### Art & Garden Tour is a 'No Go' in 2025

BWNA event organizers made the painful decision to forgo hosting a third Art & Garden Tour this summer. While the event, held the previous two summers, has been hugely successful, too few willing garden hosts stepped forward by the time the "no or go" decision had to be made. A 2026 event is expected, as some folks who expressed interest will have gardens ready for show by then.

To be considered as a host for a 2026 event, take plenty of garden photos this summer so they'll be available in the January 2026 planning timeframe. For more information, contact BWNA board member Patti Koehler by emailing [PatriceKoehler@gmail.com](mailto:PatriceKoehler@gmail.com).

### Balto Scores Justin Timberlake for Bike Bus, Launches Non-Profit

Beaumont-Wilshire resident Sam Balto is known both around the neighborhood and greater Portland for his energy around the Bike Bus program, in which he and other volunteers lead kids on bikes once per week to Vernon School and Alameda Elementary School. Now it's safe to say his audience is even wider — in January his plea to have pop music star Justin Timberlake take a Bike Bus ride while he was in town for a concert was honored, and of course it was widely covered.

Balto is going further with his mission to get more kids on bikes. He took a one-year hiatus from his teaching job at Alameda Elementary School to establish Bike Bus World, a non-profit dedicated to the cause. For more information, visit [bikebus.world](http://bikebus.world).

### Want To Feel Good? This Will Help

If you're looking for some upbeat news these days, look no further than a video posted in early January by Travel Portland, in which its team discovers Beaumont-Wilshire. When asked by interviewers what's special about the neighborhood, folks from B-W businesses Folly, Pacific Holiday, Red Sauce Pizza, and Artistic Portland Gallery respond with comments including "It's all mom-and-pops," "There's a warm vibe," and "Everything is right here." Watch for three minutes and feel even better about where we live. To view the video visit [youtu.be/vv6V2evo2Uc](https://youtu.be/vv6V2evo2Uc).

### Thai Times

Walking by the storefront of recently closed Bang Bang restaurant at 4727 NE Fremont St., you'll find window signage sporting the words "Thai Times Express." Though no information about the new restaurant other than a state business license filing was available at press time, we don't think it's a stretch to announce that a new Thai restaurant is coming to Beaumont-Wilshire! Look for more information in a future BWNA newsletter.

# UPCOMING



# EVENTS

March 17 (Monday) 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

## Intro to Northeast Village PDX

Location: Northeast Community Center, 1630 NE 38th Ave.

This session is open to anyone interested in learning about membership and volunteer opportunities with NE Village. The Village provides social events, activities, and essential services to adults 60+ who are aging in place throughout 18 neighborhoods in northeast Portland. *Note: This building is not ADA-accessible.*

Northeast Village PDX is a program of the Northeast Community Center. For more info call (503) 895-2750 or email [info@nevillepdx.org](mailto:info@nevillepdx.org).

April 1 (Tuesday) 7 – 8 p.m.

## Take a Trip Back in Time!

**A presentation by local historian Doug Decker on early NE neighborhood history**

*(see full event description on page 6)*

Location: Fremont United Methodist Church, 2620 NE Fremont St.

**Cost:** This BWNA-sponsored event is FREE, but seating is limited, and reservations are required. Visit [BWNA/eventbrite.com](http://BWNA/eventbrite.com) to secure your spot. A suggested donation of \$5 at the door is requested from those who can afford to do so. Funds go to cover the cost of this as well as future BWNA events.

April 23 (Wednesday) 7 p.m.

## Boost Biodiversity in Your Garden with Insect-Friendly Habitat

Location: The Mule Bar banquet room  
4915 NE Fremont St.

(Consider supporting this local business by coming early to eat, drink, and be merry with other passionate pollinators!)

