

BWNA

Newsletter of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association

Fremont Holiday Fest

Tree lighting, Santa and Mrs. Claus, unique crafts and gifts!

Friday, December 4th
4 PM to 7 PM

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ASSOCIATION

November-December 2026

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MEETING IN THE MIDDLE

by Al Ellis, BWNA Board President

It's election season, with candidates across the political spectrum — from democratic socialists on the left to Christian nationalists on the right — and everywhere in between. Inevitably some with wildly opposing views will end up as legislative colleagues, which begs the question: Is it possible for such staunch ideological adversaries to find common ground? That thought brought these lyrics to mind:

Will you meet me in the middle?
Will you meet me in the air?

Excerpted from the 1975 hit "Sister Golden Hair" by the soft rock group America, these lines from the refrain refer to a guy who is not "ready for the altar" yet desirous of romance with a lady who is ready. His questions are an effort to find common ground with her via compromise ("meet me in the middle") in which she will love him "just a little, just enough to show you care" without marital commitment ("meet me in the air"), although he may be wavering ("I just can't live without you.")

Sustainability in politics, as in romance, is linked to finding common ground between opposing viewpoints. That said, polarization is hard to overcome.

Take for example the matter of whether to make Beaumont Crossing — the public plaza on 44th and Fremont — a permanent fixture. On one hand, there are residents and businesses, primarily in the vicinity of the plaza, who have been strongly opposed to the project's summer trial run from the get-go, anxious about reduced parking, increased noise, and other potential problems. On the other hand, hundreds of B-W residents and most Fremont businesses have been enthusiastically supportive of the plaza, feeling it has fulfilled its purpose as a mid-neighborhood nexus for outdoor gatherings and scheduled events.

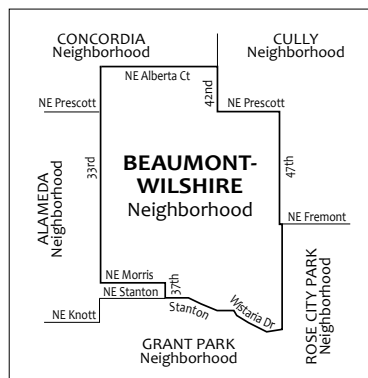
So, is a compromise possible somewhere "in the middle" on this controversy? Depends on where "the middle" ends up, but it should surely involve a recognition of the maxim: "The greatest good for the greatest number." That approach must, however, be coupled with the commitment by BWNA to work with the Beaumont Business Association and PBOT to prioritize mitigation of the concerns expressed by nearby neighbors and businesses.

As the holiday season unfolds may common ground and civility prevail.

We hope you'll remember to

SHOP LOCAL

this holiday season!



NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION

NE 33rd to 47th Avenue between NE Alberta Court and Prescott on the north and NE Morris, Stanton, and Wistaria Drive on the south.

2,700 copies printed and hand-delivered to residents and businesses six times per year: Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., & Nov.

Readership estimated at 6,000.

The BWNA newsletter is produced and distributed in its entirety by volunteers!

OUR ORGANIZATION

BWNA Board

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Al Ellis (503) 287-0477
President@BWNApdx.org

Vice-President

Tim Gillespie gillespie@teleport.com

Secretary

Patti Koehler (971) 678-0824

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Karla Lenox (503) 686-5915
Treasurer@BWNApdx.org

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Tom Cuppernull	Colin O'Neill
Angela Frome	Tim Root
Crystal Grainger	John Sandie
David Knowles	Susan Trabucco

Immediate Past President

Patty Nelson (503) 281-8035

Related Organizations

Beaumont Business Association

beaumontbusinesses@gmail.com
Mary Myers, President
bbboardpresident@gmail.com

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

Board Liaison: Patty Nelson

Areas of Interest

Residents are encouraged to participate.
Contact committee chairs for details.

Communication

Steve Avery, chair
hello@stevenavery.com

Crime Prevention and Safety

Bill Markwart, co-chair (503) 282-4610
Patty Nelson, co-chair (503) 281-8035

Events

John Sandie, chair (219) 508-4162

Friends of Wilshire Park

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Tim Root, chair root.timothy@gmail.com

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Transportation

Graeme Rudd, chair
pdx.stmptwn@gmail.com

Website (BWNApdx.org)

Steven Avery, chair and webmaster
hello@stevenavery.com

CAN YOU HELP?

by Susan Trabucco, BWNA Board Member & Newsletter Editor

I believe it is wholly accurate to state that BWNA is a thriving — and growing — neighborhood association. That is great news, of course! With more projects, events, and activities, however, comes the need for more volunteer help. If any of the roles described here are up your proverbial alley, please contact the person indicated.

► Are You an Experienced (or Natural) Fundraiser?

We're looking to establish a BWNA fundraising committee so we can continue and expand upon our community events and projects. We're seeking folks from the neighborhood who have creative fundraising ideas and the capacity to help implement them! A committee chair is also needed.

