



Fremont Holiday Fest brings Santa, Mrs. Claus, and family fun

by Susan Trabucco

For many families, the holiday season isn't complete without a visit from Santa. So parents, mark your calendars for Friday, Dec. 4, when Santa and Mrs. Claus will once again land at the Fremont Holiday Fest in Beaumont Village to bring joy to local children.

In addition to being regaled by these North Pole celebrities, festival-goers will enjoy music, entertainment, various family-friendly activities, and hand-warming hot chocolate.

The Beaumont Business Association sponsors the Fremont Holiday Fest each year. The festival is a kick-off for the Beaumont Village Golden Ticket program, in which shoppers earn a Golden Ticket when they shop at participating merchants. With golden ticket in hand, shoppers have the opportunity to redeem tickets for special savings or goods at any other Beaumont Village participating merchants.

"This is a festival centered around the joy of the holiday season. Our businesses are excited to welcome you in for some holiday cheer," said Kurt Sand, President of the Beaumont Business Association (BBA). "Stop in and find refreshments, activities, and gifts for those on your list."

New this year: those who visit Santa and make a canned food donation at that time will receive a complimentary Golden Ticket from the Beaumont Business Association, redeemable at any

participating business. All canned food provided will be donated to the Oregon Food Bank.

Expect Santa and Mrs. Claus to arrive via Portland fire truck at 3:30 p.m. at the Grand Central Bakery on 4440 NE Fremont. Photos with the pair will be available for children from 4 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Information about Santa Paws—the festival's annual Humane Society fundraiser in which photo sessions with your dog and Santa are offered—was not available at press time; details will be on the BBA website later.

For a schedule of activities, more information about the event, Santa Paws details, and instructions on how to reserve a time with Santa, which is recommended, visit www.beaumontvillagepdx.com/holiday-festival/.

*The children of Katie & Jeremiah Wilgus pose with Santa & Mrs. Claus at last year's Fremont Holiday Fest.
Photo: Haley Lovett Photography.*



Preparing for a Safe and Comfortable Home This Winter

by Stephanie Swanson

After what seemed like an endless, hot summer, we're all breathing a sigh of relief as temperatures are finally dropping and winter is just around the corner! But before the cold sets in for good, fall is the perfect time to take some easy steps to make your home cozier, healthier, and safer for this winter and beyond:

Watch your windows. Did you know your windows can help keep your home warm in the winter? Take advantage of the winter sun's heat by opening south-facing curtains, drapes, and blinds during the day, and then closing window coverings at night to keep the heat in. If you don't have blinds or shades, consider installing them to reduce heat loss. (They'll also help keep your house cool next summer.)

Lower the dial and get cozy. Keep your home 10 to 15 degrees cooler when you are not at home and lower the temperature at night to save energy. Nothing is cozier than bundling up with blankets on a winter night!

Breathe easy. Allergens and pollutants affect indoor air quality and can seriously impact the whole family. You may need an air purifier. Also, checking for radon and installing a carbon monoxide detector are two simple steps that will help everyone breathe more easily.

Get prepared. Back to school is a great time to take stock of emergency preparedness plans and supplies. It's also a good time to ensure your home is prepared for what may come. Seismic "hardening" of your home helps keep your home secured during severe storms, high winds, and earthquakes. It's also a necessary first step if you're looking to get earthquake insurance.

For more information about how to improve the comfort, health, and safety of your home, visit Enhabit.org/neighborhood. (Enhabit—formerly Clean Energy Works—is a nonprofit specializing in helping homeowners make their homes work and feel better while lowering energy waste.)





President's Message

by John Sandie

Building Community, Block by Block

I was plucking at my guitar (plucking is a term I use where a very limited amount of true music actually escapes from the sound hole) seeking inspiration for a theme for this edition's message. The idea for this article took shape during my unrecognizable cover of Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice, It's All Right," so I didn't—think twice, that is.

I mentioned in past articles that your perception of your neighborhood is affected by your relationship with your immediate neighbors. If you feel comfortable giving out your house keys to three or four close neighbors you trust like family, you are more apt to have an optimistic impression of the larger neighborhood in general. So while the BWNA Taste of Beaumont and National Night Out picnic do help bind the neighborhood together, smaller events like block parties can add even more "glue."

