

BWNA NEWSLETTER

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OUR MISSION:

The mission of BWNA is to enhance the safety, beauty, participation, and community connections for all who live and work in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood.

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association BWNApdx.org

BIKE FUN!

in Beaumont-Wilshire

Sat., June 22

Start Time 10 a.m. (duration about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours) Meet at Wilshire Park

BIKE/WALK RALLY

Pedal or stroll and test your inner Sherlock Holmes in this neighborhood-centric event! Put together a family team or grab a couple of friends to compete in solving clues that lead you on a course around the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood. Post-rally gathering with refreshments, prizes, and awards. Space is limited. To register contact John Sandie at SandieFam@gmail.com or text (219) 508-4162.



In other bike news, a bevy of Beaumont-Wilshire bicyclists ready their mounts as they prepare to join the "Bike Bus" to Vernon School on a Friday spring morning. Photo by Sam Balto.



MEET NEW BWNA BOARD MEMBERS, p 5 Al Ellis fills vacant board president position



B-W SPRING CLEANING EVENT, p 11 Neighborhood PRIDE brings out volunteers



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TRANSITIONS

44 . . . this change may

impact our neighborhood

association's funding and

insurance and may affect

our ability to engage with

city government. **

by Patty Nelson, BWNA Board President

n April I completed a two-year term as BWNA president, so this will be my last President's Message. I will miss connecting with all of you in this format but look forward to connecting in other ways.

As I transition into my new role of Immediate Past President, I will have more time to serve BWNA as its **District 2 Coalition** Representative and **District** Coalition Office (DCO) transition representative. This is necessary because

effective July 1, the City of Portland has mandated that BWNA transition away from its longtime DCO Central Northeast Neighbors (CNN) to Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN).

A DCO is a sort of "umbrella" organization tasked with supporting a specific group of neighborhood associations. Why is it important for BWNA to be active in this transition? Because this change may impact our neighborhood association's funding and insurance and may affect our ability to engage with city government.

While DCOs have contracts with and funding from the city to support these services, we've found that each DCO uses its funds a little differently. Whereas CNN has provided its neighborhood associations with funding for communications and general liability insurance, not all DCOs do. At this time, it is unclear what support NECN will

or can provide to BWNA.

Over the next few months, NECN, along with the other DCOs, will be determining what they can and cannot do with the limited allocated funds.

Transitions are part of life. Sometimes

the transitions are planned, like a graduation, creating excitement as the transition gets closer. All too often, however, transitions in life come unexpectedly or are forced upon us, such as the DCO change, creating anxiety about what lies ahead.

I have learned to cope with transitions by planning for the worst and hoping for the best. This approach brings me comfort knowing I am ready if things don't work out and allows me to see the positive in what comes to be.

As we transition to NECN, know your BWNA board will plan prudently and always hope for the best, knowing our active, vibrant community is here to get us through.

Welcome Thank You



Welcome

to our new-this-issue advertisers:

- Earthquake Tech
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- PCRM Insurance Agency LLC

X **Thank You!**

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

OUR ORGANIZATION BWNA Board

President Al Ellis 503-287-0477 President@BWNApdx.org

Vice-President Vacant

Secretary Patti Koehler 971-678-0824

Treasurer

Karla Lenox 503-686-5915 Treasurer@BWNApdx.org

At-Large Board Members

Aaron Breakstone Rob Lee Angela Frome Gary Hancock Jon Hays David Knowles

Colin O'Neill Tim Root John Sandie Susan Trabucco

Immediate Past President Patty Nelson 503-281-8035

Related Organizations

Beaumont Business Association

Kathy Madore, Community Organizer beaumontbusinesses@gmail.com

Mary Myers, President bbaboardpresident@gmail.com

Central Northeast Neighbors Board Liaison: Patty Nelson

Areas of Interest

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

Crime Prevention and Safety Cmte Bill Markwart, co-chair 503-282-4610 Patty Nelson, co-chair 503-281-8035

Events Committee John Sandie, chair 219-508-4162

Friends of Wilshire Park Committee Gary Hancock, chair 503-367-0862

Land Use Committee

Tim Root root.timothy@gmail.com

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FISH ON! We're painting the street again

by John Sandie

Fremont Street Art Painting, Phase II, is planned for July 19 and 20. The work will start at 9 a.m. each day. This BWNA art project is intended to enhance the bump-out area near the marked crosswalk at NE 47th and Fremont (in front of Amalfi's), similar to what was done at the crosswalks at NE 44th and 46th avenues last summer.

We are again seeking artwork submittals from the Beaumont Middle School 8th grade art class and from other budding artists of all ages in the neighborhood. In particular, we're encouraging unique custom designs for two BWNA-provided fish images. These will be added to a faux stream background on one of the four areas to be painted. You can access the images at tinyurl.com/33bbfd7e. Print each image on $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ -inch paper, add your custom coloring and design (no letters or words are allowed by Portland Bureau of Transportation), and then scan your artwork and submit it electronically to SandieFam@gmail.com or drop off a copy to John Sandie at 3425 NE Fremont St. Please submit images by June 3.

