BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association www.bwna.us June•July 2009

Business Focus

Doggy Business

By Miss Bailey Charlton

One spring morning, my human Mom (Diane) and I took a walk to Doggy Business on 42nd at Alberta, the new dog training and lodging facility in our neighborhood. You see, I'm an only dog "child" and as much as I love my human and cat family, sometimes I just want to play with other dogs in a fun and safe environment. When we arrived at Doggy Business (4905 NE 42nd Ave), I was a little unsure of the rod iron gates facing 42nd Avenue. But we were warmly greeted by the owner Doug Duncan and his wife Meredith Wilson, who explained they hope to replace the gates with windows to let in even more light. They had yummy dog treats at the front desk and although Doug said the treats were just for me, I bet they give some to other dogs too. I learned that Doug and Meredith gained years of experience training and walking dogs in Seattle where they graduated from University of Washington like my Mom (Go HUSKIES!) before moving to Portland. They both have master's degrees too and are certified in Pet First Aid, CPR licensed, bonded and insured.

I got a personal tour and saw the private lodging rooms and the wonderful big indoor and outdoor dog play areas where I met other dogs. We did lots of butt sniffing and getting acquainted. I know humans don't understand that behavior but believe me it's necessary and fun! Some dogs come for playtime and others stay while their parents go on vacation or travel for business. Doug even sends email reminders after clients make their reservations. If I could use our computer I'd check out their website at www.DoggyBusiness.net. Meredith takes the dogs for 15 or 30 minute walks in the neighborhood. I've seen her near our house.

Doug and Meredith opened Doggy Business last December after transforming a vacant building and reused most of the materials from the original building. The recycled rubber tire play area floor sure felt soft under my paws. I give them two paws up for building green! Doug and Meredith are good friends with Mike and Christine, owners of Green Dog on Fremont which is another one of my favorite dog shops – they give out good dog treats too! Doggy Business uses biodegradable poop bags from Earth-Centric, 6017 NE Sandy Blvd. My Mom uses those bags too because it's the right thing to do. I could go on but I would much rather see you soon at Doggy Business so you can play with me. Woof.







General Meeting to Focus on Community Interaction

BWNA General Meetings

By Al Ellis

Summer is synonymous with outdoor gatherings, when people from all walks of life intermingle amidst the beauty of nature and warmth of the sun. In the BW neighborhood, picturesque Wilshire Park is a magnet for these activities. Accordingly, BWNA's June 8th General Meeting (the second Monday of the month) will focus both on events in the park and community diversity.

With respect to park activities, discussion will center on two July events--a concert and Sunday Parkways--and one August event--National Night Out Neighborhood Picnic. There will also be to an opportunity to air concerns about park usage (e.g., liter, noise, parking, etc.) and suggest ways to make improvements.

On the diversity issue, a representative from Basic Rights Oregon will address the topic of legal safeguards in Oregon aimed at equalizing rights and minimizing discrimination based on sexual preference and gender. The presentation will be followed with a question/answer session.

At the beginning of the evening, local police officers, as always, will provide a crime update and answer questions. BWNA business will immediately follow, including committee reports, the 2009-2010 BWNA Action Plan, and organization for the August picnic.

Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of Bethany Lutheran Church, on the corner of 37th & Skidmore, and begin at 7:30PM. (A sign will indicate where to enter on the Skidmore side of the church). Become informed and lend your voice to the shaping of our neighborhood.

Calendar

Monday, June 8th • 7:30PM
BWNA Community Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
NE 37th & Skidmore

All Block Yard Sale "Skidmore and Prescott Street"
Saturday, June 27th • 9AM - 4PM

Friday, July 10th
Deadline for ads and articles
for the August - September 2009 newsletter

Monday, July13th • 7:30PM
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
NE 37th & Skidmore

All Block Yard Sale "Alameda Street"
Saturday, July 18th • 9AM - 4PM

Portland Sunday Parkways
July 19th • 9AM - 4PM, NE Portland

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



President's Message

Our Evolving Neighborhood

By Al Ellis

Abundant sunshine, low humidity, minimum mosquitoes, clean drinking water, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities aplenty--that's summertime in our part of the country. Pretty hard to beat-especially in a lovely urban settings like ours. But along with the benefits come responsibilities. After all, the impressive quality of life that we enjoy today in the BW neighborhood didn't just "happen." It was a result of decades of community activism, perseverance, and stewardship--with BWNA at the vanguard of organization and changes every step of the way.

