BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association (BWNA) www.bwna.us May • June 2011

Taste of Beaumont Yields Positive Results

by Al Ellis

Of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association's (BWNA) five general meetings held during the year, the one that inevitably stands out above the rest, "The Taste of Beaumont"— held on the second Monday of April— and this year's event on April 11th was one for the record books.

First, there was the overflow crowd (upwards of 90) packed into Bethany Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall, heartily dining on cuisine samples provided free of charge by neighborhood eating establishments. Lively music was provided by the talented young musicians of the Beaumont Middle School Small Jazz Combo under the direction of community favorite Cynthia Plank. Then came the ambitious business meeting agenda, with upwards of a dozen topics and speakers in little more than an hour, including the need to fill a vacated Treasurer's position and four At Large Board of Directors positions—not to mention a culminating door prize raffle!

Incredibly, everything got done on time. . .and with stellar results. Speaking first was Officer Wayne Schull, who assured residents that despite recent reports of car prowl activity, the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood's overall crime rate remains one of the lowest in the area. He went on to answer questions and encouraged residents to keep him informed. Next came presentations on BWNA finances, the reconfigured Newsletter team, and the refurbished BWNA Web site (now with blog & Facebook page). Finally, it was time for elections, as nominees were sought to fill vacant positions. And for the first time in years, all BWNA positions were filled! Board member Gwen MacPherson was elected as Treasurer, with BW residents Serah Breakstone, Larry Freeborg, Michael Gray, and Alex Wall stepping forward to fill the vacant At Large Board positions. Board members reelected to another two-year term were Vice President Bill Markwart, Secretary Jim Karlock, and At Large Board members Dave Anderson, Colin O'Neill, and Michael Rounds.



The meeting also featured presentations on a wide variety of subjects: the upcoming all-neighborhood graffiti cleanup, the Movies in the Park Festival, the National Night Out Picnic, Fremont Fest, the Portland School District bond measures up for a vote in mid-May, Beaumont Middle School Earth Day campus beautification, Susie's Forest project, and emergency preparedness from Neighborhood Emergency Team leader Liz Johnston. The evening was capped by the raffling off of ten beautiful floral arrangements courtesy of Beaumont Florist and two $25 gift certificates courtesy of Alameda Brewhouse.













Thank You!

This year's participants for The Taste of Beaumont

Alameda Brewhouse • Alameda Café • Beaumont Florist • Beaumont Market • Cha! Cha! Cha! • Delphina's Bakery
Noho Hawaiian Café • Papa Murphy's Pizza • Rose's Ice Cream • Soluna Grill • Starbucks

It was a job well done and a special evening to remember for the neighborhood!

Special thanks go out to Cynthia Plank and The Beaumont Middle School Small Jazz Combo

Gordon McFarland on Trumpet • Grant Fisher on Alto Saxophone • Cole Stringer on Tenor Saxophone
Wyatt Jackson on Piano • Callan Farci on Drums • Lucy Grein on Bass



President's Message: Shared Responsibilities

By Al Ellis

Harry Truman wasn't one to shirk responsibilities. Message: When you're president of anything, the buck stops with you know who! President Obama lives it every day. So do heads of corporations, and the list goes on. Ultimate accountability resides at the top, right? Well, perhaps not always.

In particular, I would argue that all-volunteer organizations—like neighborhood associations—are an exception to this maxim. Why? Because unlike chief executives in the political and business worlds, presidents of neighborhood associations are volunteers just like everyone else in their organizations. When the rubber hits the road in terms of "ultimate accountability," remuneration is a non-factor in getting the job done. So what's the motivation for volunteer leaders? Basically, altruistic values: a belief in the mission and a dedication to one's commitment. People volunteer because they feel good about helping others, and in doing so, enhance their own lives.

But volunteering doesn't have a monopoly on altruism. On the contrary, for most people, "charity begins at home". . .which usually translates into family and profession coming first, volunteerism second. It's a constant balancing act—what to take on, what to jettison in life. With volunteers free to opt in and opt out at will, neighborhood associations can never be totally assured of where the buck will stop, or if the buck will stop at all. The reality is that the buck stops with whoever volunteers to take charge at any particular time. And while the neighborhood association president might seem the most likely "last resort," a sure thing it is not.

I'm reminded of the way past-BWNA President Albert Kaufman ran the Board meetings. Invariably, whenever a Board member would suggest some kind of new event, activity, or project for the Association to take on, Albert's response would be the same: "Are you prepared to take the lead in organizing this?" The results were predictable. Board members thought twice before opening their mouths to make proposals—myself included. At the time, I thought Albert's approach a bit too punitive for my liking, but now looking back from my perspective as President, I appreciate his pragmatism: He was determined not to become a "dropbox" for BWNA responsibilities.