**Cost:** FREE, but space is limited to the first 40 people.

If news of crashing insect populations make you feel hopeless about the future, join speaker Amy Campion at this BWNA-sponsored event to learn the many things you can do to make a difference in improving insect biodiversity. You'll also get to meet some of the fascinating creatures that show up when you welcome them in. Campion is the co-author of *Gardening in the Pacific Northwest: The Complete Homeowner's Guide*, along with Paul Bonine. She currently works at Garden Fever.

May 1 (Thursday) Hours vary

## First Thursday on Fremont Street

From May through September, businesses from NE 41st to NE 51st on Fremont Street are participating for a 10-block joyful experience for visitors. See page 14 for all the details.

**Got Events? Email [Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org)**

## BWNA BOARD & GENERAL MEETINGS

**Mon, Mar. 10 @ 7 p.m.: Board meeting**  
**Mon, Apr. 14 @ 7 p.m.: General meeting**

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

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### Events

**Tues., Mar. 4 @ 7 p.m.**  
**April meeting TBD**

For meeting location, contact committee chair John Sandie via [SandieFam@gmail.com](mailto:SandieFam@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Team

Meets every other month.  
For details email Susan Trabucco via [Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org)

## ARTICLES & ADS

### Articles

We invite you to write for the newsletter or submit an opinion piece or letter to the editor or board.  
Email [Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org)

### Advertising

Ads are accepted as space allows. For ad rates and instructions, visit [BWNApdx.org/ad-rates](http://BWNApdx.org/ad-rates)

### Deadlines

We publish the 1st of Jan., March, May, July, Sept. & Nov.  
Pre-approved articles & ads must be submitted by the 1st of the month PRIOR to publishing date. Submit articles to [Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org)

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# A BWNA-SPONSORED EVENT TAKE A TRIP BACK IN TIME

A PRESENTATION BY LOCAL HISTORIAN DOUG DECKER  
ON EARLY NE NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

**Date:** Tuesday, April 1

**Time:** 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Fremont United Methodist Church  
2620 NE Fremont St.

**Cost:** **FREE**, though a suggested donation of \$5 at the door is requested from those who can afford to do so. Funds go to cover the cost of this and future BWNA events.

**Reservations:** Seating is limited, and reservations are required! Visit [BWNA/eventbrite.com](https://www.bwna.org/eventbrite.com) or scan the QR code to secure your spot.



Like many Northeast Portland neighborhoods, Beaumont-Wilshire was carved from orchards, open fields, and patches of forest. As a young Portland sprawled across the river, the rural landscape of the eastside was replaced by a grid of neighborhoods, a busy streetcar system, and tens of thousands of new residents. Successive waves of homebuilding and change in the decades that followed shaped the neighborhoods we know today. Using early maps, documents, photos and newspaper accounts, and memories he's collected from past residents, local historian Doug Decker will explore the early years of Northeast Portland neighborhoods — including Beaumont-Wilshire — to examine connections between past, present, and future.



## About Doug Decker

Doug Decker's public history research may be best known through [AlamedaHistory.org](https://www.alamedahistory.org) and the dozens of studies, lectures, and tours he's led of Portland neighborhoods and buildings and forested lands across Oregon.



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# NEXT GENERATION TO TAKE HELM AT PAPERJAM

by Chris Rauber



Myles, Deborah, and John Field of Paperjam Press. Photo by Chris Rauber.

**P**aperjam Press, the colorful print and design shop on the east edge of Beaumont Village, is the latest in a series of print-related businesses run by Deborah and John Field. They launched the store, located at 4730 NE Fremont St., in 2010, offering a wide variety of printing and design services and retail products.

In early April, they'll step down and transfer ownership to their son Myles, who's worked in various capacities at the shop and its previous iterations since he was a teenager.

Specialties at Paperjam include invitations and cards for social occasions (i.e., weddings, memorial services, and holidays); business cards, brochures, and the like; and art-related printing — think posters, calendars, and cards.

