BEAUMONT WILSHIRE

Beaumont Wilshire Neighborhood Association http://bwna.org February/March 2008

Failing Street: What's in a name?

By Mark Bonanno

I live on Failing Street, and have often wondered about the street's name. "Failing" comes from a civic-minded family that put its brand on Portland forty-five years after Lewis & Clark forged the trail west to Oregon.

The family patriarch was Josiah Failing. He began an exodus to Portland from New York in 1851. First, he and his sons traveled by ship to Panama, mule train to the Pacific, and another ship northward. His wife and remaining family members bravely followed two years later by ship around South America.

Once relocated, Josiah opened a general store to serve the new Portland community of a few hundred residents. He became mayor of the city two years after his arrival. Notably, he set his mind to forming a public school district because he believed it made sense to pay taxes to educate students for the working world and keep them out of trouble.



In 1864, Josiah handed over the business to his son, Henry.

Henry Failing was married to Emily Corbett. Together they had four children, three who survived to adulthood. Tragically, Emily herself died at a young age in 1870 leaving Henry to raise the children.

Apart from his busy home life, Henry learned from his father not only how to

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Business Focus

Beaumont Vision

By Helen Koba



Dr John Lewis of Beaumont Vision

When John Lewis graduated from Indiana University in 1996 with a Doctorate in Optometry, his goal was to one day have his own practice. He achieved his goal last January 2007, when he opened his own private practice, Beaumont Vision at 4331 NE Fremont. Dr Lewis relocated to Portland in 2002 after a residency in New York City where he worked as an associate in an ophthalmology practice specializing in LASIK surgery. This procedure which corrects vision by laser surgery is the number one elective surgery preformed in this county, according to Dr. Lewis.

Dr. Lewis lives close to his practice and being an avid bicyclist, often rides his bike to work. He loves Portland, especially the weather! His office has received an award from the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development. That award

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PDX harbor cleanup and Beaumont business plans

BW Community Meeting
Monday, February 11, 7:30 pm
Beaumont Middle School, Rm 140

The two guest speakers at our February 11th meeting will be addressing issues both close to home and in our city as a whole.

Robin Plance is the education and outreach coordinator of the Portland Community Advisory Group (CAG). The Portland Harbor is an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund Site, and will eventually be cleaned up after years of planning and sampling. The study is expected to take until 2009. The Willamette River may be reasonably clean by 2015. Part of this process is the Portland Harbor CAG. It is comprised of individuals from neighborhoods, environmental, health, recreation, and business groups, and concerned citizens. Learn more about this important project and how you can give your input.

Apryl Strass, manager of the Albina Community Bank on Fremont St. and current president of the Beaumont Business Association will also be a guest speaker. The Beaumont Business Association is comprised of the businesses located between 41st and 57th along NE Fremont. Their purpose is to work together to make Beaumont a vibrant business district by providing goods and services the neighborhood needs and wants. Come hear their plans for the coming year and how you can get involved whether you are a business owner or a resident. ■

Calendar

Monday, Feb 11, 2007, 7:30 PM
BWNA community meeting
Beaumont Middle School, Rm 140
NE 42nd & Fremont

Friday, March 7, 2008
Deadline for articles and ads for April/May 2008 BW newsletter

Monday, March 10, 2008, 7:30 PM
BWNA Board meeting
Bethany Lutheran, NE 42nd & Fremont

Greetings neighbors!



It's a new year, the days are getting longer and it will soon be springtime! As the weather warms up, we will see more of our neighbors out for a walk, a bike ride or working in yards and gardens. We are indeed fortunate to live in a neighborhood blessed with wonderful people and with convenient access to an ever-growing number of neighborhood businesses.

Do you have a new neighbor on your block or perhaps just met someone new to the area? Take a moment to invite them to join you at the upcoming BWNA community meeting on February 11 at Beaumont School (see page 1). We will hear about projects and developments in the neighborhood. We will have a speaker to talk to us about Willamette River cleanup plans. A Beaumont Business Association representative will update us on changes and new businesses coming to our area. A neighborhood police officer will be here to talk about public safety and answer any questions you may have.

