



Fremont Holiday Fest

by Katie Wilgus

Santa and Mrs. Claus will once again delight children in Beaumont Village this December 5, along with music, entertainment, activities and hot chocolate. The Beaumont Business Association is the proud sponsor of the Fremont Holiday Fest, including the premier of a Golden Ticket Shopping event. Visitors who make a donation when visiting Santa will receive a complimentary Golden Ticket from the Beaumont Business Association redeemable at any participating business. Golden Tickets may be redeemed for gifts and discounts.

'Tis The Season...

By popular request, Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive earlier this year. You can expect to see them arrive by Portland fire truck at 3:00 pm on NE Fremont. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be taking photos with children from 3:30 until 7:00pm.

Have you ever considered sending out a holiday card featuring your dashing pup? Here's your chance! Beaumont Hardware will be hosting Santa Paws, a Santa that will be taking pictures with dogs as a benefit for the Oregon Humane Society.

"We are expecting a festival that really showcases the many shopping opportunities and services our village has to offer," said Donnette Sand, Chair of the Fremont Holiday Fest Committee. "This is an opportunity for all of our businesses to invite the community inside for some refreshments, specials, activities, and good cheer."

Reserving your spot with Santa and Santa Paws in advance is encouraged. Visit the Beaumont Business Association website for reservation instructions, a schedule of activities, and additional information about each activity: www.beaumontvillagepdx.com

Holiday Recycling Tips

by Barbara Linssen

Here are a few common recycling questions answered before shipping and packing season really gets going:

Can I recycle Styrofoam?

No and yes. No at the curb. Styrofoam does NOT go in the blue bin; it is garbage and NOT recyclable at home. You have to put it into your garbage can if you can fit it in. This is a common mistake and a good reason for your blue bin to get 'tagged' and rejected by your garbage hauler. Rigid block styrofoam can, however, be dropped for free recycling at Total Reclaim on NE 59th Place at Columbia Blvd. For more resources, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000. Packing peanuts (clean/dry/bagged) can be given to a shipping store for reuse. They do not get recycled because they are impossible to contain, as we know.

What should I do with an old television or computer?

These two electronics are covered by the Oregon E-Cycle program and can be dropped for free recycling at any Goodwill site, working or not. Various other sites also participate in the program. Call Metro for other ideas or other electronics: 503-234-3000.

Is scrap lumber OK in my green yard waste bin?

No. No dimensional lumber is allowed in the green bin. It can go in the garbage can.

Is bubble wrap OK with the plastic bags I recycle at the grocery store?

No, bubble wrap can be reused by some shipping stores if unpopped or it goes in your garbage.

What about all the plastic containers that don't go in the blue bin?

Check Far West Fibers for recycling options and their current list of accepted items such as lawn chairs, clamshell containers, etc. farwestfibers.com, with three locations on the east side.

Happy recycling for the holidays!

Asking About the Holidays in Beaumont-Wilshire

by Tekla Hoehn

Recently my family and I moved to Beaumont-Wilshire from SE Portland, so this will be our first holiday season in the neighborhood. We have our own holiday traditions of course, but we're not sure what new traditions Beaumont-Wilshire might bring (not to mention we can't agree on where to put the Christmas tree in the new house!)

The season means something different to everyone, so we decided to randomly ask people around the neighborhood the following question: "When you think about the upcoming holiday season, what is the first pleasant memory that comes to mind?" Here's what we learned:

Santa Claus coming down Fremont Street! -*The Levandowsky Family*

Going to the pumpkin patch -*Henry C., Beaumont Middle School student*

Going to the mountains to ski with our three-year-old and visiting grandparents in Canada -*The Tse family*

Celebrating winter solstice to reflect with friends and putting up a Solstice Tree that represents earth, life, darkness, and light -*Cynthia D.*

The first Christmas with my grandchildren living in Oregon -*George F.*

Decorating, house-hopping between all of our family gatherings, and caroling in Happy Valley -*Mykeelo at Grand Central*

more on page 2





President's Message

by John Sandie

Dialog, a 360° View

I guess I should make reference to Anderson Cooper and CNN for the use of "360°" so I don't get plagiarism charges from any astute readers. Due to the amount of local press and correspondence on two somewhat contentious issues—home demolitions and a medical marijuana dispensary—I wanted to offer a few thoughts and reminders for all to consider.