A textbook example of the importance of shared responsibilities took place a couple months ago within the BWNA leadership. Board member extraordinaire Dan Johnson—who had been doing "triple duty" as Board member, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor—reluctantly announced his resignation from all his BWNA positions, due to increasing professional and personal demands on his time. Suffice it to say, things looked grim. Filling a vacated Board position was challenging in and of itself, let alone finding replacements for Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, both of which require levels of expertise and attention to detail, and in the case of Editor, a major time commitment.

I feared the worst, especially the possible demise of the Newsletter, so crucial to BWNA's communication with the community. But Dan had a parting "outside-the-box" suggestion: Why not "collectively" fill the positions? Long story short, Board members stepped up to the plate and volunteered to form a Newsletter Editor Committee, dividing the Editor's duties among themselves. And Dan offered to stay on as "Bookkeeper," which in turn motivated Board member Gwen MacPherson to become the new Treasurer.

We all came out ahead in sharing the load. And that's the essence of community.

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Michael Rounds 503.936.0740
Bryan Green mbryang77@hotmail.com
Serah Breakstone 971.219.3492
Michael Gray 503.929.3777
Alex Wall 503.583.4508
Larry Freeborg 503.287.5376

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

Newsletter Distribution
Marsha Mahon 503.284.1859

Newsletter Editor
Articles and Announcements to:
Bob McKibben 503.284.3294
editor@bwna.us
Advertising Contact:
Dan K. Johnson 503.476.5426
treasurer@bwna.us

Copy Editor
Ethan Derner 415.819.6864

Newsletter Graphic Designer
Deb 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
Url: http://www.cnncoalition.org

Portland Bureau of Transportation to Address Beaumont-Wilshire Residents' Concerns at June General Meeting

By Al Ellis

Have a speeding problem on your street? Know of an intersection that could use a couple stop signs? Concerned about the effects of bike boulevards, speed bumps, and curb extensions—or lack of such? Wonder how it's all being financed? Well, here's your opportunity to get some straight answers from people in the know. Come to Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association's General Meeting on June 13th, beginning at 7:00PM, in the basement activity room ("Fellowship Hall") of Bethany Lutheran Church (corner of NE 37th & Skidmore, across from Wilshire Park) to hear the latest from Portland Bureau of Transportation Project Manager Kyle Chisek and his team of experts on transportation projects affecting our neighborhood--followed by questions from the audience.

In addition to the focus on traffic calming concerns, the meeting will feature a presentation on "community engagement" by BW resident and community sustainability advocate Darcy Hitchcock. She has a success story to relate about the development of a strong community spirit along a 5-block stretch of Failing St. and will suggest steps that other groups of neighbors can take to achieve the same results.

Other topics for discussion will be upcoming summer festivals--including Movies in the Park on July 10th, All-Neighborhood National Night Out Picnic on August 2nd, Fremont Fest on August 6th, and the 42nd Street Fair at the end of August—and a neighborhood crime report from one of our local police officers.

Let your voice be heard, become informed, and help yourself to some light snacks and refreshments along the way.

Street Fair Parade

By Shelley Barshaw, Parade Committee Chair

2nd Annual 42nd Avenue Street Fair on Sunday, August 28, 12PM-6PM. This year we're adding a community parade from NE 42nd Ave and Killingsworth southbound to NE 42nd Ave and Wygant. The fair will take place on NE Alberta Court between NE 42nd and NE 43rd.

Irvington Home Tour

By David Wisdom, MD

The 29th Irvington Home Tour will be held on Sunday, May 15th from 11AM to 5PM. This year there will be 7 wonderful homes on the tour as well as the iconic White House Bed & Breakfast in this now Historic Portland Neighborhood. Ticket holders will also be able to hear a lecture by local architectural historian Jim Heuer on "Craftsman Style and the Great Boom: Building Portland's Great Arts & Crafts Neighborhoods". The architecture this year features Prairie, Arts & Crafts, Foursquare and Bungalow. One on a double lot shows off a fine vegetable and flower garden along with 6 prize chickens. (To the delight of the neighborhood children it was also the home of Mooshi the pot bellied pig until his recent demise.) The fee is $20 which is used by the Irvington Community Association to provide gifts and grants to non-profits servicing the region. No children under 7 are allowed with the exception of infants in front carriers. Tickets can be obtained online or from several local merchants. Visit Caffe Destino, Broadway Books, The Architectural Heritage Center or http://www.irvingtonhometour.com/TourInfo.shtml.