I've had discussions with a few neighbors to form a group to generate ideas to help more of these events occur within our neighborhood. This may be a "toolkit" of how to facilitate and handle the permitting required. Some have wondered if BWNA supplies mandatory barricades for ends of blocks (we do not). Maybe we should? Block parties could also promote informal neighborhood crime watch areas or even small pseudo

Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET). These NETs could coordinate emergency supply caches to help the particular block get through emergencies when we all will need a helping hand that might not be available right away. (Please note: I'm not ignoring the efforts of a formal NET network, just saying these could enhance their efforts.)

A fellow neighbor, Dan Hahn, has indicated he'd like to be involved and possibly facilitate a group's effort to generate a proposal for the BWNA Board to consider. In addition, Allison Stoll, Director of the Central Northeast Coalition and also a former BWNA President and crime prevention specialist, has offered her experience and expertise to the endeavor. A couple of other neighbors also have expressed interest in getting involved and I have put out the call to enlist others.

We also will seek folks who are presently active in coordinating block parties in Beaumont Wilshire to offer their thoughts about how a program might be structured.

If you have other ideas for strengthening our neighborly bonds, I'm all ears. But you'll have to excuse my tone deafness; that even causes Mr. Dylan to cringe a bit.

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

The Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Volunteer Group stands ready to pitch in.

Cleaning chores: yard work, window washing, garage/storage organization, simple painting.

Contact John Sandie 219-508-4162 or sandiefam@gmail.com

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Editor's Notes

by Al Ellis



No surprise that some of the brightest holidays take place on the darkest of days. It's society's way of turning Mother Nature's climatic lemons into celebratory lemonade. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year's Eve are prime examples, tailored to light up the landscape and bolster spirits. Add dramatic flair from the season's colorful, often zany political theater, and our fall

and winter crackle with heated polemics as well. But what glitters for some doesn't glow for others, especially in the area of religion and politics...which raises a few questions:

Is there a place for religion in a community newsletter?

If we were living in a theocracy like Saudi Arabia, the answer would be an unqualified "Of course!" Conversely, if we were living in a secular totalitarian dictatorship like North Korea, "No way!" But ours is a pluralistic country, governed by a unique and often contentious blend of local majority rule and constitutional protections with respect to religion. Thus, the first sentence in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, often referred to as the "Establishment Clause," prohibits the State from either "establishing" religion or "prohibiting the free exercise thereof," in effect guarding against the tyranny of the majority, be it religious or secular. Applying this principle to a community newsletter that caters to a diverse group of residents—some religiously affiliated, some not—the answer to our question becomes obvious: yes to informational articles about religious holidays and associated activities, but no to quoting of liturgy or proselytizing of any sort.

Should a community newsletter accept ads that commercialize religious holidays?

Like it or not, just about everything in this capitalist country of ours is commercialized, including religious holidays. Yes, it's a logical extension of the profit motive, but there's more to it than that. Business owners didn't invent Santa Claus, nor did they come up with the idea of a present each night during the eight days of Hanukkah. The secular trappings of these holidays evolved over a long period of time, primarily for the enjoyment of our children, and today's commercialization of religious holidays is as ubiquitous as the religious observances themselves. Business owners shouldn't be penalized for going with the flow and accommodating demand.

Should a community newsletter include coverage of the political season?

While neighborhood associations are prohibited by the City from directly engaging in partisan politics, some do invite candidates and ballot measure advocates to general meetings to air points of view, which are then reported in newsletters. But if an invitation is extended to one candidate for a particular office, then, out of fairness, it also must be extended to the competitors, sometimes several in number. Thus, to save meeting time and newsletter

BWNA Calendar

Saturday, November 7 • 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship
Holiday Bazaar
3917 NE Shaver

Monday, November 9 • 7:00-8:30 PM
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Library Meeting Room

Friday, December 4 • 3:30-7:30 PM
Beaumont Business Association Fremont Holiday Fest
(Beaumont Village retailers on Fremont St.)