Myles has several new wrinkles in mind, including expanding the retail product line, simplifying Paperjam's pricing system, and further automating the website to enable faster quotes. But in many ways the shop will continue as before. Deborah and John, who handles IT and fix-it projects, will be on-call, if needed; they live close by.

Paperjam has long been part of the local community, providing funds for Beaumont Middle School's music program for many years, donating to Friends of Trees, and repurposing excess paper for its Scrappy Line of gift tags and bookmarks.

"Come by and say hello to our dog Benny," Deborah advises. "And pick up a free note pad."

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



Chris Rauber

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# BWNA RECYCLING EVENT CLEANS UP

by Susan Trabucco

When the winter holiday season winds down, what's left are the warm and fuzzy memories of a joyful time of togetherness with family and friends. What's also left is the Styrofoam from gift packaging and other holiday trash. Mindful of the threat that these items would wend their way into the landfill instead of being recycled, Beaumont-Wilshire neighbor Laurie Webber stepped forward to organize a recycling event for the neighborhood.

On January 11, with BWNA backing and help from volunteer John Sandie, Laurie and her husband, Geoff Wickes, offered their address as the drop-off point for Styrofoam, foam insulation, batteries, and electronics equipment. The trio then sorted and stuffed bags and boxes of the items into a truck, and Laurie and Geoff delivered it all to Green Century Recycling in Portland.

By day's end, saved from the landfill were sixteen 45-gallon bags stuffed full with Styrofoam, 50 pounds of batteries, and a full truck load of electronics including tablets, televisions, stereo systems, and non-working appliances.

Exhausted but satisfied, Laurie looks ahead to another such event.

"I'm glad we did this, and although we don't yet have a date set, we plan on doing this again later in the year."

To find out what items are accepted by Green Century Recycling, visit [greencenturyonline.net](http://greencenturyonline.net).



BWNA recycling event leader Laurie Webber, left, assists a neighbor who brought items for recycling to the drop-off site. Photo by Susan Trabucco.



BWNA board member John Sandie, left, helps Geoff Wickes separate and stuff Styrofoam into bags at a January BWNA recycling event. Photo by Susan Trabucco.



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## TO BE IN THE NEWS!

by Susan Trabucco, Editor

**H**ave you ever wondered where we get all the fodder for articles, news, and other info in the newsletter? Typically, it's newsletter team members' observations, a chance chat with neighbors, a little research and, sometimes, just plain dumb luck!

That said, we'd love more information coming our way from you. Keep reading for opportunities to have your news, opinion, or fun stuff on the pages of the BWNA newsletter.

### Got News?

Does your B-W or adjacent neighborhood business or non-profit organization have news to share with our readers? (Sorry, but for-profit, sales-ish news doesn't qualify.) Email press releases or questions about qualifying criteria to [Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org).

### Got a News Tip or Query?

Do you know something others may want to know? Or maybe you're wondering about something we haven't covered? Email [Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org).

### Got Events?

Does your B-W or adjacent neighborhood business or non-profit organization have an upcoming event that needs promoting? (Sorry, but for-profit events don't qualify.) Send details to [Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org).

### For Kids!

Do you have a story to tell, a poem bursting from your heart, artwork, or something else you'd like to share in this newsletter? We'd love to include it on our Creative Kids page. Inquire or submit your idea to [Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org).

### Got an Opinion?

We welcome letters to the editor or BWNA board that do not exceed 250 words. Subject matter must be relevant to Beaumont-Wilshire and not of a political or religious nature. Email [Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org).

*An all-volunteer production, the BWNA newsletter publishes the first of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Space is limited, making advance planning essential. Inquire early about space availability for articles. Email [Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org).*



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# JESSICA BERNERT: A CREATIVE VOICE FOR THE BIRDS!

by David Friedman

Jessica Bernert, a visual artist based in Portland's Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood, captivates audiences with her vibrant oil paintings that often feature "geometric birds," landscapes, and portraits. Her distinctive style harmoniously blends naturalistic and geometric elements, reflecting her background in graphic design and her deep appreciation for nature.