► Marketing and Graphics Wizards Needed

Neighborhood events are awesome, are they not? We think so too, but we need someone to write event marketing copy for our website, fliers, Eventbrite, signage, and ads for our newsletter and Community Update. Ideally, anyone helping with marketing copy would meet regularly with the Events Committee to gain the best understanding of event features and details.

High-quality, BWNA-branded graphic design makes informational or marketing copy stand out. We have some coverage here, but more assistance or backup for our graphic design volunteer would be appreciated. While we sometimes work in Adobe InDesign, we're working to shift more design work to the Canva platform to increase our ability to share working files.

► Seeking Newsletter Copy Editor

We are in need of a copy editor for the newsletter. If you have experience writing and editing in MS Word, are comfortable with Dropbox, and would like to help out a few hours every two months, we'd love to hear from you. FYI, we follow Associated Press guidelines for editing the newsletter.

If you have skill or interest in any of the above volunteer roles, please contact Newsletter Editor Susan Trabucco by emailing Editor@BWNApdx.org or calling (503) 440-7732.

► Help With New Website

Now that the new website is live, we could use another pair of hands to keep it current. If you have web experience and/or writing skills, or just an eye for spotting things that need fixing, get in touch with our webmaster, Steve Avery, by emailing hello@stevenavery.com.

► Friends of Wilshire Park

There's interest in reviving the FoWP committee. If you'd like to get involved, email committee chair Mary Roney at friendsofwilshirepark@gmail.com.

For more information about other volunteer opportunities, visit BWNApdx.org and click "Get Involved." Check out the "Committees" section, too.

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NEWS BITS

FROM THE EDITOR

Public Plaza's Future Under Review

Beaumont Crossing, the public plaza on NE 44th at Fremont Street, was dismantled in late September at the conclusion of its three-month trial period. For a period of two weeks before the closing to two weeks after, PBOT conducted an online survey to understand the

effects of the plaza. Survey results will be included in a report published by PBOT (not yet released at the time of this writing). A summary of the report and a link to the full version will be included in the January-February 2027 newsletter and our monthly emailed Community Updates. Subscribe at BWNApdx.org to receive them.

If the PBOT evaluation reveals widespread neighborhood support, there would be an opportunity to reinstall Beaumont Crossing as a full-fledged part of PBOT's street plaza program in 2027.

Inner Eastside Zoning Online Survey Available

The Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) launched neighborhood outreach efforts this fall to get input from residents and businesses on the Inner Eastside Zoning Project. The project could potentially bring multistory residential and commercial buildings into our residential neighborhood. Register your opinions on land use and housing by taking BPS's online survey at tinyurl.com/2s4bksjh. For more information about the project and to sign up for project updates, visit tinyurl.com/mswkwax6.

The study area extends roughly from 12th to 60th and from NE Fremont to SE Powell and encompasses a sizable portion of Beaumont-Wilshire. BPS will report its findings to Portland City Council in summer 2028.

BWNA's (Awesome) New Website

BWNA has moved into the light ages with a new, recently launched website. Steve Avery, chair of BWNA's Communication Committee, developed the new site. Enhancements bring greater functionality to the website, including full site searchability. Yes, you'll now be able to search the newsletter archives and more! Also new is an events calendar, plus all Community Updates, emailed monthly to subscribers, can be found on the site. Check it out at BWNApdx.org.

BWNA Bylaws Review at November 9 Meeting

To allow public input on several BWNA bylaw revisions, proposed changes will be presented for a vote at BWNA's Nov. 9 board meeting. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Sylvan Learning, 4300 NE Fremont St. Proposed changes include clarifying who is eligible to vote in elections, when two-year board member terms start after an election, and removing the distinction between general meetings and board meetings. See what will change and why by visiting BWNApdx.org/bylaws/proposed-changes.

Film Crew Lights Up Neighborhood

Black tents lining the east side of Wilshire Park on NE 37th Avenue accommodated a crew filming the movie "Hasaan Hates Portland" earlier this fall. Production of the feature film occurred south of the park at a residence on NE 37th and Alameda. "Hasaan Hates Portland" began as a web series in 2024 and won Best Web Series at the Oscar-qualifying Hollyshorts film festival.

Have (Too Much) Fruit Every Year?

Do you hate the waste that comes when plums, peaches, or apples are too high in the tree to pick easily so they later rot on the ground? Over abundance of grapes and berries? Fruit trees need

pruning, but you don't know how to do it? The nonprofit Portland Fruit Tree Project can help solve these problems.

Portland Fruit Tree Project board member Michelle Haberlach spoke at the Sept. 14 BWNA board meeting, telling those in attendance that the organization's volunteers pick fruit for you, donate that which you don't want to area food banks, and even send trained folks out to prune your trees or teach you how for easier picking in the future and better productivity. Harvest help is free; for tree services, inquire about their sliding-scale pricing options.

So don't wait. Tree pruning needs to be done in the winter months. For more information or to register your fruit trees for harvest, visit portlandfruit.org/services or email treecare@portlandfruit.org.

