BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE
Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association www.bwna.us August•September 2009

Something for Everyone

By Al Ellis

The Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association (BWNA) invite you to the annual BWNA Wilshire Park picnic in celebration of National Night Out (neighbors united in crime prevention). It's the biggest neighborhood event of the year, featuring a veritable feast of picnic foods, entertainment for adults and kids, free massages from neighborhood massage therapist Johannes Venghaus, a door prize raffle, and a chance to interact with local political leaders, fire fighters, and police officers.

The fun begins at 6:30PM on Tuesday, August 4th, and concludes at 8:30PM. Everyone is encouraged to bring some kind of dish to share with your neighbors (e.g., chips, salad, side dish, entree, dessert). BWNA will provide barbequed burgers (both meat and veggie), hotdogs, condiments, bottled water, plates, utensils, & napkins. The ice cream man has been alerted as well!

Please mark your dishes on the bottom so they can be returned to you if they get left behind. BWNA President Al Ellis has volunteered to be in charge of lost and found items. You can reach him at 503.287.0477.

So plan on bringing your family and spread the word to your neighbors. It's an evening in the park that is guaranteed to satisfy your appetite and make you smile.





Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association (BWNA)
Annual Picnic
National Night Out With Your Neighbors

Tuesday, August 4th, 2009
6:30-8:30pm
at Wilshire Park

Regular or Veggie Burgers & hotdogs provided!
Please bring Chips, Salad, Entrée or Dessert
Door Prizes, Kids Activities, Music and More

If you have questions or want to help, email president@bwna.org
We want to thank our neighborhood retail stores for donating door prizes

Calendar

Fremont Fest
Saturday, August 1st•Parade starts at 10:00AM
42nd to 50th on Fremont

Friday, September 11th
Deadline for ads and articles
for the October - November 2009 newsletter

Monday, September 14th • 7:30PM
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
NE 37th & Skidmore

Monday, October 12th • 7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
NE 37th & Skidmore

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





BWNA providing barbequed burgers (both meat and veggie), hotdogs, drinks, & entertainment and neighbors preparing an assortment of potluck appetizers, salads, entrees, and desserts.



President's Message

Happy Neighborhood "Dog Days"

By Al Ellis

For many, "dog days" has a negative connotation. Although having its origin in Greek astrology, the modern interpretation conjures up a picture of panting dogs and perspiring humans under an oppressive August sun. But in Portland--with its notorious reputation for overcast and rain--the arrival of sun-filled, low humidity dog days is cause for celebration, not exasperation. And nowhere is that more true than in our own Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood. Take a stroll and see for yourself.

On the sidewalks, you will delight to the abundance of energetic moms & dads pushing strollers & exercising dogs. On the perimeters of streets, marvel at the wide array of joggers, walkers, and bicyclists. In the park, check out the fraternity of dogs frolicking in the unleashed dog area, the happy toddlers on play equipment, excited athletes and fans at the ball fields, and, of course, picnickers throughout. Conclude your stroll along 41st, 42nd, and Fremont--surrounded by patrons at sidewalk cafes, restaurants, specialty shops, massage therapy centers, etc.--and you've taken the pulse of a neighborhood that is arguably at its finest during the dog days of summer.

Highlighting the season are two Beaumont-Wilshire blockbuster events that attract the neighborhood's largest crowds of the year and are only days apart: **Fremont Fest** and the **National Night Out Beaumont-Wilshire Picnic.** With the expanding commercial growth on Fremont Street, the Beaumont-Wilshire Business Association-sponsored **Fremont Fest (Saturday, Aug. 1st)** has blossomed into one of Portland's premier summer street festivals. And the **National Night Out Beaumont-Wilshire Picnic** in Wilshire Park (Tuesday, Aug. 4th) annually ranks among the best attended National Night Out community picnics in the city--with Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association (providing burgers, hotdogs, drinks, & entertainment and neighbors preparing an assortment of potluck appetizers, salads, entrees, and desserts. Longtime residents will tell you that these two gala celebrations are not to be missed!

So you see, dog days are happy times around the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood, not only because of the fun activities and events themselves, but also because of the opportunities neighbors have to interact with one another and collectively appreciate the totality of their environment--one in which both humans and dogs revel in the warmth of the sun. Enjoy!