Past Present & Future

BWNA Calendar

Sunday, May 1st • 10:00AM
King Farmers Market
(page seven)

Thursday, May 5th • 6:00PM-8:00PM
Growing with Music
(page ten)

Monday, May 9th • 7:00PM
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Conference Room
NE 37th Entrance

Thursday, May 12th • 3:00PM
Susie's Forest Project
NE Going and 33rd

Friday, May 13th • 5:00PM – 9:00PM
Second Friday on Fremont
(page six)

Sunday, May 15th • 11:00AM-5:00PM
Irvington Home Tour
(page three)

Saturday, May 21st • 9:00AM-1:00PM
Graffiti Cleanup
Bethany Lutheran Church
(page)

Friday, May 27th
Deadline for ads and articles
for the July-August 2011 newsletter

Friday, June 10th • 5:00PM – 9:00PM
Second Friday on Fremont
(page six)

Monday, June 13th • 7:00PM
BWNA Community Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
NE Skidmore Entrance

Friday, July 8th • 5:00PM – 9:00PM
Second Friday on Fremont
(page six)

Sunday, July 10th • TBA
Movie in the Park

Monday, July 11th • 7:00PM
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Conference Room
NE 37th Entrance

Tuesday, August 2nd • TBA
National Night Out at Wilshire Park

Saturday, August 6th • TBA
Fremont Fest

Sunday, August 28th • 12:00PM-6:00PM
42nd Street Fair
(page three)

Sunday, September 25th • 12:00PM-5:00PM
Sunday Parkways • Northeast
(page twelve)

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

NE Fremont St. Cell Tower Application Withdrawn

By Colin O'Neill

About a year and a half ago, neighbors in the vicinity of NE Fremont and Alameda received notification of plans to build a cell tower on Fremont St. adjacent to the Wilshire Market. From the first neighborhood meeting on the issue it was clear that a significant number of residents opposed this plan. Over the course of the next 18 months neighbors held firm in their opposition, covering the neighborhood in yard signs, meeting with City officials and scheduling public events to raise awareness of the issue facing neighborhoods across Portland. Hundreds of neighbors turned out at these meetings and events and contacted the City to let them know they expected them to do more to protect their communities.

RespectPDX was formed by a core group of Beaumont-Wilshire neighbors to advocate for a more respectful and responsible approach to siting cell towers in residential neighborhoods. The group expanded to include concerned Portlanders from all over the City. RespectPDX filed a legal challenge to the Fremont St. application arguing that in approving the location, the City had ignored its own ordinance. That case was about to be heard in County Court in late February, when neighbors were notified that Clearwire, the company who hoped to build the tower, had withdrawn its application for the site along with applications for other sites in residential neighborhoods.

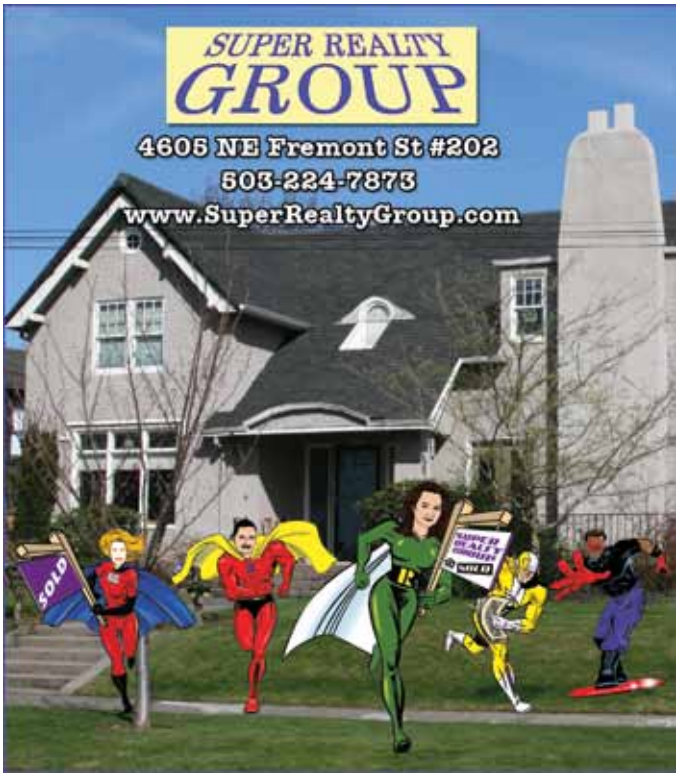
Clearwire is facing a number of significant business and legal issues that may have influenced their decision to withdraw, but the unified voice of Beaumont-Wilshire neighbors undoubtedly helped keep a number of planned cell towers from being built in front of people's homes. Neighbors have continued to have formal and informal discussions with various City Hall staff as well as participating at the City of Portland's Strategic Broadband Plan meetings. Applications may have been withdrawn, but Beaumont-Wilshire neighbors plan to continue advocating for an ordinance that regulates the placement of cell towers in a respectful and responsible way.

For more information on RespectPDX visit: www.RespectPDX.org

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Intersections

By Dave Anderson

A vestige of the Wild West remains on several streets in the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood and some residents want that to change.