Additionally, while painting on Saturday, July 20, we aim to create a "hands across our neighborhood" design by having neighbors of all ages add their handprints in vibrant colors to a small section on the southwest side of the NE 47th Avenue crosswalk.

Bring your kids and have them help create a lasting piece of artwork for the neighborhood — something they can point to with pride for years to come. Whether you participate in painting or not, come cheer on the volunteers and see the transformation of the street as it occurs! For more information about the street painting project or to get involved, contact John Sandie at SandieFam@gmail.com.



During BWNA's street painting effort last year, a young neighbor wielded a paintbrush to assist board member and event leader, John Sandie.



More info by May 15 at bwnapdx.org/upcoming-events



BOARD UPDATES & MORE

by BWNA

The following information is a summary of BWNA board activities from approved board meeting minutes for February and March 2024, committee activities, and more. Find the full meeting minutes at BWNApdx.org.

Board Leadership Change

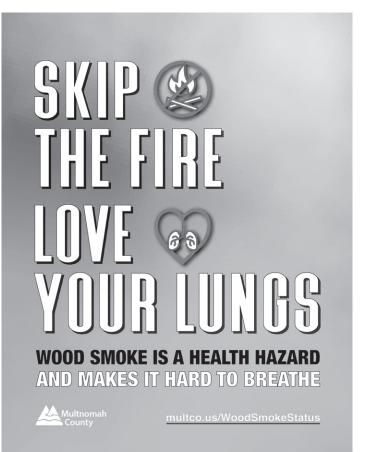
BWNA President Patty Nelson announced she would not be seeking re-election. She will continue on the board as Immediate Past President and serve as the District 2 Coalition Representative. See President's Message on page 2 and related article on page 5.

Bylaw Revision

Board officers reviewed and proposed changes to the bylaws to eliminate redundancy and clarify vague or outdated language. The changes were presented and approved by the board at the March general meeting.

Speed Bump Removal Support Requested

B-W resident Jim Karlock requested BWNA support to stop the Portland Bureau of Transportation from installing speed bumps in B-W and remove those already in place out of concern for emergency vehicle response time. Board discussion resulted in no action as members were comfortable with PBOT's collaboration with Portland Fire & Rescue in the use of speed bumps. It was suggested BWNA should hold a forum on speed bumps with PBOT and PF&R to help residents understand their efficacy.



Graffiti & Neighborhood Clean-Up Proposal

Board member Angela Frome requested and received \$385 for supplies needed for three BWNA-sponsored neighborhood clean-up events in 2024. Volunteers will pick up trash and remove graffiti along the Fremont Street business corridor and other neighborhood streets. See related article on page 10.



Events Committee

Chair John Sandie's proposal and request for \$400 for a neighborhood bike rally on June 22 was approved. Also proposed and approved was \$820 for the second phase of street art painting within bump-outs on Fremont Street. See related article

on page 3. *The Little Mermaid* was approved by Portland Parks & Recreation as the Movie-in-the-Park film this year, scheduled for Thursday, July 25, at Wilshire Park. Committee members are researching the feasibility of pre-movie activities and related budget.

Friends of Wilshire Park Committee



Chair Gary Hancock reported the committee is redoing a bench on the east side of the park and worked to replace trees lost in winter storms. Volunteers replaced 50 plants in March. See related article on page 16.

Land Use Committee

Chair Tim Root presented the site plan for a proposed 10-lot cottage cluster development at 3538 NE 44th Ave. The proposal is for each unit to be located on its own lot; an existing home on the site is included in the project. The site is just north

of a planned food cart development at NE 44th and Fremont on the former Barrett Automotive site.

New Neighbor Welcome Project

Eight new homeowners moved into Beaumont-Wilshire over the last couple of months; volunteers delivered welcome packets to introduce them to our neighborhood.

Transportation Committee

The board discussed ongoing concerns about pedestrian safety and visibility on NE Fremont and identified follow-up actions with Portland Bureau of Transportation.





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4 May-June 2024

BOARD ELECTIONS YIELD NEW MEMBERS, RECYCLED PRESIDENT

by Susan Trabucco

Some new faces and the former vice president were elected to positions on the BWNA board at its April 8 annual meeting. Vice president and past president Al Ellis was elected – again – to fill the board president position. New board members Tim Root and David Knowles were elected to fill vacant at-large positions. Thank you also to board members who re-upped: Rob Lee, Colin O'Neill, Angela Frome, Aaron Breakstone, and Treasurer Karla Lenox.