While a few of my close friends lean heavily right on the prevailing political spectrum, I tend to have both left and right tendencies depending on the particular topic. I try to hold in my smirk when they contend that FOX News gives the most fair airing of the issues (although the same could be said of MSNBC). Therefore, my friends and I can get into some passionate discussions at times. A couple years ago we drove to Napa Valley with another couple, and my friend and I kept up a continuing "dialog" the whole ten hours on a broad range of issues. Our wives only had to intervene a couple times from the back seat to ask us to lower the volume a bit. We decided to give them a break on the return trip and kept it light by singing along with 60's and 70's tunes on the radio. After the third CCR tune, they were begging us to go back to our political debating! My point being that we mutually had a level of respect and a bit of empathy for the other's viewpoint—begrudgingly at times, but still able to take the 180° trip and try to imagine the view from that position.

As President of BWNA I feel it is my duty and responsibility to act as an example for this 360° view on all issues and to expect all public discourses under BWNA oversight to also exhibit this respectful stance of all opinions. This doesn't mean I can't or won't offer to express my own opinion when asked, just that I need to be conscious of facilitating the process so all opinions are allowed to be comfortably voiced.

While I strive for this level of equitable inclusiveness, I'm just as guilty as others of

letting my frustration and impatience cause me to "tune out" at times; allowing my thoughts to race ahead and form that great comeback or "gotcha point" rather than listening to the opposing view. Hopefully, honest post-critiquing of each situation will help me keep my "hypocrite index" to redeemable levels.

Our democratic society's strength depends on passion to move individuals to act and energize required change, we just need to guard against having our strength of conviction create "tunnel vision" that thwarts the broader view needed for progress on most issues. So while maintaining our civic passion to affect change; remember opinions don't carry a right or wrong (within the rational world) absoluteness. Opinions are shaped by our interpretations of numerous inputs and unique experiences, and as expressed by many others over the years: "Wouldn't life be such a bore if we all thought the same!"



Asking About the Holidays...

Staying at home for Christmas like we always do -*Alameda Elem School student*

Salty's on the Columbia for Thanksgiving, zoo lights, and tree lights on Fremont St. -*The Barron Family*

Decorating our store for Thanksgiving and Christmas and sharing cider and cookies -*staff at Green Dog Pet Supply*

Buying gifts and books from local stores -*Sylvia P.*

Bustling streets, holiday lights, and folks being in a jolly mood -*staff at Beaumont Hardware*

Making latkes and applesauce for Hanukkah -*Barb D.*

How would you answer this question? Try asking it at the next holiday party you go to.

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Editor's Notes

by Al Ellis



A newsletter's "character" can be defined in part by its topics and format, in part by its journalistic style. The choice of topics depends on a number of factors, including issues of concern to the neighborhood and subjects of interest to individual writers. Format and layout are a product of tradition combined with the creativity of the current staff. Style, however, is more difficult to pin down, because each issue features a unique

lineup of reporters and writers—a combination of staff regulars and resident contributors from the neighborhood at large. But a thread of commonality runs through the mix: we are all neighbors writing for neighbors.

Our newest staff reporter/writer is Tekla Hoehn. Upon moving to Beaumont-Wilshire several months ago with her family, she picked up a copy of our September/October issue and was impressed with the relevance and personal feel to the articles. She also came across my pitch in the Editor's Notes column for a volunteer to fill a staff vacancy, and soon she was in contact with me, asking how she could help out. I introduced Tekla to the Board at the September meeting, and she shared her family's delight in moving to such a friendly, neighbor-helping-neighbor community like Beaumont-Wilshire. Tekla makes her journalism debut in this issue with interview articles that exude a personal warmth and joyful vibrancy. Enjoy.

The Letter to the Board editorial is by a longtime Oregonian who grew up abroad. In addressing the demolition/development controversy, the author harkens back to her European roots as a primary influence on her viewpoint. It's a compelling analysis, written with conviction and heart. Not coincidentally, our newsletter continues on with its series of articles about the BWNA-initiated demolition/development movement (renamed "United Neighborhoods for Reform" or "UNR"), both because our neighborhood association is in the thick of the campaign and because the topic is of concern to an increasing number of neighborhoods across the city. Not the least of which is our own Beaumont-Wilshire as indicated by poll results published in this issue.

So, happy winter holidays to you and your family, and enjoy the eclectic mix that is a hallmark of this newsletter's character.

Do you know a neighbor that 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 fresh up painting.

