

BWNA

Newsletter of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association



JOIN IN!
FREMONT HOLIDAY FEST DECEMBER 5 *page 7*



November-December 2025

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TOLLING FOR DIVERSITY

by Al Ellis, BWNA Board President

No man is an island,
Entire of itself.

...

Therefore, send not to know
For whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee.

These lines were excerpted from prose in a book of meditations by English poet John Donne in the 17th century. They enjoyed renewed fame in the 20th century via American author Ernest Hemingway's masterpiece novel "For Whom The Bell Tolls." The message is timeless: No individual is isolated, each integrally connected to the whole of humanity.

And so it is with respect to "purpose" in the BWNA Bylaws: "To be inclusive of all."

Just as no man or woman is an island, so no neighborhood is a monolith isolated from diversity. For example, while Beaumont-Wilshire has less racial diversity within its boundaries than some other Eastside neighborhoods, people of various ethnicities visit our neighborhood regularly to picnic or attend a sporting event in Wilshire Park, attend a local place of worship, shop or dine out in the neighborhood, as well as for a host of other activities. Moreover, a good amount of ethnic diversity exists right here *within* the B-W population itself.

How do I know? *Names* might be an indicator. Let me explain.

I serve as coordinator for BWNA's New Neighbor Welcoming Project, a program based on the Welcome Wagon concept of

personally greeting new residents with a letter of welcome and coupons for discounts at local businesses. Over the past five years, with invaluable help from First American Title Company in providing monthly lists of new homeowners, our volunteers have delivered hundreds of welcome packets to newcomers. As for diversity, the names on these lists suggest a story of immigration – if not this generation, then perhaps from an earlier time.

Take a walk around the neighborhood and note the numerous yard signs promoting diversity and tolerance of diversity. Yet another diversity indicator is the variety of ages you see every day. I've heard it said that Beaumont-Wilshire is heavy on old-timers like me, but I'll tell you what: We've no shortage of babies in strollers and youthful joggers as well.

The bell tolls for inclusivity and kindness now more than ever.

Enjoy the holiday season with family, friends, and community.



Support B-W businesses
this holiday season!

OUR ORGANIZATION

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President@BWNApdx.org

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Related Organizations

Beaumont Business Association

beaumontbusinesses@gmail.com

Mary Myers, President

bbaboardpresident@gmail.com

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

Board Liaison: Patty Nelson

Areas of Interest

Residents are encouraged to participate.

Contact committee chairs for details.

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Patty Nelson, co-chair (503) 281-8035

Events Committee

John Sandie, chair (219) 508-4162

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Welcome & Thank You!



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THANK YOU TO OUR BLOCK PARTY SPONSORS!

Through the generosity of our sponsors, most of the approximately \$2,500 in expenses for this fun-filled community event were covered. BWNA can't thank them enough, and we hope you'll thank them, too!

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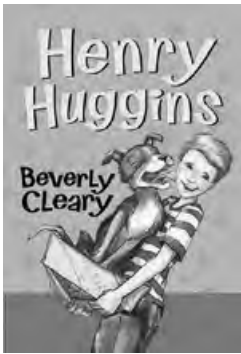
NEWS BITS

FROM B-W
&
BEYOND

Henry Huggins Turns 75

For those who don't know who Henry Huggins is, he's the beloved fictional character in many of local author Beverly Cleary's children's books. By way of introduction in 1950, Henry was described by Cleary as a third grader whose "hair looked like a scrubbing brush and most of his grown-up front teeth were in." By the book's third page,

Henry adopts a stray dog he names Ribsy, and the pair become inseparable. Their relationship paves the way for many Henry Huggins boyhood adventures.



Cleary, who passed away in 2021 at the age of 104, grew up in the Grant Park and Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhoods. As a librarian in Portland in the 1940s, she used her gift of recall to weave stories about growing up in her neighborhood in a way that resonated with kids who were also growing up. According to Wikipedia, she has been credited as one of the first authors of children's literature to figure emotional realism in the narratives of her characters, often children in middle-class families. Worldwide, 91 million of her

books have been sold. For more information about Henry Huggins, visit tinyurl.com/4vxynxxs. For more information about Beverly Cleary, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beverly_Cleary.

Small Business Grants Now Available Through Prosper Portland

City of Portland licensed small businesses with ground-floor, customer-facing storefronts (including food carts) that have experienced physical damage from vandalism/break-ins or taken preventive steps are eligible for reimbursement grants for:

Exterior Repairs: e.g., window/door repair, graffiti removal, lighting, signage.

Interior Repairs (up to \$2,500): e.g., counter, door, or equipment repairs.

Security & Prevention: e.g., cameras, alarm systems, gates, lighting, safes.