Monday, December 14 • 7:00-8:30 PM
BWNA Holiday General Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
(basement activity room on Skidmore side of church)

BWNA's calendar is on the web!
Go to www.bwna.us and select BWNA Calendar

space, many neighborhood associations, including BWNA, will opt to refer residents to community political forums, like the ones organized by Concordia and Rose City Park. Our newsletter happily follows suit, sidestepping political sparks while enjoying the holiday lights.

Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship
United Methodist Women

Present their Annual

Holiday Bazaar

When: Saturday, November 7, 2015

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship
3917 NE Shaver Street (Corner of NE Cesar E. Chavez & Shaver)
Portland, OR 97212
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Mayor's Teardown Tax Riles Developers and *The Oregonian*, Energizes United Neighborhoods for Reform

by Al Ellis and Barb Strunk

On the subject of destroying older, viable homes to make way for spendy new ones that dwarf surrounding residences, no Portland politician has been more outspoken in opposition and resolute in doing something about it than Mayor Charlie Hales. Undaunted by building industry pushback in an election year, the Mayor floated the idea of levying a \$25,000 tax on every demolished home, with a rebate if one house is replaced by two. Not surprisingly, the proposal was lambasted by developers as “irresponsible” and “overreaching” and by the editorial board of *The Oregonian* as “half-baked” and “cavalier in its conception.” But Hales stands firm in his conviction that most of these homes are “worth keeping” and forewarned that “tearing down a house that has value...is going to sting a little, maybe more than a little.” At stake is the landscape and character of neighborhoods.

Instrumental in planting the demolition/development reform seed at City Hall has been United Neighborhoods for Reform (UNR), the grass roots lobbying organization launched by Beaumont-Wilshire, whose resolution to save viable, affordable houses has garnered support from close to half of the city's neighborhood associations. UNR was instrumental in shoring up the demolition-delay process, requiring hazardous materials inspections at demolition sites (albeit via “self-certification”), and—with a big assist from Mayor Hales— launching a 26-member Residential Infill Project Stakeholder Advisory Committee (RIP SAC) charged with advising the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability on: code revision that could limit mass, footprint, and height of homes commensurate with the surrounding houses. It's definitely progress for the UNR agenda, but of little comfort to distressed residents who sit by helplessly as relatively affordable homes continue to be leveled.

The idea of a tax on demolitions is seen by UNR as having the potential to curb demolitions. A rebate for additional houses is opposed by UNR. This rebate could greatly increase demolitions because underlying significant numbers of inner eastside neighborhoods are historical lot lines that make it easy to divide lots into much less than 5000 square feet. An advantage of the demolition tax idea is its immediacy. This issue is too urgent to wait for the RIP SAC to finish its work.

At City Council on October 14, several members of the UNR steering committee argued for a higher tax, \$35,000, as a disincentive more likely to be big enough to slow demolitions. A very useful discussion by all at City Council resulted in many ideas to consider that may strengthen the tax, such as giving a rebate based on the size of the new house—the smaller the house the bigger the rebate. All commissioners seemed to agree that this is an important topic that needs serious consideration. Discussion at City Council will

continue as ideas are considered, modified and vetted for operational efficiency.

UNR is very supportive of the Mayor's initiative with this tax. It is with great interest that UNR looks forward to substantive and meaningful discussions about this idea to slow down the rate of demolitions.



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Nightmare for Neighborhood Allayed by Gratifying Silver Lining

by Al Ellis

The front page of the September/October 2013 issue of this newsletter featured an article by Dave Anderson titled, "Nepali Couple Revives Neighborhood Market." (To access it, go to the BWNA websites—www.bwna.us—and scroll down on "Newsletter" at the top of the page to the "Newsletter Issues" link.) It was a heartwarming story about the great impression this industrious and conscientious immigrant family had made on the neighborhood. Two-and-a-half years later, they were the victims of a heinous and heartless crime that not only sent shockwaves of anger and sadness throughout the neighborhood and beyond but also has been the impetus for a community outpouring of kindness and support.

