



July-August 2018

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FIND THE Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association ONLINE AT www.bwna.us

BWNA
Calendar of Events
Community Events

Friday, July 13

6:30-10:30 p.m.
Movie in the Park (co-sponsored by BWNA and Alameda NA)
West end of Wilshire Park; free popcorn!

Featured Band: Far Out West (<https://youtu.be/XRspIi2d0U>)

Featured Movie: The Secret Life of Pets

Saturday, July 14

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Quality Items Garage Sale at the Charlton home
4336 NE 40th Avenue
(See Editor's Notes for explanation)

more dates on page 3



The front and back ends of infill development reform

by Al Ellis

On a beautiful mid-May afternoon, the meeting room was packed. It was the second of two hearings held by the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) for the purpose of receiving public testimony on a contentious infill development reform package from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS). Anticipating the large turnout, a handful of activists arrived more than two hours early to ensure their place on the docket. Presentations were limited to two minutes, but it still took over three hours to accommodate all 91 of them. There would be three more weeks for additional testimony via e-mail in an input process that had generated more than 800 hundred oral and written testimonies ranging from total support to qualified acceptance to outright rejection. PSC would make recommendations to the BPS, BPS to City Council, then last-chance public testimony prior to Council's vote by year's end.

Given the complexity and import of the BPS proposal (think total transformation of residential neighborhoods), emotions ran high in the room, especially for some of the

younger devotees of the density-expansion advocacy group Portland For Everyone, allied with Thousand Friends of Oregon, who passionately—often stridently—argued for en masse construction of “affordable” alternative housing like duplexes and triplexes to fill what they see as the “missing middle” of transit-accessible residential neighborhoods now densely populated with older homes and very few vacant lots. Repeatedly, single-family home residents were branded as a class of “privileged elitists” and self-serving “NIMBYs”(Not In My Back Yard reactionaries). Pushing back in rebuttal, neighborhood preservationists from organizations like Restore Oregon and Beaumont-Wilshire-inspired United Neighborhoods for Reform (UNR) emphasized the value of viable older homes for young entry-level families, the high demand for existing homes vs. the record-low supply in the marketplace, displacement and public health concerns associated with demolitions, and the

continued on page 4

Thousands flock to Beaumont Village for one festive day

by Amy Hamdan

Mark your calendars for the 32nd Annual Fremont Fest in the Beaumont Business District on Saturday, August 4. Sponsored by the Beaumont Business Association (BBA), the neighborhood street fair is expected to draw over 10,000 visitors, with Fremont Street closed to traffic from 42nd to 52nd Avenue.

Featured activities include a kids' parade, over 300 vendor booths, two stages with live bands, and a pub crawl. This year there will be a designated kids' zone with lots of activities to keep the younger generation entertained all day. The event kicks off with the parade at 10 a.m. and lasts until 5 p.m., rain or shine.

For more information and updates on Fremont Fest, click on the events tab on the BBA web site (www.beaumontvillagepdx.com).





President's message

by Tim Hemstreet

Looking to the summer and fun local events for the family

Our June 11 general membership meeting covered two major topics: 1) where Bwana should focus its efforts and resources in the coming year and 2) what the plan will look like for accessibility improvements at the intersection of NE Wistaria Drive, Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard, and 41st Avenue. Regarding the focus of Bwana's efforts to support its mission and the neighborhood, several suggestions were developed: advocacy to retain existing core businesses and services on Fremont Street in the face of development changes; improving the neighborhood's connection with and support for Beaumont Middle School; advocacy for a traffic impacts study to understand the effects of increasing neighborhood density; expansion of the newsletter; improvement of Bwana's website; and support for organizations that support Bwana's mission. The board will consider these suggestions in future meetings, so please let a board member or me know if you have feedback on these or other topics.

Many neighbors were interested in the tentative proposal presented by a representative from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) for reconfiguring the intersection and traffic island on Wistaria Drive to improve pedestrian accessibility as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (addressing pedestrian access is required when PBOT repaves Wistaria Drive between NE 41st and 42nd avenues). Attendees at the meeting were generally critical of the PBOT plan and suggested alternative approaches for improving safety. Aesthetics was also a matter of concern—namely the impact of a redesign of the traffic island, which beautifies the area with its lush garden maintained by nearby residents.