COVID Learning Pod Returns as a Permanent In-Home Montessori Preschool

After five years leading large classrooms in two established local Montessori schools, Beaumont-Wilshire resident Sarah Anderson recently opened Seedpod Montessori, a small learning community for children ages 2½ to 5 in her home in B-W. Sarah cofounded Seedpod with another mom as a homeschool for their children during Covid. According to a press release, she's made her home a light-filled, welcoming space for young learners.

Sarah holds a MEd degree in Montessori studies and an AMI Primary diploma from Montessori Northwest. If you are looking for a small, home-based learning environment for your child, you can find more information at seedpodmontessori.com.

BWNA BOARD & GENERAL MEETINGS

Mon, Nov. 9 @ 7 p.m.: Board meeting

Mon, Dec. 14 @ 7 p.m.: General meeting

Meetings are held at Sylvan Learning, 4300 NE Fremont, Ste 150; check the Upcoming Events page on BWNA website for Zoom link.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Events

Tues., Nov. 3 @ 7 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 1 @ 7 p.m.

For meeting location, contact committee chair John Sandie via SandieFam@gmail.com

Communication

For meeting date and location, contact committee chair

Steven Avery via

Hello@StevenAvery.com

Newsletter Team

Meets every other month.

For details email Susan Trabucco via Editor@BWNApdx.org

ARTICLES & ADS

Articles

We invite you to write for the newsletter or submit an opinion piece or letter to the editor or board.

Email Editor@BWNApdx.org

Advertising

Ads are accepted as space allows.

For ad rates and instructions, visit BWNApdx.org/ad-rates

Deadlines: We publish the 1st of Jan., March, May, July, Sept. & Nov. Preapproved articles & ads must be submitted by the 1st of the month PRIOR to publishing date. Submit articles to Editor@BWNApdx.org

NET VOLUNTEERS GEARED TO BE **EARLY EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

by Tim Gillespie, BWNA Vice President & Newsletter Team



As part of that educational function, Lawson shared her goal of starting a series of regularly scheduled informal meetings to offer advice on preparedness, pass along resources, encourage people to have block registries, and generally help Beaumont-Wilshire neighbors be ready for The Big One.

Stay tuned for more details about these gatherings in the new year. If you have questions for our NET team, email Lawson at bec@friendsofportlandnet.org.

BWNA board member Tim Gillespie was a public school teacher in the Portland area for almost four decades. A poet and essayist, he has lived with his family in Beaumont-Wilshire since 1979.



Tim Gillespie

“**W**hen the earthquake happens in Portland, it’s going to be like 1850 again,” said Bec Lawson, volunteer team leader of the Beaumont-Wilshire/Alameda Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET), when she spoke at our association’s Sept. 14 meeting. “When first responders are unable to get out and help people, your neighbors are going to be your best friends.”

Portland’s long-standing NETs program trains volunteer Portlanders to be prepared for citywide or regional emergencies — major storms, floods, fires, or, most notably, earthquakes — when firefighters, police, and rescue crews may be thwarted by impassable streets and bridges, inoperable communications networks, or overwhelming calls for help. In extreme cases, citizens need to be prepared to be self-sufficient for up to two weeks. That’s where NETs come in.

The 1,300 NET members in Portland receive extensive training from Portland Fire & Rescue and the city’s Bureau of Emergency Management about saving lives and property until professional responders can arrive “to do the most good for the most people in a big emergency,” Lawson explained. They are also responsible for providing emergency planning and training in their own neighborhoods.

Introducing BWNA Garden Tour Hosts for 2027



B-W neighbors, friends, and gardening aficionados Kelly Thompson, left, and Mary Roney, have stepped up to be co-organizers of the 2027 Art & Garden Tour, an important BWNA fundraising event. If you’d like your garden to be considered for next year’s tour, please email KellyDery@icloud.com or MaryRoney643@gmail.com.





UPCOMING EVENTS

November 16 (Monday) 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Intro to Northeast Village PDX

Location: Rose City Park United Methodist Church,
5860 NE Alameda St. (conference room)
Use glass-door entrance on NE Alameda;
free parking in church lot

Want to learn about a vibrant and engaging community of older adults (60+) in northeast Portland? At this informational session you'll learn how you (or someone you love) can become a member and/or volunteer at NE Village PDX. The Village creates connections, shares skills and expertise, and provides services to members such as rides, help with yard work, tech support, and rightsizing advice, along with a variety of social activities and educational programs. The event is free and open to the public. Northeast Village PDX is a program of the Northeast Community Center. For more info call (503) 895-2750 or email info@nevillagepdx.org.

December 4 (Friday) 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Fremont Holiday Fest

Location: Beaumont Village from NE 41st to NE 50th Avenue
Join in the seasonal spirit at Fremont Holiday Fest, sponsored by the Beaumont Business Association (BBA). This festive

neighborhood celebration is a chance to see friends, support local businesses, shop for unique crafts and gifts, and kick off the holiday season together.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at Nectar Frozen Yogurt Lounge for photos starting at 4 p.m. An appointment is required; sign-ups begin November 21 at bbapdx.org. The celebration will also feature a festive tree lighting, bringing the community together to officially light up the holiday season on Fremont Street!

