BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association (BWNA) www.bwna.us November • December 2010

Organizing Tips to Remove Closet Clutter

By Kim Minasian

Brite Spot Cleaning

Do you save everything? Are you sentimental about the ill-fitting sweater your aunt knitted five years ago, or your ragged alma mater sweatshirt? If so, your closets may be very full.

Fall is an ideal time to clean out your home. Cleaning out your closets regularly will save you time and energy and keep you from feeling overwhelmed by the task later on. Plus, if your closet is packed with old clothes that you don't or can't wear anymore, you may hesitate to update your wardrobe.

Here are some tips to help you organize and un-clutter your closet:

- Get rid of the clothes you haven't worn in over a year.
- Store out-of-season clothes in a different location.
- Try on the clothes you can't seem to get rid of—it will help you make a decision.
- Buy good hangers: wire hangers don't give good support and leave marks on your clothes.
- Hang clothes according to style (i.e., shirts, suits, pants) or color.
- If space permits, add a bar for shirts and pants.

When you clean your closets on a regular basis, you may find you don't need some of the clothing you thought you did, and you'll actually wear and enjoy the clothes you do have.

If you'd like more information on getting rid of clutter in your home, please don't hesitate to email or call. Kim Minasian, Brite Spot Cleaning and Organizing…. 503.349.5457

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



Winter Holiday General Meeting: Munching & Discussing

By Al Ellis

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association's (BWNA) General Meeting on Monday, December 13th, beginning at 7:00PM at Bethany Lutheran Church (corner of NE 37th & Skidmore), promises to be a unique blend of sampling holiday desserts while discussing issues of importance to the neighborhood. Although not normally an ideal combination, it's totally in keeping with the season; i.e., While "winter holidays" mean different things to different people, two common denominators provide some unity: tasty treats and good conversation!

On the "tasty treats" side of the evening, BWNA will provide holiday cookies and refreshments, with neighbors encouraged to bring holiday treats of their own to share. As for "good conversation," the business meeting begins with presentations by two speakers: a local police officer with a crime update for the neighborhood (followed by questions and answers) and



Donald Shaw from Home Energy Solutions with some tips about energy efficiency in the home. Additionally, BWNA committee reports will cover the latest developments regarding traffic safety concerns, Clearwire's cell tower project, Beaumont Middle School's "wish list" for the current academic year, and the Board's proposed revisions to the BWNA Bylaws. As always, neighborhood residents are welcome to propose issues, activities, and projects for Board members to consider at the next Board meeting on January 10th.

Come celebrate the holidays with your neighbors, lend your voice to discussion, and do your part to help make our neighborhood the best that it can be. Enter on the Skidmore side of the church, down the walkway to the meeting room.



President's Message

Taking a Look Around Us

By Al Ellis

In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, I have a tendency "to look at the glass half full"--i.e, to place a focus on the positives in life. It's not that hassles and disappointments are any less frustrating when they occur; but, increasingly, I find that counting blessings trumps enumerating bruises--which is refreshing.

Take living in this neighborhood, for instance. On balance, I would say it's no contest: positives far outweigh negatives. Of course, nothing is perfect, but in terms of factors that contribute to the quality of life, Beaumont-Wilshire shines. Examples? Bunches.

Here are a few:

1.) **Friendliness**--People generally seem to enjoy socializing with and caring for one another.

2.) **Safety**--On just about any given day (weather permitting), walkers, joggers, baby-strollers, dog-owners, bicyclists--you name it--feel secure enough to be out and about in the neighborhood from the wee hours of the morning to the last glimmer of evening light.

3.) **Aesthetics**--Picturesque Wilshire Park, in and of itself, might be enough to satisfy this category, but add to it the neighborhood's comparatively clean sidewalks and streets, eclectic array of homes and gardens, stylish storefronts, etc., and you have one impressive and enticing environment!

4.) **Fun**--Start with the park again and take note of the year-round bark-dust "track," off-leash dog-run area, kids' play equipment area, family picnic areas, athletic fields--coupled with the wide variety of creative retail stores, health-related services, taverns, and award-winning eating establishments-- and it's obvious that the fun is just waiting to happen across or down the street!