First some background on the family: In the summer of 2013, Keshab and Gyani Maharjan took over the convenience store at NE 42nd Avenue and Beech Street (formerly Justin's General Store), renamed it the Everest M Market, pitched dumpsters of old merchandise, and repainted. (The "Everest" of the store name refers to the mountain of Maharjan's homeland, Nepal. The "M" has several meanings, including mountain and market.) The Maharjans started out on the right foot with neighbors, hosting a barbecue dinner a week after they reopened the store. As a family, the Maharjans moved to Portland in 2008 from Kathmandu, where they were store owners for 20 years. They worked diligently to make improvements at Everest M Market and also lent a hand to Keshab's brother who owns the Rose City Market on NE Sandy Boulevard and 62nd Avenue. The Maharjans bought a home in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood and their two daughters attended Beverly Cleary School and Grant High School, respectively. The family and store contributed to neighborhood association events regularly with donations of soft drinks and ice. They have been good neighbors.

Fast forward to September 14th of this year: Two masked criminals enter the store at 10:30 p.m., brutally beat Keshab with a gun before taking money and cigarettes. Keshab suffers an orbital fracture requiring emergency surgery to save his eyesight. More surgeries

follow. Meanwhile, his wife Gyani works the store with shortened hours and less income. Medical bills mount.

But almost overnight, Good Samaritan neighbors establish a gofundme site (<https://www.gofundme.com/8r4wz45k>) to help cover the Maharjans' medical bills, and within days, thousands of dollars are streaming in from caring B-W residents. Local media take an interest in the story, and donations begin coming in from around the city. Neighbors make a conscious effort to shop at the store and check in on Gyani. Some neighbors even volunteer to do shifts at the store, keeping Gyani company and providing a sense of security. In the face of abject evil, an inspirational silver lining of goodness and compassion has prevailed.



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BWNA Board Member Katy Fackler Sees Retail as Key to Community

by Mark Mohammadpour

Katy Fackler is a native Oregonian and has lived in this neighborhood for the past 15 years. Katy has worked for a family-owned financial firm downtown for the past 17 years. Her children currently attend Alameda Elementary School, and she has volunteered as an event coordinator for the Children's Place bookstore for the past six years.

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

I really love our neighborhood. I love seeing people outside walking their dogs, kids riding their bikes, and babies in strollers. I love that this neighborhood is not so big and that my children are greeted with "Welcome back" when we go into Pip's for donuts.

Beaumont-Wilshire for me is a neighborhood of people who want to have a community. People who want to look after each other. People who want to do their best to make a safe and strong neighborhood for everyone.

In Beaumont-Wilshire, as in many Portland neighborhoods, the business community is a very important part of our life. Our nearby shops and restaurants foster community, provide useful services, and help to define the neighborhood. They frequently provide the space where we see and catch up with each other.



What are you excited about as far as participating on the board? What are the issues you're looking to help address as a member?

As a new board member, I am excited to help promote the unique nature of our NE community. I am also looking forward to learning how we can better integrate the Beaumont-Wilshire retail areas with the neighborhood.

Thank you, Katy, for your service!

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Beaumont-Wilshire: The Real Dirt Gardening in Autumn

by Barb Strunk

With the summer heat receding it is time to get out in the garden again. Instead of just watering to keep the garden alive, autumn gives us the opportunity to actually develop and nurture our gardens.

Autumn is the best time to plant perennials and bulbs. The soil is still warm while the air temperature is cooler. This allows the newly settled plant to develop its roots while limiting its top growth, all in preparation for winter cold. Drier soil this time of year also protects it somewhat from the compacting our feet cause when the soil is wet in the spring.

There is no need to turn over the soil when planting in your garden. Dig a hole twice as large as the root ball. If you are worried about drainage, mix some sand and ¼ /10 gravel thoroughly into the soil at the bottom of the hole. Add sand and gravel moderately to the soil you use to backfill around the new plant.

Often in the NW, rains do not come regularly until late October, so we are not relieved of the watering duties. In particular need of careful, deep watering are the plants we have just placed in the ground.

Autumn is a beautiful season in Portland. Many lovely plants are in bloom now: Black Eyed Susan, asters, chrysanthemums, salvia and agastache, and—among bulbs—hardy cyclamen and fall blooming crocuses. Our lovely deciduous trees display fall colors.