Uncontrolled intersections – those without stop signs or other traffic control devices – are a constant worry, particularly in the area south of Fremont Street and east of 41st Avenue. John McLaren, who lives at Northeast 46th Avenue and Siskiyou Street, has seen four accidents in 11 years. In the worst, a young woman crashed into his sun room and tore out a section of fence.

"It's a concern of mine," McLaren said. "No one seems to know the law and they're going way too fast. It's amazing to me there aren't more accidents."

But the fact is there's no identified safety problem, said Scott Batson, a traffic engineer with the city's Transportation Bureau. City transportation experts believe that uncertainty caused by the unmarked intersections causes drivers to be more cautious.

According to city records, there has only been one crash at 46th and Siskiyou from 2005 to 2009, the most recent data. During that same time, there were three reported accidents at Klickitat and 46th, one at 45th and Klickitat, and four at Siskiyou and 45th, Batson said.

The city's threshold for considering a two-way stop is three reported crashes that could have been prevented with stop signs within a three-year period, said Eileen Dent of the Transportation Bureau's traffic investigations unit. Restricted views can also be a reason for adding a two-way stop.

One consideration is expense. It costs about $600 to put in a two-way stop, Batson said. In addition, there's evidence that drivers speed up between stop signs and the additional stopping and starting increases pollution. Stop signs also aren't effective at reducing speeding and some drivers will simply ignore them.

Rebecca Galloway, who lives at 46th and Klickitat, worries that businesses along Fremont are attracting drivers who are unfamiliar with the neighborhood and aren't aware some intersections are uncontrolled. The good news is that Klickitat Street will change later this year when it's converted to a bike boulevard. Except at major intersections such as 41st Avenue, stop signs will be put in at the numbered cross streets to allow bike traffic to flow along Klickitat.

Not all residents want stop signs. Kevin Parsons, who lives at 45th and Siskiyou, said he remembers only one accident in the 13 years he's been there and is OK with the uncontrolled intersection.

But those who get stop signs generally say the situation improves. About a year ago, the city added stop signs to uncontrolled intersections in the neighborhood west of 33rd Avenue, near Alameda Elementary. That was because only eight intersections out of about 36 in that area were uncontrolled and it completed a neighborhood stop plan, Batson said. If a majority of intersections have stop signs, the city may add two-way stops to the remaining intersections to avoid confusion.

Andrea Haack lives at one of those intersections, Northeast 29th Avenue and Siskiyou Street, and appreciated the two-way stop.

"I always prefer stop signs because people are crazy without them," Haack said. "Everyone seems so nervous or they're not nervous and they're jerks."

Ted Farthing, who also lives at the 29th and Siskiyou intersection, moved to Portland from New York and was astonished to find uncontrolled intersections, which he called a leftover from frontier days. He takes issue with the city's contention that uncontrolled intersections make drivers more cautious.

"That's ridiculous," Farthing said.

For the record, the Oregon Driver Manual requires drivers to look and yield the right of way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching from your right at the same time.

Residents who want to request a stop sign may call the city at 503.823.SAFE (7233).

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n.

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2nd Friday Celebrations

By Mandy Zelinka

The Beaumont neighborhood re-launches its 2nd Friday celebrations beginning Friday May 13th. For the Beaumont Business Association these have been years of immense growth, and they are set to resume 2nd Fridays on Fremont complete with an official re-branding effort. That is not to say that the events that have occurred thus far should be ignored, but the BBA has decided it is high time to become more official in their ventures.

They started off with a website last September (www.BeaumontBBA.com) and can be seen regularly via Facebook (Beaumont Business Association) and Twitter (@BeaumontBizPDX.) This August will be the 25th anniversary for Fremont Fest, with a budget that doubled from last year.

2nd Fridays are a chance for local vendors to rent sidewalk space, and businesses stay open later than usual. Also included are food and drink specials from restaurants, live music, and local artists. As warmer weather nears, additional farmer's market booths are expected to join in.

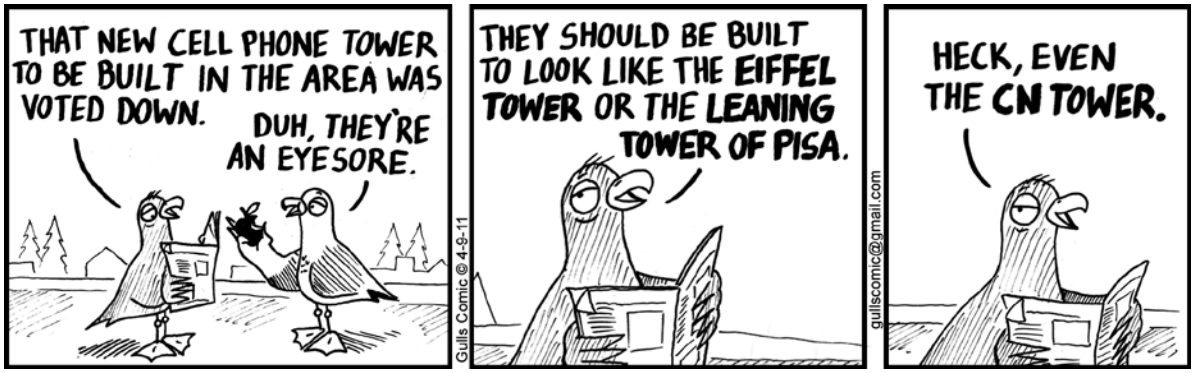


As stated by Cornelius Stewart at The Sentinal:

