BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association www.bwna.us October • November • December 2009

Dress for Success Oregon

By Carol Wire

If you are looking for a job—or have ever looked for a job—you know your appearance is critical at that first interview. A local non-profit, Dress for Success, understands that too and, for 11 years, the agency has been helping low income women who do not have money for clothes, find the perfect outfit to make that first impression. Located in the Hollywood District, many northeast Portlanders volunteer as personal shoppers to help the women select clothing and prepare for the interview.

Mamie Powell from North Portland came to Dress for Success after struggling to find work for over a year. She was on the verge of homelessness and battling depression, low self-esteem and the urge to return to drinking. A social service program referred her to Dress for Success when she requested some interview clothing. "From the time I entered the door, I was treated like a queen," she says. "At a time when I felt hopeless, my personal shopper made me feel like I could conquer the world. And so I did."

The suits are just the beginning of a long term relationship with the women. Dress for Success provides interview assistance, mentoring, resume writing, job skills development, job search assistance,



Northeast Portland Volunteer Gloria Foon helps client choose clothing

personal development, assistance with housing and health care, and a Professional Women's Networking Group. Most importantly, the organization offers a community and a new sense of belonging for women who have been isolated by physical and sexual abuse, drugs, poverty, divorce, and appearance.

Mamie now works for the State of Oregon helping others find employment. "Dress for Success is a community of women who restore hope and a sense of self worth to other women. They help us reach our highest personal and professional goals and they stay with us as we hit obstacles and achieve success," notes Mamie.

Dress for Success began by helping 15 women a month in a tiny office; the agency now serves between 250 and 300 women a month in a large store on NE 37th. "We are thrilled to be able to help so many women during this economic downturn," says Barb Attridge, Executive Director. "Our greatest challenge right now is finding the funding to continue this work". If you want to help Dress for Success Oregon (www.dressforsuccess.org\oregon), you can volunteer, contribute, or drop off professional clothing at 1532 NE 37th Avenue.

Soluna Grill

By Dan Johnson

Soluna Grill opened its doors to the public at 4440 NE Fremont (Fife's old location) on September 1, 2009. Dan Straub, Executive Chef, mentions that "a really great meal tends to stop time for a moment and warms my soul. Not just putting sustenance into my body, but feeling someone's heart and absorbing just a small bit of their craft". Furthermore, he feels that you can "always tell when someone has put passion into their food, it just tastes better".

As a chef, it has always been Dan's goal to let his guests participate in his passion for food. There is nothing more rewarding for Dan than to watch diners pass their plates around the table so others can try all the different flavors. The looks on their faces is the reward that helps to keep Dan doing what he does.

Dan's restaurant journey started 23 years ago in Southern California, then across to the mountains of Stowe, Vermont, and then down south to Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina (where his predecessor and new friend, Marco Shaw, has opened a fantastic farm rich restaurant "Eno"). Dan eventually traveled back to California where he opened a few restaurants and met the love of his life. All along the way Dan worked the traditional "chef ladder" starting from dishwasher to pantry, sprinkling in some serving positions, and growing his chops down the line until he reached executive status. But, as all chefs know and aspire to, he wanted his own place and was constantly on the lookout for the right location with a quaint neighborhood appeal.



In April of 2009, Dan got a call from my great friend who has been in Portland with his family for the past 15 years. He informed Dan of an available place in his neighborhood that had all of the criteria he was seeking. Who knew? Dan now finds himself living two miles from Soluna. He not only has a fabulous neighborhood to cater to, but a rich and diverse environment to find some of the tastiest ingredients this country has to offer.

Soluna is open Monday - Thursday from 5PM - 9PM, and Friday & Saturday from 5PM - 10PM, with a bar menu served from 3PM - 6PM. Soluna is closed on Sundays. For more information, or to make a reservation, please visit Soluna Grill at 4440 NE Fremont or call 971.222.3433. You may also reach Dan online at info@solunagrill.com.