5.) **Education**--Under the conscientious guidance and can-do determination of Principal Liz Casson-Taylor and her staff, along with dedicated parent volunteer activists like Mary Jaron Kelley, Beaumont-Wilshire Middle School has excelled in the face of funding and boundary uncertainties to emerge as one of Portland's premier public middle schools--both in terms of academic achievement and social balance.

A glass far more than half full, indeed!

Yes, we have ample reason to give thanks for where we live. Nonetheless, don't let the "euphoria" deceive you into complacency. After all, we didn't get where we are today as a neighborhood by sitting on our hands. The livability we enjoy is directly attributable to incremental progress achieved over many years--the result of volunteerism by residents who were willing to give of their time and energy for the good of the community. Not surprisingly, their vehicle of choice for these accomplishments, more often than not, has been the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association. Why? Because as individuals we are relatively powerless; but as neighbors united and organized, the Powers That Be take notice, feel the political pressure, and are more likely to make that extra effort to facilitate needed improvements.

So as you take a look around you at the positives, also take some time to consider the role you can play in preserving and enhancing this wonderful neighborhood of ours through participation in BWNA--be it as a participant at General Meetings or as a member of the BWNA Board of Directors. **Make it happen.**



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Corky Elsasser 280.841.1032
Vacant
Gwen MacPherson 503.287.9996

Website: http://bwna.us
Mario Caoile & Helen Koba 503.288.2568

Newsletter Distribution
Marsha Mahon 503.284.1859

Newsletter Editor
Dan K. Johnson 503.476.5426
Send ads and articles to:
editor@bwna.us or by mail to
Dan K. Johnson, Editor
3573 NE Alameda Street
Portland, OR 97212

Newsletter Graphic Designer
Deborah Schwing 503.282.0825

Contact us
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
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Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

Letter from the Editor

By Dan Johnson

Do you remember Snow White? If not, let me help you…after the Queen pricks her finger on a sewing needle and a few drops of blood fall on the snow that gathered on her ebony window frame, she looks at the blood and wishes for a daughter that had skin white as snow, lips red as blood, and hair as black as ebony. As soon as the child is born, the queen dies. Soon after, the king takes a new wife, who is beautiful but also very vain. The new Queen possesses a magical mirror in which she ask "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who in the land is fairest of all?" The mirror replies "You, my queen, are fairest of all." But when Snow White reaches the age of seven, she becomes very beautiful, and when the queen asks her mirror it responds: "Queen, you are full fair, 'tis true, but Snow White is fairer than you." What a bummer!

With the end of the year rapidly approaching with cooler weather and shorter days, do you feel like the Queen or Snow White? The comparison is not based on beauty alone, but on energy and enthusiasm for living. As winter approaches, we are subconsciously encouraged to separate from neighbors and increase our personal hibernation. The November/December issue of the newsletter is not about holiday special sales, but rather about local events that should include you and your family. This issue mentions several holiday bazaars (see page four and page ten) as well as the BWNA Holiday Meeting in December (see page one). What about becoming a member in Resolution Northwest (see page eleven)? What a great way to spend the cooler winter months to help our community. And don't forget to keep March 19th on your calendar when Friends of Trees will be planting more trees in our neighborhood (see page seven).

As Al Ellis mentions in his article on page two, living in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood should feel like a "a glass far more than half full, indeed!". After recently returning from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for my Grandmothers 96th birthday, I was reminded that Snow White lives in each of us. My Grandmother's spirit and energy reminded me that giving and caring for others is not an option, but a necessity. Beauty has much more to do with than just your physical appearance. If this year has made you feel more like the Queen rather than Snow White, you still have a few months to connect with friends and family, become an active member in our community, and recognize that speaking to magic mirrors is a fairly tale and the glass is indeed half full.