What would be the impact on space and irrigation for these plantings? In the end, an agreement was reached to schedule a site walk with PBOT staff to assess the issues raised by residents at the meeting. Stay tuned as the project design matures later this year.

Switching to family-fun neighborhood activities for the summer, the first will take place on Friday, July 13, with a Bwana/Alameda Neighborhood Association co-sponsored Movie in the Park at Wilshire Park. Showcased this year is the animated feature "The Secret Life of Pets," preceded by music from the band Far Out West. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m., with the movie at dusk, food concessions for dinner, and free popcorn throughout!

The two largest neighborhood events of the year come in early August, the first being Fremont Fest on Saturday, August 4, sponsored by the Beaumont Business Association (details in a separate article on page 1). Just a few days later on Tuesday, August 7 is the National Night Out (NNO) Picnic in Wilshire Park sponsored by Bwana. NNO begins at 6:30 p.m. with burgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs provided by Bwana. Please bring your family, a neighbor, and a picnic dish or dessert to share. Bwana VP Kathy Campbell is coordinating the event again this year, with fellow board members and other neighborhood volunteers assisting with planning, setup/cleanup, and grilling. We'll also have family friendly activities, music, and a free prize raffle.

Come join your neighbors for the 35th anniversary of this special event that celebrates the neighborhood and the police and firefighters who protect us.

Our Organization

BWNA Board

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Barbara Strunk 503-284-7502

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Related Organizations

Beaumont Business Association

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Central Northeast Neighbors Board

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Areas of Interest

- **Beaumont Middle School**
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503-778-0881



Editor's notes

by Al Ellis

Now and then neighbors tell me that they actually look forward to reading our little neighborhood-

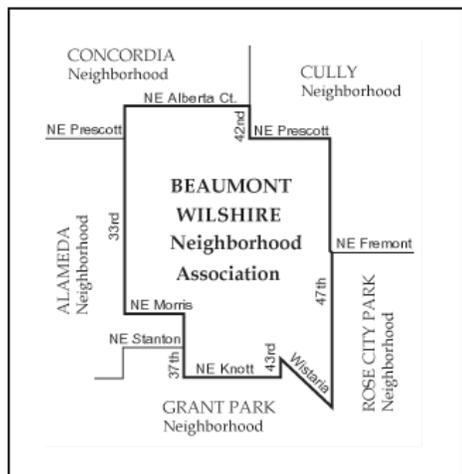
centric publication every other month. In fact, several years ago one loyal newsletter reader was forced to move just outside the Beaumont-Wilshire boundaries into assisted living, and he contacted me to ask if there was any way delivery could be made to his new residence, and I've been obliging ever since. That's admittedly an unusual case, but nonetheless gratifying for our extended family of newsletter volunteers—from the cadre doing the reporting, composing, designing, editing, and coordinating distribution to the 60-plus band of neighbors walking routes to deliver over 2,500 hard copies to B-W homes and businesses.

My use of the term "hard copies" is intentional, because we also feature an online color version on the BWNA website (www.bwna.us), posted by BWNA's volunteer webmaster Mario Caoile, who once served as newsletter co-editor with his wife Helen Koba. Another former co-editor husband-and-wife duo are the Charltons, Diane and Baer, owners of Americana Frame, a newsletter advertiser. Diane continues to contribute articles from time to time, one of which appeared in the May-June issue in promotion of pet adoption, and it's in connection with that article that

I owe her an apology. Shortly after the issue came out, Diane gently broke the news to me that, of all things, I had misspelled her last name, inserting an extra "e" in the middle—an embarrassing oversight on my part and a baffling miss for our team as well. Contritely then, and as a favor to Diane, I alert you to the "Quality Items Garage Sale" held on July 14 at the Charlton's home (4336 NE 40th Avenue), 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.—a summer family tradition revived.