I vividly recall how different the neighborhood was when my family moved here almost 20 years ago. Drawn to the area's reputable schools, ethnic diversity, and natural beauty, we were nonetheless concerned about nearby Wilshire Park--a place that was dimly lit, with the consequent potential for crime. And while there were stores and cafes within walking distance, they were few in number and limited in variety. Fast-forward to 2009: Not only is the park lit up at night, but it's a family-friendly place for strollers, athletes, and dog owners alike. And the bad guys--they apparently prefer to go elsewhere--away from the nuisances of kids, dogs, joggers, and picnickers--a factor that has contributed to one of the lowest crime rates of any neighborhood in the area. And how about the growth of business over the past several years on 42nd Ave., and especially on Fremont Street, where the wide array of quality dining establishments, specialty shops, and health services attracts patrons from around the city and beyond!

From lights in the park to parallel parking and crosswalks adjacent to businesses, from the kids' play equipment and wall murals in the park to the slower speed limit on Fremont, and from the jogging path in the park to the enhancement of Beaumont Middle School building and grounds, BWNA citizen initiative got the ball rolling and oversaw projects to their completion. I encourage you to join us at BWNA in helping to shape the future of our evolving neighborhood.

At Least One on Every Block

By Diane Charlton

Livability in our wonderful neighborhood means being good neighbors. Some of our neighbors are struggling either financially or physically. Why not offer to help a neighbor with some basic weeding or lawn mowing to help spruce up their yard this season? With the wind and birds' help, weed seeds don't stop at the property line. So when you choose to help a neighbor you are also helping your own yard too. And your neighbor may not want to ask for help but might appreciate some.

If you take daily walks with or without your dog(s), carry an extra bag to pick up a few pieces of litter. Every little bit helps keep our sidewalks clear and may prevent someone from stumbling. Just a little extra effort will benefit everyone in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood for years to come.



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Letter from the Editor
By Dan K. Johnson

The Warm Sun and Poop

It's the season of the sun, and also the time of year when the residents of our community are most active. As Diane Charlton mentions in her article on page two, let's work together and keep our neighborhood free of pollution. This includes noise pollution. As we spend more time outside, please remember to respect your neighbors personal space and keep noise to a minimum. As you enjoy the warmth of the sun, please try to do so peacefully. In this time of economic stress and rapid change, it is more important than ever that we take time to enjoy the beauty and peace which makes Beaumont-Wilshire such a great neighborhood to call home. With this in mind, as you take Rover for a stroll, please remember to take all of Rover home with you. Why should your neighbor have to remove Rover's waste from their front lawn, parking strips or in the park? Please be a responsible pet owner. My personal wish is that you enjoy the warmth of the sun over the next few months in peace and without poop. Is that too much to hope for?

Don't forget...

BWNA Community Meeting
Monday, June 8th, 7:30 PM

BWNA Board Meeting
Monday, July 13th, 7:30 PM

Traffic & Land Use Concerns

Transportation and Land Use Committee meets every 3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 PM at Vicinato, 4605 NE Fremont.

Open to all Beaumont-Wilshire residents and business owners.

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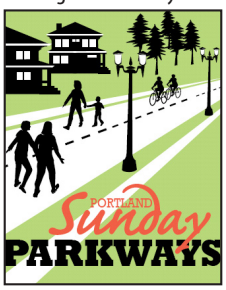
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Sunday Parkways

By Janis McDonald

Imagine streets on which people can walk, bike, run and roll for miles without cars. They can sit at a park with their family and friends, enjoy music, dance, play and eat. Smiles and laughs are everywhere. Now imagine this is in your neighborhood. This is Sunday Parkways.



In June of 2008, the City of Portland held the first Sunday Parkways, along 6 miles of streets in North Portland connecting four beautiful parks. The event was a huge success with 15,000 participants and 250 volunteers. People smiled from ear to ear. Children pedaled on their own bikes. Volunteers waved and cheered. When the day was done, people wanted more!

The City of Portland is in the planning stages for another Sunday Parkways event – this time in NE Portland. On July 19th, 9AM-4PM, people will take to the streets to celebrate community, health and fun. A 6.6-mile route will connect Alberta, Fernhill and Wilshire Parks. The streets will be open for people to walk, bike, run and roll, and the parks will host entertainment, activities and food. The City is looking for sponsorships, ideas for activities and entertainment, and volunteers.