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

BWNA Calendar

Monday, November 10th • 7:00PM
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Library Meeting Room
NE 37th entrance

Tuesday, November 11th • 9:45AM
Ross Hollywood Veterans Day Parade
NE Sandy Boulevard
between NE 41st and NE 48th Avenues

Friday, December 5th • 3:00-7:00PM
Fremont Holiday Fest
Beaumont Village Shopping District

Monday, December 8th • 7:00PM
BWNA General Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
NE Skidmore Entrance

Friday, December 12th
Deadline for submitting articles, letters,
announcements and ads for the
Jan-Feb 2015 newsletter

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

Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship Bazaar

by Helen Stewart

The annual Holiday Bazaar featuring an Indian taco lunch for \$6 as well as holiday gifts, baked goods, Native American Craft Items, and Christmas decorations for purchase will be held on Saturday, November 15th from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at 3917 NE Shaver St. The church building has a wheelchair accessible ramp.

Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship is a longtime contributor to the Beaumont-Wilshire community, including the provider of chairs and tables for BWNA's annual National Night Out Picnic in August. For more information about the Holiday Bazaar, contact Jean at 503-281-0324.

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Letter to the Editor

To the BWNA Board:

As a European-born American, I have much sympathy for Portland's residential preservation movement, finding it a pleasure to see familiar landmarks in my county of birth preserved over many decades. The property rights philosophy so powerful in the US is not as strong there.

As a four-decade Oregonian, I value Oregon's land use planning, including its affordable housing goal. A challenge for policy makers for sure, given the market forces toward gentrification. The City's development process is a handmaiden here when a "starter" home can triple in size and price under a remodel permit as long as one wall remains standing.

To all NIMBYs—the redevelopment in your neighborhood may be your personal nightmare but could be your neighbor's retirement plan. Gentrification is a fact here and elsewhere—e.g., NoPo, the formerly light-industrial area that is now the Pearl, near Belmont/Hawthorne, even Portland Heights.

As for total demolition—either for gentrification or infill with increasing density—the fact is, we cannot control property we do not own. The only genuine protection for significant structures is a historic preservation district.

The imperative for policymakers and residents alike is how to modify our development standards and approval process sufficiently to protect a neighborhood's character. This can be done outside the comprehensive plan, but only if there is sufficient political will.

(See Jane Jacobs: *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*)

—Inga Fisher Williams

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Board Member Profile: Margaret Davis

by Mark Mohammadpour

This month's board member spotlight is on Margaret Davis. Margaret grew up in Montana and has lived in Chicago, Beijing, and Seattle, among other places. A lifelong bookbinder, editor, and writer, she is a recovering journalist who publishes books under the Ma Nao Books imprint (manaobooks.com), loves to travel and tango, and just can't stop being a neighborhood activist. She lives with her husband and their six-year-old son within eyeshot of the McPeet's sign.

Margaret, how long have you lived in Beaumont-Wilshire and what's your favorite part of living in the neighborhood?

I've lived in the neighborhood since 1998, when I bought a small house about nine blocks from where my mom grew up. What I love about living in Beaumont-Wilshire constantly changes. At first I loved its proximity to downtown and the unique bungalow architecture set on leafy lots. Lately, though, my favorite part of living here is the dedication and energy that residents bring to keeping and making this neighborhood a great place to live.

What's your favorite neighborhood store?

Hands down, Beaumont Hardware. A huge neighborhood supporter and resource, Beaumont Hardware has everything you need and unbeatable staff expertise. I've even found tools there for my bookbinding work. Years ago, I went to Beaumont Hardware four times in one awful day as I grappled with a plumbing problem. I was a mess, but the hardware folks never failed to be friendly and helpful.



Margaret Davis at Zhangjiajie National Park in Hunan, China.

What are the issues you want to help address as a board member?

This is my second stint on the neighborhood association board, having served six years when I first moved to the neighborhood. I became involved again because city leadership has a hard time accepting input from independent channels. With the neighborhood association as the anointed city-resident liaison, I hope the board can help bring about changes to stem the wave of demolitions citywide and ensure that any new development here benefits and improves the neighborhood. So far, most of what we've seen is exploitive development that takes advantage of the neighborhood but offers little or nothing in return except negative impacts.

Thank you so much, Margaret, for your service!