Insurance Premium Increases (up to \$5,000): Premium increases for 2025-26.

For more information visit Prosper Portland at prosperportland.us/our-work/repair-restore-grant-program.



LOVE THE SKIDMORE BLOCK PARTY? We're Looking for two new event organizers!

- It's time to pass the torch! In 2026, work with BWNA's experienced event co-organizers to learn the ropes about the planning and execution tasks necessary to put on this rockin' annual block party. They will be with you every step of the way; you won't be thrown to the proverbial wolves!
- To be considered for this rewarding volunteer experience, we're asking for a minimum two-year commitment after going through "training." (2027-2028).
- Please contact patricekoehler@gmail.com if you have questions or want to jump in!

LOVE YOUR GARDEN? Consider sharing it on the 2026 BWNA Art & Garden Tour

- Beaumont-Wilshire streets are filled with interesting and beautiful gardens. If yours is one of them, being a host for next year's Art & Garden Tour is a great way to meet other gardeners and neighbors. It's fun!
- Ticket sales help BWNA fund many free community events throughout the year.
- To learn more, visit BWNApdx.org, choose Get Involved! and click on the pink garden host button. Contact patricekoehler@gmail.com if you have an interest!

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR OUR SPEAKERS FORUM?

- Birds, bees, seeds? History or herstory? City politics? Aging in place? Downsizing? While there are a host of potential topics for our BWNA speakers forum, we'd like to hear from YOU.
- What are you interested in? Or do you have a subject you'd like to present?
- In 2025, BWNA logged talks on our neighborhood's history, beneficial bugs, and going all-electric, and on November 13 we're hosting a presentation on the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. (See details on page 6). What's in store for 2026?
- If you have ideas for us, contact sandiefam@gmail.com.

For more information visit bwnapdx.org and click Get Involved!

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BEAUMONT MARKET REBOUNDS

WITH ASSIST FROM BWNA

by Al Ellis, BWNA Board President

How about a basketball analogy? Down big in the first half, Beaumont Market makes a second-half comeback via team play (i.e., in partnership with BWNA and the neighborhood).

Indeed, it's been an uphill battle from the start. The small market is required by law to accept can and bottle returns — based solely on the store's square footage and distance from the nearest BottleDrop redemption center. It is inundated day and night by scores of non-patrons arriving by car, bus, bike, and foot to receive immediate cash for their returns. The market is beset by people sleeping on the property, leaving trash, and openly buying and using drugs.

With associated problems affecting surrounding residences and businesses, BWNA organized to do what it could to help, beginning with documenting what was happening, interviewing Beaumont Market management and staff, and garnering testimony from the store's owner. BWNA board members then crafted a letter for distribution to officials and organizations explaining the situation in detail and suggesting mitigation measures, one of which was to implement the Green Bag program. This program requires anyone returning cans and bottles to create an account with BottleDrop and purchase bags with an identification tag specific to their account. Once the bags are filled, they can be placed in a designated drop box that will be located on Beaumont Market property. Money is not paid out immediately but is credited to a person's account within 7 days.

The initial response from the nonprofit charged with implementing the Green Bag program — the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) — was that because of high demand, Beaumont Market would have to wait in line for possibly a year or more to implement the program.

The BWNA letter, however, turned out to be a game-changer. Representatives from the OBRC Retail Relations team promptly visited Beaumont Market and promised to expedite implementation of the Green Bag program, recognizing the urgency of the situation for the store, residents, Beaumont Middle School, and local businesses.

Clearly, the bottle bill rules need to be revised so that small grocers are not unduly impacted, and BWNA will continue to push for changes.

A native of San Francisco and longtime BWNA board member and former editor of this newsletter, Al Ellis taught Russian and social studies in Portland schools for over 30 years. He's also served as president of the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association. He and his wife Peggy have been B-W residents since 1990.



Al Ellis

BWNA BOARD & GENERAL MEETINGS

Mon, Nov. 10 @ 7 p.m.: Board meeting
Mon, Dec. 8 @ 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., Nov. 4 @ 7 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 2 @ 7 p.m.

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

Newsletter Team

Meets every other month.
For details email Susan Trabucco via Editor@BWNAPdx.org

Deadlines

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

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

Advertising

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

TAKE CHARGE! GO ELECTRIC!



Portland's ordinance prohibiting the use of gas leaf blowers starts Jan. 1, 2026:

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- For workers' health
- For quieter neighborhoods

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Reckoning with the Really BIG ONE

A FREE Community Event Sponsored by
Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association



Dr. Liz Safran
Professor of Geological Science
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Join your Beaumont-Wilshire neighbors on

November 13, 2025

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Fremont United Methodist Church
2620 NE Fremont St.