For more information or to share your ideas please contact Janis McDonald at janis.mcdonald@pdxtrans.org or 503.823.5358. To view the fun captured by the Streetfilms video go to: www.GettingAroundPortland.org and click on Sunday Parkways.

Making Contact

By Dan Johnson

Did you know that BWNA has an email list for anyone wanting to communicate with other neighbors to review and discuss general interest topics? This list is used to discuss and share information like the pending closure of bus line 33 on Fremont or the recent coyote sightings. Don't let this valuable resource go unused.

To subscribe to the BWNA Community List, simply do the following.

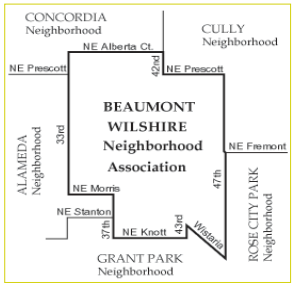
1. Go to the BWNA Web site at www.bwna.us
2. On the bottom right of the home page click, "Subscribe to BWNA email discussion list"
3. Type your email address, name and password

When someone sends an email to the list, you will automatically receive a copy of the email. This is a great way to communicate with several neighbors at one time, stay current on the issues that concern our community, as well as keep our community safe and vibrant.

We want to hear from you!
Your voice counts.

All residents, property owners, government agencies, business licensees, and non-profit organizations located within the boundaries of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association may consider themselves members of BWNA. Membership is free. Members are welcome to attend any BWNA business meeting.

Beaumont-Wilshire Boundaries



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BWNA Assists Beaumont Middle School

By Al Ellis

In an interview with Beaumont Middle School Principal Sherie Knutsen last fall, it was brought to BWNA's attention that numerous classrooms at the school were, and had been for years, equipped with chalkboards that were no longer functional. Knowing how basic a board to write on is for a classroom teacher, the BWNA Board was interested in helping to rectify the situation. Principal Knutsen responded that she had been trying to replace decrepit blackboards with white boards for years, but a tight budget had prevented her from doing so. However, she continued, if BWNA could contribute money toward the purchase of white boards, then she would be able to match it with funding for their installation--partly from the school's budget and partly from PTA contributions. The BWNA Board acted promptly and donated $600 for that purpose, and the white boards were ordered through the school district. That was last fall. Finally, in March, the long wait was over. District workers arrived to install the white boards, five of which were purchased with BWNA funding.



Fred Fox Beaumont Middle School Core Teacher

If you've been out of the classroom for awhile, perhaps you're not familiar with white boards. In place of the messy and, at times, irritatingly-noisy chalk, special colored pens are used to write effortlessly and quietly on a smooth white surface. While overhead projectors and computer-projected equipment are used as well, teachers interviewed for this story unanimously agreed that a board to write on in the front of the room is an essential element in virtually all their lessons. Core teacher Fred Fox was enthusiastically thankful for the new board in his room: *"The old blackboards were totally unusable. What a huge difference this white board has made to my teaching! Please let everyone in the neighborhood know how much this means to us on a daily basis."*
Obviously, the wait was worth it, and BWNA couldn't be more pleased with the results.
If you would like to take a look at the white boards being used during the school day, contact Vice Principal Greg Crabtree for a guided tour. You'll be impressed--both with the boards and the teaching!