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Brief BWNA Updates

by John Sandie

October's Highlights

Some key issues were discussed and actions taken at the October 13th BWNA General meeting. Timing is getting short on the City's Comprehensive Plan Input phase and many residents and neighborhood associations are concerned with lack of definition on some zoning definitions that could have significant and long lasting impacts. Therefore, BWNA voted to support a resolution advanced by the Multnomah Neighborhood Association to extend the public input phase 90 days after key zoning definitions are made public. In addition, the BWNA will make recommendations to reduce planned height limits along the commercial corridor of Fremont (roughly 40th through 57th Avenues).

The efforts to better manage demolition and development of single family residences actively continues as year end targets for City Council decisions quickly approach. BWNA representatives, along with those from 20+ neighborhood associations, are working hard on proposals to influence advisory councils' recommendations to the Council. An online petition has been formed to demonstrate support for demolition reforms; visit <http://tinyurl.com/stopthedemolitions> to review the petition and add your support and help deliver a message to City Council.

In a somewhat related topic of maintaining neighborhood character, an Urban Forestry representative introduced their Street Tree Inventory campaign of 2015. See PortlandOregon.gov/Parks/Treeinventory for details or contact Danielle Voisin, Danielle.Voisin@PortlandOregon.gov or 503-260-5235, to discover how you can get involved.

Representatives from the new medical marijuana dispensary presented their thoughts on the type of discreet business they plan to manage, and Katy Fackler represented neighbor's concerns of "fit" in our family friendly area – along with some legality issues being pursued with governmental agencies.

Looking ahead: December BWNA meeting

Mark December 8th on your calendars for the annual Holiday Treats BWNA general meeting. Share the holiday fare along with meeting old and new neighbors, hear about the latest comings and goings and offer your ideas on how we can improve our wonderful Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood.



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Smart Growth Summits Give Rise to Activism

by Al Ellis

It began last spring with a modest gathering of neighborhood leaders and concerned residents. On invitation from the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association and Central Northeast Neighbors, the assembled group planted the seed for a “smart growth” movement to push for reform in residential demolition/development regulation. Promoted as “Demolition/Development Summit I”, discussion focused on the rapidly spreading development practice of destroying older quality homes to make way for the building of larger, more expensive new houses—often two or more squeezed onto an existing lot—with little or no attention to neighbors’ concerns regarding environmental safety, ecological preservation, availability of affordable housing, and architectural compatibility with surrounding homes. It is a mindset akin to building in a vacuum, as if nothing else existed on the block—random destruction coupled with anything-goes construction—and sanctioned by a City Hall seemingly oblivious to the problem. Residents felt helpless and reached out to local activists.

Over the summer, demolitions surged and along with it momentum for change. Testimony at a July 31st City Council hearing before a packed chamber of frustrated residents jolted Mayor Charlie Hales into reform mode, motivating him to declare that he would personally take the lead in addressing the problem. Many weeks later the Mayor opted instead to refer the matter to Amanda Fritz, the Commissioner assigned to oversee the Bureau of Development Services. BDS issues demolition permits and implements building code regulations. By summer’s end however, substantive change was still nowhere to be found, and neighborhood associations and preservation organizations were relegated to fighting individual

battles to save this or that house. Despite scattered victories the vast majority of demolitions continued undeterred. With the Comprehensive Plan Update months away from completion and BDS either unable or unwilling to make meaningful changes in the short run, summits reconvened.

Unlike the previous spring when turnout for Summit I was relatively meager, the fall summits drew crowds of 70-80 from over two-dozen neighborhoods with neighborhood association leaders in the lead. A new name for the movement was unveiled at Summit II—appropriately, United Neighborhoods for Reform (UNR). Then came the challenging task to reach consensus on which items to include in a proposal that would be presented to City Council. A UNR Draft Proposal Committee was organized at Summit III with BWNA Land Use expert Jack Bookwalter as chair. Over a dozen committee members would meet to parse recommendations on size compatibility, lot splitting, solar access, tree preservation, and other related issues. Local media picked up the story, and City Hall responded. Soon BDS’s advisory committee—the Development Review Advisory Committee (DRAC)—created its own subcommittee to consider several demolition reforms advocated by UNR, including a more realistic definition of demolition, expanded delays, enhanced notification, and mandatory debris disposal compliance. Both UNR and DRAC hope to present proposals to Council by December.

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Neighborhood Opinion Survey: Demolition and Development in PDX

by Barbara Strunk

We lost a beautiful 65-year-old house on our block to demolition in March, 2014. Two larger houses are planned to replace it. This experience spurred me to action regarding an increasing trend in Portland's central neighborhoods.