BWNA Calendar

Saturday, November 6th • 10AM - 4PM
Holiday Bazaar
Wilshire United Methodist Church
(See page four)

Monday, November 8th • 7:00PM
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Conference Room
NE 37th Entrance

Friday, November 12th • 5:00PM - 9:00PM
Second Friday on Fremont
(See page three)

Friday and Saturday, November 12th and 13th
Columbia Knoll's Annual Craft Bazaar
Retirement Facility at 82nd & Sandy
9AM - 4PM
(See page ten)

Friday, November 19th
Resolutions Northwest Applicant Deadline
(See page eleven)

Friday, November 26th
Deadline for ads and articles
for the January-February **2011** newsletter

Friday, December 10th • 5:00PM - 9:00PM
Second Friday on Fremont
(See page three)

Monday, December 13th • 7:00PM
BWNA Community Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
NE Skidmore Entrance
(See page one)

Friday, December 24th • 7:00PM
Christmas Eve Service
Bethany Lutheran Church and Neighborhood Center
37th and NE Skidmore
(See page nine)

Monday, January 10th • 7:00PM
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Conference Room
NE 37th Entrance

Friday, January 14th • 5:00PM - 9:00PM
Second Friday on Fremont
(See page three)

Saturday, March 19th
Friends of Trees Tree Planting
(See page seven)

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

The Truth

By Brenda Westford

The truth is in order to find a job or become promoted, you may need to become a better presenter and more confident team leader. You need the ability to talk and answer questions off the cuff. If you want to land a good position, you'll need job interviewing skills. All of these skills can be learned in the supportive setting of a local Toastmasters.

Toastmasters is a nonprofit educational organization that helps you develop communication and leadership skills needed to reach your goals. Since its founding 85 years ago our organization has helped more than four million members worldwide. We meet Monday evenings 6:30PM at Concordia University. We look forward to seeing you.

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Monday, November 8th, 7:00PM

BWNA Community Meeting
Monday, December 13th, 7:00PM



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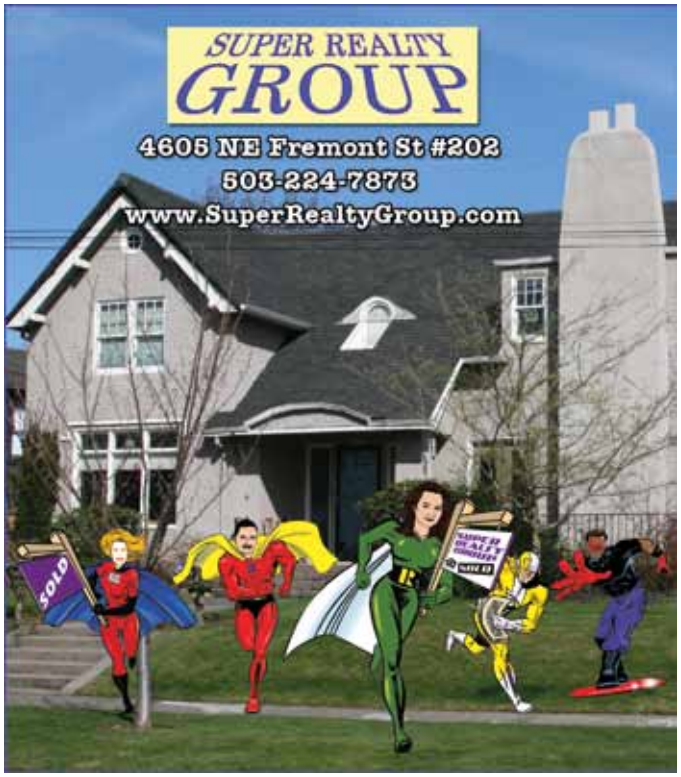
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Organically Grown Education!

By David Friedman

What if you decided to start a school from scratch? You'd plant a seed of an idea, water it with nutritious thinking, planning, and research and then nurture it along with the help of a community. That's the genesis behind the Portland School Project, a new private elementary school being developed by a group of parents in our neighborhood. The planning group hopes the new school, scheduled to open in September 2011, will be located right near Wilshire Park, offering another educational choice to families in our neighborhood.

Longtime Beaumont - Wilshire residents, Dr. Sarah Phillips and David Friedman began working on the Portland School Project when their daughter just couldn't seem to flourish in typical school environments. "Some kids just learn differently," explains Dr. Phillips, "but we found that most schools really want children to conform to one model. It just doesn't make sense that we expect every 7-year old to be exactly the same in math, reading, writing, art, and behavior. So we began to ask ourselves why can't school be designed to fit kids, instead of the other way around?"