December 5 (Saturday) 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Weihnachtsmarkt German-Style Christmas Market

Location: German American Society, 5626 NE Alameda St.
Enjoy holiday warmth and Gemütlichkeit (cozy comfort) at this annual event hosted by the German American Society. Find Local artisans, authentic German crafts, fresh-baked holiday sweets, traditional German food, and warm Glühwein, a classic German mulled wine. (See ad on page 12.)

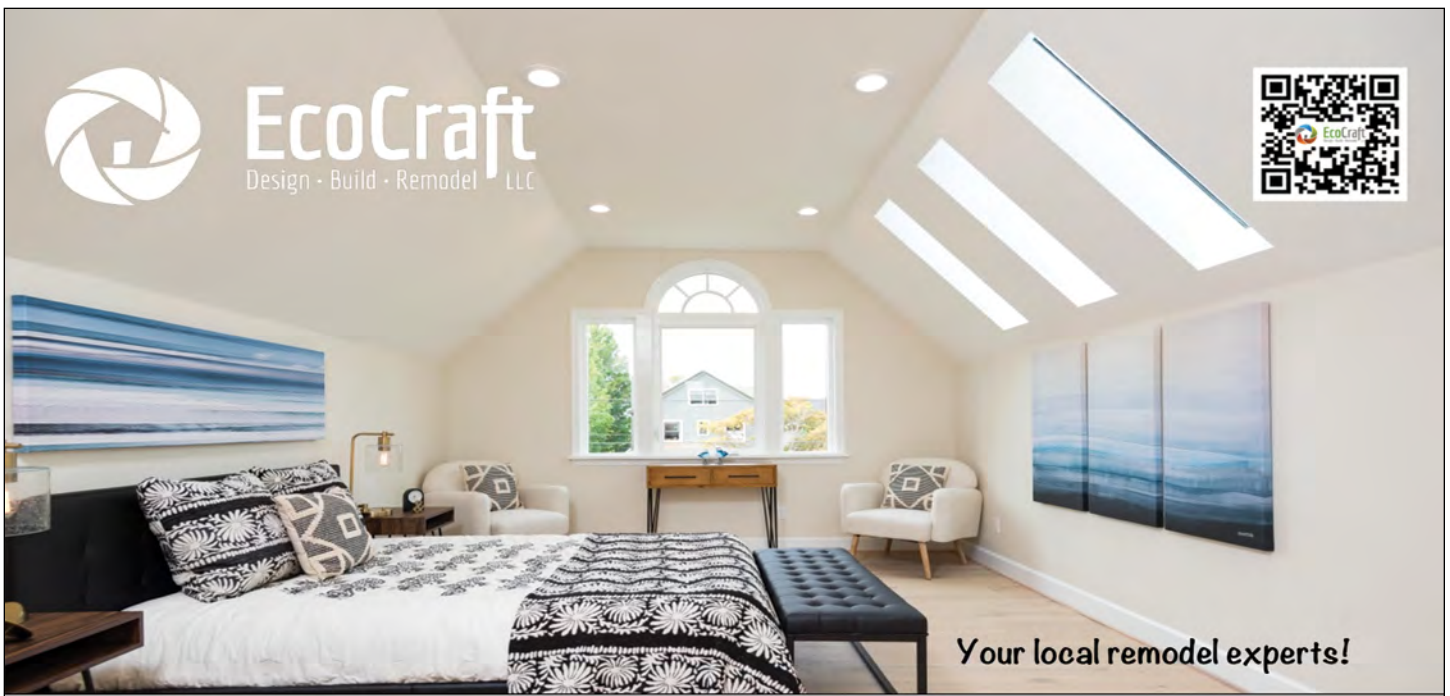


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TRANSPORTATION CHAIR SEEKS INPUT

by Graeme Rudd, BWNA Transportation Committee Chair

Hi neighbors, I'm Graeme Rudd. I recently volunteered to support BWNA as its Transportation Committee chair, and I'd like to introduce myself and share what I've been working on.

A Little About Me

I spent about 14 years in federal service, mostly in the military. I served as a Green Beret, including time with a technology lab and as an intelligence analyst working with geographic information systems (GIS). This background shapes my approach: I like to start with a clear picture of what's happening on the ground.

Why I'm Doing This

We often hear there's no money for the transportation improvements our neighborhood needs. But there may be funding allocations or programs out there to help meet those needs. So, my first goal is simple: to understand our neighborhood's transportation picture and find out what resources might be available.

What I've Been Working On

I've had two helpful conversations with representatives from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), who pointed me to data that clarified our neighborhood's transportation realities and where to dig deeper. I've started putting that data onto an interactive map showing:

- B-W neighborhood greenways (streets that prioritize people walking, bicycling, and rolling).
- Roads on the city's High Crash Network (HCN), which includes NE Fremont Street. Visit this PBOT page for more info about Portland's HCN: tinyurl.com/4c2p787y.
- Safe Routes to School (safe, accessible routes for students).
- Intersections that crash data shows are most dangerous.