President's Message

A Time to Sow

By Al Ellis

Whether it's the electric twang of the Byrd's top-ten hit of the '60s or the original grassroots folksong version by Pete Seeger, or the timeless (no pun intended) plaintive soliloquy of a frustrated King Solomon in Ecclesiastes, "a time to" message has resonated down the years in the hearts and minds of millions of people for different reasons and in different ways. And so it was for me not long ago. Unexpectedly, as I sat contemplating BWNA priorities for the coming months, the melody and lyrics to "Turn, Turn, Turn" began echoing in my head! Meditating on the beauty of the song and wisdom in the words, I wondered if something in this venerable passage could be applied to my task at hand--namely, the charting of a course for BWNA--and immediately one line jumped out at me: "A time to sow…"

The analogies are pretty straightforward: Just as the farmer spreads out seeds, hoping that they will germinate into bountiful crops, so the neighborhood association disseminates funding and volunteers, hoping that the projects and activities they support will enhance and improve the livability of the neighborhood. Similarly, just as the farmer must determine what seeds make most sense to plant at which times of the year, so the neighborhood association must prioritize its projects and activities and decide how and when to implement them.

Upon reflection, it occurred to me that the October-November time period affords a golden opportunity for BWNA "to sow;" i.e., to begin its outreach into the community. Sandwiched between the summer vacation months--with their accompanying get-away-from-it-all mindset--and the winter holiday months--with their emphasis on gift-shopping and family visits--the months of October and November seem ripe for shifting our attention outwardly to public service efforts.

But where to start? Well, like the farmer, it's wise to look back on what you've accomplished in the past before proceeding into the future. This past year the Association was effective in helping to persuade TriMet not to discontinue the Fremont-33 bus line, in assisting Beaumont Middle School with the purchase of new white boards, in working cooperatively with Beaumont Middle School students and parents on an environmentally-friendly campus beautification project, in montoring coyote activity in the neighborhood and publicizing advice from wild life experts, and in taking steps to mitigate traffic safety/calming problems, such as the infamous "Wistaria curve" in the 41st and Wistaria area. The Association was also actively involved this summer in organizing and participating in an outdoor gathering at Beaumont Middle School in praise and support of Portland State student and neighborhood resident Bao Vuong, who was the victim of a hate crime in broad daylight on Fremont Street. Bao set an example by having the courage to share his experience for others to learn from, and our neighborhood backed him 100%! These are the kinds of achievements that demonstrate the good that can come from an engaged neighborhood association.

So, now is the time for us to sow--time to decide what programs to fund, what projects to pursue. An educator by profession, my personal priority will be to continue BWNA's longstanding partnership with our neighborhood's educational hub, Beaumont Middle School, working closely with new Principal Liz Casson-Taylor to strengthen facilities and programs. That's one priority.

Ask yourself what your priority would be for the neighborhood. Then act on it. Make your way down the walkway to Fellowship Hall at Bethany Lutheran Church on the second Monday of the month, express your ideas at our General Meeting, and contribute to the health of the neighborhood.

After all, it's a time of the season for community involvement! Turn, turn, turn.

Calendar

Monday, October 12th • 7:30pm
BWNA Community Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
NE Skidmore Entrance

Monday, November 9th•7:30PM
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Conference Room
NE 37th Entrance

Friday, December 11th
Deadline for ads and articles
for the January - February 2010 newsletter

Monday, Devember 14th•7:30PM
BWNA Community Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
NE Skidmore Entrance

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

In the August/September newsletter, the crime prevention training dates offered by CNN for Sept 24th and Nov 12th are incorrect. They were held in2008. We apologize for any confusion.

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



Letter from the Editor

By Dan K. Johnson

As I walked home recently from the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association (BWNA) Board Meeting, I listened closely to the sounds of our neighborhood. In one house, the sound of laughter from friends and family gathered around the dining table. In another, the tones from a large wind chime set free from a fall breeze. And at another, the unmistakable sound of a dogs bark to guard the residence. In each issue of this newsletter, we bring you ample visual interest so that you know what is happening around our city and community. As you enjoy this issue of the newsletter, consider the sounds associated with the Wilshire-Riverside Little League game on page two, or the BWNA Annual Neighborhood Night Out on page seven. These are the sounds of your community. The sounds of our neighborhood represent comfort and security to me. What do they mean to you? This newsletter is more than just words and images. This newsletter is created, published and delivered from a team of more than 40 volunteers, and each issue is hand delivered to over 3000 residents and businesses every other month. Starting in 2010, the newsletter will become bi-monthly consistent with the calendar year (i.e. Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, etc.) to inform our neighbors in advance of upcoming events like the Taste of Beaumont each June. Just as John Carson remembers the passing of his parents on page five and the contributions they have made to our community, I challenge each of you to consider where and how you spend your time and what noise creates your since of community. I also believe that giving back to your community is not an option, it is a necessity, and it is the necessity that requires each of us to take action. As you walk our neighborhood, spend time in our parks and chat with our local merchants, please remember to listen. As my Grandmother told many years ago, "you have two ears and one month and you should use them in that order". Grandma is now 95, and a great listener. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving!