This thinking led Phillips and Friedman to the Portland School Project. The Portland School Project is committed to a child-centered approach to teaching and includes Individualized Learning Plans for every student. "The curriculum is designed so that much of the learning is done through hands-on projects and experiential learning, carried out in mixed-age classrooms." According to Friedman, this mirrors what education research tells us about how children best learn.

As parents, we all want our children to develop a life-long love of learning. We need to think about what school environments are most likely to foster this kind of engagement," explains Phillips.

"We wanted to create a school where we build in the flexibility to change according to current best research and the needs of our families," says Mr. Friedman. "In a lively and vibrant school, the teachers should always be learning right along side the students."

"We love our close-knit neighborhood and are excited to bring another school option to families in the area." Parents looking for smaller class sizes, more individualized teaching and a hands-on project based learning environment are encouraged to check out the Portland School Project website and join the school's quickly growing email list. . . http://portlandschoolproject.org.

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Living (potted) Christmas Trees

By John Fogel

Many folks the world over have been celebrating with decorated full size trees indoors, Christmas trees, during winter every year for at least 600 years. Much of the feeling imbued by a glistening, lit up, decorated evergreen is hard to put into words. The best stories about Christmas trees have never been written.



In these days of growing concern for the environment, folks are questioning the Christmas tree tradition. Of course a live tree in a pot is the best for the environment because they are planted. But what if you don't have a spot in the backyard to plant one every year?

A local Portland company has the solution. The Original Living Christmas Tree Company (TOLCTC) delivers full size potted trees to the front door, then picks them up after new years and Christmas trees get planted in watersheds.

Christmas can be a tree planting holiday. Who knows, the thousands of trees planted in Portland might turn into millions world wide. Folks get a big beautiful live tree indoors and wildlife get nice trees in watersheds. We can each get a potted Christmas tree and make up for our own greenhouse gas emissions. Have a living Christmas tree and celebrate in harmony with the environment!

The Original Living Christmas Tree Company (TOLCTC) in 1992 began in Portland delivering live trees in pots and has every year since. Thousands of Portlanders living Christmas trees have been planted in parks and landscapes all over the Northwest.

Here's how it works: Folks order their Christmas tree through the website, livingchristmastrees.org. TOLCTC delivers potted full-size evergreen trees to residences and businesses. TOLCTC picks up the trees after New Years. Trees get planted by planting groups such as parks departments, schools and private landowners. The trees are planted to grow old. Their website has info how anyone anywhere can have a potted Christmas tree that gets planted by their local parks department.

Prices top out at $100. After New Years TOLCTC picks them up and planting groups get them at a reduced rate.

Living Christmas trees are 6' or 7.5' size. Clients can choose from ten kinds of cedar, juniper, pine, spruce and fir. The main tree offered is the Douglas fir, the State Tree of Oregon and the most popular tree worldwide. Over 400 trees are arranged to be planted so that many can be Christmas trees. For more information, please visit www.livingchristmastrees.org or office@livingchristmastrees.org.

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Join the Neighborhood Tree Planting!

By Eileen Stark

Saturday, March 19 is the date for the next tree planting in Beaumont Wilshire. In partnership with Friends of Trees, the neighborhood has teamed up with Cully and Roseway to plant trees in yards and parking strips that create long-lasting benefits enjoyed by everyone.

Did you know that trees remove pollutants from the air? An average, mature tree can absorb 10 pounds of pollutants, mitigate 330 pounds of carbon dioxide and create 260 pounds of oxygen each year (the average person consumes nearly 400 pounds), leading to various health benefits such as reduced asthma rates.

A mature evergreen tree can intercept over 4,000 gallons of rainwater each year (a deciduous captures up to 760 gallons), which helps keep rivers cleaner and reduces stormwater fees. Trees also raise property values and appreciate in value each year and studies show they may also reduce human aggression, violence and crime. Wildlife benefit immensely, as well.