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Please send other correspondence to Al Ellis 503.287.0477 or ApeLainJoy@aol.com
BWNA is part of Central Northeast Neighbors. 4415 NE 87th Avenue. 503.823.3156.
Email: cnnoutreach@teleport.com
Url: http://cnncoalition.org



VIDEOS
BWNA Website
www.bwna.us







Letter from the Editor
By Dan K. Johnson

When it's gone it's gone

Growing up, my mother would buy an eight-pack of Coca Cola in the 16oz glass bottles. Being one of four siblings often led to a "first come, first serve" distribution schedule. One day I arrived home from school and saw my brother drinking the last bottle from the eight-pack. I ran to mother for help and proclaimed "Mark drank the last one and it isn't fair". In her calm and controlled parental voice, she responded "when they're gone, they're gone". At 14, I was angry. That was not the answer I wanted to hear. Where was the punishment for not sharing? Why did I have to suffer while Mark enjoyed the last Coca-Cola? It didn't make sense to me until I was an adult. I often ask my clients today "what would you do if X happened"? This



simple question illustrates the need for action today to protect from the unknown. As you read the articles and ads in this newsletter, you will recognize a common voice of the community, a voice of compassion and admiration. Take action today and share your story with someone, just like I've shared with you. The National Night Out Beaumont-Wilshire Picnic on August 4th in Wilshire Park is a great opportunity to share your story. This is our community, and we need to enjoy and protect what we have today since it might be gone tomorrow, and "when it's gone, it's gone."

Mow, Whack and Blow

By Eileen Stark

The June/July Letter from the Editor urged us to keep pollution to a minimum this summer, and one simple way is to eschew the use of gas-powered lawn equipment such as leaf blowers. Two-stroke engines – which leaf blowers, lawn mowers and weed-whackers all have – send as much as 30 percent of the fuel mixture out with the exhaust, unburned. A California EPA report determined that a typical home leaf blower operated for one hour produces 145 times more hydrocarbons, 7.5 times more carbon monoxide and 11 times more particulates than driving a light duty vehicle at 30 mph for an hour. Higher powered blowers used by professional landscapers pollute drastically more.

Then there are the clouds of dust and pollen blown around, futilely moved from one spot to another. Residents with allergies are sent running to close windows and wait inside while the blowers do their unnecessary thing.

In addition to the air pollutants, blowers' noise contributes stress to people and wildlife, alike. Although their decibels may be within Portland's legal limits, hired lawn crews typically use a lawn mower, weed whacker and blower, often all at the same time, creating cumulative noise levels of extreme, illegal intensity. Many cities have outlawed blowers or severely restricted their use.

What to do instead? Use people-powered, calorie-burning devices like rakes, brooms and push mowers, or hire landscapers who agree to use the same. Minimize your turf: Those patches of green surrounding most houses may be strongly rooted in the American consciousness, but a little scrutiny reveals their true colors. Fossil fuel-dependent lawns command more labor, money and chemicals than ever before and caring for these monocultures seems more like combat: We apply pesticides that kill millions of birds, insects and amphibians a year and over-apply synthetic fertilizers that can kill soil life and leach into ground water. Then we mow, whack and blow with polluting machines to get picture-perfect, homogenized, impeccably unnatural and damaged ecosystems. If tending a lawn with manual tools sounds exhausting, grow low-maintenance evergreen trees and shrubs – preferably native – instead of lawn.

One last thought [or sidebar?]: The amount of gasoline spilled every summer by Americans filling gas-powered lawn equipment exceeds by 50 percent the amount of oil spilled by the Exxon Valdez. [Ted Steinberg, American Green: *The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn* (New York, W.W. Norton & Co., 2006)]

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Central NorthEast Neighbors (CNN) Crime Prevention Training Series

by Galina Grigoryan



As a follow up to the 2007 Community Needs Assessment Survey, the following trainings are being held at CNN, located at 4415 NE 87th Avenue, on a first–come first–serve basis.

The classes are free but the space in each class is limited, so please RSVP your attendance ASAP.

You can call - in or e-mail your RSVP directly to me.

Galina Grigoryan
CNN, Crime Prevention Program Coordinator
503.823.2781 ggrigoryan@ci.portland.or.us

Graffiti Awareness Class

September 24, 6:30-8:00PM
presentation by Marcia Dennis, Graffiti Abatement Coordinator

ID Theft Awareness Class

November 12, 6:30-8:00pm
presentation by Walter Garcia, Downtown/CPPC

To help ensure equal access to City programs, services and activities, the City of Portland will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503.823.2781 or 503.823.4000 with such requests.

TriMet Trip Planner - www.trimet.org/go/cgi-bin/plantrip.cgi

Are you prepared?