Dr. Liz Safran will discuss the origins and anticipated consequences of the Pacific Northwest's major earthquakes and will touch upon ongoing efforts to reduce risk and build resilience in Oregon's dated infrastructure.

Seating is limited, and reservations are required!

Scan the QR code to learn more and reserve your seat, or visit tinyurl.com/mrypydcj



UPCOMING



EVENTS

November 13 (Thursday) 7 – 8 p.m.

Reckoning with the Really Big One with Dr. Liz Safran

Location: Fremont United Methodist Church
2620 NE Fremont St.

Dr. Liz Safran, Associate Professor at Lewis & Clark College and geomorphologist by training (think floods and landslides), will help us better understand the origins and anticipated consequences of the Pacific Northwest's major earthquakes. She will also touch upon some of the ongoing efforts to reduce risk and build resilience in Oregon's dated infrastructure.

This is a FREE Community Event Sponsored by BWNA, but seating is limited, and reservations are required! To learn more and reserve your seat, visit tinyurl.com/mrypydcj or use the QR code at left.

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

Intro to Northeast Village PDX

Location: Community for Positive Aging, 1820 NE 40th Ave.

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

December 5 (Friday) 4 - 7 p.m.

Fremont Holiday Fest

Location: Fremont Street from NE 42nd to NE 50th Avenue

Get in the seasonal spirit at Fremont Holiday Fest, sponsored by the Beaumont Business Association (BBA). The event takes place on Fremont Street from NE 42nd to NE 50th Avenue. Along the way find wreaths for sale, drinks, snacks, and an a cappella performance by the Grant High School Royal Blues, who will be caroling up and down the street. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at Nectar Frozen Yogurt for pictures with kiddos; an appointment is required. Sign up for one starting November 21 at bbapdx.org.

Got Events? Email Editor@BWNApdx.org



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ANNUAL FREMONT HOLIDAY FEST SET FOR DECEMBER 5

by Scarlett Heydt, BBA board member



The Beaumont Business Association (BBA) invites the entire community to kick off the holiday season with its annual Fremont Holiday Fest on Friday, December 5. The activities start at 4 p.m., with Santa as the main attraction at Nectar Frozen Yogurt Lounge on NE Fremont Street.

This family-friendly celebration will feature a photo opportunity with Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot chocolate courtesy of the BBA, wreaths for sale, and festive activities hosted by local businesses along Fremont Street. The Grant High School Royal Blues will be caroling, adding to the seasonal cheer as they make their way through the Beaumont Village business district.

Photos with Santa are available by appointment only; sign up begins November 21 at bbapdx.org. The photo event is once again hosted by Nectar Frozen Yogurt Lounge, an independent local favorite known for its community spirit and welcoming environment.

"We were asked to do this for the first time a few years ago, and the BBA did a great job helping us get set up," said Nectar owner Adrian Huether. "We're centrally located, and events like this really match the kind of energy and community connection we value."

Nectar is also recognized for giving many neighborhood students their first job, making it a fitting venue for a celebration rooted in community and tradition.

Other BBA members will host festive activities for children and families throughout the evening. Businesses interested in participating can email bbapdxpresident@gmail.com for more information.

Community members are encouraged to follow BBA online at bbapdx.org or [instagram.com/bbapdx](https://www.instagram.com/bbapdx) for details about how to reserve a photo appointment with Santa and to learn about other activities planned for the evening.



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BWNA SPEAKERS FORUM RECAP

PUT A LITTLE **ECO-FRIENDLY SPARK** IN YOUR LIFE!

AND PERHAPS SAVE MONEY, TOO

by John Sandie

A small but focused and curious group of neighbors attended a BWNA speaker's forum event in September. The "Electrify Your House" presentation by Brian Stewart was held in the community room at the Mule Bar on Fremont. After retirement from Nike's sustainability group, Stewart turned his attention to individual actions that impact energy efficiency and reduce our carbon footprint. He is co-founder of Electrify Now, a volunteer organization devoted to educating energy consumers and homeowners about the health and economic benefits of electrification.

Stewart outlined the growth of renewable energy technologies, primarily solar and wind. Today, close to 95% of new global

electrical generation is supplied by these technologies. This has driven the cost of electricity from renewables below that of both coal and natural gas.

Individual households' energy needs are primarily driven by HVAC demand, water heaters, cooking appliances, and automobile usage. Stewart reviewed the different technologies that power these items, including oil, electricity, natural gas, and heat pumps for HVAC systems and compared the operating costs and CO₂ emissions for each technology. He also discussed newer heat pump technology for heating water, as well as the latest convection cooking options, which are of special interest because of the latest data showing home pollution due to gas ranges.