The cyclamen (*C. hederifolium*) is a great plant, spreading slowly with the help of ants that love the sweet flesh around the seeds. Pink or white flowers emerge in September before a lovely show of patterned ivy-shaped leaves. Cyclamen coum also emerges in the fall, with pink flowers to follow. The leaves of both last through the winter, providing a sweet green ground cover during the coming cool, wet weather.

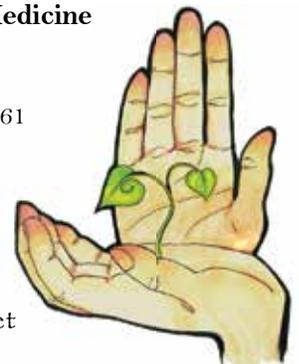
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October's BWNA General meeting touches many nerves

by John Sandie

There were plenty of emotive issues opened for discussion during BWNA's October meeting, prompting spirited views from many neighbors. Issues ranged from heartwarming efforts of neighbors in support of the family owners of Everest M Market to frustration—mixed with some admiration—for new development planned for Fremont Street.

Susan Prows and Kim Warner summarized their group's efforts to help out Keshab Maharjan and his family after a brutal attack during the September robbery of the market that left Keshab severely injured. Charity events and GoFundMe efforts are all going towards helping his family with large medical expenses (three surgeries for Keshab so far), as well as loss of income from reduced market hours. See facebook page, Community Climb, or email: CommunityClimb@yahoo.com to find out ways you can help. Beaumont-Wilshire residents expressed pride in the level of support from the neighborhood community.

Meg Juarez, the new NE Portland Crime Prevention Coordinator, introduced herself to neighbors and quickly found out that she has some bridge-building to accomplish with more effective police communications directly with both neighbors and the neighborhood association. BWNA is committed to working with Ms. Juarez to improve the gaps noted during the meeting.

Paul Del Vecchio and his partners at Ethos Development, LLC presented their conceptual ideas of the three lot, mixed-use development at the northwest corner of NE Fremont and 46th Ave. Some key features of the plan include maintaining a walkway along the west side to allow viewing of the historic "Coca-Cola" sign on the adjacent building and having an atrium to break up the frontage façade, create some public space, and aesthetically soften the scale of building. The inclusion of approximately 13 parking spaces and a ZipCar space was considered by many residents woefully short of alleviating additional street parking pressure. The developers countered this was limited by architectural and financial limits. Although the 50 unit, four-story structure is allowed within existing code, it is larger than BWNA's requested zoning position for Fremont Street within the new Comprehensive Plan Mixed-Use CM1 designation (Comp Plan draft maps indicate CM2 zoning that allows four or possibly five stories along most of the Beaumont

Village area of Fremont). Mr. Del Vecchio committed to keeping the neighborhood informed as plans are firmed up through a website that was being developed in October, as well as requested meetings with neighborhood groups.

Wrapping up the evening was Mayor Hales' presentation of his proposed demolition tax. Audience comment indicated general agreement with the concept of the tax with some concern that it may not achieve the desired results of curtailing the rate of residential housing demolition. Some thought there should be a higher dollar hurdle to demolition combined with incentives to remodel existing homes. The Mayor openly admitted he was not sure he had the three Council votes to enact his proposal or a modified version; as of writing of this article the "jury" was still out as City Council hearings on the tax had not taken place.

On a separate front, please mark your calendars for our December 14 meeting, where we offer holidays treats from local businesses and neighbors, and in the past have enjoyed musical entertainment from Beaumont Middle School choir.

A Family Holiday Recipe from Kathy Campbell's Kitchen

Grandfather's Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 T butter
- 5 medium yukon gold potatoes, peeled and diced
- 64 oz. beef broth (2 boxes)
- 1 bay leaf
- salt & pepper

For the drop dumplings:

- 1 1/3 c self-rising flour
- pinch of salt
- 2 T butter
- 2 T chopped parsley (plus a little extra to garnish soup)
- 2 eggs, beaten

In a wide heavy pan, cook the onion gently in butter for about 10 minutes, or until it begins to soften and go golden brown. Add the diced potatoes and cook for 2-3 minutes, then pour in beef broth. Add the bay leaf, salt, and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes.