A graduate of Portland State University, Bernert spent 15 years specializing in beverage branding. While she continues to work in design, her true passion is painting. She's inspired by the natural world, particularly birds and flowers.



Jessica Bernert at home in her Beaumont-Wilshire studio. Submitted photo.

"I decided to try oil painting and use one subject matter for one year and that was birds," Bernert said. "And then I just got really into birds because I got to know them." Her work showcases a unique fusion of fine art and graphic design. "I think my style is kind of illustrative as it's hard for me to do loose."

Bernert's artistic journey gained momentum after her daughter left home, allowing her to dedicate more time to her craft.

"It was not until my daughter was starting to leave the nest that I got more serious about my art, because then I had time for it."

Studying under Russian oil painter Katia Kyte ([katiakyte.com](http://katiakyte.com)), Bernert honed her skills in landscape painting. Her creative process is both structured and exploratory. She begins with orange-primed canvases, sketches her designs with pen, and applies layers of oil paint to achieve rich, luminous results. Bernert is also experimenting with acrylics in her expressive "drippy" abstract pieces and is trying her hand at portraits as well.

Bernert's work has been showcased at local events, such as the Wild Arts Festival put on by the Portland Bird Alliance, Portland Open Studios, and Art in The Pearl. To make her art accessible, she offers smaller original pieces on canvas paper, as well as prints. Operating under the business name Pail Art — a nod to her galvanized pails of supplies — Bernert celebrates creativity and the joy of getting messy through her dynamic and inspiring artwork. "Now, it's just a calling."

Explore her work at [pailart.com](http://pailart.com).

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



David Friedman



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# LIVING WITH COYOTES

LOVE 'EM OR HATE 'EM, THEY ARE HERE TO STAY

by Chris Rauber

Coyotes are something between a concern and an obsession here in Beaumont-Wilshire. Sightings are common; so are rumors. Some neighbors have seen packs of five or more coyotes roaming B-W's streets. Luckily, attacks on humans are extremely rare, although babies, toddlers, and small pets should be kept under a tight watch. Remember, though, that dogs are responsible for far more attacks on humans than coyotes and that coyotes are part of our local urban environment.

Here are some additional guidelines for coexisting safely with coyotes:

- Keep pets indoors from dawn to dusk.
- Keep dogs leashed, and pick up small dogs if a coyote is close by.
- It's safest to keep cats indoors at all times.
- Never feed coyotes, and remove pet food, water bowls, and fallen fruit from your yard.
- Keep garbage cans, grills, and compost bins covered, and keep grills cleaned.
- Coyotes are typically afraid of humans, although they can become used to our presence. If you're concerned about an aggressive coyote, make loud noises (loud whistles and bullhorns work), wave your arms, or throw small objects like sticks or pebbles.
- If you encounter a coyote, back away slowly. Don't turn your back to the animal or run, as this can trigger the coyote's prey drive.

For more information, check out the Portland Urban Coyote Project website (use QR code below) and Multnomah County Animal Services' Living with Wildlife web page at [multcopets.org/living-wildlife](http://multcopets.org/living-wildlife).



A sign posted in the Alameda neighborhood to help protect humans and coyotes. These signs are available for download, printing, and distribution on the Portland Urban Coyote Project website. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

Visit the Portland Urban Coyote Project ►



## Be in the KNOW!

Visit the BWNA website at [BWNApdx.org](http://BWNApdx.org) to register your email address and keep up to date on neighborhood news, meetings, and activities.

Click "Subscribe" at the top of the website home page or use the QR code below.