Stewart used data from a comparison of two identical Hyundai Kona automobiles — one gas and one electric — to demonstrate the significant energy efficiency gains by going electric. According to partial 2025 data, EVs accounted for 26% of global new car sales; this number was 10% in the US and 16% in Oregon.

The biggest positive impact on your electrical costs is the installation of solar panels on your house. While in some cases the initial capital costs are not insignificant, various tax credits are available — many of which were noted during the presentation. Additionally, renewable programs offered by your power company, as well as community solar agreements, can connect you to some of these savings indirectly.

To view this presentation and for other information and resources, visit electrifynow.net.

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



John Sandie



Brian Stewart, co-founder of Electrify Now, helped attendees of the BWNA-sponsored Electrify Your House presentation understand the impacts of various energy sources. Photo by Jane Feinberg.



Dr. Kiran Mistry, DDS

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

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BWNA ROCKS THE (SKIDMORE) BLOCK!

by Susan Trabucco

Another year, another BWNA block party — and what a party it was! On the early evening of September 12, hundreds of community members flocked to this second — and what is hoped to be an annual — community event on Skidmore Street adjacent to Wilshire Park. With live music by the Roadless Travelers, an a cappella performance by the Grant High School Royal Blues, a Kids' Zone with loads of play options, food carts, free beer handed out by Pfriem, and no-cost family and friend photos taken by B-W photographer John Thompson of Light & Lens Images, there was something for everyone at the event. (If you happened to lose the info about how to view and download your pics, or just want to view them for fun, find them at lightandlensimages.com/locations/bwna-skidmore-block-party.)

A bevy of volunteers from the BWNA Events Committee, the board, and others in the community made the event possible. They included block party organizers Patti Koehler and Laurie Webber, Kids' Zone managers Ann Angulo, Peggy Ellis, and Beverly Yashar, and set-up and/or breakdown helpers Ayumi Angel, Kate Krider, Tim Gillespie, Tom Cuppernull, Mike and Angela Frome, and John Sandie and his son Steve. Susan Trabucco “wo-manned” the BWNA info booth, Jane Feinberg designed all of the promotional materials, Elizabeth Nathan rounded up additional sponsorships, and Boy Scout Troop 107, with an assist by Chris Bartell, delivered and picked up tables and chairs loaned to the event by Great Spirit United Methodist Church.



The block party drew hundreds of community members out of their homes to enjoy music, food, and friendship. Photo by Susan Trabucco



Games and activities at the event brought smiles to the faces of many kiddos! Photo by Susan Trabucco.



With Peggy Ellis, not pictured, Ann Angulo, left, and Beverly Yashar helped keep things under control in the Kids' Zone. Photo by Susan Trabucco.



TOP: Kids gather round to watch a movie shown by the Fatso Cheketos food truck. Photo by Angela Frome.



RIGHT: Proud of the wings she recently purchased at a county fair, this young girl displays them for the camera. Photo by Light & Lens Images.

A HUGE SHOUT OUT

to our 2025 sponsors, whose donations nearly covered the \$2,500 event costs. They are Pfriend Beer, Elizabeth Nathan Real Estate, Pacific Audiology, Jim Arnal Real Estate, Jamie Gardner at Windermere Realty Trust, and Green Dog Pet Supply. Thank you for your support!



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A CALL FOR HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

by Jordan Amali, Volunteer Coordinator at Eden Health



A hospice volunteer spends time with a patient. Submitted photo.

Whether at the park with my children or at a dinner party, I often find myself in conversations about one particularly taboo topic: death. Introducing myself as a death doula sparks in people a pause, a moment to reflect on their own relationship with death. While death is the only thing we know for certain, we live in a culture that avoids it. But everybody has a story.

Hospice volunteers have a rare opportunity to walk alongside people in their final chapter. To provide comfort, connection, and care at end of life is a profound and meaningful gift. Anyone can volunteer, regardless of age or experience. Tasks might include reading aloud, calling patients from your couch to check in, walking a dog, writing letters, or simply sitting quietly and being present.

More than service, hospice volunteering opens a path to deeper awareness and personal growth. Many volunteers have commented that their time spent with patients leaves them feeling a deep sense of appreciation for life and its impermanence. This reminds me of a story I read recently about Bhutan, a country known as one of the happiest in the world. They attribute their wellness to the practice of reflecting on death seven times a day. Perhaps even just one hour a week volunteering will make a huge difference to you, and most certainly for the patients.

To learn more, please contact Jordan Amali, Eden Health Hospice Volunteer Coordinator at Jordan.Amali@eden-health.com or call/text (971) 359-3979. Website: Eden-Health.com.