To make the dumplings, sift the flour and salt into a bowl and rub in the butter. Stir in the parsley, then add the egg. Mix into a soft dough (you can add a little milk to this if too dry). Drop teaspoon-fulls of the dough into the simmering soup. Cover and simmer gently for another 10 minutes.

Ladle into soup bowls and sprinkle a little parsley over the top. Serve with bread.

Contemplating selling your home?

Would you like to:

- protect your home from being demolished?
- preserve our neighborhood integrity?

Please consider selling your home to a buyer who will recognize its unique characteristics and won't demolish it!

For more information, contact
BWNA President John Sandie
president@bwna.us or
219/508-4162



Get to Know a Neighbor in Uniform

by Tekla Hoehn

You've probably noticed some people in uniform around our neighborhood. Perhaps you've chatted with a police officer at Starbucks or nodded to a group of men and women in fatigues dining on Fremont Street. I decided to interview a few of those folks to learn a little bit more about who they are, and what they like best about Beaumont-Wilshire.

I introduced myself to Lieutenant Colonel Melinda Lepore of the Oregon Air Guard 142nd Fighter Wing while she was having lunch with Colonel Jennifer Pardy. Lt. Col. Lepore was extremely gracious and more than happy to answer a few of my questions.

Can you tell us a little more about the officers and airmen we often see in uniform around Beaumont-Wilshire?



Colonel Jennifer Pardy and Lieutenant Colonel Melinda Lepore

Many people don't know that the Oregon Air National Guard Base is really close to this neighborhood. It's just across the runway from the Portland International Airport. There are 1100 people on the base. Of those, about 600 are here full-time. The rest are coming in one weekend each month to work at the base.

Our mission is to take care of the skies above the Pacific Northwest. Another way to think about our role is that we're like policemen for the sky.

Is the Air National Guard separate from the Air Force?

The Air National Guard is a Reserve branch of the Air Force. The Air Force reports directly to the President, but the Air National Guard belongs to the Oregon governor day-to-day. In the event of a federal call-up, that's when we report to the President. We belong to the people of Oregon and to the people of the United States.

What does a typical airman do?

There are so many things we plan and train for! You may have seen F-15 fighter jets taking off and landing. They're mostly heading off to train. It takes a lot of training to stay current in these airplanes. They train over the coast as well as Central Oregon. Usually when you see them flying it's because they're training.

But not everyone is a pilot; in fact, they're a very small percentage. I started as a navigator, for instance, and moved to other positions over the years. There are a ton of different roles here. We have aircraft maintenance, finance payroll, chaplains, our own security force...it's like our own little city.

Many of our folks helped fight fires in Oregon. And if there were ever a big natural disaster, the Guard would be called up. The Guard plays a huge role in emergency management. We're even co-located with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management in Salem; it's a huge partnership.

Why do so many airmen visit Beaumont-Wilshire?

We come here because it's so accessible and friendly. It's a neighborhood, not a strip mall. It's more personable. We come here for quaint restaurants and friendly people.

What are your favorite things to do in our neighborhood?

I actually live in this neighborhood. My kids go to Beverly Cleary. We moved here from Piedmont about four years ago, and we really love it. We spend many days at Grant Pool and walking our dog at Grant Park. We also

love Grand Central Bakery. Two or three mornings/week, I meet with friends outside of Starbucks for a run. Then I head to the base to start my day.

How did you get started with the Air National Guard?

I was looking for money to help pay for college. The Guard (and the Reserves) offer generous tuition assistance.

What's the history of the 142nd Fighter Wing?

We're celebrating 75 years in 2016. The base opened in 1941; it originally started as a squadron to protect the airways during WWII. So be on the lookout for celebrations to honor the 75 years of men and women who have served in the Air Guard. We have tons of aviation history out here. Just the other day I met some people who had flown in the Korean War!

Does the base offer public tours?

Every other year we open up the base and invite the community out to take a look, and 2016 is the next year—so look for that open house next year. You can also see some photos and read historical articles on our website, <http://www.142fw.ang.af.mil>.



Police Officer Patrick Johnson poses for a photo with a young admirer

I introduced myself to Police Officer Patrick Johnson with the Portland Police Bureau's North Precinct at Starbucks on Fremont. Officer Johnson was generous and friendly as he shared a few insights about life behind the badge.