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# WHEN SAWDUST HEATED BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE HOMES

by Tim Gillespie

When my family moved into our bungalow in 1979, we confronted a monster of a furnace. A huge metal cylinder — probably five feet in diameter — squatted on one side of the basement, sporting a half-dozen thick arms bending upwards to all corners of the house. As I ducked under one of the asbestos-wrapped pipes to get a closer look, the seller said, “That’s our octopus. It burns gas now, but it was originally a sawdust burner.”

“What on earth?” I said. As it turns out, such a contraption was not uncommon in NE Portland, I discovered, when I found online conversations on the topic between PDX old-timers.

The story starts with timber. Our beautiful forested state has long been a national leader in lumber production, but one ongoing

problem of milling logs into boards is the waste. Almost half of a tree can end up as wood scraps and sawdust. That highly flammable mill detritus can’t just pile up. Longtime residents remember sawdust-incinerating wigwam burners that used to dot Oregon. And inventors didn’t figure out until the late 1930s that you could mix sawdust and wood chips with resin and press it into particleboard. Before that, another solution in urban areas was to sell sawdust for home heating.

Some years ago, varying accounts of how this whole operation worked were posted on a now-defunct Facebook page. A truck — maybe from the Albina Fuel Company, which had a huge sawdust pile next to the freeway at NE 33rd and Broadway — would dump a load onto a customer’s driveway. Then it would be shoveled by a crew or residents through a low window to a large basement “sawdust room.” One poster reminisced about the great smell of “fresh clean sawdust piled to the ceiling” and another remembered, “This big pile was a great playground for my sisters and me; we’d play ‘King of the Hill’ and build tunnels through it.”

The furnace had a big hopper attached to it. You’d use a five-gallon bucket to fill the hopper a couple of times a day with sawdust, which would slowly sink to the burn chamber. If the fuel got hung up in the hopper and the stove went out, you’d have to bang on the beast to dislodge the clot, then relight the furnace with newspaper and kindling, like starting a campfire. A chain ran upstairs that you could use to open or close a vent on the front of the firebox to increase or slow the combustion rate, thereby controlling the temperature.

The heat rose up the huge arms by gravity. For the whole operation then, no motor was required, no blowers, and no electricity — a simple, efficient system.

By the year we moved into our house, that old furnace had been converted to gas, but it still had no blower. When we replaced it and its asbestos-taped web of pipes with a more efficient, safer, less space-gobbling furnace, we realized we missed the quiet of no fan. But not the thought of a monster octopus lurking in the basement.

BWNA board member Tim Gillespie was a public school teacher in the Portland area for almost four decades. He is a widely published poet and essayist.



Tim Gillespie



Photo from a Facebook posting that is no longer online.





## LOOKING FOR FUN?

Find it at **First Thursdays on Fremont Street!**

by Mary Myers, BBA president



**MAY 1 • JUNE 5 • JULY 3 • AUG. 7 • SEPT 4**

Businesses from NE 41st to NE 51st avenues are participating in First Thursdays on Fremont Street to make 10 blocks of joyful experiences. We've created an example summary below of what you can encounter along Fremont Street.

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Hours vary, so check out  
the BBA's Instagram @bbapdx for more details!



For more information or if you're interested in doing a pop-up, please contact Mary by emailing [bbaboardpresident@gmail.com](mailto:bbaboardpresident@gmail.com)

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# A LOT OF LOVE GOES INTO THE BWNA NEWSLETTER

by Susan Trabucco

**B**WNA newsletter volunteer Chris Rauber — a writer and poet — penned “Newsletter Love,” below, to celebrate our neighborhood newsletter and its indefatigable team members.

But just what is the BWNA newsletter team? First, it’s not a club, and you don’t need to be on the team to submit articles. No dues are required, although suffering the “marginal wine” served by the editor may be akin to hazing!

The BWNA newsletter team is a group of highly dedicated neighbors who, for nearly every issue of the newsletter or as their time allows, volunteer their talent and time on layout and design, copy editing, advertising management, reporting and writing articles for BWNA’s bi-monthly newsletter, and reviewing and proofing the newsletter before it goes to the printer.