When we attended a Portland City Council hearing on July 31, 2014, the two city commissioners in attendance told us that the total numbers of houses demolished in Portland were not that significant in number. I have observed that many inner Portland neighborhoods are being impacted by this development, and many Portland citizens feel that changes should be made in city policy.

To help the City Council understand the impact on neighborhoods, an opinion survey was developed by the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association. So far, 364 people have answered the survey. 80% of respondents live in North or Northeast Portland, 63% have lived in their current homes more than 10 years and 16% more than 30 years.

Survey responses are as follows:

1) Demolition of houses and replacement with new houses is a good trend for our neighborhood.

13% agree, 87% disagree

2) Demolition and replacement of houses is GOOD for our neighborhood because:

- Removes houses in disrepair: 79%
- Builds more energy efficient houses: 41%
- Increases the value of houses in our neighborhood: 40%
- Creates jobs in our area: 29%
- Enlarges the property tax base for the City of Portland: 28%

3) Demolition and replacement of houses is BAD for our neighborhood because:

- Wastes energy and material resources: 62%
- Destroys good buildings: 81%
- Prices first time home buyers out of our neighborhood market: 74%
- Destroys the character of established neighborhoods: 91%
- Demolition process affects the health of immediate neighbors: 53%

4) Should there be any change in current City of Portland policy/code regarding demolition and replacement of houses?

Yes: 91%
No: 9%

5) If you agree that the City of Portland policies should be changed to limit house demolitions and replacements, what changes in City code do you support?

Automatic 120 day delay of all house demolitions: 62%

Neighborhood notification of proposed demolitions and replacements: 78%

Neighborhood review of proposed demolitions and replacements: 69%

Establish new code regulations such as: increased set backs, restrict height of new houses to correspond to surrounding houses, limit footprint of new houses to correspond to the neighborhood: 93%

Substantially increase landfill fees and permit costs to economically discourage demolitions and replacements: 56%

These survey response numbers are a good start, but we need more voices from Southeast, Northwest, and Southwest neighborhoods. Please let your friends and family around the city know about this survey so they can put in their two cents worth. And if you have not taken the survey yourself, please take a few minutes to complete it. You can find the survey on these websites: www.bwna.us or stopthedemolition.org.

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A Natural for our Neighborhood...

By John Carson & Chris Boeh

Want a haircut, perm or manicure that is a relaxed, enjoyable experience? Want the results to reflect your best self-image?

Right in our neighborhood, tucked into a homey spot around the corner from the Wilshire Tavern is a hair and nails studio run by Sharon Arnold-Hughes: Sharon's Hair and Nail Studio. Sharon has been at 4216 NE Mason since January of 2006 and received her training at Portland Beauty School, having worked previously in a shop in the Hollywood District.

Sharon likes Beaumont-Wilshire and has resided here since 1975, when she moved from Texas where she was born. She likes how Beaumont-Wilshire people just stick their nose in the door and say hello when out for a walk.

A whole spectrum of services are available for men, women, and children. You can have routine hair or nails service, or you can employ her consultation skills to update your image. In addition to having a wide background of knowledge and experience, she can offer a shampoo, perm or set and advise you on highlighting, weaving or coloring. Her manicure, pedicure, and artificial nails use products that are odorless.



Many of Sharon's clients are friends, neighbors, and family—including her parents. She and her part-time assistant Peggy always welcome new customers.

Services are by appointment only by calling 503-281-4427. Before you enlist Sharon's services, you are welcome to just drop in and see what she has to offer.

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A Salute and Fond Farewell to George Flesuras

by Tekla Hoehn

39 years ago, nobody would have called George Flesuras lucky for getting assigned to NE Portland. But that's exactly how he feels about it.

Affable George Flesuras has operated the State Farm insurance office on Fremont St. since 1975 (look for the neon State Farm Insurance sign where 42nd intersects). Well-known to many in the Beaumont-Wilshire community, every day Mr. Flesuras comes to work wearing his signature outfit: a self-assigned uniform of tie with a button-down shirt and sweater vest, though recently he traded the sweater for Hawaiian shirts in summertime. After insuring many Beaumont-Wilshire homes and cars for 39 years, Mr. Flesuras is retiring on December 31.

Another State Farm agent will replace Mr. Flesuras at the same location but will only take over half of his accounts, because his agency has become too big for one agent alone. A second agent will take over the remaining accounts from another NE office.