Are there other topics or issues you would like to discuss or hear about, or do you have a suggestion for speakers for upcoming meetings? Please let me or board members know. We want to hear from you! Looking forward to seeing you at the February 11 meeting!

–Bill Markwart
Acting President, BWNA
president@bwna.org

Traffic and Land Use Concerns

Transportation and Land Use Committee meets every 3rd Monday of each month, 7:30pm at Vicinato, 4605 NE Fremont. Open to all Beaumont Wilshire residents and business owners.





Beaumont Wilshire VIDEOS
www.bwna.org/videos.html

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Website (http://bwna.org)
M. Caoile & Helen Koba 503-288-2568, Rob Vaughn 503-287-2375

Newsletter Distribution
Marsha Mahon 503-284-1859

Newsletter Editors
H. Koba & M. Caoile 503-288-2568
BWNA residents may submit articles (limit 350 words). Articles are subject to editing. Send articles and ads to:
mc-hk@comcast.net or
BW Editor, 4025 NE Shaver St.
Portland OR 97212

Ad Rates: Business card size (3½ x 2 inches), $90 for 3 issues or $180 for 6 issues. 503-288-2568, mc-hk@comcast.net

Please send other correspondence to Bill Markwart, president@bwna.org

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Second Nature Garden Design

By Richard Weber



Eileen Stark of Second Nature Garden Design

Growing up in the Midwest, BW resident Eileen Stark knew she wanted to work with nature and animals. Following work in the biological and animal protection fields, Eileen turned her reverence for flora and fauna into her own business, Second Nature Garden Design where she works with nature toward sustainable design.

The basic principle behind sustainability is for humans to live successfully as part of nature. "We live in a time of tremendous human activity and our actions are overwhelming the planet. One good thing we can do is turn our lawns into gardens that not only look beautiful but balance our taking with giving back. Every choice we make impacts someone or something downstream," Eileen explained at her NE Wisteria Drive garden that incorporates many trees, ornamentals – native species as well as "favorites I can't be without" – and edibles.

Although she claims the yard still needs much work, her vegetable garden is producing even during these winter days and fruit trees ready to bud out, are everywhere. She doesn't use any chemicals. "We never kill anything but exotic weeds and try to compost almost everything on site," she says. Her clients are encouraged to continually enrich the soil and eschew chemicals as well.

Eileen specializes in edible landscapes, native habitat gardens and water-wise designs. Most of her designs encompass all three, like her own garden, where plants are situated according to their needs. Curving beds delineated by old bricks in the backyard contain mostly native species. "Plants to me are more than just ornamental and I always consider how they provide for the birds and insects and other wildlife. Many people don't appreciate native plants but they will thrive in urban gardens and their quiet beauty is just wonderful. They're also very low maintenance."

Although she creates designs mainly for Portland residences and school grounds, she hopes to get involved with larger eco-restoration projects in the future.

Eileen is also a free lance writer, blogs for Ecometro.com, and volunteers for various animal-related endeavors. She can be reached at 503-467-8545, or visit her website, www.sngdesign.net for more information. ■

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In praise of the bicycle (and the riders)

By Rita Catapano

Photos: Rita Catapano



Kamata Bacon family

Michael and Yoshiko Kamata Bacon have much in common with their neighbors. They own their 1922 home. Both work full time. Michael is Portland School District's Immersion Education Coordinator, a job that takes him to18 different schools in the metropolitan area. Yoshiko is a pre-school teacher at Richmond Elementary School in southeast Portland. They are parents to six-year old Keita and four-year old Hazuki. Keita plays soccer and takes art lessons. His sister Hazuki studies dance. In addition, Michael is taking courses through Portland State University to qualify for an administrative license.

Recently, I sat down with Michael and Yoshiko to talk about their decision to sell the family minivan and commit to bicycling as their primary mode of transportation. My questions were:

What were you thinking? They had been thinking about the decision for a long time. They moved into the neighborhood eleven years ago because of nearby services and public transportation. They wanted to reduce the negative environmental impact of driving a car and realize financial savings. So, almost three years ago, they sold their car and bought one new bicycle.