About Al Ellis

"My wife Peggy and I have lived in our Beaumont-Wilshire home across from Wilshire Park since 1990. For 13 years prior to that we lived down the street from Stanich's between Klickitat and Siskiyou. In those two houses we raised two daughters, not to mention a few dogs and cats. In my 16 years on the BWNA board, I've served as president, newsletter editor

for 12 years, vice president, and now president once again. Déjà vu." Originally from the Bay Area, Al attended Willamette

University, majoring in Russian and political science, and earned a master's degree in education. He taught Russian and social studies in Portland for 35 years.



About Tim Root

"I've served as the BWNA land use chair for about a year. A development on my block spurred me to apply to fill one of the board vacancies to focus on how the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood can work with others to support smart growth so the neighborhood character I love stays the same. I'm also interested in protecting all road users on our

streets, supporting our local businesses, and supporting our police in relation to crime, theft, vandalism, and graffiti."

Originally from Elkhart, Ind., Tim has lived in Portland since 2001, purchasing a home in B-W in 2007. He and his wife have a 13-year-old daughter, three cats, and a dog. Tim works in the architecture/engineering industry.



About David Knowles

"I've been a resident of Beaumont-Wilshire for 39 years. My wife Pam and I feel fortunate to live in a neighborhood that includes vibrant businesses, strong schools, and wonderful neighbors. In retirement, I hope to use my experience in transportation, land use, and politics to help our neighborhood and pay it forward for the next generation."

David's background includes work as an urban transportation planning consultant, Portland planning director, former elected Metro councilor representing northeast Portland, and a member of the Portland Charter Commission that proposed the form of government change approved by voters, although he notes his was a dissenting voice on the form and election method for the new City Council.

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BWNA BOARD & GENERAL MEETINGS

Mon, May 13 @ 7 p.m.: Board meeting Mon, June 10 @ 7 p.m.: General meeting

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Events Tues., May 7 @ 7 p.m.

Tues., June 4 @ 7 p.m. For meeting location, contact committee chair John Sandie via SandieFam@gmail.com

Friends of Wilshire Park

Wed., May 8 @ 7 p.m. Wed., June 12 @ 7 p.m. For Zoom link to meetings, contact committee chair

contact committee chair Gary Hancock via outside503@aol.com

Newsletter Team

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

ARTICLES & ADS

Articles

We invite you to write for the newsletter or submit an opinion piece or letter to the editor or board. Email Editor@BWNApdx.org

Advertising

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

Deadlines

We publish the 1st of Jan., March, May, July, Sept. & Nov.

Pre-approved articles & ads must be submitted by the 1st of the month PRIOR to publishing date. Submit articles to Editor@BWNApdx.org





Some plan funerals.

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SECOND VALLEY EVENTS

Julie Bernstein, BW resident www.secondvalleyevents.com secondvalleyevents@gmail.com (503) 956-8868

Grant Constitution Team Wins National Title!

In April, Grant High School's "ConTeam" took first place in a national competition in Washington, D.C., that tested the team's knowledge of the U.S. Constitution. The team vied for first place against 47 other U.S. high schools as part of the "We the People" curriculum designed



to foster greater civic education and engagement. During the rigorous three-day competition, students showcased, defended, and contemporized their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by fielding questions from a panel of judges. "It's official," said student Jake Robertson, "we're the best nerds in the nation!" Read more at bit.ly/4aYCD1D.

Time to Plan a Summer Block Party!

Block parties are a fun and easy way to build community and get to know your neighbors. Gather your neighbors to hold a block party in your street or turn the street over to the kids for play. With a free permit from the City of Portland, which it claims will take only 10 to 15 minutes to apply for online, you can host your event on your neighborhood street! Find out more on the city's block party webpage at tinyurl.com/2xre6xfn.

BBA Elects New President, Board Members

The Beaumont Business Association reported board elections recently, welcoming new board president Mary Myers, center director for Sylvan Learning, to lead the organization. Read more about Mary on page 13. Outgoing president Wesley Calloway served for three years. Other officers and board members for BBA are Treasurer Deborah Field (Paperjam Press); Secretary Nathalie Roloff (Roloff Construction); and directors Allyson Mendeles (Pacific Holiday), Maura Dawgert (Wild Hearts Wellness), Douglas Lamb (Gold Sparrow Tattoo), and Kiran Mistry (Beaumont Village Dentistry).

Thanks to Business Sponsors, Flower Baskets are a GO!

The Beaumont Business Association will be installing flower baskets for display from May through September along Fremont Street. These blooming baskets add flourish to the business district and are for the enjoyment of all visitors. The BBA thanks its logo sponsors: Frazier Wealth Management, McPeet's Portland Pub, Noho's Hawaiian Cafe, and Puddletown Games & Puzzles and its named sponsors: The Arrangement, Beaumont Village Dentistry, Fremont Veterinary Clinic, Perch Furniture, and Sylvan Learning.