WHEN: October 10, 11 & 17, 18
Many studios open both weekends
TIME: 10AM - 5PM
WHERE: 100 locations all around Metro Portland
TICKETS: $15 for 2 adults, children free
CONTACT:
www.portlandopenstudios.com
info@portlandopenstudios.com

Be a tourist in your own town. This fall stay close to home and let art transport you away from your everyday world. The diversity of Portland Open Studios includes artists working in all media -- paint, wood, metal, fiber, glass -- plus emerging artists in their 20's and 30's; mid-career and well established artists; and artists from all over the United States and the world who have chosen to live and work in metro Portland.

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Ad Rates: Business card size (3½ x 2 inches), $90 for 3 issues or $180 for 6 issues.

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BWNA is part of Central Northeast Neighbors.
4415 NE 87th Avenue. 503.823.3156.
Email: cnnoutreach@teleport.com
Url: http://cnncoalition.org





Beaumont-Wilshire
Delivery carriers wanted
Contact Marsha Mahon 503.284.1859
or mahonmurrell@comcast.net

What tax-fairness means for our neighborhoods

By Matt Davis

As the effects of this economic crisis are felt more and more by working families, students, and seniors, two-thirds of corporations doing business in Oregon are still paying just $10 a year in income taxes based on a 1930s law. This January, voters will likely have a chance to change that. Large corporations are currently gathering signatures to repeal two crucial bills passed by the legislature that raise the $10 corporate minimum income tax (for the first time since it was lowered from $25 in 1931) and increase the marginal tax rate on personal income above $250,000 for households. The tax increases protect small businesses and middle-class families while raising approximately $733 million in order to limit cuts to education, public safety, and healthcare. If the corporations gather enough signatures, Oregonians will vote on the measures in January 2010. Here's what the tax-fairness package does: Increases the $10 corporate minimum income tax. The new minimum is set at $150 for corporations with less than $500,000 in Oregon sales, and is capped at $100,000 for corporations with more than $100 million in Oregon sales. The minimum is tiered and equals approximately one-tenth of one percent of a corporation's in-state sales. Small business making less than $500,000 in Oregon sales, S-corps, and LLCs will pay just $150.

Raises the marginal tax rate on corporate profits over $250,000 by 1.3% (until 2011, when the rate increase drops to 1% and only applies to profits above $10 million).

Raises the marginal tax rate on income over $125,000 for single filers and $250,000 for households by 1.8% (until 2012, when the rate increase drops to 0.9%). For example, a couple making $260,000 will pay an additional $180 per year.

Cuts taxes on unemployment payments to help those who've been hurt most by the recession get back on their feet.

If these measures are overturned, lawmakers will be forced to make deep cuts to education, healthcare, and public safety. Voting YES in January is critical in protecting schools against further teacher layoffs and growing class sizes; it is critical in protecting against further cuts to in-home care for seniors, health care cuts, cuts in public safety and other crucial services we all rely on as members of a community. Further, voting YES will help make Oregon's tax system fairer to working families. Oregonians can no longer afford for two-thirds of corporations doing business here to pay just $10 a year in income taxes. For more information, contact Matt (Volunteer Outreach) at 503.830.0956.

New Ramp at Wilshire United Methodist Church

By Jean Shevland

The congregation of the Wilshire United Methodist Church, Native American Fellowship, was given a challenge by a member to build a ramp and improve accessibility to the church. The member, Lloyd Wagner, was not able to come to church because of the inaccessibility into the sanctuary. Lloyd graciously donated up to $10,000 and challenged the church to match these funds within one year and build the ramp. With some money already collected, construction began. Once the ramp was complete, the congregation gathered outside the church for the dedication. After a brief history of the church's journey towards accessibility, a purification ceremony was completed. Next, Dean Wagner, father of Lloyd Wagner, cut the ribbon to the ramp. Once the ribbon was cut, Boy Scout Troop 107, which is sponsored by the church, led the way up the ramp and into the sanctuary. A plaque that honors the Wagner family, which now rest in the sanctuary next to the door from the ramp, was presented by Helen Stewart. Unfortunately, Lloyd Wagner passed away before the ramp was completed. Along with Lloyd's generous gift, the church held many fund raisers including a weekly collection of pennies (and other denominations) as well as an ongoing effort to collect pop bottles and cans. The consistent effort and dedication of the members to reach this goal will now provide accessibility to many people for years to come.