What does a typical day look like? On weekdays, Yoshiko leaves the house by bicycle at 6:30 a.m. to begin her day. Michael gets the kids ready, hooks up the tag-along and/or trailer to transport the kids to the school bus pickup. Sometimes Keita rides his own bike to the school bus. Once safely aboard the bus, Michael either locks the extra gear at a bicycle park, or turns around and brings it home. Next, he rides to the bus stop and catches a lift to his office in North Portland (and probably to one or more of the schools with an immersion program). At the end of her day, Yoshiko travels Michael's journey in reverse.

>>



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Michael and Keita heading out

How have your lives changed? Both Yoshiko and Michael feel that their choice has forced them to slow down and simplify their lives. They spend more time outdoors and walking. They experience and appreciate nature. They plan their outings more carefully and efficiently. And they feel more connected to the neighborhood and community.

What have been some challenges? When one or both parents are sick and don't feel like riding their bicycles. When Keita broke a bone in his elbow twice in the same year. When Michael works all day and has evening classes in Milwaukie. When friends and family question their judgment.

Are you happy with your decision? The Bacons believe they have made the right choice for them. They believe the challenges provide an opportunity to problem solve. Even when Keita broke a bone, they were able to get timely transportation help from neighbors. And, in a pinch, they have a FlexCar membership to fall back on when they need to leave town, have out-of-town guests, or even just to take a rare break from the routine.

All in all, things work smoothly; and all four family members seem satisfied with their lifestyle. In fact, when I asked six-year old Keita what he likes best about riding his bike, he responded: "Riding with no hands, jumping, and doing tricks". Sounds like fun! ■

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Are you ready to be president?

By Helen Koba

Not to be outdone by Iowa or New Hampshire, the Beaumont Wilshire Neighborhood Association will hold their annual general elections at the Community Meeting, April 14. You can be the next president of the association, the treasurer or a board member. The following positions are open:

- Five member-at-large positions (one of these is the chair of the transportation/ land use committee)
- Two officer positions – President and Treasurer

All positions are two year commitments. If you are interested in getting involved and helping with neighborhood projects, now is the time! Let Bill Markwardt, acting president, know. He can be reached at president@bwna.org 503-282-4610. Or just come to the April 14, 2008 meeting. ■

Failing Street

continued from page 1



Henry Failing

succeed in business, but to think about the livability of his city. He too served as mayor and supported education through the development of a public library system. He also was dedicated to improving the resources of the city. Even in the city's early years, the need for clean water was a problem because of too many wells and a polluted Willamette River. Henry led the planning to get pure water down to the city from Mt. Hood.

If you have wondered about this odd-titled street, understand that Failing is very much an overachieving name—contrary to how it sounds. ■

Resources

—Joseph Gaston, *Portland Oregon: Its History and Builders* (S.J. Clarke Pub. Co. 1911)
—*Portrait and Biographical Record of Portland and Vicinity Oregon* (Chapman Pub. Co. 1903)

Photos

Reprint permission from the Oregon Historical Society

Beaumont Vision

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is the RecyleWorks Award (formerly known as Blue Works). To qualify, Dr. Lewis's office practices the following waste prevention: purchase and use of recycled paper only, patient records are stored electronically to cut down on the use of paper, utensils and cups are not disposed of, but washed and reused, recycling for materials used is provided in the office and he bikes to work!

The services provided by his office include comprehensive eye exams, contact lens evaluation and medical eye care including pre- and post-operative care for patients who choose to have LASIK surgery. He also enjoys seeing young patients. A father of two small children himself, he likes to provide care for small children who he feels should be seen before first grade and even as early as age three to be sure that everything is going well with their vision. Vision problems in children may be one reason for delay in their learning abilities.

Dr. Lewis is also a Clinical Professor at the Pacific University Optometry School. To find out more about his services call or visit him at his office 4331 NE Fremont 503-331-3937, His office hours are Mon and Fri 9-6, Tues 10-7, Thurs 8-5 and Sat 9-5. Visit his website www.beaumontvision.com. We welcome Dr Lewis to our neighborhood and are glad to have his services so close by. ■

JENNIFER FRANCIS-MONTOYA



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What is Crime Prevention?