Jordan Amali is a trained Death Doula with a master's degree in public health. A hospice and grief work volunteer for the past decade, she is currently a Volunteer Coordinator at Eden Health and a Dying to Live Workshop Creator and Facilitator. Jordan finds her greatest joy in the simplest of activities like walking her kindergartener to school or watching her toddler delight over mud puddles.



Jordan Amali



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NEW BUSINESSES POP UP ON LOWER NE 42ND AVENUE CORRIDOR

by Chris Rauber

NE 42nd Avenue from Fremont Street to Killingsworth is a study in contrasts, with thriving businesses and restaurants mixed with some that are struggling or didn't survive hard times.

But a batch of new businesses have entered the field, including a charming bakery, a curated clothing boutique under new ownership, and a Spanish immersion daycare center and school scheduled to open in November.

Let's start with coffee and baked goods. Tiny Love Bakery opened in April in a 500-square-foot space at 5124 NE 42nd Ave. It specializes in fresh baked goods made on site, coffee drinks, and breakfast sandwiches on homemade English muffins, says owner Julie Barrette. The menu changes frequently "to keep it fresh and seasonal," as with Evie's apple cake and buckwheat pear cakes at peak season. But standards like sausage, egg, and cheese sandwiches and chocolate chip or peanut butter miso cookies are regulars.

Julie focuses on baking; her business and life partner, Dillon Bly, crafts the bakery's sandwiches. Currently, Tiny Love is open half days from Saturday through Tuesday, opening at 9 a.m. on weekends and 8 a.m. Monday and Tuesday. Service is via a take-out window; there's no room for customers inside.

A few blocks north on NE 42nd Avenue, next door to Nepo 42, is Golden Fern Boutique, also tiny. It's run by mother-and-daughter team Laurel Faught and Charlene Johnson. Charlene, the owner, also operates a fitness studio in Camas, Wash.

In March, she says, the opportunity came up to buy the boutique from the prior owner, and start fresh in the "up-and-coming, family-friendly" neighborhood.

The 300-square-foot shop, which reopened in April, is crammed with a "curated selection of clothing for women, infants, children, and men" at reasonable prices (\$10 to \$20-ish), much of it consigned or vintage, Charlene says, along with a selection of shoes, toys, jewelry, and art.

Brands include Madewell, Pact, Tahari, Nordstrom, and Macy's. The shop is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 4:30 p.m., and until 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Another newcomer, Pequeñitos Child Care, a Spanish immersion program, is set to open in November according to Sthefany (pronounced Stef-uh-nee) Messner, multi-site coordinator and administrator for the Portland-based chain.

Pequeñitos will take over the space previously occupied by the U.S. Bank branch at 4920 NE 42nd Ave., near Alberta Court. Initial options there will include an infant classroom, a preschool classroom, and after-school care.

By September 2026, a second infant classroom, a toddler classroom, and a kindergarten classroom are expected to open.

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



Dillon Bly and Julie Barrette took a break from their work at Tiny Love Bakery to answer questions about the new business. Photo by Chris Rauber.



The mother-daughter duo behind Golden Fern Boutique, Laurel Faught, left, and Charlene Johnson, work together to make the small consignment shop hum. Photo by Chris Rauber.

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

THAD & BETSY: GARDEN WHIMSY AND RUBBER DUCKIES

by Jamie Gardner



Betsy Ray, Thad Mephram, and their furry friend Wesley relax in their B-W garden surrounded by a few of their rubber duckies. Photo by Jamie Gardner.

Step into the garden or over the threshold into Thad Mephram and Betsy Ray's home in Beaumont-Wilshire and you'll be transported into a whimsical space full of creativity and kindness. You'll likely be greeted by the wagging tail of their energetic Australian Shepherd, Wesley, too! The couple has lived in their 1912 Craftsman on NE 42nd Avenue for 32 years. Betsy recalls "the house was a little rough" when they purchased it in 1993, but they got to work right away.

Thad is a woodworker, and his handiwork can be seen throughout their home, from the wrap-around porch to the custom kitchen (complete with vintage stove from Betsy's childhood) and bespoke furniture pieces. Betsy spent 25 years

creating glass etchings, and her studio and art remain in the cozy lower level.

Over the years, the couple has transformed their garden into a "showstopper," according to neighbor, Patty Nelson. Betsy beams when she talks about their chemical-free garden that's been featured in three local garden tours, most recently the 2024 BWNA Art & Garden Tour. Among the 24 trees they've planted is an Autumn Blaze Maple on the southeast edge of the property. They're aptly named the tree "Max" because it was the "maximum size tree we felt we could properly manage," Betsy explained.

Amidst the flower beds, Thad and Betsy have found hidden miniature rubber duckies — more than 60 so far! "It started back in July or August," Betsy said. Asked who might have left the ducks, she replied, "We call them the Mystery Ducker. I'm honestly flattered by it!"