Beaumont Village is gaining a reputation for its bustling, unique assortment of businesses, including custom and digital print shop services, auto servicing, and optical sales and repair. Locals point to their favorite boutiques, card and gift shops, live jazz bistro bars and wine shops, premier cuisine, and family friendly vendors. Many will offer refreshments and markdowns with colorful sidewalk displays. Also in May a veteran Beaumont vendor will celebrate its 31st anniversary in the neighborhood: The Arrangement.

Beaumont Village boasts a hardware store, market, florist, and children's bookstore on its friendly, small town-style main street. With trendy shops and eateries, it's carving out its own upscale and family friendly atmosphere, suitable for strolling or exploring by bike. Coffee lovers enjoy cult Portland coffeehouses while window shoppers browse through a handful of antique shops and gift stores.

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King Farmers Market

By Deborah Pleva

Spring is slowly but surely coming, and with it comes the reopening of the popular King Portland Farmers Market! Our opening day for 2011 is Sunday, May 1 at 10AM. New vendors for 2011 include:

- Eatin' Alive, a bicycle powered mobile vending station that believes in harnessing raw energy in both transport and cooking. A Portland company, they use all organic, locally grown produce to create seasonal, freshly prepared raw snacks such as: seed and nut pates, wild crafted pesto, garden wraps, a variety of prepared salads, and delicious sweet treats.
- Good Natured Gardens, a small, family run vegetable and herb farm located on Sauvie Island that grows a wide verity of heirloom produce and seedlings using organic methods to insure the highest quality.
- KCK Farms, is a family owned and operated nursery in the heart of the Willamette Valley of Oregon offering fresh cut peonies, bare root, containerized trees and perennials.
- Trailhead Coffee Roasters, the bike-based Portland coffee roaster featuring coffees produced by women farmers and served from Trailhead's rolling bike cafe.

King Portland Farmers Market is located at NE 7th & Wygant between NE Alberta & NE Prescott — in the parking lot adjacent to King Elementary School. It is open every Sunday from May 1-October 30, 10:00AM-2:00PM.

In addition to shopping for farm-fresh produce, baked goods, meats, cheeses, seafood and other specialty foods, there is lots going on each Sunday! Here's a taste of what market-goers can find at King Market:

Get Growing: every Sunday in May. A hosted booth will be open from 10:00AM to 2:00PM where shoppers can bring plant starts (purchased from market vendors) to have them potted into container gardens free of charge.

Bite Size Kids Cook at the Market: the last Sunday of each month (May 29, June 26, July 31, August 28, September 25). Kids can cultivate their culinary skills and experience a cornucopia of farm-fresh foods though these free drop-in classes. Each month will center on a featured ingredient: radishes (May); greens (June); berries (July); summer squash (August); and tomatoes (September).

Fresh Exchange (formerly called Northeast Foodshare Fund) is back at King Market for the 2011 season. Fresh Exchange increases access to farm-direct fresh fruits and vegetables for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants while supporting local food producers. It provides a dollar-to-dollar match (up to $5) for all SNAP funds redeemed at the King Market. In 2010, this program distributed more than $20,000 to neighbors in need.

Don't forget...

BWNA Board Meeting
Monday, May 9th, 7:00PM

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

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Creating Community: Reviving neighborliness to improve your quality of life

By Darcy Hitchcock

Many people bemoan the fact that the United States has lost a sense of community. The book Bowling Alone chronicled what we have lost in our frenetic lifestyles. According to the author, communities with high social capital (another term for community) experience the following benefits:

- They resolve collective problems more easily
- They advance more smoothly and at a lower cost because of trusting relationships
- They have increased tolerance because there is an increased awareness of linked fates
- They have strong conduits for information exchange
- They experience improved well-being (illness, recovery from traumas, etc.)
- They have less violent crime
- They have more effective government and politics
- They experience more economic equality (which according to The Spirit Level, is tied to many other social benefits)

Who wouldn't want this? Unfortunately much of our society is going in the opposite direction. But it's not that hard to create a strong sense of community again. It just takes someone like you to get it started.