Neighbor Seeks Support for National Charity League Through May 31

Beaumont-Wilshire neighbor Laura Chehab is vice president of membership for the National Charity League, a nonprofit organization of mothers and daughters who come together to do philanthropic work in communities. Laura recently announced that NCL's membership drive is open and underway through May 31. NCL focuses on philanthropy, leadership development, and cultural enrichment for girls in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade who are successful applicants. For more info, visit nationalcharityleague. org/chapter/portland or email the Portland Chapter at membershipportland@nclonline.org.



May 2 and June 6 (Thursday) — Times vary

First Thursdays on Fremont Street by BBA

Location: Fremont Street in Beaumont Village

The Beaumont Business Association announced a new event series called "First Thursdays on Fremont Street" that will begin May 2 and run through September 5. Participating businesses along Fremont will host special events. Find more information ahead of time about what's planned by visiting BBA on Instagram (@bbapdx). Otherwise, look for balloons in front of all participating businesses on First Thursdays through September.

May 2 and June 6 (Thursday) 4 – 8 p.m.

First Thursdays at Portland Artistic Gallery

Location: Artistic Portland Gallery, 4110 NE Fremont St.

On May 2, featured artists are Becky Joan Springer, abstract painter; Ann Mackiernan, glass artist; and Kirra Hellfritsch, jeweler. Meet them and other member artists and enjoy music and refreshments. This annex group show celebrates nurturing and spring for Mother's Day.

On June 6, meet featured artists Scott Taylor (woodworker) and Brent Furstner (luthier) and other member artists and enjoy music and refreshments. This annex group show celebrates Pride Month, Father's Day, and Graduation.

For more info visit artisticportlandgallery.com.

May 18 (Saturday) 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A Children's Place Celebrates 50 years!

Location: 1423 NE Fremont St.

A Children's Place Book Store launched in 1974, doing business in Beaumont Village on Fremont Street for many years before the move to its present location. The shop maintains its B-W connection by participating in Beaumont Business Association events. Join in the anniversary celebration at A Children's Place with story time, book signings with local authors and illustrators, a scavenger hunt, selfies with "Dog Man," a raffle, and birthday party refreshments. For more info visit achildrensplacebookstore.com.

May 30 & 31 (Thursday and Friday) 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Grant Holds Special Event to Celebrate 100 Years of Performing Arts

Location: Grant High School Auditorium, 2245 NE 36th Ave.

"A Sensational Century of Stardom," a show celebrating 100 years of performing arts at Grant High School, will feature performances by alumni and current student groups including the Royal Blues and the Grant Dance Collective. Special guest appearances by pianist Thomas Lauderdale of Pink Martini and former Grant High School vocals music director Doree Jarboe. Visit our.show/grant100 for more info or to purchase tickets.

June 22 (Saturday) 10 a.m.

B-W Bike/Walk Rally

Location: Meet at Wilshire Park

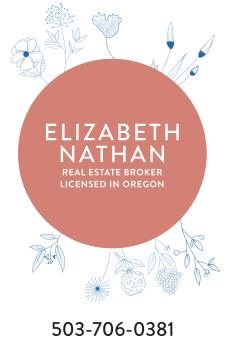
Test your inner Sherlock Holmes! Put together a family team or grab a couple friends to compete in solving clues that lead you on a course around the B-W neighborhood. Post-rally gathering with refreshments, prizes, and awards. Space is limited. To register contact John Sandie at SandieFam@gmail.com or text (219) 508-4162.

Got Events? Email Editor@BWNApdx.org



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LIFE AND DEATH IN AN URBAN VILLAGE

by Chris Rauber

een from a certain vantage point, Beaumont-Wilshire is a village.

Small groups of middle-school kids gather on their way to school, utterly ignoring passing adults; proud parents guide smaller ones on their way to their classrooms. Bikes zoom down streets, couples walk dogs. The occasional motorized scooter appears. People generally say hello, often stop to chat.

But B-W isn't actually a small town; it's part of a big city, of course, and subject to urban woes.

In the last $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, three people have been shot to death here, and another person was shot in the nearby Cully neighborhood, just two blocks from B-W's eastern boundary at NE 47th Avenue. That shooting resulted in life-threatening injuries, according to Portland Police at the time.

The recent string of shootings started in December 2022, when an elderly couple, longtime B-W residents, died in a murder-suicide, police said in a Jan. 4, 2023, press release.

Just outside the neighborhood, in June 2023, a man was shot and badly injured in the former Stanich's parking lot, after reportedly stumbling across the street toward the alleged assailant, who was booked later that day on attempted second-degree murder and other charges.

And in early February, a man was shot and his body left on an otherwise peaceful B-W street. The victim was identified by police as 39-year-old Portland resident Laronn M. Allen.