On top of that good work, team members participate in every-other-month gatherings to kick around article ideas, weigh in on design and policy changes, eat and drink, and enjoy some camaraderie with fellow newsletter team members. At least once a year we get together and include our spouses or partners, with no agenda other than to connect and build community.

What’s not to love about all that?

If you’d like to participate on the BWNA newsletter team or submit an article for consideration, email [Editor@BWNApdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNApdx.org).

## Newsletter Love

by Chris Rauber

The thing you hold in your hands is a throwback despite being concocted on computers.  
It’s distilled from a neighborhood’s neighborliness, shared rhythms and communal history by a small crew of those who live nearby, fueled by unpaid efforts, sleepless nights, marginal wine & occasional pizza parties.  
Every headline (or comma) is up for debate, but fisticuffs are rare.

It has its critics, but how else to hold  
a place in your hands  
and feel its busy dailiness by osmosis:  
the way the kids look on their way to school  
or storekeepers keep an eye out for  
those willing to part with cash,  
or dogs sniff trees and sidewalks  
to find out what is what.

© 2025 Chris Rauber



*BWNA newsletter team members at a summer, fun-only gathering last year. Clockwise from bottom left: Susan Trabucco, Pamela Plimpton, Patty Nelson, Tim Gillespie, Chris Rauber, Al Ellis, John Sandie, Jane Feinberg, Myrna Sheie, and Karla Lenox. Not pictured: Polly Webber, Amaan Mohiuddin, David Friedman, Liz Erickson, Peter Mogielnicki, and Molly McRoberts. Photo by Peter Gearin.*

## ACTUAL PATIENT REVIEW:

“ I was in need of a new dentist when my previous one retired in 2020. I had a hard time finding a dentist that could replace the office I had been going to for a couple of decades. Beaumont Village finally felt like the right fit after trying a couple of other offices in the area.

It’s small, simple, and has a nice family business feel to it. All the staff are kind and skilled and my dental visits are back to feeling like a treat to myself and my health. This is not an office with fancy decor and a bunch of extras... that’s actually my preference; I prefer the sense that their priority is the work they do, not the facade of the business.

If you’re in search of an office that will take good care of you and leave you feeling you’re in good hands, I’d highly recommend Dr. Mistry and his staff. ”



Dr. Kiran Mistry, DDS

**BEAUMONT VILLAGE  
DENTISTRY**

5 0 3 . 2 8 8 . 7 4 8 1

# WOMEN'S (GOOD) WORK: PHILANTHROPY

by Pamela Plimpton

In 1913 a group of women in the Alameda neighborhood noticed that a family was camping in a nearby wood. That wood is now Wilshire Park. The women decided to help the family by giving the children milk. This initial impetus to aid those in need continues today in the form of the Alameda Tuesday Club. The club has met each year since 1913 and focuses primarily on helping women and children. Its continual presence in the neighborhood is marked in Wilshire Park by a celebratory plaque at the base of a park bench, noting the club's 100th anniversary.

The club provides small, non-profit organizations (mainly on Portland's east side) with financial support. "The club is made up of 36 women, and any woman is welcome who resides in the Alameda neighborhood," said Lulu Levenson, club president.

Members pay annual dues, which are donated to a single organization at year's end, but each member may decide how much or if she will donate to monthly projects. Until one chooses to leave, once a member of the club, always a member, even after moving out of the neighborhood.

Michael Richman, chair of the club's Philanthropy Committee, pointed out that members research and choose potential organizations to aid.

"We note where the donation might be most helpful," Richman said.

Based on the Philanthropy Committee's recommendations, the Program Committee hears a presentation from a nonprofit group in the area monthly from September through May.

Levenson, who donates new swimwear from her business, Popina, to Project Lemonade, a nonprofit that provides new clothes for children, said the club looks for small agencies to help. "It allows the club's contribution to have more impact."