Another example of reader feedback keeping me honest came from B-W resident Nancy Mogielnicki, whose husband Peter has led the effort to secure funding for a Wilshire Park NatureSpace project. In last issue's front-page story about the launching of Friends of Wilshire Park, there was a factual error in my reporting regarding a submitted grant proposal. The request was not for \$17,000 as reported, but \$10,000 max—\$17,000 is a fund-raising goal for the project, not the grant maximum. That said, the happy news is that Peter's hard work paid off with a near-maximum award of \$9,125, which you can read about in this issue's article by Friends of Wilshire Park's Tiffney Townsend on page 6. By the way, it was just a year ago that Peter Mogielnicki first publicly floated the idea of a Wilshire Park NatureSpace project in a deft Letter to the Board editorial for our newsletter. Check it out in the newsletter archives (<http://www.bwna.us/newsletter/2017/Jul-Aug17.pdf>)

The BWNA website home page also doubles as the BWNA blog, providing a handy medium for posting neighborhood-related articles and announcements that cannot be included in the newsletter due to lack of space or in-between-issue timing constraints. Nextdoor our blog is not, but it does serve as a ready forum for expanded neighborhood news coverage at no added financial cost to BWNA. So please do browse the blog from time to time, and feel free to e-mail me items for posting. Finally, welcome aboard to State Farm's Gustavo Soares, our newest B-W advertiser!



Calendar of Events (cont.)

Community Events

Saturday, August 4

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Fremont Fest (sponsored by the Beaumont Business Association) with NE Fremont Street blocked to traffic between 42nd and 52nd avenues. Family parade begins at 9:00 from Beaumont MS parking lot. Kids' activities, food and merchandise street sale, live music, information booths, and pub crawl.

Tuesday, August 7

6:30-8:15 p.m.

National Night Out Picnic in Wilshire Park (sponsored by BWNA); picnic table area just west of pavilion in center of park (NE Skidmore and 34th). Barbecued burgers and hotdogs, water and pop, potluck picnic foods, family activities, live music, and raffle.

BWNA Meetings

Location and Time:

Bethany Lutheran Church
Corner of Skidmore and 37th
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Board mtgs held in Library Meeting Room (enter on 37th side of church)

General mtgs held in Fellowship Hall (down walkway on Skidmore side)

Monday, July 9: Board Meeting

No August General Meeting (National Night Out instead)

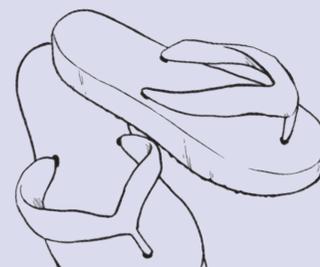
Monday, September 10: Board Meeting

BWNA Newsletter Submission Deadline

Friday, August 10 (for the September-October newsletter)

E-mail articles and editorials to Al Ellis (editor@bwna.us)

Email photos, graphics, and ads to Jane Feinberg (design@bwna.us)





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Infill Development Reform (continued)

sensibility of building alternative housing in areas with open lots, coupled with enhanced infrastructure investment for expanded basic services.

One prominent preservationist not in the room that day was former Portland mayor Charlie Hales, steadfast advocate during his term in office of what he often referred to as “front-end” infill-development reform (i.e., city government regulations and incentives designed to discourage demolitions of viable homes in the first place), as opposed to “back-end” reform (i.e., regulations dealing primarily with demolition notification and cleanup). But despite front-end initiatives advanced by the mayor and like-minded reformers, it’s largely back-end reforms that have been enacted, most recently on July 1: in accordance with recommendations by the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) Demolition Advisory Subcommittee (UNR at the table), demolition sites are now subject to mandatory BDS inspection before, during, and after to check for asbestos and lead remediation compliance, and dust suppression measures must be employed at major remodel sites where heavy equipment is used, although inspections are complaint-driven only. Still in effect on the front-end side is a 35-day demolition delay appeal period for a neighborhood association to save a house, sans fees.