Wilshire United Methodist Church
Native American
Fellowship of Women

Annual Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 7th

10:00AM to 4:00PM

There will be Native American crafts, some "White Elephant" items, bakery, and gifts of various kinds along with a Hot Turkey Lunch including mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberries, pie and beverage for $10.

Wilshire United Methodist
Native American Church

3917 NE Shaver, 503.287.6526
or call Jean at 503.281.0324

We are handicap accessible



VIDEOS
BWNA Website
www.bwna.us

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KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

25-Year Victory by District Little League

by David Everly

"It was uplifting" , said Benny Dockery. It was "mind boggling" said Henry Houghton. "I can't believe we're going to state", said player Carson Running. These were a couple of player reactions to the success of this year's Wilshire-Riverside Little League All Star team. For the first time since 1984, Wilshire-Riverside won the Oregon District #1 Championship Tournament. The tournament held in early July was hosted by Scappoose Little League. Wilshire-Riverside went unbeaten, knocking off Rose City, Hollywood, St Helens, and finally Parkrose.

Most of the players on this year's team began play at the T-Ball level. A combination of natural talent, hard work during practice, parental support, and the support of volunteer coaches over the years can all be attributed to this year's success.

The District win qualified the team for the Oregon State Tournament held in Eugene. In Eugene, the team went 1-2 against strong competition, with a victory over Pendleton, and losses to Parrish and Klamath Falls. Congratulations to Parrish for winning State and continuing on to the Western Regional Tournament in San Bernardino, California.

This year Wilshire merged with Riverside to become Wilshire-Riverside. The combined league serves over 500 players ranging from T-Ball on up to Juniors. Games are played at Riverside Field, Lakeside Field, Beaumont Middle School, and Wilshire Park. The league's website can be found here: http://wilshirelittleleague.org/.



Front Row: Cole Stringer, Carl Lovestrand, Matthew Jewell, Jack Krauel, Henry Houghton, Simon Stringer, Daniel Blessinger

Back Row: Coach Dave Everly, Benny Dockery, Carson Running, Matthew Warner,Andre Leger, Joe Egan, Nate Harold-Golden, Aaron Everly, Manager John Egan



Cole Stringer Final Out Against Rose City

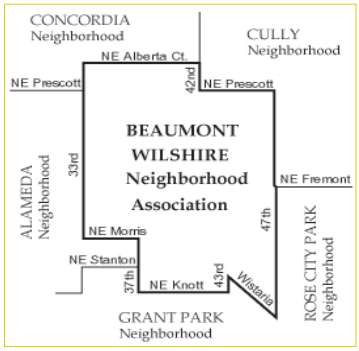


Aaron Everly Tag Out Against Rose City

Hats off to the fellas for giving their best, and to all of the volunteers who helped make this achievement possible!

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



Making Contact

By Dan Johnson

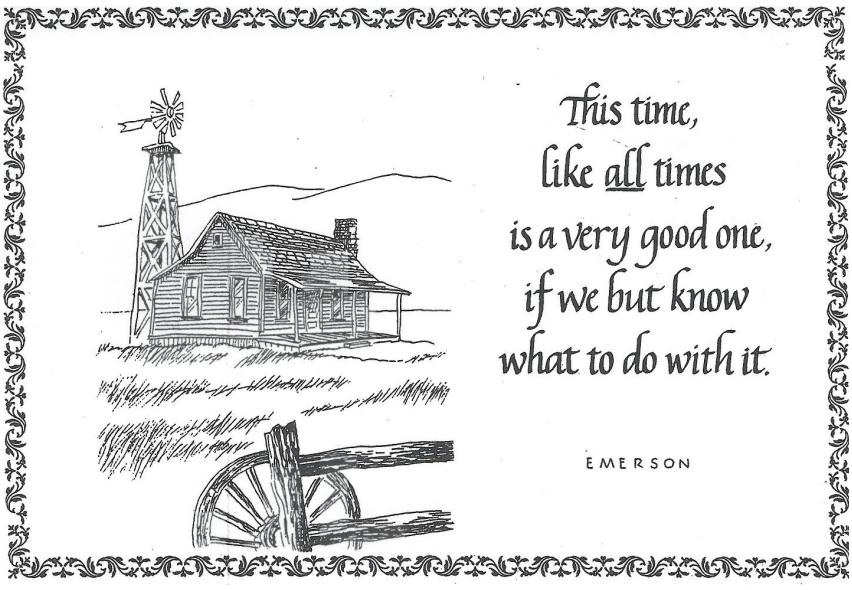
Did you know that BWNA has an email list for anyone wanting to communicate with other neighbors to review and discuss general interest topics? This list is used to discuss and share information like the pending closure of bus line 33 on Fremont or the recent coyote sightings. Don't let this valuable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