Artspace and Blackbird Wineshop
Opening Reception
June 11th, 7PM-9PM

Art Among Us

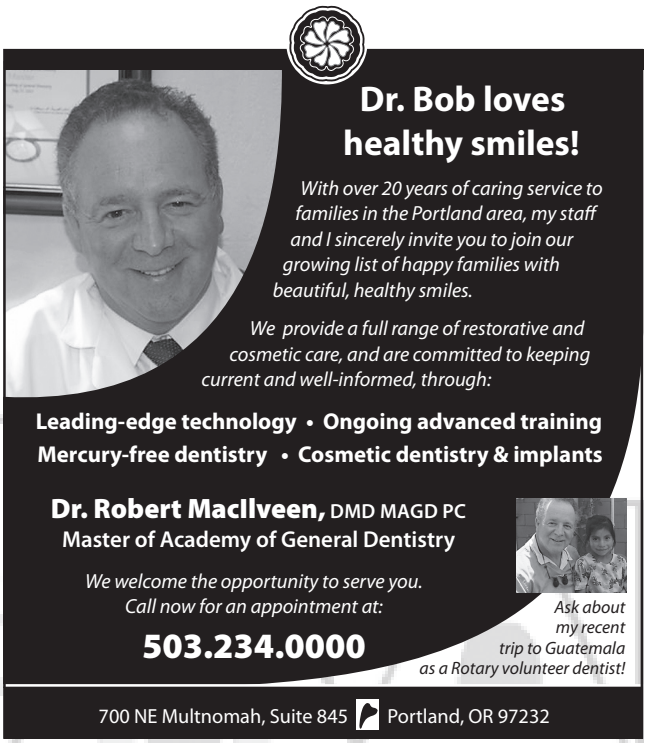
By Margaret Davis

Members of the neighborhood association's Artspace group will unveil new works, as well as some new takes on traditional media, from June 1 to June 28 at Blackbird Wineshop, 3519 N.E. 45th Ave.

Rita Catapano and Keith Buckley will show photographs, including her black-and-white "Invocation." Mario Caoile, David Friedman, Sally McKeon, Gay Mitchell, and Suzie Spaggiari will show paintings that range from abstract to representational. Brita Gould will present "Swirling" and "Inspire," sculpted and painted polymer masks. I will debut my latest limited-edition letterpress book, "A Tango with Ataturk."

To see the results and breadth of your neighbors' creativity, drop in anytime during Blackbird's usual hours and stop by for a visit and some vino with the participating artists at a reception from 7 PM to 9 PM Thursday, June 11.

The Artspace group maintains a gallery on the neighborhood association's Web site (www.bwna.us) and meets monthly to brainstorm, inspire, and present our work.





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VIDEOS
BWNA Website
www.bwna.us

Fremont United Methodist Church

By Michele Bernstein

Fremont United Methodist Church is taking a new approach to Vacation Bible School this year. "God's Green Garden: Caring for Creation" will be from July 27-31, 9 AM to noon. Children ages 4 through entering 4th grade are invited to explore how we can care for the earth and for others. We'll have daily music and movement, crafts, gardening, and mission projects. Fremont UMC is located at 2620 NE Fremont St., 503.284.4647, www.fremontumc.org.

Way More than a Fitness Center

By Tom Vandel, NECC Board Member

The little community center that could, the Northeast Community Center in Hollywood, is now four years old and still gathering steam. Started by a group of volunteers who formed a nonprofit, the NECC took over the building that originally served as the Northeast YMCA for 80 years.

The big yellow building just west of Starbucks was extensively renovated by volunteers and donors who wanted to save the facility and maintain its longtime heritage of service to the community. That heritage is now being expanded. The NECC has developed new programs and classes that go far beyond the fitness activities once offered by the YMCA.

Beyond swimming, basketball, volleyball, circuit training and aerobics, the NECC offers other programs such as dance classes, arts and crafts, film production, guitar lessons, chess and book clubs, after school programs for kids, and hikes and travel adventures for active older adults. There's something for everyone at the NECC, including child care.

In these tough economic times, the NECC has struggled like other organizations. Still, there is a vibrant spirit in the building that is evident the minute you walk in the door. People come here for exercise and to work out, but also to meet friends and share good times together. Their mantra: Smile, laugh, exercise – repeat daily.

For more information on programs and classes, please contact the NECC at 503.284.3377. Or visit www.necommunitycenter.org. The Northeast Community Center is located at 1630 NE 38th Avenue. Stop by for a tour and ask for a Program booklet.

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Fireproof Your Landscape

by Richard Haney, Portland Fire and Rescue

To minimize the threat of a wildfire near your home or yard, follow these tips:

- •Water plants near the house to keep fuel moisture levels high.
- •Rake ground covers such as bark dust, wood chips, compost and tree litter away from combustible structures of your home (decks, siding).
- •Remove nuisance plants from around homes and yard; they are highly combustible and can serve as "ladder" fuels. This includes non-native hawthorn, Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom, English holly and English ivy.

A full list of the nuisance plants that can be removed without a permit can be found on the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability site: www.portlandonline.com/planning and choose Documents and select Portland Plant List.