When my husband and I moved onto Failing Street, few people knew one another. I was disappointed because we moved to the city in part to have closer relationships. We had just recovered from a disaster that led us to realize that we didn't have a strong enough support network. I talked to some of the people on the street and most just shrugged. "People are busy," or "They have friends elsewhere" were common refrains. But I knew from personal experience that knowing you can count on your neighbors is important.

It took me about a year to draw up the courage to do something about this. Fortunately there were inklings that some on the block might share my desire; one family regularly hung out a flag on Friday nights in the summer to indicate a BYOB happy hour in their backyard. But I didn't feel comfortable barging into their backyard without an express invitation. Perhaps others felt the same way.

I decided to host a Northwest Earth Institute discussion course. It didn't matter what the topic was; I just wanted to lock some neighbors in a room long enough for them to discover community. Roughly eight households along our 5-block street agreed to participate. The course, as I recall, spanned 6 weeks with weekly discussions, hosted by a different member each time. One powerful practice was to start each meeting with an opening and offering. The opening was a short reading to get us all centered. That set the tone. Then someone shared an offering, something personal—an artifact of some type—explaining its significance. This was a great way to get to know people on a deeper level.

At the last class, the neighbors who participated all said this was so great, that we should keep meeting. It evolved into regular potlucks, which continue to this day. We laugh and eat good food; the kids know the neighbors by name so if they were ever in trouble, they would feel safe coming to our front doors to ask for help. Trust has built up such that many of us have keys to each other's houses. And when we have had a neighbor in need, we have rallied to help. One of our older neighbors got a compression fracture that might have landed her in a rehab facility; but instead, for a month until her kids could come help, one neighbor took her to the doctor, another got groceries, I cleaned the cat box. We have also come together to respond to a house fire, an act of vandalism, and noisy renters. Our email list makes it easy to organize a response to any problem. People use the list to get recommendations for contractors and other services. And when our old dog died, I got so many lovely cards and emails.

Even people who don't live here seem to know what we have built. One day a group of us were chatting on the sidewalk and a woman drove up, rolled down her window and said, "I understand everyone knows everyone on Failing Street. I'm looking for ____ who baby-sits. Do you know which house is hers?" Of course we did.

For years, people thanked me for getting this started (the same people who didn't seem bothered by the lack of community before). But I did it for me! I wanted to live in a lively and caring neighborhood where it can take an hour to get from one end of the street to the other because of all the conversations that spring up.

If you are hungry for a stronger and more supportive community, you can easily make it happen. It just takes one person to get it started. The catalyst needs to be more than a one-off event. A core group needs to get to know one another. That's why the discussion group format is so effective. You can check out the Northwest Earth Institute classes (www.nwei.org); or if reading fiction sounds like more fun, check out the novella and discussion course I wrote about sustainability called Dragonfly's Question: Principles for the Good Life after the Crash (http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/the-dragonflys-question/11051367. I'll even come kick off your discussion group. Just do something to get the ball rolling. You'll be glad you did.



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Emergency Preparedness – It's Up to You!

By Liz Johnston
Team Leader of Beaumont Wilshire Neighborhood Emergency Team, liz@keithcd.com

An editorial in the March 20, 2011, Oregonian, in reference to the Japan earthquake disaster partially stated: "It's up to each of us to stow away water and food, to know how to shut off the gas, to agree in calm conversations where we'll meet up to hunker down, wait things out – and lend each other a helping hand."

A group of about 15 Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) members have been active for many years since taking the Portland Office of Emergency Management's NET training. Through the course of our team meetings and discussions, our training has taught us to take care of ourselves first, then family and then community.

Experts continually advise us to do the simple things this editorial refers to. But have we? Is it really necessary? We know for a fact that for a period of time immediately following a major disaster, emergency services are overwhelmed. The more you can be individually prepared, the better you can sustain yourselves until resources are available and restored. Our team sees emergency preparedness as yet another ounce of prevention that we do not want to be without. If you lost electricity – could you find a flashlight in your house and fresh batteries? Have you stored water, safely, for you and your family: 1 gallon per person, per day, for 3 days, at a minimum. Do you know that once you do shut off the gas to your house that only a gas employee can turn it back on? Do you have an out-of-state contact, to the east (Idaho and eastward), that family can contact so they know you're okay? Do you have shoes beside your bed and maybe an old bike helmet that could be helpful if you have to navigate broken glass and scattered furnishings in your home?

Spending large sums of money is not necessary to be prepared. Go to respectable websites and learn about how YOU can be prepared. The Red Cross website has several good articles about emergency preparedness.

Take the NET training by registering at the Portland Office of Emergency Management. Right now the spring training has started and I know that the fall training is full. Until you are able to take a NET training, consider taking a first aid class. Put together necessary items in your kit that you wouldn't want to be without in any type of emergency (don't forget the chocolate!). Talk to your neighbors; get to know them. They will be a great resource and source of mutual comfort in emergency, big or small. Consider becoming a ham radio operator. And please remember to set aside emergency food and water for your pets.