in remembrance of Anna and 'Pappy' Carson

Beaumont-Wilshire Community Speaks Out Against Racism

By Al Ellis

In the beginning of August, just around the time of Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association's (BWNA) National Night-Out Picnic, dedicated to neighbors working together to prevent crime, Association President Al Ellis was informed of a racially-motivated attack on a Beaumont-Wilshire resident in the heart of the neighborhood in broad daylight. Bao Vuong, a Portland State graduate student was in his car on Fremont Street across from Bagel Land, when a group of angry youths began shouting racial insults at him and charged his car. A witness called 911, but by the time the police arrived the assailants had fled the scene and could not be located. The investigation is ongoing.

Not physically harmed, but emotionally shaken, Bao, who is the current President of the PSU Vietnamese Student Association, made the decision to go public with his story to community organizations, local officials, and the press. The response was rapid and widespread, with local media showcasing the incident. In an effort to address the situation in a proactive and constructive manner, BWNA teamed with Central Northeast Neighbors (CNN) and Reverend Joseph Santos-Lyons, head of the Community Development Program for IRCO (The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization) to organize a "Community Speakout", not only as a neighborhood show of support for Bao, but, more broadly, as a forum for condemnation of racist activity anywhere in our community.

Held in the Beaumont Middle School parking lot adjacent to Fremont, a crowd comprised of local residents and representatives from various civic and ethnic groups gathered together on Friday, August 7th to hear from CNN Executive Director Alison Stoll, BWNA President Al Ellis, City Commissioner Nick Fish, County Commissioner Jeff Cogan, State Representative Michael Dembrow, The City of Portland's Office of Human Relations, representatives from the Urban League and Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), and, of course, from Bao himself. Reported by local media, the speeches repeatedly emphasized two basic points: moral indignation that such an attack could happen in our community and the importance of speaking out about racist acts, both personally and collectively.

So what began as a shock to the normally quiet and friendly Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood culminated in a positive statement of community solidarity, with residents united as one against hate crimes. The event was given a festive touch as well, with the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association graciously providing hot dogs, hamburgers, and chips for everyone to enjoy.

The City of Portland invites you to contribute to a refresh of PortlandOnline.com, your official city government website! During our Banner Challenge, ideas for new top banners of the website can be submitted online. This opportunity is open to any community member or team of any age who lives, works, or owns a business in the City of Portland!

WHAT: PortlandOnline Banner Challenge!

WHEN: NOW through October 19

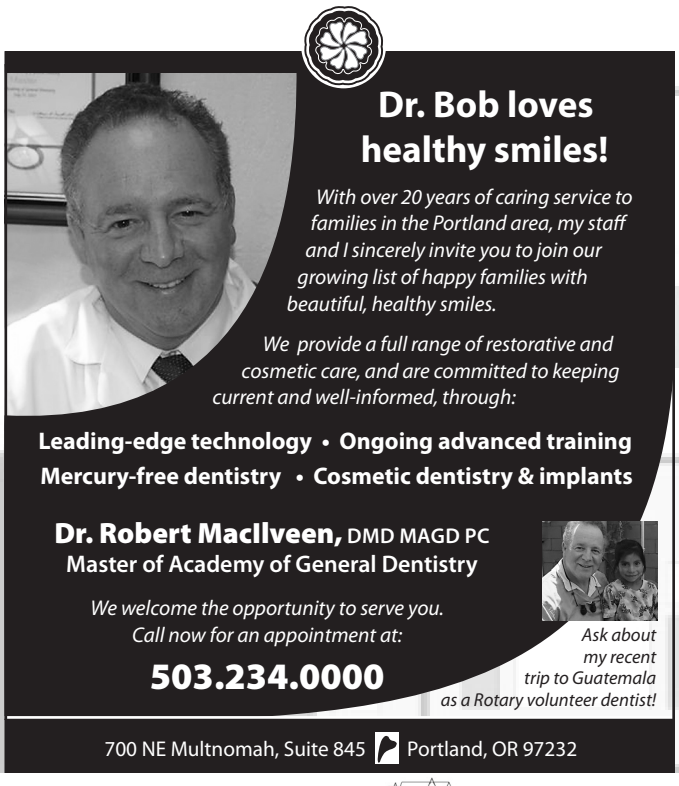
HOW: On the website – www.portlandonline.com/refresh/bannerchallenge