- •Keep landscape plants free of deadwood and litter. Remove plants that are diseased or infested.
- •Dispose of trimmings away from structures in a composting bin, or place them in curbside recycling containers. Do not dump light materials and lawn trimming back into natural areas. They can be an eyesore and add to the fuel load of an approaching wildfire.
- •Refuel and use garden equipment carefully. Never refill a gas tank in grassy or high vegetation areas.
- •If you don't water your lawn through the summer season, or if seasonal water shortages call for temporary end to irrigation, let your lawn go dormant (turn from green to light brown) and then cut your grass as low to the ground as possible.

If you do an internet search on "Invasive Plant Management Portland or "PortlandPlant List", you will learn more about suggested plants to plant or mitigate in your landscape plan.



Beaumont Middle School Un-Auction

By Michelle Schmidt

Ninety members of the Beaumont Middle School community celebrated a bold new adventure in school fundraising April 18th at the First Annual Un-Auction. The event raised over $20,000 to fund staffing at Beaumont next year.

The Un-Auction was held at the Irvington home of Beaumont parents Donna Wax and Jeff Jones, and was a wonderful time of mingling between staff, teachers and parents, and a great opportunity for the spirit of the Beaumont community to grow. Even incoming Alameda parents were in attendance! Fueling the lively discussions were great donated wine and delicious food. Beaumont Market, New Seasons and Fred Meyer donated to defray the cost of the event, and several Beaumont parents contributed wine and appetizers.

The success of the Un-Auction is a great beginning toward reaching the foundation's goal of $100,000. "As school funding becomes more unpredictable and threatens the staff positions and the academic success of students, the Beaumont Un-Auction was a testament to parents sharing critical financial resources in a dire time," said Teresa Osborne, Foundation Co-Chair. Contributing to the Beaumont Foundation is the only way parents and community members can help restore staffing at Beaumont. Until the Oregon legislature provides a final budget to PPS and it is sufficient to meet the needs and hopes of the Beaumont community, fundraising will continue.

The Beaumont Middle School Foundation was formed in 2007 and raises money to help the Beaumont Principal pay for school staffing needs. The focus is to raise money to fund key staff positions that support student preparation for high school.

Donations can be made at the Portland Schools Foundation website, www.thinkschools.org (be sure to specify that your money should be directed to Beaumont). For more information, contact the Beaumont Foundation by emailing BeaumontFoundation@gmail.com.

Bethany Church Summer Events for Neighborhood

By Pastor Jeff Bethke

5th Annual Day Camp for kids ages 5 -12 years old will take place July 27 – July 31. Four trained camp counselors from Camp Lutherwood (www.lutherwood.org) combine with Bethany volunteers for an exciting, engaging week of camp at Bethany from 9AM - 3 PM M-Fri (over before Noon on Friday) where kids engage in crafts, fun activities, worship, and a Bible theme. The cost is $40 and includes 2 snacks, a lunch, and field trip to Grant Pool. Registration forms available on-line at www.bethanyportland.org or call 503.284.3836.

PJ's Purple Peddler will be out on the streets during June and July in the early evenings bringing free frozen treats to the kids in your neighborhood as a way of connecting community together and sharing summer events at Bethany and in the BWNA community. Look for PJ's (Pastor Jeff's) purple bicycle in your neighborhood and listen for the bicycle bell being rung down your street. When you see him, wave at him to stop for a free frozen treat. This event is sponsored by the Bethany's outreach team - connecting community together!

Tangles salon

Julie Feinberg
4512 NE 37th Avenue
Portland, OR 97211
503.288.2929

Bryce Street Memories

By Kitty Butler

Seventy years have brought many changes to the Bryce Street block. I have lived on this street since March 1st, 1939, when my parents bought our house with a $200 down payment.



Probably the oldest house in this block is the one first owned by the Rei family. They bought it in 1924 for $1600 and raised six children there. The block between NE 36th and 37th has four houses on either side of the street. In 1939 there were 18 children in those eight houses. None of the mothers worked with the possible exception of Mrs. Carlson, who may have helped her husband at the fountain in their drug store. Not every family owned a car and none owned two cars. The children pretty much occupied the streets and had a wonderful time playing Red Rover, Red Rover, Come Over, Kick the Can, Hide and Seek and other outdoor activities. Today there are fourteen cars parked on the block and too many cars passing by for children to safely play street games. And who would ever expect that helmets, elbow and knee pads would be required equipment in an effort to have fun?

In 1939 there was only one family who owned a dog. Now there are more dogs on the block than children. Our neighborhood has always encouraged community activities, and it's just a short jog to the corner of Fremont and Alameda and some wonderful shops and restaurants.