4327 NE Fremont St • Beaumont Village • 503-528-1800 www.greendogpetsupply.com Not long after the incident, several neighbors happened to be passing by when an aged motorhome stopped nearby. A woman got out and spray-painted sad messages on the sidewalk; she also left a couple of candles burning. A few days later a small group, likely friends or relatives, gathered there to mark their loss.

There's no reason to suppose from these events, tragic and shocking as they were, that B-W is suddenly a dangerous place to live. Each incident appears to be a one-off event, not part of a broader trend.



A loving message and candles left near the intersection of NE Alameda and Milton Street by those grieving the death of Laronn M. Allen at this site in February. Photo by Chris Rauber.

(continued on page 9)



According to recent Portland Police Bureau statistics, while B-W had more crime than the nearby Alameda neighborhood, it had significantly less than several other adjacent neighborhoods (see chart below). From January 2023 through December 2023, there were 189 reported offenses of all kinds in B-W, including 10 assaults but no homicides.

A year earlier (January 2022 through December 2022), the total was 261 offenses, including one murder and 20 assaults.

Crimes in Adjacent Neighborhoods Jan. 2023 through Dec. 2023

Neighborhood	Reported Crimes
Alameda	159
Beaumont-Wilshire	189
Concordia	765
Cully	1,015
Grant Park	222
Hollywood	475
Rose City Park	524

Source: Portland Police Bureau, Monthly Portland Neighborhood Offense Statistics.

Most of the crimes reported in B-W last year involved larcenies, motor vehicle thefts, burglary, and vandalism. From April 4, 2023, to Jan. 20, 2024, there were 19 arrests in the neighborhood, involving 19 unique individuals, police data indicate.

It's clear from PPB data that Beaumont-Wilshire is not living through a major crime wave; we are living in an urban place, subject to some of the concerns that affect all of Portland and, of course, many neighborhoods in many places.

Nonetheless, as always, it pays to be careful, be watchful, and take reasonable precautions.

Chris Rauber and his wife, Kim Williams, moved to Portland and B-W in the summer of 2022 after many years in the San Francisco Bay Area. He worked as a journalist at the S.F. Business Times and other publications. He was born in Oregon.

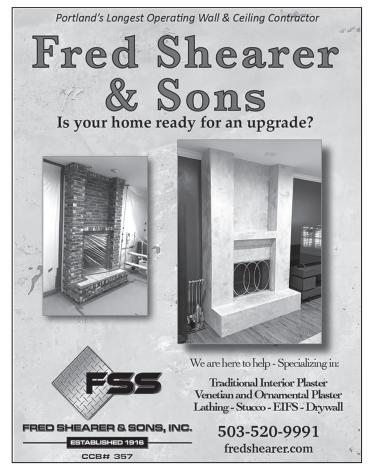


Chris Rauber



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Wild Hearts Wellness 4230 NE Fremont St, Portland, OR 97213 wildheartswellness.net

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association



by Susan Trabucco



An initial wave of March 15 cleanup volunteers paused for a photo before spreading out to complete their mission. Front row L-R: Patty Nelson, Joe Perkins, Lisa Chiba Perkins, Karla Lenox, Nancy Wicker, Vaughn Wicker, Kyle, and Angela Frome, far right. Back row, L-R: Jeff Nelson, Diane Charleton, Tim Gillespie, Susan Trabucco, Michele Budd, and John Steup. Photo by passerby.

Editor's Note: In the hubbub of the day, getting everyone's name on paper was challenging. BWNA apologizes to those whose name or full names aren't included.

n the brisk-but-sunny morning of March 15, a BWNAsponsored neighborhood and Fremont business district "spring cleaning" effort drew many helpers from the community to the plaza in front of Foot Traffic, which okayed the incursion.

Volunteers started things off with a hot cup of coffee and donuts donated by Pip's, then picked up provided items necessary for their work to spruce things up, including bright yellow safety vests, gloves, graffiti-removal kits, trash bags, and trash "grabbers." Adopt One Block donated some of the supplies.

Some Hollywood and Alameda residents joined in to help and get ideas for their own neighborhoods. John Steup, City of Portland's graffiti abatement coordinator and a Beaumont-Wilshire neighbor, also joined in and brought city-provided graffiti removal kits and supplies.

Setting out to assigned areas in small teams, most volunteers spent about two hours on the mission. The result? Many bags of trash picked up, graffiti cleaned from various signs and surfaces — and lots of camaraderie and evident pride in the work accomplished.

BWNA event coordinator and board member Angela Frome was very pleased with the participation and the event as a whole.

"We live in a beautiful neighborhood and taking pride in it by keeping it clean serves all of us who call Beaumont-Wilshire home," said Angela. "It was so nice to see so many interested folks rolling up their sleeves to help, including so many BWNA board members and people from other neighborhoods."

Aware of the increase in need over the summer, BWNA is planning to hold two more clean-up events this year.