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Providing for our pollinators

by Barbara Strunk

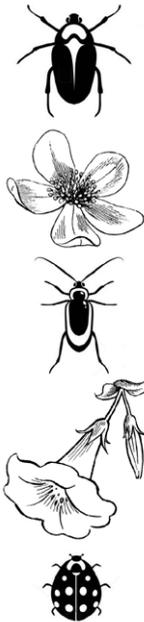
It is amazing what we can create in our small urban gardens for our insect and bird residents. The right plants blooming at the right time can provide for many species, which in turn help provide fruits, vegetables, health, and satisfaction for us.

BWNA hosted a great class last May on insect pollinators for our gardens, and much of the information shared is easily applicable to our gardens right now. All we need is a garden of plants with varied flower shapes, heights, and blooming times, and the pollinators will come.

A useful concept is “pollinator syndromes,” flower characteristics that appeal to different pollinators from bees and flies to birds and bats. For a handy reference chart go to:

https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/What_is_Pollination/syndromes.shtml

Pollinators: We love honey and mason bees in our gardens and support them with hives and hatching tubes. There are many others pollinators, such as tiny sweat bees and bumblebees, flies that look like bees, butterflies, beetles, and birds. All have different needs for nectar and pollen sources. Some plants are pollinated by the wind—think of all the pollen conifers spread on windy spring day.



Bloom Timing: I have seen honeybees on my crocuses in late January. The bees and hummingbirds are pollinating my raspberries in May. Plan to provide flowers from late winter to late fall; consider early spring bulbs to late fall chrysanthemums and everything in between.

Flower Shapes: Our pollinators have different gathering methods. A bee, fly, or butterfly wants a shallow or tubular flower with a landing platform; for example, sunflowers or foxgloves. It makes me chuckle to see eight bees of different genera on a single sunflower! Bees and the wind help pollinate tomatoes by vibrating the flowers. A butterfly wants a tubular flower. So does the hummingbird. Stay aware of what you plant so you have a variety of shapes.

Plant Height: Some pollinators want a ground cover; others love a tree or shrub.

Non-Invasive Natives and Imports: I love Penstemons (beardtongue) and have a collection of native Penstemons that bloom earlier and others from elsewhere in the U.S. that extend the season through the summer. My native *Ribes sanguineum* (red current) and *Styrax japonicus* (Japanese Snowbell) from Asia spread out the blooming season for the bees that love these shrubs. Using both natives and other plants gives the pollinators and me the lengthened blooming times, flower shapes, and plant sizes that please us all.

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Friends of Wilshire Park begin improvement projects

by Tiffney Townsend

Several months ago, Friends of Wilshire Park (FOWP) was formed to enhance the open space at the heart of the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood, and now the group's first two projects are underway. The first will be the NatureSpace, a native plant habitat in an underused area of the park. FOWP was awarded a grant of \$9,125 from the Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP) (<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/43077>), a program that issues grants to projects that improve the health of the community and our water systems. The NatureSpace project will install native plants to secure topsoil, improve biodiversity, provide food and habitat for birds, and enhance the beauty of the park. Boulders and logs will be placed to provide seating, and a path will curve through the NatureSpace, creating a lush detour for park visitors.

A more long-term project for FOWP is the children's play area. Wilshire Park offers one of the only play areas in Northeast Portland for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, but the equipment is over 25 years old, and much of it is broken and splintered. Little children still enjoy playing there, but FOWP feels strongly that this heavily used space needs to be modernized. At the group's May meeting, Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz heard concerns and offered insight and advice. Commissioner Fritz explained that the city's current parks budget focuses on developing parks in areas of the city without any green space, leaving no funds or staff time for Wilshire Park. Both Commissioner Fritz and Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) Community Relations Manager Jennifer Yokum gave advice on how a

community fundraising effort might work and suggested that FOWP coordinate its efforts with the Central Northeast Neighbors Coalition (comprised of nine local neighborhoods, including Beaumont-Wilshire) in seeking PP&R priority for replacement/repair of this dangerously worn-out equipment.

The June meeting agenda included speaking with city representatives about an upcoming bond measure (potentially funding modest improvements in the play area), finalizing plans for the NatureSpace, and identifying simple projects, such as repainting the sign posts in the off-leash dog area, and park cleanup days. FOWP is also seeking volunteers to clear out and plant the NatureSpace, with additional donations sought beyond the CWSP grant to purchase more plants for the project. To learn more, visit www.friendsofwilshirepark.org.