WHO: Anyone who lives, works, or owns a business within Portland's city limits

PRIZE: Recognition at City Council and in a press release & a $1,000 cash prize

The City of Portland is refreshing PortlandOnline, the city's primary web presence. With more than two million visits every month and 140,000 different web pages, this is a huge undertaking. So important, in fact, that we are inviting the community to help us! Please help us get the word out and consider submitting an entry yourself.

A 6-member panel appointed by the Mayor and Council PLUS THE PUBLIC AS A SEVENTH MEMBER will judge entries! Whether you send in an entry or not, between October 20-31, you will have an opportunity to vote on a winner.



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Summer Memories of Picnic Fun

By Al Ellis

As temperatures cool and leaves fall, summer seems distant. But the fact is that it was only a couple months ago that neighbors gathered together at Wilshire Park in record numbers on a picture-perfect 80° August evening to celebrate as one. It was BWNA's annual National Night Out Picnic in support of crime prevention, and an estimated 300 neighbors--many with young children in tow--delighted in the wide assortment of potluck dishes and fun activities. Contributing to the feast were Pizzicato with salads and pizzas, Umpqua Bank with ice cream bars, and BWNA with hamburgers, veggieburgers, hotdogs, and condiments. Lively entertainment was provided by former BWNA Treasurer David De La Rocha and his fellow musicians of the "Guerrilla Contingent of the Fighting Instrumental Karma Marching Chamber Band Orchestra," which performed a series of traditional toetapping standards. For those seeking relaxation from a stressful day at home or at the office, local massage therapist Johannes Venghaus returned for a second straight year to offer free ten-minute massages. And for the kids, there were free pinwheels to play with and an opportunity to climb aboard a genuine fire engine (driven into the park and staffed by Portland firefighters).







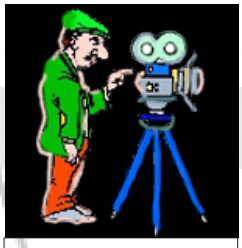
After the eating, relaxing, playing, and socializing had run its course, it was time for raffle ticket holders to pay attention to their numbers. The free door prizes ran the gamut--from tote bags & table runners to gift certificates & wine tasting--and by the end of the evening over 20 winners had been called up by BWNA Board member Ankist Zadeyan to receive their lucky gifts.

Response to the picnic was overwhelmingly positive. Liz Johnston, a veteran BWNA picnic volunteer, summed it up simply: "A+!" As always, teamwork and volunteerism were the keys to success, and special thanks go out to the following neighbors, organizations, and merchants for their invaluable contributions:

- The Storer family--providing barbecue grills and transportation to get them to and from the park.
- Boy Scout Troop 107--assisting in setup and cleanup, as well as distribution of flyers to neighbors. (In gratitude for an outstanding effort, the BWNA Board voted to contribute $100 to Troop 107.)
- BWNA Picnic Committee members, who took care of everything behind the scenes.
- The following merchants, who contributed to the potluck feast or to the raffle with prizes:

Alameda Brewhouse
Alameda Fitness Center
American Frame
Bagel Land
Beaumont Florist
Beaumont Health Care Center
Beaumont Market
Blackbird Wine Shop
Foot Traffic
Green Dog Pet Supply
Johannes Venghaus
Nip and Tuck--Fine Sewing for Interiors
Ottoman Klasik
Papa Murphy's
Pizzicato
Sparkles Beauty Bar
Therapeutic Associates.
Umpqua Bank