"In the warmer months, we see an increase in trash and graffiti," said Angela," so, the more hands the better."

Look for more details about June and September cleanup events in the newsletter, on Instagram @bwnapdx, and in the monthly BWNA email to subscribers. Subscribe at BWNApdx.org.

NEED HELP WITH GRAFFITI REMOVAL?

Contact the City of Portland at portland.gov/bps/graffiti/request-services

WANT TO REPORT GRAFFITI?

Call 311 or go to portland.gov/bps/graffiti/report-graffiti



OUT FOR SPRING CLEANING



Helpers from the Alameda and Hollywood neighborhoods showed up to help out and get some advice on how to set up similar events in their own neighborhoods. The duo is flanked by BWNA board members Angela Frome, left, and Patty Nelson. Photo by passerby.



Diane Charlton, long a champion of cleaning up graffiti in the neighborhood, shows the final result of her efforts to remove it from newspaper boxes at NE Fremont Street and 42nd. Photo by Michele Budd.

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MEET MARY MYERS, NEW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

by Susan Trabucco

hether it's a quick trip to Beaumont Hardware, lingering over coffee at one of several java spots, popping in for a Pip's donut, sipping Sauvignon Blanc at Blackbird Wine, or pursuing art and retail offerings in Beaumont Village, the businesses on Fremont Street provide services, supplies, and a place to connect for Beaumont-Wilshire residents. Then there are the community-wide events held on the street such as Fremont Fest. In short, the business district is near and dear to many who live nearby.

Thus, for the benefit of our readers, when the street's business-focused organization recently named Mary Myers as its new president, BWNA reached out to her to get a sense of who she is, and where she hopes to take the Beaumont Business Association. Following are the questions we put forth, and her responses. Thank you, Mary!

Q. What is your professional background?

I am currently the Center Director at Sylvan Learning Center on NE Fremont Street, where I support students with supplemental education. Before this, I worked as a home-based family case worker in Indiana, putting to use my bachelor's in psychology and master's in elementary education.

Q. Were you serving on the BBA board prior to being elected president?

Yes! I was voted in as Vice President of BBA in February 2023.



Mary Myers

Q. Do you live in Beaumont-Wilshire?

I do! I live near 46th and Fremont, so I live and breathe Fremont Street.

Q. What is your vision for the BBA or the business district under your leadership?

For the last three years, our previous president put a lot of work into ensuring residents and business owners in the neighborhood know what the BBA is and how we can help. I would like to see the BWNA and BBA work closely together in planning neighborhood events, supporting district enhancement, and addressing safety concerns. I am also hoping to expand our business district farther

west to encompass more businesses along Fremont.

Q. What message do you wish to deliver to neighborhood residents about the BBA and member businesses?

The BBA is here to support the businesses on the street with

marketing their goings-on via our Instagram @bbapdx and website bbapdx.org. Please be sure to follow us on Instagram or visit our website to see the event calendar — and add events you have going on!

Q. Anything I'm not asking that you'd like readers to know?

Halloween is my favorite holiday, so I am looking forward to seeing everyone for Trick or Treat on Fremont Street again!



PDX SIDEWALK JOY: "THIRD PLACES"

by Pamela Plimpton



Lauren Varney opens the door to his Sidewalk Joy art installation to display its treasures. Photo by Pamela Plimpton.

hen I spotted the half-size, retro, gas pump in the parking strip on NE 52nd Avenue and Siskiyou, I thought it was a clever way to house an EV charging station. I crossed the street and introduced myself to the two men standing near the pump. Larry Varney, (an older man, i.e., around my age), and his son, Lauren, corrected my assumption.

Lauren directed my gaze to the side of the pump facing the sidewalk. Hand-lettered on a door the full height of the metal structure were the words, "Larry's Car Library," with directions to the passerby: "take one . . . swap one . . . leave one . . ."

Lauren opened the door.

Inside was every matchbox-car-collector's dream: at least 30 miniature vehicles in a rainbow of colors resting on shelves of varying heights. A fragment of a red plastic racetrack curved down through the structure to an assortment of cars on the pump's floor. "Did you make this?" I asked. Lauren replied he had.

Lauren, who grew up in the Alameda/Sabin neighborhood, is a contractor and artist whose work features welding, fabrication, and design. "Larry's Car Library" belongs to an Instagram group in the Portland area called "Sidewalk Joy." Lauren's other installation, "The Car Library" on NE 20th between Fremont Street and Ridgewood Drive is also featured there. "You need to talk to Rachael, the group's founder," Lauren said. Rachael Harms Mahlandt lives in southeast Portland with her husband and their two young children. She does marketing for non-profits and is an artist. When she made a dinosaur diorama, she wanted to create a space where fans of dinosaurs could not only exchange dinosaurs, but also view her diorama online.