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Creative Solutions in the neighborhood

Sometimes it takes a "virtual village"

by Joan S. Malling and Al Ellis

Editor's Note: Beaumont-Wilshire residents were introduced to Northeast Village PDX a couple of years ago at a BWNA general meeting, and the organization has been a newsletter advertiser since last August.

Are you a senior wanting to stay in your own home for as long as you can? Do you have an elderly or disabled neighbor who could use a hand from time to time? Help is available through Northeast Village PDX (NEV), a "virtual village" that offers memberships to seniors as well as people with disabilities over the age of 18. Trained and background-checked volunteers with this grassroots organization provide services that can help members enjoy living in their homes for as long and inexpensively as possible, plus stay active and connected through participation in a rich assortment of social, wellness, and educational activities. For example, there are groups for those visually impaired, for men's cooking, for dining out, and several more.

NEV officially "opened its doors" in November 2016. The organization's membership has grown to 120 individuals. Of the over 1,000 services the Village has provided since its opening, the most popular are transportation (to medical appointments, shopping, volunteer work, and errands), house and yard maintenance, in-home support, and technology support.

NEV recently moved its office to Room 205 in the Rose City Park United Methodist Church building at 5830 NE Alameda

Street. This new space provides access to other rooms needed for committee work and social gatherings. The nonprofit has also hired a new part-time office manager.

How does the village work? Members join at either the full-service or associate level. Full-service members have access to the full range of programs and volunteer services. Associate members also have access to activities and programs, but limited access to volunteer services. At both levels, members may also choose to become a Village Volunteer. To receive a service, the member simply makes a call to the NEV office. The office volunteer matches a service volunteer with the member's request, and the service is confirmed.

Associate membership is \$275 a year for a single person, \$395 for a two-person household, and \$110 for each additional person residing in the household. Full-service membership is \$495 a year for a single person, \$740 for two-person household, and \$235 for each additional person in the household. Ask about full-service membership financial assistance for poverty-level income residents.

NEV's ad sums it up well in a succinct slogan: "Neighbors Helping Neighbors Age at Home."

For more information, access the Northeast Village PDX website at nevillepdx.org, send an e-mail to info@nevillepdx.org, or call 503-895-2750. A "virtual village" of help awaits.



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Nextdoor.com: community-building at what cost?

by Susan Trabucco

Regular users of the social media platform Nextdoor.com know the perks of what the neighborhood-specific program offers: a free and easy way to rid yourself of unwanted Ikea furniture and other household items, find someone to do odd jobs on-the-cheap, post and hear about upcoming local events, get referrals for various contractors, receive alerts about neighborhood safety issues, be in the know about the numerous “free range” dogs on the loose in the hood, and more.

There are a few known downsides: an overabundance of daily emails (mostly remedied by adjusting your settings) and Nextdoor’s role as a forum for complaints about suspicious behavior—real or otherwise—which sometimes appear to be based on the bias of the person posting. Also, questions arise occasionally about what Nextdoor does with all the information they collect. Just how safe is your personal data?

Fears of potential privacy abuse aside, Nextdoor’s key attributes are that it provides a community-building forum through a heightened awareness of neighborhood events, activities, and opportunities—and largely respectful discussion. Our BWNA newsletter team, however, thought residents would be interested to know more about Nextdoor, so I embarked upon a little sleuthing. The information that follows was provided by the company’s Director of Local Media Relations, Jen Burke, in response to written questions.

Of note: Burke cancelled a video conference interview 30 minutes prior the scheduled time, and shortly after I sent my questions, which

were requested in advance. Some questions pertained to privacy-related issues. “Dashing out due to a sick child” was the excuse for the cancellation, but rescheduling was not an option. Make of it what you will.



Background

Nextdoor was founded in the fall of 2010 and officially launched in the United States in October 2011, then internationally in early 2016. It now operates in the U.S., the Netherlands, the U.K., Germany, and France. The privately held company, headquartered in San Francisco, employs over 200 people located around the globe.