My hope is to build this into something neighbors can explore so we share an understanding of our current baseline and where improvements are needed. View the map on our website at BWNApdx.org/transportation-map.

Where This Could Lead

With a clearer picture, I'd like to see whether our needs line up with existing programs, such as Safe Routes to School, that could help fund improvements. At a minimum, this work should help us

show PBOT and our elected representatives where our neighborhood needs the most help.

How You Can Be Part of It

Data only tells part of the story. I'm working with other committee members on ways to gather community input so we can advocate for what the neighborhood needs most, backed by data and your insights.

I'll share more as the map comes together. Meanwhile, if you have thoughts about transportation in the neighborhood, I'd love to hear them. Email me at pdx.stmptwn@gmail.com.

Graeme Rudd spent about 14 years in the military with multiple deployments overseas. During his service he was assigned to a military lab that assessed new and emerging technology, which is how he entered the Cybersecurity and Deep Tech space. He later attended Lewis & Clark Law School and earned his JD (Juris Doctor) degree, then co-founded two businesses focused on new and emerging technologies. After over a decade as a geographic nomad, he looks forward to raising his family in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood.



Graeme Rudd

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VOLUNTEER VOICES

ANGELA FROME

compiled by Polly Webber, BWNA Newsletter Team



BWNA values its many neighborhood volunteers, including board members, committee members, newsletter delivery folks, and those who can help only occasionally. In this edition, we talk with Angela Frome, BWNA board member.

Tell us a little about yourself. How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

I grew up in this community, and my family has lived here for generations. I raised my own family here, too. This is home.

Is there a memorable moment from volunteering that stands out?

I'm especially proud of helping bring the pedestrian flag project to our neighborhood, organizing graffiti cleanups, supporting our neighborhood seniors, our fun events, and participating in beautification events. Seeing neighbors coming together to make a visible difference is incredibly rewarding. I'm also grateful for the dedicated board members I have the privilege of serving alongside.

What's one thing you'd love to see happen in our neighborhood over the next few years?

I'd love to see our multigenerational community become even more connected. I'm passionate about keeping our neighborhood clean, safe, and a place where families create lasting memories. I also hope we continue creating opportunities for neighbors to connect, build friendships, and reduce social isolation, especially for our older adults and those who may feel disconnected. Everyone has something valuable to contribute, and together we can keep our neighborhood thriving for generations to come.

VOLUNTEER • DO GOOD • MEET PEOPLE • HAVE FUN!

Polly Webber is a real estate agent with Cascade Hasson Sotheby's. She was born and raised in Beaumont-Wilshire. She lives in the home her grandparents once owned, next door to the house she grew up in — where her mother still lives — making her a lifelong member of our close-knit community.



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SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE!

compiled by Susan Trabucco, BWNA Board Member and Newsletter Editor

You may already have favorite charities to which you give. If not, here are a few ideas for helping out locally, most of which were submitted by BWNA board members last year, when we first published this list. Thank you for giving this holiday season and beyond!

FOOD

St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, svdppdx.org

Helps thousands of people a year to maintain housing, keep utilities on, and get emergency food boxes.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon – NE Emergency Food Program

emoregon.org/nefp

Meets the urgent food needs of our Portland metro area neighbors, primarily those living in east Portland.

Oregon Food Bank, oregonfoodbank.org

Distributes free food to anyone experiencing food insecurity.

Portland Food Project, portlandfoodproject.org

Has neighborhood coordinators who pick up food from about 1,600 households and distribute it to local food pantries, five of which are in NE Portland.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

Portland Community Warehouse, communitywarehouse.org

Provides donated furniture and household items to those seeking the comfort and dignity of a furnished home while overcoming adversity.

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Habitat for Humanity Portland Region habitatportlandregion.org

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Street Roots, streetroots.org

Produces a street newspaper focused on homelessness, poverty, and social justice issues. Vendors, who are jobless and/or homeless, sell the newspaper as a means of earning income.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Prosper Global (formerly Mercy Corps), prosperglobal.org

Supports people undergoing economic, environmental, social, and political instability. In Oregon, the focus of this Portland-based organization is helping low-income entrepreneurs overcome barriers to starting and maintaining a small business.

YOUTH

Beaumont Middle School PTA Family Resiliency Fund,

beaumont-family-resiliency-fund.cheddarup.com

Offers, through the PTA, support for students at BMS who are experiencing emergencies that may impact their overall well-being and ability to be successful in school.

Portland Youth Builders, pybpdx.org

Has helped thousands of young people change their lives through a combination of vocational training, counseling, career development, and long-term support.

New Avenues for Youth, newavenues.org

Portland-based nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of youth homelessness for young people ages 9 to 24.



SERVING THE BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE COMMUNITY SINCE 2003



Jim Arnal

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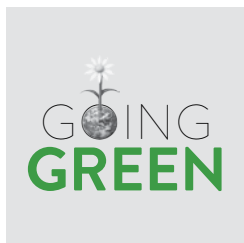
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TIPS FOR KEEPING HOLIDAY TRAPPINGS OUT OF THE LANDFILL

by Liz Erickson, BWNA Newsletter Team



The holiday season brings many things into and out of your home: packages delivered, gifts wrapped, and boxes opened. What to do with it all? Here's are some tips to help you reduce the amount of waste you send to the landfill.