So, Rachael set up @pdxdinorama on Instagram to feature her Dino Exchange on the corner of SE 78th and Morrison Street. She has since also installed an "Ultra Tiny Library" that houses her ultra-tiny books. Rachael saw that other installations existed throughout her neighborhood, so in early 2023 she joined forces with Grant Brady, the curator of Instagram site, @pdxflag, to create a map of Portland's curated galleries, exchanges, and displays.

Now the public can easily locate Sidewalk Joy kiosks throughout Portland, though most are on the east side of the city.

Sidewalk Joy and other such groups claim a goal similar to that of the City Repair Project, the originator of the Little Free Library: "to repair the soul of a city through the creative reclamation of public space."

To Rachael, these art installations are "Third Places" — a term that refers to spaces such as parks, coffee houses, community centers, and places of worship. Such spaces facilitate social interaction, building community by operating on implied trust



Larry's Car Library, a Sidewalk Joy art installation. Photo by Pamela Plimpton.

between (in the case of Sidewalk Joy) the artist and the public without formal protections for either party. Rachael's dream is that a child can grow up where such a community is the norm.

"What happens," I asked them both, "if your installation is subject to theft or vandalism?"

Lauren doesn't worry about it. He does not "create anything with the fear that it will be stolen or vandalized," though he does make things difficult to walk away with. "But that's because it needs to be safe and secure, not because I'm worried." (My husband pointed out that Lauren's Car Library is mounted on an old car axle).

Rachael acknowledged the risk. "You take a chance. Your heart can be out there, yet we trust in the process. If our work is damaged, we rebuild."

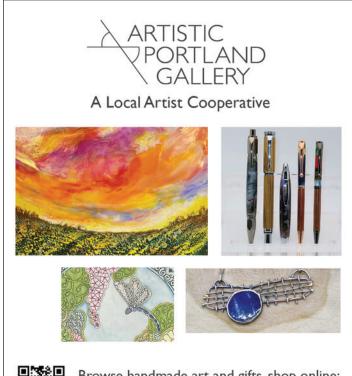
Pamela Plimpton, a B-W resident since 1980, retired as a professor of English in 2020. Her interests include reading, writing, gardening, and singing with a community chorale. She and her husband enjoy playing golf, working out at the N.E. Community Center, traveling, and grandparenting their granddaughter.



Pamela Plimpton



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Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association

SPRING HAS SPRUNG IN WILSHIRE PARK

by Peter Mogielnicki



The native fringe cup is an unusual red and white flower strutting its stuff in Wilshire Park's NatureSpace. Photo by Peter Mogielnicki.

Joggers and walkers using the paths along the south side of Wilshire Park may have noticed evidence of some recent planting. On March 15, about a dozen devoted volunteers helped Portland Parks & Recreation tuck a number of native ferns and shrubs back into the soil, replacing the ones done in



by last year's heat dome. Unfortunately, just a few days after the replanting, Portland reached 75 degrees – breaking the previous high temperature record for that date. How the new plants fared is yet to be determined.

In the nearby NatureSpace, passersby should look for the unusual red and white flowers of native fringe cup, *Tellima grandiflora*, and the aptly named backward facing blooms of the inside-out flower, *Vancouveria hexandra*.

If June also proves especially warm, one may catch a glimpse of a newly hatched yellow swallowtail butterfly animating the space as it comes by to sip lunch from these and other blossoms. These animated jewels have spent the fall and winter months as caterpillars and chrysalides in the nearby oaks which, incidentally, are the hosts of more butterfly species than almost any other tree.



Wilshire Park serves Kids and Neighbors at Fellowship Gathering

No one on a casual stroll through Wilshire Park on March 30 could have missed the colorful festival atmosphere around the children's playground and under the park shelter. There, the One Hope Fellowship church was blessed with outstanding spring weather for its third annual come-one come-all Holy Saturday celebration at the park. Two huge inflatable trampolines and a large inflatable slide entertained scores of kids while church members, neighbors, and curious passersby chatted and lined up for salads, cold cuts, and frankfurters hot off the grill, manned by cheerful barbecuers.

If you missed the event this year, consider marking your calendar for April 20, 2025. Photo by Peter Mogielnicki.



PERSPECTIVES

compiled by Polly Webber

t's no joke – there really is a World Laughter Day, celebrated on the first Sunday in May each year. Established in 1998 by the founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement, its mission is "health, happiness, and world peace through laughter." Knowing we could all use more of that these days, we asked some of our Beaumont-Wilshire neighbors:

"What makes you laugh?"