Participation Rates

Nextdoor is used by more than 170,000 neighborhoods nationwide, representing over 85 percent of U.S. neighborhoods. In the greater Portland area there are more than 1,510 neighborhoods connecting on Nextdoor every day. In Beaumont-Wilshire, 60 percent of households are on Nextdoor. The company does not divulge the number of users on its platform.

Money and Privacy

Nextdoor is backed by investors, including Benchmark, Greylock Partners, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Tiger Global Management, Shasta Ventures, Comcast Ventures, DAG Ventures, Bezos Expeditions, A-Grade Investments, Google Ventures, and Allen & Company. Additionally, Nextdoor has also begun generating revenue through sponsored posts (advertising) and its real estate platform.

When asked if it sells member data, Burke assured me it does not. Users should, however, be aware that according to Nextdoor’s privacy policy, located on its website, “...if you use Facebook to register for or log in to Nextdoor (or later connect your accounts), you authorize Facebook to share your personal information with Nextdoor, including your email address and publicly available information about you and your Facebook friends.”

The website also states that Nextdoor “...may also share aggregated or de-identified information with companies we do business with, including our advertisers (in the U.S. or where available) as well as government agency members or other organizational members.”

Combating Divisive Conversation

Nextdoor users know that conversations sometimes get, well, downright un-neighborly. When asked if Nextdoor steps in at any time to calm things down, Burke said, “No, Nextdoor neighborhoods are self-managed, and Nextdoor doesn’t monitor neighborhood conversations.” She added that Neighborhood Leads have the ability to remove messages that violate Nextdoor’s community guidelines, and there are some tools to help keep conversations neighborly and

continued on page 9



Nextdoor.com (continued)

productive. And any member can flag content and also contact Nextdoor's support team to discuss an issue in their neighborhood.

While a real-time interview might have revealed more than what has been reported in this article, suffice it to say that there is no "free" social media app—i.e., your data, interests, and concerns are aggregated for the purpose of targeted advertising. And Nextdoor makes no guarantee that it can keep your personal data safe (also noted in the company's privacy policy). There's

a lot more detail in the company's privacy policy, so my recommendation is that users spend a few minutes reading it. Visit nextdoor.com/privacy_policy for more information.

Meanwhile, the urge might strike you to explore the antics of pets and people found on the social media site. Did Doug the dog ever find his way home, for example, and is the woman who recently posted Everything is Fine Today still fine? Inquiring minds want to know; hence, the reason many of us are on Nextdoor!



Tuesday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The National Night Out Picnic in Wilshire Park is sponsored by BWNA. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with burgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs provided by BWNA. Bring your family, a neighbor, and a dish or dessert to share. We'll have family friendly activities, music, and a free prize raffle.

Come join your neighbors for the 35th anniversary of this special event that celebrates the neighborhood and the police and firefighters who protect us.



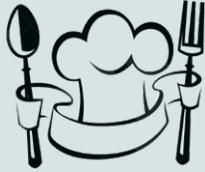
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by Kathy Campbell

Grilled Three-Herb Chicken

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| ½ c vegetable oil | 1 tsp onion powder |
| ½ c lime juice | ¼ tsp lemon pepper seasoning |
| 2 Tb chopped fresh or 2 tsp dried basil leaves | 4 chicken thighs (about 1 lb) |
| 2 Tb chopped fresh or 2 tsp dried oregano leaves | 4 chicken drumsticks (about 1 lb) |
| 2 Tb chopped fresh or 2 tsp dried thyme leaves | |

In a shallow glass or plastic dish or heavy-duty resealable food-storage plastic bag, mix all ingredients except chicken.

Add chicken thighs and drumsticks; turn to coat with marinade. Cover dish or seal bag; refrigerate, turning chicken occasionally, at least 30 minutes but no longer than 24 hours.

Heat gas or charcoal grill. Remove chicken from marinade; reserve marinade.

Place chicken, skin sides down, on grill over medium heat. Cover grill; cook 15 minutes. Turn chicken; brush with marinade.

Cover grill; cook 20 to 40 minutes longer, brushing occasionally with marinade, until juice of chicken is clear when thickest part is cut to bone (180 °F). Discard any remaining marinade.

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