In the building which now houses Wilshire Market there was a grocery store at the east end (Schafer's Wilshire Market) and Carlson's Drug Store at the west end. The soda fountain there was a great place for a frosty drink after trudging up the hill from Grant High School. Certainly no high school kid I knew was driving his own car. We all walked. At Schafer's, a family could run up a tab and pay at the end of the month. I think the only business that allows a tab now is a bar, and you most certainly have to pay by the end of night.

Bryce Street was not my parents' only choice for a house in 1939. We also considered a house at the corner of 39th and Glisan. I feel very lucky that my family decided to purchase a house on 36th and Bryce, and that I have been able to be a part of this community for so many years.

I truly love my neighborhood, and I encourage you to love and take care of your neighborhood too! Get to know your neighbors and care for them. Together, we can create memories that last forever.

Taste of Beaumont was a HIT!

Thank you to everyone who attended and thank you to the following businesses for their generous contributions

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ReFind Furniture ReUse Exhibition
at The ReBuilding Center of Our United Villages

About The ReBuilding Center:

The ReBuilding Center, a project of Our United Villages, is a vibrant resource working to strengthen the environmental, economic, and social fabric of local communities. Founded by volunteers in 1998, The ReBuilding Center has grown to become the nation's largest non-profit reuse center for salvaged construction and remodeling materials. Open to the public seven days per week, The ReBuilding Center accepts donations of reusable building materials and sells them to the community at 50-90% off retail value. Programs include ReFind Furniture, DeConstruction Services, workshops and classes, and a free pick-up service.

You are invited to join Our United Villages as we celebrate The ReBuilding Center's11th birthday with a creative reuse showcase. **The ReFind Furniture Reuse Exhibition** is an opportunity for community members to showcase their creative reuse projects and gain inspiration from the creativity of others.

WHAT: The Refind Furniture Reuse Exhibition
A creative reuse showcase

WHEN: Thursday June 11th, 6-8 PM

WHERE: The ReFind Furniture Showroom
3625 N. Mississippi Ave
Portland, OR 97227

COST: Free

Community reuse projects will be displayed in the ReFind Furniture Showroom from 6-8 PM on Thursday, June 11th. The event will feature a People's Choice Award and the opportunity to network with other artists, makers and Do-It-Yourself extraordinaires. Light refreshments will be provided.

Media Contact:

Lara Schmidt, Communications Assistant
communications@ourunitedvillages.org, 503.542.5051

A Children's Place Bookstore celebrates 35 years!

By Helen Koba

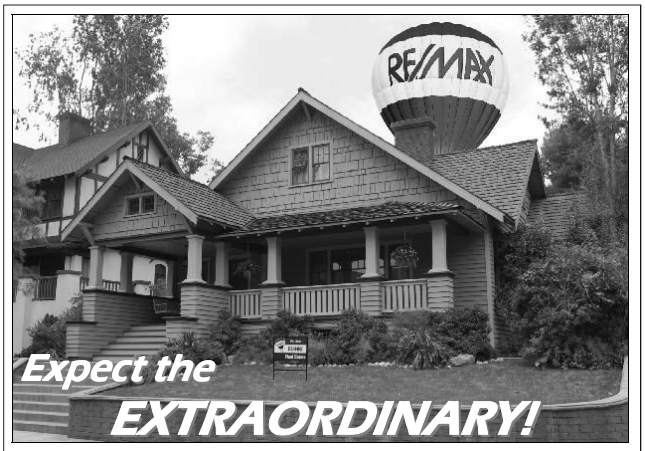
There is one bookstore in the Beaumont Wilshire neighborhood that is truly unique - it is Portland's only independently owned children's bookstore.

A Children's Place Bookstore, located at 4807 NE Fremont, will be celebrating 35 years of "raising readers" in June 2009.

It opened in 1974 on NE Broadway in a small storefront space. Its present location on NE Fremont is spacious and filled to the brim with books for kids aged from newborn to young adult. Who of us does not remember the first book we 'read' or our first trip to a place with lots of books, such as the library or a bookstore. The current owner, Pam Erlandson, and her knowledgeable staff are eager to help young and old readers find the right book for themselves or for a child.

A Children's Place also has a section for "Mom & Dad" books. In addition they carry parenting and teacher resource books, children's music, toys, games, and cards. Check their website for hours and for upcoming events.

http://www.achildrensplacebookstore.com/



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