Patty calls the couple "pillars of our community who help neighbors with whatever they need." Thad built more than 14 custom kitchens within two blocks of their home and is the first call for household repairs nearby, while Betsy has tended a neighbor's 100 rose bushes for 13 years.

"It's the people that make this community special," the couple agrees. "Our neighbors are our family, and we'd never want to be anywhere else."

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



Jamie Gardner

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JO MARKS AARDSMA: ARTIST AND MASTER FALCONER

by David Friedman



B-W artist Jo Marks Aardsma stands before a canvas on which she's used a pulled-thread technique. Photo by David Friedman.

“As soon as I started holding crayons, I was making artwork,” says longtime artist and neighbor Jo Marks Aardsma. Born in Highland Park, Illinois, Jo studied at Drake University, where, in her words, she was “a total art rat,” sneaking as much time as possible in the studios. She fell in love with fashion illustration — “my favorite class, ever” — but ultimately built a career in commercial art, gallery exhibitions, and her own evolving studio practice.

Jo’s art is striking in its minimalism and discipline. She is best known for her canvases with threads painstakingly pulled out and her bold torn-paper works. “The canvas pieces and the paper pieces I consider my real work,” she explains. “Canvas is a grid ... I just pulled out half the grid. With the paper, I make a line by adding nothing, instead tearing away and using light and shadow to see the line. They make me think in an entirely different way. They keep me sane. I have to make art.”



hell. What did I miss?” — but it led to a rare closeness with her bird, Elu. “Most people don’t get close to birds of prey. Mine would tuck her head into my neck.”

Her creative life took a “wild” turn when she became a licensed falconer in her fifties. What started as volunteer naturalist at a nature preserve grew into years of training and flying hawks and eventually becoming a master falconer. “I thought, ‘This is amazing,’” she recalls of her first hunt. Earning her license wasn’t easy. “You have to score an 80 to pass. I got a 95 and was pissed as

Life hasn’t been without challenge. A fall in 2018 left Jo with a traumatic brain injury. “I’m pretty much dizzy all the time,” she admits, but she still finds her way back to the studio. “Once my mind decided I cannot not make art ... I just did it.”

Now settled in Beaumont-Wilshire with her husband Al and their rescue dog Luca, Jo treasures both her creative solitude and her welcoming neighbors. “People here are just extremely friendly,” she says. “We were very lucky to find this neighborhood.”

Jo’s work can be seen at Space Gallery in Denver, Colo., and by visiting MarksAardsma.com.



This close-up shows Jo Marks Aardsma in the process of tearing away paper to create an art piece. Photo by David Friedman.

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



David Friedman

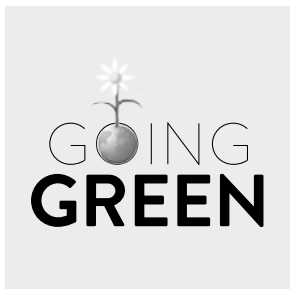


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IT'S A WRAP — GO SUSTAINABLE IN GIFT GIVING

by Liz Erickson



While we give and receive gifts year-round, the practice tends to increase this time of year. If you're someone who considers the environmental impact of your choices, perhaps on gift-giving occasions you will try one of these ideas to reduce, reuse, or recycle.

REDUCE your use of single-use wrapping paper. Instead, use cloth bags or wrap that can become part of the gift.



REUSE materials you receive or have around the house. Paper gift bags, tissue paper, ribbons, and bows can be used again and again. When receiving gifts wrapped with these, take care to store for another use. Creatively use the paper you have for gift wrapping: newspaper, maps, packing paper, or children's art. Find used materials to create your own wrappings at SCRAP Creative Reuse, located at 619 SE Sixth Ave.

RECYCLE by purchasing wrapping paper made from post-consumer recycled material. Paper embedded with glitter or shiny foil cannot be recycled; it goes in the garbage. Only "plain" paper can go in the recycle cart. Ribbons and bows, no longer in use, go in the garbage, not recycling.

With more of these items being ordered on-line, follow these directions for dealing with packaging:

- Plastic mailing envelopes and bubble wrap like bubble mailers cannot go in your curbside recycle cart. They can be taken back to stores for recycling or use Ridwell if you have access.
- Mailing envelopes that are a mix of paper and plastic are garbage, not recyclable.
- "Therma-form"—those hard-to-open plastic packages around items—are not recyclable. They are garbage. The only plastics accepted in the blue recycle cart are clean plastic bottles, jugs, round food containers, and rigid plant pots.

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



Liz Erickson

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE!

You may already have favorite charities to which you give. If not, here are a few ideas, most of which were submitted by BWNA board members. Thank you for giving this holiday season and beyond!