Neighborhood Emergency Team Fall Training

Registration Deadline:
Wednesday, September 10.2009
Training location:
Portland Fire & Rescue Training Facility
4800 NE 122 Avenue, Portland

OPTION 1: **Wednesday only** classes, 6-9 PM
September 16.2009 - October 28.2009

OPTION 2: **Saturday only classes**, 9AM-noon
September 19.2009 - November 7.2009

http://www.portlandonline.com/oem
Click Community Resources, select Net's, select Calendar
Select option to register

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National Night Out Beaumont - Wilshire Picnic
Tuesday, August 4th 6:30 - 8:30PM

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Spanish and Cultural Education Center Opens in NE Portland

By Rebecca Pillsbury
Administrative and Outreach Director

Tierra Educational Center, a locally owned Spanish and Latin American Cultural Center has opened in NE Portland to help bridge the communication and cultural gap between the growing Hispanic population and the community at large. The center offers quality and affordable Spanish classes for all levels, as well as special courses in topics specific to Latin American Culture and History. Tierra also hosts a free Spanish Conversation Club every Friday from 6-8pm, with guided discussion, guest speakers, and film screenings pertaining to Latin American issues.

People of Hispanic descent account for 7% (an estimated 38,684 people) of the population in Portland, and these numbers continue to rise. It is becoming increasingly imperative that professional service fields consider staff that are bilingual, and that the community develops a greater level of awareness pertaining to Latin American issues. More information on Tierra Educational Center and its programs can be found at www.tierracenter.com.



Contact Information:
Tierra Educational Center, LLC
2915 NE M L King Blvd
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503.213.3677
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Going 'green' in the backyard

Easy ways to save money, environment

By Paul Bianchina

Everyone loves the oasis of calm and beauty that's created by a nice green yard. But what about a yard that's "green" at the same time? There are a number of steps you can take to reduce noise, pollution, waste and water usage in your backyard, and save yourself some time and money at the same time. Simple changes all add up, and the following are a few tips to get you started.

Reduce your lawn area: The easiest way to reduce the impact of lawn mowing is to simply reduce the lawn in the first place. Instead, consider planting all or part of your lawn area with lush, green, low-growing ground covers -- you'll get much the same look with a lot less water and a big reduction in maintenance.

Use drought-resistant plants: In non-lawn areas, look for plants that are stingy water users. Depending on where you live, there are any number of beautiful backyard plants that require a minimal amount of watering.

Add mulch or bark to planter areas: The addition of a layer of mulch or decorative bark material not only looks nice and reduces weed growth, it also keeps plants cooler and reduces the evaporation of moisture from the soil, both of which help reduce water consumption.

Cut down on water usage: Instead of the standard rotating or sprayer-type sprinkler nozzles, switch to an irrigation system that uses less water. Soaker hoses, low-flow sprinkler heads, and drip irrigation are all good options for reducing water usage. Also, rather than allow your sprinklers to run until you remember to go out and shut off the faucet, consider the use of sprinkler timers. These can range from sophisticated timers for underground systems to simple hose timers.

Grow some of your own food: Planting a vegetable garden or adding some fruit trees to your yard will have a number of positive benefits. In addition to taking a little strain off your food budget, garden plants help cool the yard and absorb carbon dioxide, and fruit trees can add privacy and shade.

Watch your fertilizers: Talk with local garden and landscape experts to see what the best type of fertilizer and plant food is for your particular region and the types of plants you have. You can save money and reduce pollution by selecting the proper lawn and plant treatments, and using only as much of them as necessary.

Don't burn in the backyard: Get rid of your burn barrel and fill in the burn pit. Backyard burning has been shown by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to create a number of unhealthy conditions, including the release of dioxins, carbon monoxide and particulate matter that increases air pollution, and fine ash that can aggravate breathing problems. Instead, recycle wood, cardboard, paper, plastics and other materials, and properly dispose of the remaining waste by taking it to your local landfill.

Maintain your lawn and garden equipment: Gasoline-powered mowers and other yard maintenance equipment need to be treated in much the same manner as your car. Change spark plugs and oil regularly, have tune-ups performed at recommended times, and clean or replace air filters as needed. This will keep your equipment running smoothly with fewer emissions, and will save you money in fuel costs as well.

Use care when filling gas equipment: Take care not to overfill the tanks or spill any fuel. Spilled gasoline is both a pollutant and a waste of money. Look for approved fuel cans with a flexible spout to simplify filling, and use a funnel whenever necessary to prevent spills. Keep gas cans tightly sealed between fuelings.