Portland's tree canopy is much smaller than it could be and if your parking strip is narrow and/or under high voltage power wires, you will be limited to choosing fairly small trees. If you have the space, consider planting a large (preferably native) tree in your yard to help increase the city's tree canopy. Large-crowned trees offer the most benefits, including the reduction of heat radiation and energy use if placed strategically. In general, deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns should be placed near the south side of a house (10-30 feet sway) and trees with lower crowns on the west side. Conifers are crucial for wildlife, but need plenty of air circulation for healthy growth and a large enough space to show their natural shape. Most conifers are happiest in sunny spots with well-drained soil, but some, such as hemlocks and Western red cedar, do very well in partial shade. And although slow-growing trees may take longer to provide shade benefits, they generally live longer and are less prone to failure than fast-growing trees.

FRIENDS of TREES

A nice selection of eight to twelve-foot tall trees is now being offered to homeowners for yards and parking strips for only $35. This low price includes a parking strip inspection by the city to ensure appropriate trees are chosen, hole digging, delivery, planting assistance, stakes, labels, mulch, follow-up monitoring and information on proper tree care techniques. To sign up to receive a tree or for more information, please visit www.friendsoftrees.org. Supplies are limited, so sign up soon!

Volunteers will be needed—to help, please contact beaumont-wilshire@plantitportland or Seth at 503.896.9390 or Eileen at 503.467.8545.

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Beaumont Middle School Grounds

By Mary Jaron Kelley

Beaumont Middle School's Evolving Landscape

I'm hoping that many of you have been noticing how the corner plot on NE 42nd and Fremont has been transforming into a beautiful garden! Marilyn Weaver, a Beaumont School alumni, stopped in to the school last year and met with the principal, Liz Casson-Taylor. She offered to do some gardening on the "mound", the area that holds the school sign. Marilyn, or our fairy gardener, (as I call her) has been weeding, pruning, watering and adding perennials to this area for the past year and 1/2. She works on Thursday and Sunday afternoons, bringing all her own supplies, including a hose and perennials. Feel free to help Marilyn, donate plants- (she has her eyes on empty beds along 42nd) or thank her for her commitment to the school and our neighborhood. We are truly lucky to have Marilyn back on the school grounds, sharing her gardening talents with us.

You may or not be aware that Portland Public Schools has a grounds maintenance crew of less than 5 people for all of Portland schools. If you feel strongly about the grounds,and have a gift of time or cash, join other neighbors, school parents and students at any of the 3 grounds clean ups that occur annually. Our next clean up is in November, before Thanksgiving. We also do clean ups in April near Earth Day and in August before school starts.







Last year, a local arborist, Jason Messer, donated his morning and pruned the old cherry trees on NE 42nd. We welcome professionals, gardeners and any in the community who feel they can help. It's a great way to build community and make new friends. Many Beaumont - Wilshire residents are regular participants in the grounds clean ups, and do not have students attending the school. This is a great way to get some exercise, too.

Beaumont also benefits from other volunteers who mow the lawn and take care of the field. Another parent group works on various weekends picking up trash, and weeding. Everyone is welcome!

Also, have you ventured into the courtyard through the pencil fence? There is an eco-roof structure hidden away, awaiting funding for seating. This project was conceived by Beaumont - Wilshire neighborhood association members and school staff several years ago constructed with funding from grants. The intent was that this space could serve as an outdoor classroom or outdoor space for the community. Beaumont students helped to place soil on top of the structure and painted and added mosaics to the wood posts and beams. This structure helps to minimize stormwater run-off, by providing a green roof which captures rain water. Native ground cover plants were added to the roof. Nearby is a beautiful tile mural which was created by local artist Barbara Welty and 8th grade students several years ago.

Beaumont Middle School is an important landmark in the neighborhood and business district. Businesses over the years have complained to the school district about the grounds, often without offering assistance. We encourage neighbors, church groups, businesses' to take this opportunity to get involved and make a change in their neighborhood. Donations of volunteer hours or cash for future seating under the eco-roof or for new plantings are encouraged. We thank businesses such as Bagel Land, Beaumont Market, Beaumont Hardware for making donations.

Email me if you'd like to get involved. . ... mjkelley@pacifier.com.