The Alameda Tuesday Club is a model of humanitarian action in a world that is not always humane. From its inception the club has sought to fill the needs of children in particular. Though we might not live in the Alameda neighborhood, we could take a page from the Alameda Tuesday Club's book and create something in our own sphere of influence that emulates what these women do: good work.



Michael Richman chairs the Alameda Tuesday Club's Philanthropy Committee. Submitted photo.

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



Pamela Plimpton

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# NEW MAINTENANCE “SUPER” FOR WILSHIRE PARK

by Peter Mogielnicki

Most of us have fond memories of teachers who positively influenced our adult lives. The new maintenance supervisor for Portland Parks & Recreation’s northeast section of the city, including Wilshire Park, certainly does. Oregon native Violet Dillard grew up in a family of chefs — her mom still owns Portland’s Yoko’s Restaurant and Sushi Bar. Dillard attended Grant High School partly because of its Japanese immersion program. But it was her biology teacher, Mr. Holland, whom she credits for inspiring in her a love of nature, driving her to obtain a degree in environmental science and urban ecology at Portland State University.

Now, as Northeast Maintenance Supervisor, she oversees six park technicians and four horticulturists, whom she relies on to complete everyday operations. Together, along with the professional repair and maintenance services teams, they are responsible for the flora, infrastructure, equipment, graffiti removal, and general health and welfare of 30 parks in Northeast Portland, some more challenging than Wilshire to maintain.

Despite being in her new position just since September, Dillard is working on a couple of priorities for Wilshire Park, including the old cement wading pool. Possibilities include using the existing plumbing as the beginnings of a children’s splash pad or simple removal and replacement with plantings or more turf.

Other priorities for Dillard include encouraging use of the park for educational and other constructive student activities and moving maintenance away from using gas-powered equipment like leaf blowers and trimmers. The move will bring the department into

compliance with Portland’s 2019 ordinance directing bureaus to convert to electrical maintenance equipment.



Violet Dillard, the new Portland Parks & Recreation maintenance supervisor for Wilshire Park. Photo by Peter Mogielnicki.

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



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# NEIGHBORHOOD HEROES

Last fall, Beaumont-Wilshire neighbors Dennis and Carol Breeling were caught in the act of doing good work by another B-W resident, Jeff Littman, who thought (rightfully so) that they deserved a spot in the newsletter.

On that fateful fall day, the duo cleared the street gutters and drain for the whole block. Neighbors helping neighbors, for sure.

Thank you, Dennis and Carol, for your generosity of time and spirit. You are indeed neighborhood heroes! (Photos by Jeff Littman.)



## Have a Hero in Mind?

Do you know of someone who is deserving of Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood hero status? If so, please send photos and a little information about the good deed or deeds done, with the correct spellings of the person or persons involved. We'll showcase these individuals in the newsletter as space allows.

Email [Editor@BWNpdx.org](mailto:Editor@BWNpdx.org)



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# THINK BEFORE YOU TOSS THAT MATTRESS

by Liz Erickson

**D**id you know that up to 75% of the materials used to make mattresses and box springs can be recycled? Through Oregon's new Mattress Stewardship Act, the foam, wood, and metal can be separated out and spared a dead-end trip to the landfill.

"Solid waste facilities don't love mattresses," said Mike O'Donnell, chief operating officer for the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC). "For us to remove them from their solid waste stream removes a problem."

The Act was passed in 2022 and took effect Jan. 1 this year. Oregon is the fourth state to launch this MRC-run program. Connecticut, Rhode Island, and California adopted similar programs about 10 years ago.

To help pay for the program, a \$22.50 fee is assessed when buying a new mattress.

When getting rid of a mattress, please don't just set it on the curb hoping for a taker, especially in the winter! Through the new program, you can drop off any mattress that is intact,



regardless of its age or condition, at dedicated locations throughout the state. Because mattresses can be dropped off at no cost, this new program should reduce illegal dumping.