THE
Simpler Solution
Graphic Design—Uncomplicated
Business & Social Stationery
Mailers • Newsletters
Brochures • Ad Copy
Writing • Editing
When you need to create something just this once or once in a while.
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VIDEOS
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www.bwna.us



SOLAR OREGON

ENCOURAGING OREGONIANS TO CHOOSE › SOLAR ENERGY

Solar Oregon 2009 Major Programs

By Kevin Berg

Each year, Solar Oregon presents more than 70 educational workshops throughout the state to empower homeowners, businesses and professionals to go solar. In Portland, Solar Oregon presents free, public workshops every month. This free workshop covers the basics of why solar is a smart choice for Oregon homeowners.

During the seminar, they will show you.

- How well solar works in Oregon's climate
- Available solar technologies
- Financial incentives and tax credits
- How to choose a contractor

The next workshop is scheduled for:

- November 18, 2009 from 7:00PM to 8:00PM
- at Blackbird Wine Shop's new location (4323 NE Fremont).
- Please RSVP at www.solaroregon.org.

Solar Oregon is also the resource for technical and financial information about going solar in Oregon. They provide public outreach at events, and offer numerous volunteer opportunities that allow you to connect with them to learn more about solar. They also partner with the Portland Office of Planning & Sustainability, Energy Trust of Oregon, Energy Trust New Homes Program, Oregon Department of Energy, Earth Advantage and many more to provide solar outreach and education across the state.

Solar Oregon's website connects you to solar installers, architects, realtors and other professionals that can assist you with your project. They have the most comprehensive resource of solar related professionals in the state.

For more information, or to register for the upcoming seminar on November 18th, please visit www.solaroregon.org.

It Takes a Village

By Al Ellis

The focus of the BWNA General Meeting on Monday, Oct. 12th, will be on community teamwork as a basis for improving and enhancing the neighborhood. Appropriately, the two featured speakers represent very different institutions, but they network in ways that make our community a more attractive and welcoming place to live. Marsha Dennis is Graffiti Abatement Coordinator for the City's Office of Neighborhood Involvement, and Liz Casson-Taylor is the new Principal at Beaumont Middle School. Marsha and her staff work closely with neighborhood schools in combatting the spread of graffiti (which has been on the increase in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood), while Principal Casson-Taylor, along with her staff, promote positive values and responsible behavior in their students. Each presentation will be followed by a brief question-and-answer session.

"It takes a village" community input is the focus of the second part of the meeting. Neighbors in attendance will be asked to share their ideas for projects and activities that they would like to see BWNA support in the coming months through volunteer efforts and/or funding. These suggestions will form the basis for BWNA Board decisions concerning which community teamwork programs to pursue in the near future.

The meeting begins at 7:30 at Bethany Lutheran Church, on the corner of 37th and Skidmore, and is held in Fellowship Hall, a basement activity room that is most easily accessed down the walkway on the Skidmore side of the church. (There will be a BWNA sign indicating the entrance.) We encourage you to come and learn about the city's graffiti abatement program, welcome Principal Casson-Taylor to our neighborhood, and help shape the future agenda for BWNA.

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Natalie Cromartie
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On-Site Music Program

By Fara Heath

My husband Chris and I are the owners of Sound Roots Music School in NE Portland as well as concerned neighborhood parents. Thankfully, these two worlds have recently collided to help save music education in Portland. As parents, we are deeply concerned about the budgetary cuts that are forcing our schools to cut music programs. As business people, we have created an innovative way to utilize our music school resources to do something about it.

Sound Roots On-Site is a brand new, pay-per-class program offering schools 8-24 week music programs in a wide variety of fun and interesting musical subjects, including Recycled Instrument Band, Musical Theater, and Electric Opera. The "a la carte" system allows schools with even the tightest budgets to afford a way to bring music to their classrooms. Classes are offered on location at each school both during the day and as an after school option so that no child is excluded.

The instructors of these classes are all professional teachers with a great deal of expertise in their field. Chris and I are highly selective in choosing our staff so that kids who are in these programs are not sacrificing a top notch musical education simply because their school does not have the funds to support a full or even part time teacher. The On-Site program is also a great opportunity for passionate teachers who are struggling to find work in this difficult economy.