■ **Buying:** Rather than ordering gifts online, consider buying from local stores, including second-hand shops. This supports our local economy and reduces transportation costs and emissions.

■ **Wrapping Paper:** Not all wrapping paper can be recycled. Paper with glitter or foil is not recyclable and should be thrown away. Paper-based wrap can be recycled. Remove ribbons and bows and stash them away for reuse. Instead of single-use paper, wrap gifts with a piece of cloth or a reusable cloth bag, then tie with a ribbon.

■ **Packaging:** Paper mailing envelopes can be recycled curbside. Plastic and bubble mailing envelopes do not go in your curbside recycling but can be dropped off at most grocery stores. Cardboard boxes can be reused, but when they're ready for recycling, please break them down.

■ **Styrofoam:** While it's not recyclable curbside, it can be dropped off at Green Century Recycling in northwest Portland. Fees apply.

■ **Batteries:** Batteries are a huge problem in the garbage and recycling system! Please keep them out of your garbage and blue recycling carts. To dispose of them properly, tape the ends of all non-alkaline batteries, place them in a clear sealed bag, and put them in your curbside glass bin or find a drop-off location.

■ **Ridwell:** This subscription service often accepts non-curbside recyclable materials like Styrofoam, plastic bags, and plastic film.

Enjoy all that this season sends your way! And when in doubt about how to dispose of something — find out! For more information, try this handy search tool on Metro's website tinyurl.com/yb7cxyn8 or call (503) 234-3000 to talk to a helpful human.

Liz Erickson has lived in the neighborhood with her husband and two children since 2009. Growing up in Beaverton, she remembers visiting grandparents on NE 42nd and walking to Rose's Ice Cream for a scoop of butter brickle. She's a Master Recycler volunteer with Metro and served in the Peace Corps in Morocco.



Liz Erickson

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3RD ANNUAL SKIDMORE BLOCK PARTY BRINGS CROWD, FOOD, FRIVOLITY

by Susan Trabucco, BWNA Board Member & Newsletter Editor

Hundreds of people were drawn to Skidmore Street adjacent to Wilshire Park for an early evening event on Sept. 11. The third annual BWNA Skidmore Block Party offered the music of local band Stone Pepper, food carts, an a cappella performance by the Grant High School Royal Blues, a Kids' Zone, and a photo booth. While it's difficult to say what activity was the star of the show this year, safe money would be on the photo booth that came with dress-up options.

Scores of excited kiddos adorned in colorful feather boas, floppy hats, and wild sunglasses posed to have their picture professionally taken by Beaumont-Wilshire resident John Thompson, owner of **Light & Lens Images**. For kicks, giggles, and smiles, look through all the delightful photos at tinyurl.com/yc6v87s2. You can download a digital copy of your favorites for only \$2 each and order prints starting at \$3; all proceeds will be donated to BWNA. Thank you, John and wife, Kelly, for your generosity and for providing loads of fun for kids and families.

In another show of generosity, **pFriem** beer was not allowed to give away full cans of beer this year due to new liquor permit restrictions, so they sold them to thirsty eventgoers for \$3 per can. The twist? pFriem then donated its take at the event back to the neighborhood association — a very generous contribution considering well over 400 cans of beer were sold. Thank you, pFriem!

Neighbors **Sven Hansen** and **Melanie Quinn**, BWNA's new block party organizers this year, had been unable to attend the event the last two years. Regardless, they stepped forward to organize it with the support of BWNA's Events Committee. Their months-long volunteer effort involved securing a variety of permits with the City of Portland, contracting with the musicians, and arranging for the overhead lighting, street barricades, and food trucks. Many thanks to Sven and Melanie!

MORE BUSINESSES & PEOPLE TO THANK!

Event Sponsors

The generosity of our event sponsors listed on page 15 resulted in BWNA's ability to cover the \$3,200 in event expenses. Donations received in excess of expenses will go to BWNA coffers for funding future neighborhood events, activities, and projects.

Raffle Donors

Many thanks to these Beaumont Village businesses who donated gift certificates for a raffle:

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The certificates, arranged in a basket with a couple of other small items, brought the value to over \$300. Sales of raffle tickets brought BWNA nearly \$500. Raffle donors — your support of our neighborhood is evident by your generosity — thank you!

Event Volunteers and Assisting Organizations

The event was made possible by a bevy of volunteers from the BWNA's Events Committee, board, and others in the community. **Sven Hansen** and **Melanie Quinn** organized the block party; **Kay Hansen** managed the Kids' Zone; and **John Sandie**, **Steve Sandie**, **Angela Frome**, **Al Ellis**, **Karla Lenox**, **Rob Lee**, **Patti Koehler**, **Kate Krider**, **Tim Gillespie**, **Susan Trabucco**, **Ayumi Angel**, and **Tim Root** all stepped in wherever they were needed to help make the party a success.