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Winter Holiday Lights

By Rebecca Lehman

Winter Holiday Festival of Lights will illuminate 65-75 trees along NE Fremont from 40th to 50th. Sponsored by the Beaumont Business Association (BBA), the tree lighting ceremony will be held on Friday, December 10th, 5:00-9:00 PM. The local Portland Fire Dept. will be delivering Santa on top of one of their fire engines! As he passes down the street the lights will be lit. Once he arrives at the designated area he will disembark to his "Winter Wonderland Festival Tent" so that kids of all ages can visit and have photos taken with Santa. Up and down the street, there will be signs of Christmas everywhere! Carolers from the Presbyterian Church of Laurelhurst will be singing to herald the arrival of the holidays. The Dickens Carolers and Dan Dalmier and his bagpipe players will be strolling the street as well. Our Christmas Vendors tent will be set up near Santa where local artisans and crafters will be tempting you with sweet buys for your Christmas Shopping. Shops along Fremont will be passing out hot chocolate, cookies and other delights; and don't forget to stop by Soluna Grill to get your bag of Chestnuts roasting on an open fire! The BBA is sponsoring a Holiday Window Decorating Contest so be sure to come out and vote for your favorite window display.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24th at 7:00PM
Bethany Lutheran Church and Neighborhood Center



People of all ages, backgrounds and faiths are invited to a special Community Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24th at 7:00PM. Beautiful organ music will be provided by Phill Baker. Everyone is welcome! Corner of 37th and Skidmore, across from Wilshire Park.

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Columbia Knoll's Annual Craft Bazaar

By Val Gogoleski

The Heights at Columbia Knoll's annual craft bazaar is Friday and Saturday, November 12th and 13th, at the retirement facility, 8320 NE Sandy Blvd., at the corner of 82nd Ave. Valet parking is available both days during the 9AM to 4PM sale. Jewelry, decorative items, plants, treats and knitted scarves are among the handmade creations featured by resident and guest artists. Please come support the hard work of your neighborhood senior citizens.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, feel free to contact me at 503.252.6537

Madison High School Dance Team

By Virginia Mattfeld

Madison Dance Team is raising money for dance costumes and to help with the cost of competition fees. The first annual Holiday Bazaar and Pancake Breakfast is Saturday Nov 13 at Roseway Heights School . This location was chosen because of easy access to gym and Cafeteria and great parking.



Madison High School Dance Team is one of those sports you don't hear much about. While the dancers work quietly behind the scenes you may see them at football games or basketball games but the real fun for them is the competition. The dance team is a year round sport that practices twice a week and competes on weekends. This year is a very special year in the sense that the program has grown from the 3 dancers ithad three short years ago to 20 dancers. We are hard at work fundraising and building up this program that has taken awhile to get off the ground. While we are hard at work practicing our parents are hard at work creating great opportunities for us to raise the funds needed to be a competitive sport. It truly does take a whole community to build a program.

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Yes Timmy was a bit slow on the job, but they figured that if they had him start on in on the project in July, he'd surely be done by the holidays.

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Learn Conflict Resolution Skills While Serving Your Community!

By Stuart Watson

Resolutions Northwest (RNW) is a community-based nonprofit organization that provides high quality, cost-effective conflict resolution services and education to neighbors, families, communities, and organizations. From now until November 19th, RNW'S Neighborhood Mediation Program is recruiting applicants that reflect Portland's diversity for a limited number of spots in our annual volunteer mediation training.

The comprehensive, 38 hour training and year-long mentor program is FREE in exchange for your year-long, hands-on commitment to serve the diverse communities of Portland. This opportunity is designed for people who are dedicated to helping neighbors and communities have challenging discussions and find mutually acceptable solutions together. If you are called to serve your community and/or neighborhood by offering your time, talent, and heart-centered presence during times of conflict, then we hope you will consider working with RNW's Neighborhood Mediation Program. Training dates are in early January, 2011. Application deadline: November 19, 2010. Application forms and additional information can be found at: http://www.resolutionsnorthwest.org or by calling 503.595.4890. RNW is committed to the goals of equal opportunity, affirmative action and ADA support in education and volunteerism.
We encourage all interested to apply.

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