How long have you been with the Portland Police? Are you from Portland originally?

I've been with the Portland Police for 7 1/2 years. I grew up in

Portland very close to Beaumont-Wilshire actually, right by Madison High School. I went to Gregory Heights (now Roseway Heights) and graduated from Madison High School.

Tell me about your typical day and schedule.

There are three precincts in Portland, and the North Precinct covers Beaumont-Wilshire. I'm assigned to the North Precinct. I typically work four ten-hour shifts. When we come to work, we get ready, dress in our uniforms, and do a roll call. That's when the sergeant tells us what's going on that day, and lets us know if there's anything to look out for. Then we usually go out independently in our cars.

Why do police officers sometimes meet at Starbucks here in Beaumont-Wilshire?

We like the Starbucks on 47th because it's a central spot for a lot of people. It's easy to reach, and we like the staff. Everyone here is really nice. We get together to catch up over coffee—it's a nice social time, especially when you're alone in the car most of the day. And I'm really good friends with a lot of police officers. Sometimes we talk about work and try to help each other out. We look out for each other.

Do people often approach you while you're having coffee?

Oh sure, it draws attention when you're in uniform. People say hello and thank us a lot, especially in Beaumont-Wilshire. It depends on what's

(continued on back page)

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Eat as Promised



Over 70 years of history at Barrett's in Beaumont Village

By Susan Trabucco

At the corner of 44th and Fremont in Beaumont Village, a cluster of neat, low, cream-colored structures of varying vintages comprises Barrett Automotive, the full-service auto repair shop that's laid claim to that corner since WWII.

The current owners of this well-trafficked business are Bill Barrett and his wife of 40 years, Jere (pronounced "Jair-ee"). The business has been in the Barrett family since Bill's father established the place; today it runs as smoothly as the vehicles it repairs – with Bill at the proverbial wheel, assisted in the office by Jere, and in the shop by two long-time employees, Duster Croghan and Rocky Kautz.

Bill's father, Mel Barrett, purchased an existing auto repair business and an adjoining home in 1944, opening under the name Barrett's Auto Service. Mel served as the mechanic in the shop; his wife, Jane, was the bookkeeper. The couple lived in the home on the property and there raised Bill, their only child, who took comfortably to life among the line-up of cars in need of repair.

"I was six months old when they bought the property and the business," Bill said.

Bill's route to ownership of Barrett's was a circuitous one. Building hot rods in high school, with a knack for figuring out how things worked and an interest in radio and electronics, he attended Benson High School. After high school, he began his studies in engineering at Oregon State University. Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1965 during the Vietnam War era, his OSU education was cut short.

While in training for the Army Special Forces, Bill suffered a near-death experience due to a malfunctioning parachute. The accident resulted in a broken back and internal injuries, resulting in his separation from the military.

Post-Vietnam Bill trained as a commercial pilot and flew for an air freight service company. His father's pending retirement led him back to Beaumont Village. For several years he worked side-by-side with his dad, taking over completely when his father retired in 1971.

The younger Barrett has seen a great deal of change on Fremont Street during his lifetime. He noted that many buildings existing today as retail stores or restaurants catered to the commuting crowd in the past.

"There were four or five service stations within a few blocks from our repair shop—there was a lot of competition on the street."

Bill and Jere have implemented changes in the business over the years, purchasing a former real estate office property to provide more work space and a front office.

"Back in my dad's day," Bill said, "there wasn't an office; business was done in the far corner of the shop next to a big, old heating stove. Customers had to wiggle past the cars to find my dad to pay their bill."

The only auto repair service Barrett's doesn't provide is body and paint work, but they can fix and maintain most any vehicle. In addition to all domestic autos, Barrett's services many imports; a Rolls Royce and Maserati have even graced the shop floor. Barrett's is also expert at helping customers obtain DEQ certification, going so far as to take the vehicle through the process on behalf of the customer.

Bill and Jere pride themselves on another unique aspect of their service—they don't do repair work and then surprise the customer with the cost.

"We diagnose the problem, develop an estimate, and call the customer to inform them of the suspected 'gremlin,' and get their okay to proceed," said Jere.