In Portland, drop sites include the Community Warehouse at 3961 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. and Environmentally Conscious Recycling at 12409 NE San Rafael St. More drop-off locations will be added over time.

Learn more at [byebyemattress.com](http://byebyemattress.com). The website also offers tips for prolonging the life of your mattress, such as rotating it regularly and using a mattress cover. Also, the site recommends not ripping that big tag off, even after you bring it home.

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



Liz Erickson

## THE DARK SIDE OF LIGHT

by Eileen Stark

**T**winkling little stars are getting harder to see because human-caused light pollution makes the night sky glow brighter each year. Excessive, poorly designed lighting that trespasses into the nocturnal world changes the predictable day and night cycle of life, consumes and wastes energy, contributes to climate chaos, and steals the wonder and beauty of the night sky. Damage to biological and ecological rhythms cause widespread, harmful impacts on health and safety for humans and wildlife.

Countless wildlife species that work the dusk and dawn or graveyard shifts need uninterrupted darkness to provide intricately timed cues that direct communication, orientation, reproduction, sleep, protection, and foraging.

The Pacific Flyway brings millions of migratory birds into Portland's airspace at night during spring and fall. Most use celestial cues to navigate, but artificial lights lure birds into the maze of city lights, which causes confusion, exhaustion, and collisions with buildings. Research documents that 500 native species of birds are affected, and light pollution kills an estimated one billion birds each year in North America.

Furthermore, arthropods such as moths — their fate seamlessly interconnected with other creatures — perish rather than pollinating, breeding, and supplying bird food. Even the seasonal cycle of Portland's trees — particularly those beneath streetlights or other lighting — is threatened, which in turn affects other organisms. Research has found that early bud break and leaf development caused by incessant light will have a cascade effect on other organisms whose life cycles work in tandem with such plants, as well as the plants themselves.

### The Bright Side

Although nights are getting brighter each year with increased development, it is reversible. And while it will take urban planners

and elected local officials to create mandatory standards that minimize light pollution, we can each do our part at home. DarkSky Oregon, part of an alliance of 25 other US cities, and the Lights Out campaign ask Portland businesses and homeowners to help. Here's how:

- Turn off unnecessary outdoor lights (including "decorative" landscape lighting) and install motion sensors that turn on only when needed.
- Use fixtures that aim light downward and are shielded to prevent glare and light scatter.
- Select low-intensity warm LEDs (under 3,000 Kelvins) that supply only the amount of light needed.
- Close draperies at night, especially during peak migration seasons (April to May and September to November).
- Visit [tinyurl.com/yt9nsuh9](http://tinyurl.com/yt9nsuh9) to request that PBOT add shields or re-angle streetlights that scatter too much light.
- Tell your friends!

For more information visit [darkskyoregon.org](http://darkskyoregon.org) or the Bird Alliance of Oregon's Lights Out page at [tinyurl.com/n3rxzuz](http://tinyurl.com/n3rxzuz).

### Safety Concerns?

Studies show that most home burglaries occur in broad daylight, and excessive lighting does not lessen crime. Artificial lights can make victims and property easier to see, as well as create much greater contrast and excessive glare, which increase the deep shadows that may actually assist crime and vandalism. To improve security, use motion-activated lights to surprise intruders (Source: [darksky.org](http://darksky.org)).

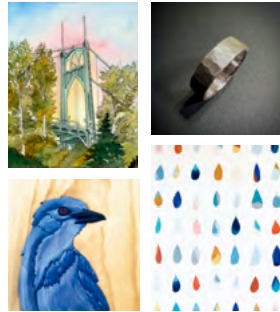
*Beaumont-Wilshire resident Eileen Stark is an ecological landscape designer and author of Real Gardens Grow Natives: Design, Plant, & Enjoy a Healthy Northwest Garden.*

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