Once again this year, **Boy Scout Troop 107** delivered and picked up tables and chairs loaned to the event by **Great Spirit United Methodist Church**.



Folks from pFriem Beer "wo-manned" the beer booth this year. From left, Eva Kwitman, Bea Kwitman, Lila White, and pFriem co-owner Sonya White. Photo by Susan Trabucco.



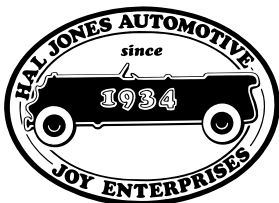
This year's BWNA block party organizers were Melanie Quinn and Sven Hansen. Photo by Susan Trabucco.



Light & Lens Images set up a photo booth at the block party, attracting hordes of enthusiastic children looking to “glam it up” with the props provided.

You can see all the delightful photos at tinyurl.com/yc6v87s2 and download a digital copy of your favorites for only \$2 each or order prints starting at \$3. Light & Lens Images is generously donating all proceeds from the sale of photos to BWNA!

The winner of a raffle at the block party that raised nearly \$500 for BWNA was Cully resident Katie Myszka, who was thrilled to win a basket of items valued at over \$300. It contained gift certificates from several Beaumont Village businesses, a bottle of Prosecco, and two Beaumont-Wilshire trucker hats. Photo by Susan Trabucco.



Jamie Gardner

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NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT **TAM DRISCOLL**

COMMITTED TO CONNECTION & ADVOCACY

by Jamie Gardner, BWNA Newsletter Team



Tam Driscoll is committed to creating connections with her community and advocating for causes she believes in. Photo by Jamie Gardner.

For Tam Driscoll, giving back has always been part of life. An admitted extrovert, she loves connecting with people. Tam and her husband, Geoff, have lived in Beaumont-Wilshire for 30 years, building strong connections with their neighbors and raising their now-college-aged daughter, Devan.

You might see Tam walking to local favorites like The Arrangement and Beaumont Market or tending dahlias in the raised beds she shares with a neighbor whose yard gets more sun. "I love being part of a neighborhood where people really get to know each other," she says.

That same spirit of connection fuels her advocacy work. In the late 1990s, Tam taught science and agriculture through the Peace Corps in West Africa. She later coached youth sports when Devan was young, and, for the past 25 years, she's raised more than \$1.5 million for Blood Cancer United (formerly the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society). The cause is especially important to her after losing family members to blood cancer.

Two years ago, Tam survived a stroke, an experience that led to a new chapter in her advocacy. Now a volunteer with the American Heart Association, she shares her story and teaches others to recognize the warning signs. "Don't delay," she says, because "time is brain," referencing the phrase coined in the 1990s to emphasize that every minute of delay in treating a stroke results in irreversible brain damage.

Today Tam works in environmental communications for the City of Gresham. This job helped strengthen her Associated Press writing style, skills she recycles into writing compelling letters for her advocacy work. She's near retirement and looks forward to focusing even more of her time on the causes she believes in.

Jamie Gardner is a real estate broker with Windermere, putting her UO journalism degree to use here. She grew up in Portland and has lived in Beaumont-Wilshire since 2020 with her husband and two dogs. Jamie loves to travel, tackle house projects, and enjoy the local food scene.



Jamie Gardner

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A NEW TWIST IN THE PALADINS LEAGUE'S GAME-PLAYING JOURNEY

by Chris Rauber, BWNA Newsletter Team



The Paladins League co-owners Jess and Bob Monsey with their two children at The Paladins League in Beaumont Village. Submitted photo.

The Paladins League is hard to describe, which is part of the reason it's in the midst of revamping parts of its rationale.

Its space at 4765 NE Fremont St. offers a library of more than 700 board and other games, tables and private spaces for playing, food and drink, social connections, after-school Dungeons & Dragons clubs, and much more. But its main purpose, says Jess Monsey (co-owner with husband Bob), isn't to be a restaurant or a business, but a social gathering place in a world that desperately needs them.

When it opened in November 2024, it was born from "a strong desire to do something good in our city, and particularly in northeast Portland," she says. "What's changed is that the purpose and the mission have become more and more important, and it's a problem we want to help solve."

That's why it recently filed for and received nonprofit status. Its new The Paladins League Foundation is intended to "use games, storytelling, and cooperative creative play" to nurture a sense of belonging, self-assuredness, and meaningful human connection for young people, families, and our community.

The food and beverage side of the enterprise will still be for-profit, she says, but it exists to help create a convivial atmosphere where people feel at home.

The new nonprofit strategy is designed to bring its philosophy beyond its four walls and out into the neighborhood by forming partnerships with local schools, social groups, and senior centers; sharing its game libraries; and bringing community groups, educators, and parents into its space.

Many of the details haven't been fully worked out, but a first step is reaching out to local schools to gauge their interest in creating curated game libraries and other points of connection. Jess has already started working with middle schoolers on writing their own role-playing games and performing them.

"You would not believe how excited they were," she says of the experience.

For more information visit thepaladinsleague.com.