Art Show at Blackbird Wine Shop

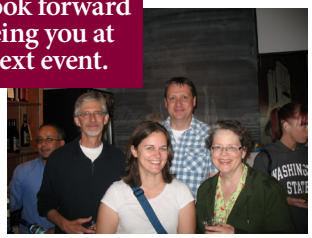
By Gay Mitchell

A festive celebration of wine and art was held at the Blackbird Wine Shop on June 11. Owner Andy Diaz poured a variety of European wines while over 50 guests viewed the artwork of nine NE Portland artists. Called Artspace, the group meets monthly at local artists' homes and businesses planning support, events, art shows and fun under the direction of Mario Caiolle. Art pieces include oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings, photographs, scratchboard three painted metal sculptures, masks, and handmade books. Many other showings are planned for the future. Your support is always appreciated, so we look forward to seeing you at our next event.



Left to Right:
Suzie Spaggiari, Margaret Davis, Gay Mitchell, Keith Buckley, Brita Gould and Rita Catapano





We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Don't forget…

Fremont Fest

Saturday, August 1st

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Wistaria Drive

By Dave Anderson

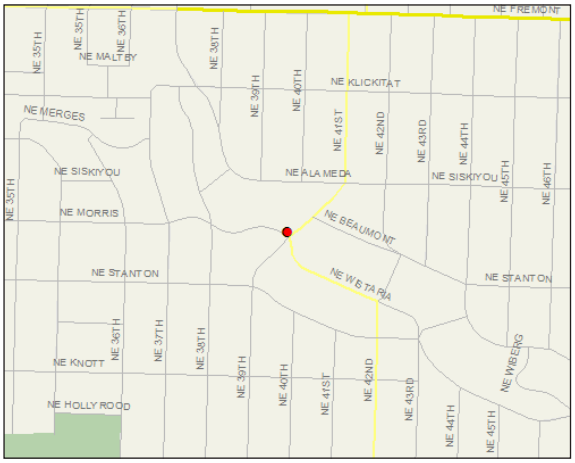
The neighborhood association and residents along Northeast Wistaria Drive are lobbying city officials to fix a dangerous section of the road that connects 42nd and 41st avenues.

Officials say there's no money for a total reconstruction of the roadway, which is what it would take to fix serious design flaws. But even less-expensive fixes, such as blinking beacons, a readerboard sign and improvements to the intersections of Beaumont Street and Alameda Boulevard seem to be off the table for now.



Wistaria Drive intersection of 42nd and 41st avenues

The neighborhood association is considering hiring a traffic consultant to come up with possible solutions to present to the city.



Neighbors most recently approached the city's Department of Transportation after two serious accidents this winter. In December, a car full of teenagers knocked over a utility pole, shutting power to the neighborhood for several hours. No one in the car was seriously hurt. In January, a family sedan hit a parked pickup on the street, seriously injuring the woman passenger in the front seat.

The problem is a "negative super elevation," said Will Stevens, a program manager in the traffic operations office. As drivers head south from Alameda Boulevard, the road curves to the left and slopes. But the road's design encourages cars to trail toward the curve. As a result, vehicles have crashed into parked cars, trees and even houses over the years.

The stretch of road links 41st and 42nd avenues between Knott Street and Alameda Boulevard and is part of a major north-south arterial. TriMet's No. 75 bus line travels the street.

At a neighborhood meeting in June, Stevens was discouraging about ideas proposed by residents.

Flashing beacons would cost about $100,000 because the city would have to bring electricity to the traffic island. The city doesn't have solar-powered beacons.

A temporary readerboard that displays speed might help, but is only effective while it's there.

Because the street is part of a major emergency response route, it would not qualify for speed humps, Stevens said.

It might be possible to narrow 41st Avenue near Alameda and Beaumont to slow drivers as they approach the curve, Stevens said. The city has no money for such a project. But officials plan to make Alameda a bike boulevard using federal stimulus money, which might accomplish some of the same goals, Stevens said.

In early June, city crews installed larger warning directional arrows on a landscaped island. Stevens said he would contact the Police Bureau to encourage traffic officers to enforce speed limits, but couldn't make any promises. The city has no other immediate improvements planned, but Stevens said that could change.

"We haven't folded our tent and walked away from this," he told neighbors.

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.

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Hi, all you animal lovers!

By Diane Charlton

This is pretty simple. . .

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The Animal Rescue Site is having trouble getting enough people to click on it daily so they can meet their quota of getting free food donated every day to abused and neglected animals. It takes less than a minute (about 15 seconds) to go to their site and click on the purple box 'fund food for animals for free'. This doesn't cost you a thing.



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