"I find quick-witted, dry humor most entertaining. The quips Chevy Chase delivered in his early work still make me laugh. With that said, there is still a special place in my heart for slapstick. It makes me laugh just as it did when I was a boy." (*Martin, 1 year in B-W*)



"My four-month-old baby has recently started laughing. When she starts giggling, it's so hard not to join her. Fake sneezes and tickles are a current favorite for both of us!" (**Sarai**, 1 year in B-W)



"I love quick, dry humor, valuing clever and spontaneous comedic timing. Comedians Trevor Noah and Tig Notaro are two of my go-to sources for comedy. However, now that I have a 2-year-old, being silly and laughing at the small joys in life are pretty great, too." (*Krista*, 1 year in B-W)



"I find my husband's 'Dad' jokes and my kids' knock-knock jokes hilarious. They're endearing and always make me laugh, no matter how cheesy they are." (*Maria*, 6 years in B-W)

Polly Webber is a realtor and mom of two teenage girls. Born and raised in the neighborhood, she purchased and lives in the B-W home next door to her childhood home. Reach her by emailing polly.webber@cascadehassonsir.com.



Polly Webber

Be Heard!

Let us know if you'd be game to be interviewed for a Perspectives question by emailing Polly at the address above. Suggest a question for Polly, too!



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STIRRING THE POT

by Mark Cockcroft

This dish is bursting with the sunny, vibrant flavors of the southern French region of Provence. A long, slow braise in the oven renders the meat ultratender and perfumes it with all those aromatic Mediterranean ingredients. You could easily substitute bone-in chicken thighs, drumsticks, or whole chicken legs for the lamb – just adjust the braising time to about an hour or so. Any brine-cured olives will do, but the French olives suggested in the recipe result in the most authentic flavor. Use whole olives



with the pits for maximum flavor, just remind folks at the table when serving the dish. A salad, and a crusty loaf of bread to mop up all the fragrant sauce, is all that you need for a fabulous French feast.

Lamb Shanks Provençal Serves 4

Prep time: about 20 to 25 minutes **Cooking time:** about 2¹/₂ hours, mostly unattended

- 4 large, meaty lamb shanks
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 carrots, diced
- 1 large fennel bulb, diced (bulb only)
- 4 large strips orange zest
 1 (15 oz) can diced tomatoes
 2 c low-sodium beef or chicken broth
 2 c dry white wine
 ½ c Niçoise and/or Picholine olives
 2 Tbsp chopped parsley for garnish
- 4 cloves garlic, minced

Herb & spice sachet: 1 rosemary sprig, 4 thyme sprigs, 4 sprigs flat leaf parsley, 1 bay leaf, 3" cinnamon stick, and 4 whole cloves, wrapped and tied up in cheesecloth

Preheat the oven to 350 °F. Season shanks all over generously with salt. Heat oil in a large Dutch oven or heavy-bottom pot over medium heat. Add the shanks, in batches if necessary, and brown thoroughly on all sides; remove from the pot and set aside.

Turn the heat down to medium low and add the onion, carrots, fennel, and a good pinch of salt and a few grinds of black pepper. Cook, stirring often, until vegetables have softened but not browned. Add garlic, mix in, and cook for a few minutes. Add the herb and spice sachet, zest, tomatoes, broth, wine, and olives; turn up heat to high and bring to a simmer. Nestle the shanks back in the pot (they should be about three-quarters covered by the liquid; add a little water if necessary).

Cover and place in the middle of the oven. Cook for about 2 hours, turning the shanks every 30 minutes or so, until the meat is fork-tender. You can take the top off the pot for the last 20 minutes if you want to get a little additional browning on the meat and reduce the sauce a bit. Discard the sachet and zest. Place each shank in a shallow bowl and spoon the sauce and vegetables over. Sprinkle with the chopped parsley and serve.



DID YOU KNOW Beaumont has roots dating back to 1907?

by Chris Rauber

The neighborhood now known as Beaumont-Wilshire has roots stretching back to 1907, when maps for the Beaumont subdivision were drawn up, "just two years after the Lewis & Clark World's Fair drew thousands to the young city" of Portland, the late Philip Mulkey Hunt wrote in his history of the area.

Before that, the area was primarily farmland, Hunt wrote in "The Beaumont Profiles," including orchards, berry fields, and a dairy, located along what is now NE 50th Avenue, just north of Fremont.

Concrete sidewalks and curbs were poured in the portion south of Fremont in 1911, Hunt reports. He "easily" located sidewalk marks indicating the 1911 date at NE 40th Avenue and Alameda (northwest corner) and NE 46th Avenue and Fremont, near the southeast corner.

A few homes may have preceded the subdivision's construction, Hunt noted, notably the Keenan home, occupied until about 1903 by the family that ran the small dairy farm.

Beaumont School, now Beaumont Middle School, "opened its doors — a couple of wooden 'Portables' to begin with — in 1914," Hunt wrote. It expanded over the next 12 years, "until 1926 when the two-story brick building was completed."

Hunt, a former journalist who died in 2017 at the age of 97, compiled stories and photos from more than 100 sources to create his history.





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