As Mr. Flesuras recalls, one of the reasons he ended up in Beaumont Village is because nobody wanted to be assigned here. While other agents were moving to west-side neighborhoods, George Flesuras opened his agency here. Slowly over the next few decades, George watched as the NE experienced a renaissance.

"The neighborhood has had a massive transformation," said Mr. Flesuras. "Slowly it became known as an affordable neighborhood... then a hip neighborhood...and now it's one of the top neighborhoods in Portland." He has also seen his share of changes around the neighborhood. There was once a gas station next door, and he still refers to Beaumont Middle School as "Beaumont Grade School".

One thing that has stayed consistent is the strong community. "This NE neighborhood is a community within itself, within the city. People like to patronize the businesses. The neighbors are friendly. Beaumont-Wilshire has a small town neighborhood feel."



Mr. Flesuras used to live in Beaumont-Wilshire but with the birth of three children his family needed a larger home and moved to Beaverton some years ago. "In my neighborhood we're far apart and we have to drive. Here, people are outside a lot, walking or biking. It's the tightness that I missed when I moved away, and what I would say is the charm."

After retiring, Mr. Flesuras says he will come back to visit Beaumont Village for some of the restaurants, and possibly to participate in the Fremont Holiday Fest with his grandchildren. He's watched the winter holiday event grow from a few businesses to nearly 10 blocks. In early years, he participated by putting out a table

with other retailers but, as he joked, "People didn't want to talk to an insurance guy. They wanted to eat and drink!"

As Mr. Flesuras departs from decades of daily interaction with the Beaumont-Wilshire community, he hopes that the neighborhood will maintain its charm and tight-knit community feel, because he plans on returning, only most likely not in his insurance guy attire.

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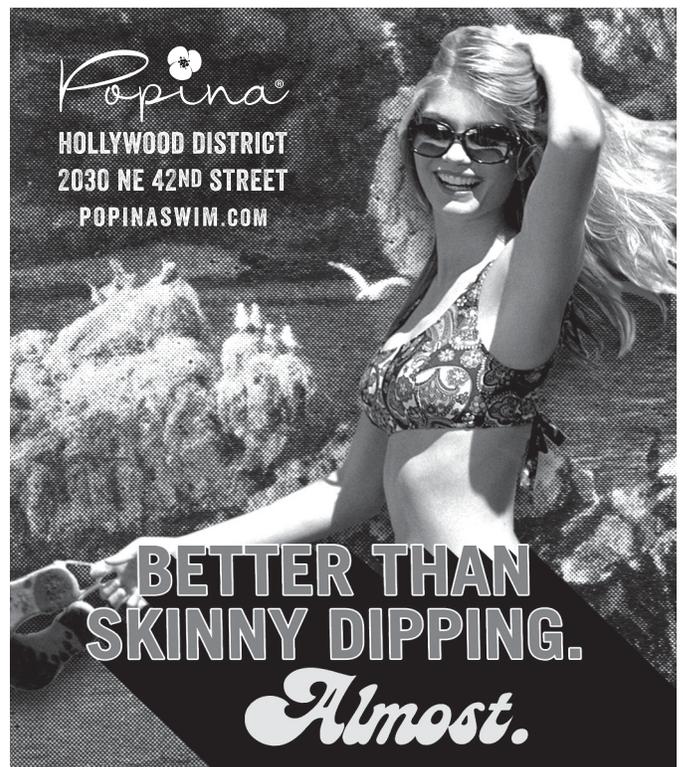


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Leek and Potato Soup

by Kathy Campbell

This is a hearty Scottish staple, suitable for everything from a warming lunch to a hot drink from a flask on a cold afternoon. The chopped vegetables produce a chunky soup. If you prefer a smooth texture, press the mixture through a strainer. The recipe makes enough for four, and it's terrific served hot with fresh crusty bread. Bon appetit!

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup butter
- 2 leeks, washed thoroughly and chopped
- 4 medium/large Yukon gold potatoes
- 1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 3 ¾ cups chicken or vegetable stock
- salt and ground black pepper

Heat 2 tablespoons of the butter in a large pan over medium heat. Add the leeks and onion. Cook gently for about 7 minutes until they are softened. Add the potatoes to the pan and cook for about 2-3 minutes. Then add the stock and bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for 30-35 minutes, until the potatoes are tender.

Season to taste and remove the pan from heat. Chop and stir in the remaining butter.

Cook's tip: This soup tastes better if you make your own chicken or vegetable stock.

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