By Stephanie Adams
Central NE Neighbors Crime Prevention Coordinator

When crime or other nuisance problems crop up in a neighborhood, residents may feel overwhelmed and unsure of what to do. Reactions vary from assurance to fear depending on the number of occurrences of crime in an area, the ability of the police to resolve these cases, and residents' previous experiences with crime. That's where crime prevention services can help. Portland's crime prevention services are offered through the Office of Neighborhood Involvement and are designed to reduce crime, increase livability, and get neighbors involved in community policing efforts. These services are provided by Crime Prevention Coordinators (CPC) who offer problem-solving, community organizing, and education on issues of crime and public safety. They work closely with community members, public safety activists, the police, neighborhood associations, city bureaus, businesses, state agencies, school districts, and local service providers.

A typical call handled by a CPC may be from a resident concerned about a possible drug house on her street. She notices that numerous people are coming and going at odd hours. The renter/owner appears unfriendly and secretive with shades drawn at all hours. There has been an increase in theft from auto and other crimes since the occupant moved in. In this example, a CPC may provide education on illegal drug activity, how to keep a detailed log that police can use to build a case, and tips on how to prevent theft. The CPC may work with a resident to form a neighborhood watch. The CPC would be in contact with the Neighborhood Response Team Officer, a police officer working on chronic livability issues, as well as the landlord.

The mission of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement is to enhance the quality of neighborhoods through community participation. With the Crime Prevention Program, we have found that neighbors who are willing to work with us, the police, and their neighbors are able to make a profound difference by increasing the safety of their neighborhood and decreasing fear. Call me if you have questions or concerns, (503) 823-2779. ■

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- Judee Moonbeam, fibre art accessories/heart pins
- Jenelle Kathan/ Moonbeam Glassworks, fused glass
- Tonia Twigger McConnell/ Photos by Tonia, photographic note cards
- Jane Russell/ Camp Cactus "sacred shrines"
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- Kerry Tomlinson, Jewelry
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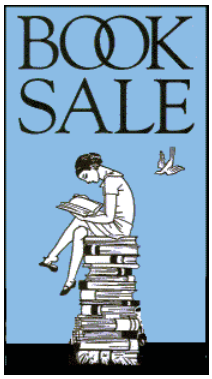
Each class, $25 per child
Location:1511 NE 17th, Grace Institute House (Home of Grace Art Camp)
info: 503-331-8155, ext 122

Events at Wilshire United Methodist

Feb 9 - 10 am to 4 pm
Annual Book Sale sponsored by the Wilshire United Methodist and the Native American Fellowship Women.

March 15 - 5pm to 7 pm
Annual Roast Beef Dinner sponsored by Wilshire United Methodist and the Native American Fellowship

Both events at 3917 NE Shaver
For more information call 503-287-6526 or 503-281-0324



Call to women artists

***Perspectives on Being Female* group show being planned**

A meeting to gather women artists for a May show at Quirks of Art & Furniture is scheduled for Sunday, February 17, 2008. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. at 3045 NE 45th Avenue. The intention of the meeting is to provide a forum for the artists to talk about their works and how they will express the theme of the show, to meet other women artists and to hear about and discuss the show logistics with Quirks co-owner Kerry Tomlinson. Please call or email host Brita Gould to confirm your interest or if you have questions: 503-335-0479 denybrit@easystreet.com

Easter at Bethany

1,000-egg Easter egg Hunt Saturday, March 22 – 11 am.

Bethany Lutheran Church will host a 1,000-egg Easter egg hunt at Wilshire Park (rain or shine!) This event is free to the public. Toddlers and small children are encouraged to bring a parent or guardian to help in their egg collecting. Ask for directions to the egg hunt site when you arrive at the park. We look forward to seeing your Easter egg hunter there!

Bethany Lutheran Church offers two services on Easter Sunday

March 23, at 9:30 am - Traditional and 11:00 am - Contemporary. From 10:30 am – 12 pm, a continental brunch will be served.

Bethany is located at NE 37th and Skidmore. For more information, please call 503-284-3836.

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