The Beaumont NET team is a great community resource of educated and trained people (as best we can), who know the value of knowing your neighbors, and being prepared.

Help us, and your neighbors, by being prepared and storing emergency water, food and other supplies for you and your family.







Remodeling & Building Permits

By Ken R. Clark (Broker, RE/MAX equity group)

Warmer weather is here, and with it comes the sounds of hammers and saws ringing through the air. Yes, home improvement season is upon us once again. Here in Beaumont-Wilshire we are lucky to live in a neighborhood of beautifully preserved older homes, most of which were built in the 1920's, 30's and 40's. As a result, chances are good that if you have not already remodeled or updated certain aspects of your home, you most likely will at some point. It's a reality of living in an older home. The most common home improvement projects in our neighborhood include remodeling of kitchens and bathrooms, conversion of basements and attics into living space, or updating of mechanical systems. All of which require permits from the City of Portland Bureau of Development Services, regardless of whether you or a contractor does the work.

This is the part where people often roll their eyes and pretend that they didn't hear me say that last part about the permits. Obtaining the necessary permits and working thru the permit process admittedly can add time, expense, red tape, city inspections and the potential for increased frustration and headache. It also ensures that the work was performed safely, correctly, and that it meets the minimum code requirements. And it's the law. Many people simply don't take into consideration the long-term implications of skipping over the permit process. But I absolutely guarantee you that when you decide to cash in on all of your hard work & investment and put your home on the market, the first question a potential buyer or their agent, will ask is: "Was the lovely finished basement media room and new electrical panel installed with permits?" If the answer is no, be prepared to find that buyer, their agent as well as their lender unwilling to pay your asking price for a home with improvements that are of unknown integrity. And with good reason - improper workmanship can cause fires, floods and even structural failure. The permit process is there for a reason.

If you're contemplating a home improvement project, it's always a good idea to speak to someone at the Bureau of Development Services first. They offer regular Permit Nights with extended hours, geared towards homeowners, and even the opportunity to consult with a building inspector to find out exactly what is required for your specific project. Their website (www.portlandonline.com/bds) is also filled with good information and is a good resource. Happy home improving!

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Growing with Music

By Thea Sanchez

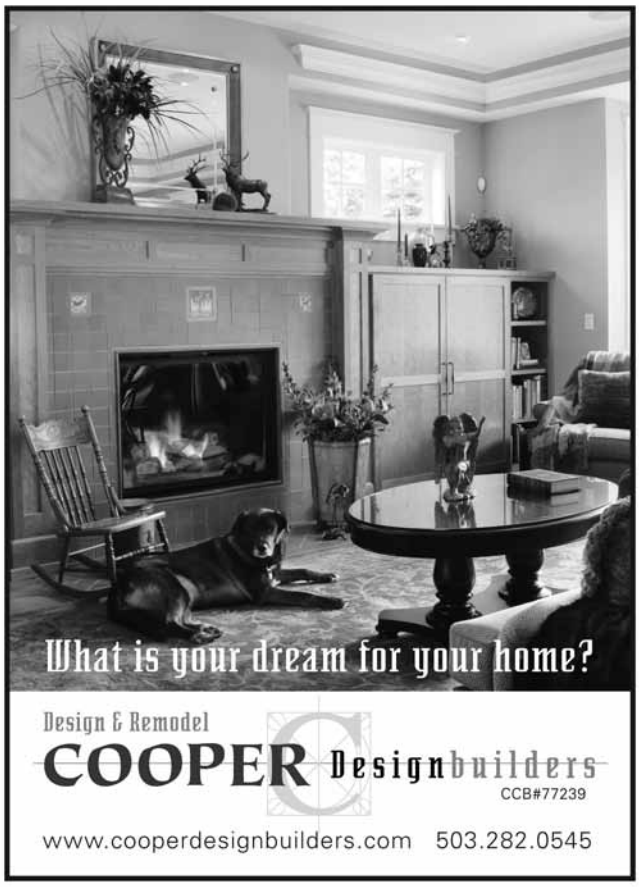
Celebrate 12 years of bringing music and movement to at-risk children.

Support Growing with Music Spring fundraiser
Where: Garden Fever Nursery
Located at 3433 NE 24th, Portland, Oregon
Thursday, May 5th 2011 6:00PM to 8:00PM

An evening to benefit Growing with Music. No ticket fee but a great opportunity to buy your spring plants – flowers or vegetable. For more information about the evening or about Growing with Music, please call Anne Clark 503.282.1839 or growingwithmusic@yahoo.com.

Great selection of tomato starts. Purchase raffle tickets for a basket of garden related goodies and a $100.00 gift certificate to Garden Fever. Growing with Music is a small non-profit, doing big work with young children and their moms.