A longtime advertiser in this newsletter, Barrett Automotive is located at 4413 NE Fremont St. Hours of operation are M-F, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (503) 287-1352 for more information.



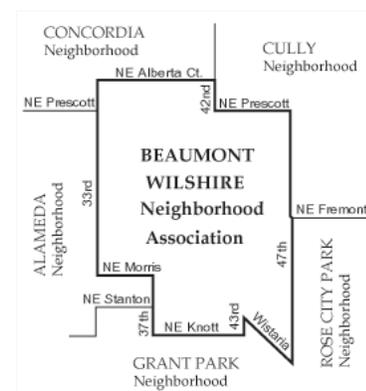
Barrett Automotive in Beaumont Village has provided auto repair service since 1944.

L to R: Jere Barrett, Rocky Kautz, Duster Croghan and Bill Barrett.

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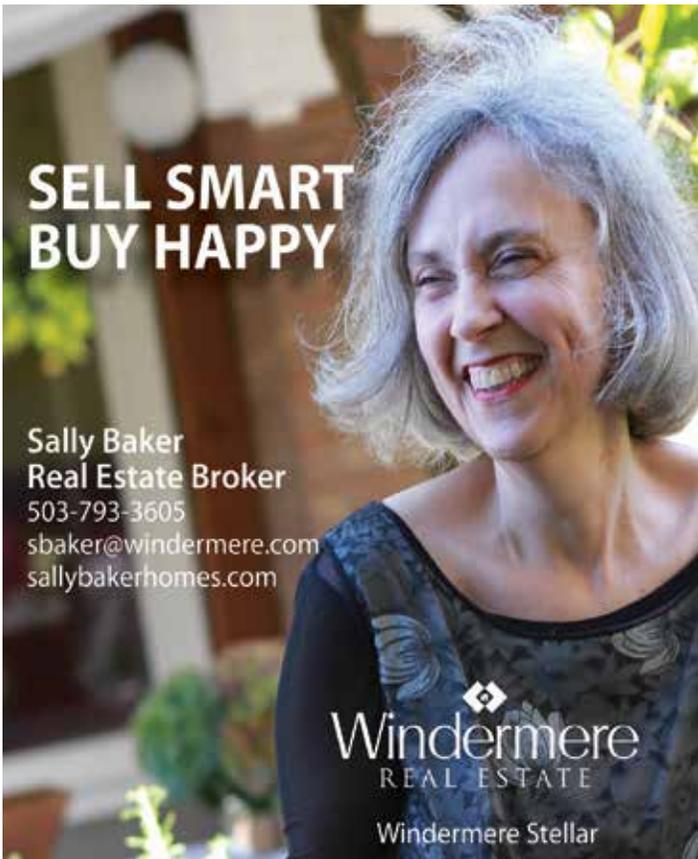
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A neighbor in uniform, cont.

going on in the national news—sometimes more people want to reach out to us. It feels like we're supported in this neighborhood.

And yes, we get approached by kids all the time! We have stickers we can hand out to them. Sometimes they just wave at us or stand there awestruck, like a deer in headlights.

What can we do to help keep our neighborhood safe?

This is a generally safe area but you know your own neighborhood better than anyone. We can't be everywhere all the time, so it helps to have a good neighborhood association and a good network of people. Keep an eye on things, and if you see anything suspicious, please call. The non-emergency number is easy to remember, actually: 503-823-3333.

Any tips for the upcoming holidays?

You probably know this one, but it doesn't hurt to remind people: please don't leave valuables in your car during the holidays. It's a higher incident time. Don't invite crime. A lot of what I see is a crime of opportunity; for example, someone's walking down the street and sees an X-Box sitting in the passenger seat of a car.

What do you like best about being a policeman?

I didn't get this job so I could drive fast. I love interacting with people and helping them. People don't call the police to say, "Hey, I'm having a great day!" Usually people are victims. But I try to leave those interactions better than I found them. I learn a lot interacting with people.

I have an MBA (actually, we have a lot of well-educated folks on the force) and I used to work at Boeing as a business analyst. But I finally decided to do what I always wanted, and that's when I became a police officer. In fact, I was a Police Cadet in my late teens. Now I'm one of the advisors for that program.



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