Chris Rauber and his wife moved to Portland and B-W in mid-2022 after many years in the San Francisco Bay Area. He wrote for the San Francisco Business Times and other publications. He was born in Oregon.



Chris Rauber

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JOHN JENDRITZA DESIGNING WITH HEART AND HUSTLE

by David Friedman, BWNA Newsletter Team



John Jendritza. Photo by Kim Bamberg with background by ChatGPT.

Graphic designer and creative director John Jendritza has built his career around one guiding principle: hustle. Growing up in southeast Portland, Jendritza discovered

early that art could be more than self expression. His father encouraged him to find practical ways to use his creativity, and at age 12 Jendritza earned money hand-lettering several lines of cursive on the side of a boat.

"That was the moment I realized I could actually do something with art," he recalls.

After studying graphic design at Mt. Hood Community College, an internship at a publishing company led him to Rip City Magazine and eventually a position with the Portland Trail Blazers. Still in his twenties, Jendritza oversaw design projects throughout the organization and helped launch the original identity and marketing campaign for the Portland Fire, Portland's first WNBA team.

Today Jendritza operates as what he describes as "an ad agency without all the fluff." His work includes branding, websites, advertising campaigns, photography, video production, and strategic planning. Clients frequently come through word of mouth.

"I take care of my people," he says. "When someone calls and needs something done, I figure out how to make it happen."

Jendritza also embraces artificial intelligence as a creative development tool, using it to explore possibilities before returning the final work to human illustrators and designers. "Technology may generate options," he explains, "but experience is still required to shape those ideas into a meaningful story and bring a campaign into the world."

A Beaumont-Wilshire resident for more than 20 years, Jendritza first admired the neighborhood while driving through it on his way to work. He values the friendships his family developed through schools, sports, and neighborhood gathering places.

His advice for anyone beginning a creative career is straightforward: "You fail, you learn, and you keep moving. It's all about the hustle."

For a peek at John's design work, visit glow-creative.com.

David Friedman, @friedart, is a visual artist specializing in papercutting, printmaking, and painting. He and his dog, Poppi @poppipdx, can be seen daily at Wilshire Park. His work is on display at the Alberta Street Gallery, daily 11-7.



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INNER EASTSIDE PROJECT RAISES CONCERNS

by Michael Murphy, Grant Park Neighborhood Resident

OPINION: WHAT I THINK

On April 15th, the Portland City Council approved a resolution to expedite planning for a new Inner Eastside zoning map, from 12th through 60th from NE Fremont to SE Powell. Many Grant Park homeowners and neighbors felt blindsided and alienated by the council's fast track "Inner Eastside for All" Resolution.

While we recognize and sympathize with the need for housing in Portland, the proposed transition from RM1 (low-scale multi-dwelling) or Single-Dwelling zones to RM4 or RX (high-density/central residential) is a significant jump with many potential negative consequences. There have to be other more scaled-down options to increase housing in Portland that don't involve putting up to 5-story apartment buildings in this beautiful, residential, walkable neighborhood.

The proposed rezoning between 28th and 33rd Avenue, alone, would leave approximately 90 small to mid-size homes on Schuyler, Hancock and Tillamook vulnerable to purchase by developers who, given the proposed rezoning parameters, could outbid any new family seeking to move into a house.

Transitioning from the current low-density zoning to the proposed high-density development brings several distinct shifts across the neighborhood. Scaling building heights from today's modest 30–35 feet up to 65–100+ feet significantly cuts down on natural sunlight

and compromises yard privacy for existing residents. Pushing away from required on-site parking down to zero required spots⁽¹⁾ threatens to spill vehicle overflow onto residential side streets, while replacing permeable gardens and lawns with heavy concrete lot coverage increases both local stormwater runoff and the urban heat island effect. Finally, shifting the typical profile from long-term family households to shorter-term, more transient tenancy runs the risk of eroding overall neighborhood cohesion and long-term stability.

Three separate meetings with our District 2 City Council Members (Dan Ryan, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, and Sameer Kanal) were held this summer to clarify the process, hear their views, and express our concerns. Several Grant Park neighbors, separate from the neighborhood association itself, have pulled together to address this rezoning proposal. For more information, go to savenepdx.com.

⁽¹⁾ Oregon HB 2001 (2019) was the catalyst for state policy that led to the eventual elimination of the requirement for mandatory off-street parking for residential construction in Portland in 2023.

Editor's Note: Murphy is a 39-year resident of the Grant Park neighborhood. His letter was published in the Grant Park Neighborhood Association's fall 2026 newsletter. We have been given permission to share it here and have made no editorial changes, except to add a footnote. If you have a different opinion about the Inner Eastside Rezoning Project, we'd like to hear from you. Submit no more than 250 words by December 1 to Editor@BWNApdx.org to have your opinion piece considered for the January-February 2027 newsletter.



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they are friendly, compassionate, and work together like a well-oiled machine. As a physical therapist myself, I appreciate their understanding of the whole body as it relates to dental issues. I also have brought my children as well as my elderly mom to the office. "



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