FOOD

St Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, svdppdx.org

Helps thousands of people a year to maintain housing, keep utilities on, and get emergency food boxes.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon – NE Emergency Food Program, emoregon.org/nefp

Meets the urgent food needs of our Portland metro area neighbors, primarily people living in east Portland.

Oregon Food Bank, oregonfoodbank.org

Distributes free food to anyone experiencing food insecurity.

Portland Food Project, portlandfoodproject.org

Has neighborhood coordinators who pick up food from about 1,600 households; it's distributed to local food pantries, five of which are in NE Portland.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

Portland Community Warehouse

communitywarehouse.org

Provides donated furniture and household items to those seeking the comfort and dignity of a furnished home while overcoming adversity.

Habitat for Humanity Portland Region

habitatportlandregion.org

Offers low-income families, single parents, and refugees a chance to help build their own homes alongside volunteers.

Street Roots, streetroots.org

Produces a newspaper focused on homelessness, poverty, and social justice issues. Vendors, who are jobless and/or homeless, sell the newspaper as a means of earning income.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mercy Corps, mercycorps.org

A Portland-based organization that supports people undergoing economic, environmental, social, and political instability. In Oregon, its focus is helping low-income entrepreneurs overcome barriers to starting and maintaining a small business.

YOUTH

Beaumont Middle School PTA Family Resiliency Fund,

my.cheddarup.com/c/beaumont-family-resiliency-fund

Offers, through the PTA, support for students at BMS who are experiencing emergencies that may impact their overall well-being and ability to be successful in school.

Portland Youth Builders, pybpd.org

Has helped thousands of young people change their lives through a combination of education, vocational training, counseling, career development, and long-term support.

New Avenues for Youth, newavenues.org

Portland-based nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of youth homelessness for young people ages 9 to 24.

FLAGS ARE NOT THE FIX

by Sam Balto

OPINION:
WHAT I
THINK

I love seeing neighbors take action, and I understand the good intentions behind putting orange flags at a crosswalk. But let's be honest: this does not address the real problem. The danger comes from drivers who are speeding, distracted, or both, not from people crossing the street without a prop in their hand.

When we add things like flags, we risk sending the wrong message — that safety depends on the person walking doing something extra to “earn” the right to cross. If someone gets hit, will people now ask, “Were they carrying the flag?” That is victim-blaming, plain and simple.

The safest streets are the ones where drivers are forced to slow down and pay attention because the road design makes it



A woman from Washington state and her granddaughter use a flag to cross Fremont at NE 43rd Avenue. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET STATS FOR BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE		
8 Homes for Sale	\$647,450 Median List Price	58 Median Days on Market
8 Homes Under Contract	\$1,675,000 High Price	\$484,900 Low Price

The statistics above provide an up-to-date snapshot of the listed inventory as of October 21, 2025. Median days on market is a good indicator of the average length of time the current inventory has been on the market. Compiled by Polly Webber.

impossible not to. Instead of asking pedestrians to wave bright fabric to be noticed, we should be demanding raised crosswalks, curb extensions, and traffic-calming measures that put the burden where it belongs: on the person operating the multi-ton vehicle.

We don't need more flags. We need accountability for the ones doing the harm, not expectations for the ones being harmed. We need to stop normalizing dangerous driving and start designing streets that make dangerous driving impossible.

Safety should be built into our streets, not carried in our hands.

B-W resident Sam Balto is a father of two young boys, passionate educator for over 10 years, safe-streets-for-kids advocate, Alameda and Vernon schools Bike Bus leader, and founder of Bike Bus World. Reach out with any questions for Sam at sambalto@gmail.com.



Sam Balto

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association.