Anne Clark leads weekly classes in music and movement with teen moms and moms in recovery and their young children. Anne brings enthusiasm and her instruments to the women and children where they live. Through the structured music and dance, the mothers and their children learn and have fun together. The activities have been selected to enhance brain development, strengthen parenting skills as well as attachment and bonding. The activities in the classes offered by Growing with Music can also reduce child abuse. The fundraising event will focus on gardening, plant information, raffles, music and food.



Radon and The Alameda Ridge

By Kathy Mollere

There has been increased attention on the issue of radon in homes on the Alameda Ridge. Many people probably saw the report on KPTV news on April 5th addressing the issue particularly for Alameda Ridge, referred to as "Radon Ridge" in the broadcast. For some this appears to be a new issue to consider. Actually radon is present in some level all throughout the greater Portland Metro area.

What is radon? It is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is the decay product of radium, an element found commonly in granite bedrock. As this gas decays, it releases particles that can harm lung tissue. Radon is considered the leading cause of lung cancer in non smokers. As this gas seeps up from the soil it enters homes through cracks and holes in slabs, crawlspaces and basement foundations. Since it is odorless and tasteless there is no way to detect it without testing. Radon is measured in pCi/L or picocuries per liter of air. For test results above 4 pCi/L it is strongly recommended that remediation be done.

Testing is easy to do. Since the gases collect in the lowest part of the home, simple passive test kits should be placed in the 1st floor or basement. The kits can be purchased at hardware stores or at the National Radon Program Services on the EPA Website. The short term test kits cost between $10 and $15 dollars. The readings are then sent to a lab for analysis. If the readings are above the recommended levels, remediation should be handled by a certified mitigation specialist. Mitigation typically costs less than $2000. It usually involves placing piping and an inline fan underneath the basement floor or crawl space and rerouting the radon laden air around the living area and releasing it into the atmosphere above the home.

Just as every homeowner or prospective home buyer already knows about sewer scopes and oil tank decommissioning, radon testing is a common sense due diligence activity.

For a pdf of radon concentrations by zip code in the Portland area just email me at Kathy@SuperRealtyGroup.com.

Date Changed! Beaumont Business Association Members:

The Beaumont Business Association General Meeting scheduled for April 12th has been cancelled. Join us for our next BBA General Meeting to be held on May 10th, 6:30PM at Amalfi's. We hope to present the final drafts for the upcoming Banner Flags for your vote. Happy Easter! Rebecca Lehman, President-Beaumont Business Association

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BWNA and City Join Forces for Graffiti Cleanup

by Al Ellis

It's an ongoing struggle in every neighborhood: the battle against graffiti vandals who deface public and private property alike, spoiling at will, like animals driven to mark their territory. Even works of art, like the lovely community mural in Wilshire Park's pavilion, are not immune from their mindless destruction. But Beaumont-Wilshire neighbors are poised to strike back. Thanks to a collaborative effort by BWNA and the Graffiti Abatement Director Marcia Dennis (503-823-5860), an army of residents and graffiti abatement contractors will unite on the morning of Saturday, May 21st, to do what they can to repair the damage.

Here's the plan:

1.) Obviously, the greater the turnout by BW residents, the more effective the cleanup. In order for the City to know how much graffiti cleaning supplies to bring, an approximate count of participants is needed. (Children may join in as well, as long as they're accompanied by parent or guardian.) If you haven't notified BWNA already of your intention to participate, RSVP to BWNA President Al Ellis at your earliest convenience. (apelainjoy@aol.com/503.287.0477)

2.) In order to maximize the efficiency of the cleanup, a list of neighborhood graffiti sites needs to be compiled ahead of time. Prior to May 14th (a week before the cleanup), report neighborhood graffiti sightings to Al Ellis, and Al will send the full list to Marcia Dennis.

3.) On the morning of May 21st, meet at Bethany Lutheran Church (corner of 37th & Skidmore, across from the park) between 8:30AM and 8:45AM for coffee & donuts, followed by instructions and distribution of graffiti abatement supplies. The cleanup lasts from 9:00AM to 1:00PM.

Send a message to the bad guys: We care about preserving our beautiful neighborhood!



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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The Sunday Parkways 2011 dates and locations are out!

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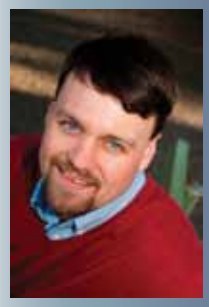
May 22 – East Portland • June 26 – North Portland • July 24 – NW/Downtown Portland • August 28 – Southeast Portland • September 25 – Northeast Portland

Just remember – the fun happens on the 4th Sunday of the month, May – September! NEW TIMES: May-August, 11AM - 4PM • September, Noon - 5PM

Change is in the air – except this will still be one of the best events of the year.

So join us in having some good old fashion fun in 2011! Pass it on. . . The Portland Sunday Parkways Team

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