Music has long been proven to help students in a variety of ways. In addition to helping to develop a well-rounded appreciation for the arts and culture, regular music education in a students' curriculum has been proven to increase math and English scores. Sound Roots On-Site ensures that music is a part of every student's education despite the current state of the economy- and that is something to sing about!

For more info about Sound Roots On-Site please call Fara at 503.282.9999 or visit our website at www.SoundRootsMusic.com.

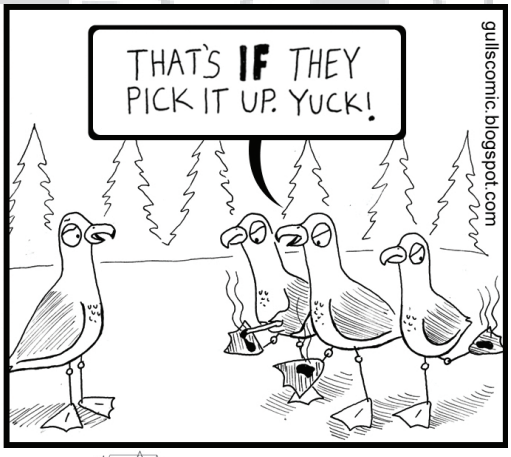
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BACKPACK LUNCH PROGRAM

Each Friday during the school year, we put lunch items in the backpacks of school children who are at risk of hunger on weekends when the federally-sponsored school lunch isn't available. Last year, we provided weekend lunches to 36 children at Woodlawn Elementary, but the need is much greater. Our goal is to serve 100 children. Through our food and monetary donations, we make a difference in the lives and futures of children in need. The Backpack Program is a collaborative effort of four United Methodist Churches working with community friends to nurture vulnerable young students in Portland. We invite you to help us expand our ability to feed hungry school children in our midst.

The ways you can help

Donate food for weekend lunches
Volunteer to help pack or deliver lunch bags
Help with food donation pickups
Make a monetary donation

Food items to donate

- cans of chili, soup, ravioli in meat sauce, cans/boxes of mac n' cheese
- small juice boxes—100% juice only, no foil
- individual-size fruit cups
- small packages of crackers w/cheese, raisins or fruit snacks, granola bars (no peanuts)

Monetary donations

The Backpack Lunch Program is an all volunteer program -- there are no paid staff. Fremont United Methodist Church donates financial management services. Make checks out to Fremont UMC. Please write "Backpack Donation" on checks, and mail to Fremont UMC, 2620 NE Fremont Street, Portland OR 97212. $100 sponsors a school-year of weekend lunches for one child. Each donation, regardless of amount, is important. Fremont UMC sends out documentation of donations for tax purposes annually.

This program could not exist without our volunteers! To volunteer or learn more, contact Marilyn Mauch, 503/287-3014, Program Coordinator, Fremont UMC

We give thanks to our donors -- Woodlawn Community Resource Center; Grigsby Bros. Paper Box; Fremont, Hughes Memorial, and Woodlawn United Methodist Churches; and Wilshire UMC/Native American Fellowship. We are grateful to many individuals who have made this program possible through their donations.

The Backpack Lunch Program logo is a gift from Jill Penney copyright 2009.

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Conflict Resolution

By Stuart Watson

Resolutions Northwest (RNW) is now accepting applications for our annual Volunteer Mediation Training and Mentorship Program. This 38-hour basic mediation training is free in exchange for a one-year weekly volunteer commitment to help neighbors and communities in Portland resolve conflicts with each other.

Training dates for 2010:
January 6 & 13 (Wed. eves),
January 8, 9, 15, 16 (Fri. & Sat., all day

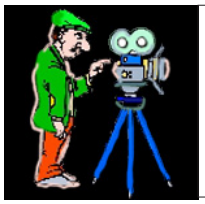
Application deadline:
November 20, 2009.

Application forms can be obtained at http://www.resolutionsnorthwest.org or 503.595.4890.

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Happy Halloween



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*** In the last few issues, Bikram's ad was misspelled Birkram. The correct website is: www.bikramportland.com. We apologize for the confusion.**

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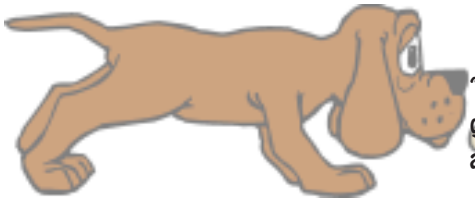
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