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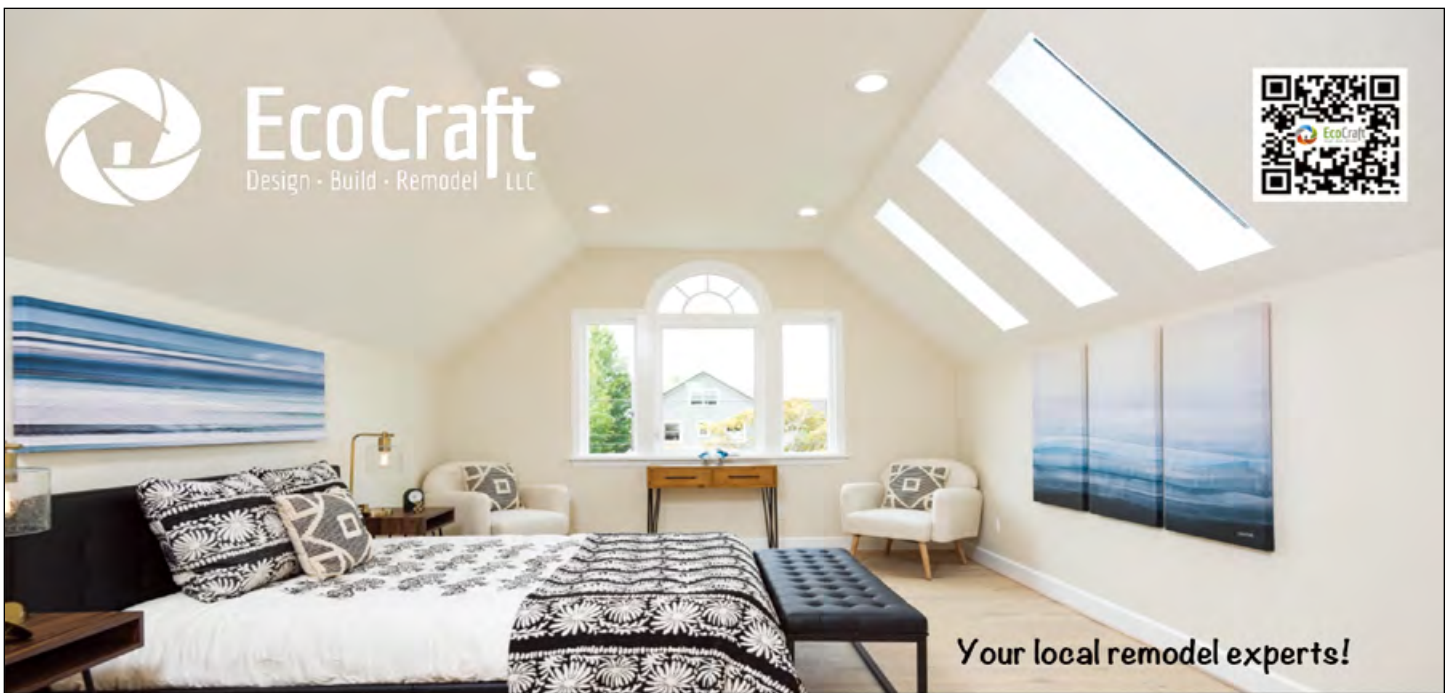
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STIRRING THE POT

A MINTY, OLD FAMILY RECIPE FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Submitted by John Zell

Adele and Ken Zell raised five kids on NE 48th Avenue. They lived there from 1948 to 1999. All the kids (Mary, Ken Jr., Tom, Anne, and John) attended Beaumont when it was a K-8 school; four later attended Grant and one attended Adams High School. This three-layer classic mint-chocolate combination was one of Adele's favorite desserts. The crème de menthe and crème de cacao may require a trip to the liquor store.



Mom Zell's Chocolate Mint Brownies

Brownie Layer

4 oz. unsweetened baking chocolate	4 large eggs
1 c butter	1 c all purpose flour
2 c sugar	1 c chopped nuts (optional)

Mint Frosting Layer

6 Tbsp butter, softened	3 c powdered sugar
2 Tbsp heavy cream	½ tsp peppermint extract
2 tsp crème de menthe	Green food coloring (1 to 2 drops)

Chocolate Glaze

1 c chocolate chips (semi-sweet)
4 Tbsp butter, softened
1 Tbsp crème de cacao

For the Brownies:

Preheat oven to 350 °F. Grease a 9- by 13-inch pan. In a double boiler or bowl over a pan of hot water, melt the unsweetened chocolate and butter, stirring often. Set aside to cool slightly (10 minutes). Combine the sugar and eggs in a large mixing bowl. Beat until smooth and then add flour and nuts (if used), stirring just to combine. Stir in the chocolate-butter mixture. Pour batter into the greased pan and bake for 25 to 30 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool completely.

For the Mint Frosting:

Combine the frosting ingredients and beat until smooth. Spread evenly over the cooled brownies.

For the Chocolate Glaze:

Melt the glaze ingredients together in a small bowl over a pan of hot water as described above. Allow to cool for about 5 to 10 minutes. Spread evenly over the mint frosting. Let cool to harden slightly before cutting into squares with a sharp, thin knife. Enjoy!



The Zell family in 1992. Front row from left: Tom, Anne, and John, the author of this article. Middle row: Adele and Ken. Back row left to right: Ken Jr. and Mary. Submitted photo.

John Zell is a Portland native and has lived in the B-W neighborhood for 55 years. He attended Beaumont Grade School and graduated from Grant High School in 1975. His career has been in printing and graphic design. John and his wife Christy have operated a graphics services business in SE Portland for 30 years.



John Zell

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