



Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association

September-October 2016

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FIND THE Beaumont-Wilshire
Neighborhood Association
online at www.bwna.us

BWNA Calendar of Events

Monday, September 12

7:00-8:30 p.m.
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church
Skidmore & 37th, Library
Meeting Room, entrance on 37th

Monday, October 10

7:00-8:30 p.m.
BWNA General Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church
Skidmore & 37th, Library
Meeting Room, entrance on
Skidmore

Friday, October 14

BWNA newsletter submission
deadline for November/
December issue.
E-mail articles to Al Ellis,
editor@bwna.us. E-mail photos
and ads to Amy Gwilliam,
design@bwna.us.

Monday, November 14

7:00-8:30 p.m.
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church
Skidmore & 37th, Library
Meeting Room, entrance on 37th

That Eyesore Next Door

by Al Ellis

Article titles can be deceiving. Case in point: this is not another story about incompatibility (in terms of scale and character) of million-dollar post-demolition replacement homes. No, the controversial “eyesore” in question here is the house next door that is in dire need of repair and painting (i.e., yard gone wild with waste-high weeds, low-hanging tree limbs obstructing the sidewalk, etc.) If the owner of the property isn’t willing to do anything to rectify the situation, what recourse, if any, do concerned neighbors have? On the other hand—just as with the controversy over the comparatively oversized, high-priced new homes—the same question applies: What right do residents have to impose their standards on their next-door neighbors? After all, different strokes for different folks, right? Well, not so fast.

It turns out that the City of Portland has a Housing and Nuisance Code that provides a legal standard for filing a complaint against a neighbor whose property constitutes a “nuisance” to the community. Here’s an excerpt from that code:

Tall grass and weeds create hazards to neighborhood residents and contribute to an unkempt look and feel to a neighborhood. Tall grass can harbor trash and hazards which can be dangerous to neighborhood occupants and children. Pests are more comfortable in these overgrown conditions. A highly overgrown lot becomes very dry in the heat of summer and is a potential for a fire hazard. City Code requires that tall grass and weeds be kept under 10 inches in height. The City of Portland has enacted an ordinance requiring that all rental

property have every-other-week garbage collection, and weekly recycling and composting service. This service must be subscribed to and paid for by the owner of the property. Owner-occupied properties are not required to have weekly garbage service, but are required to maintain their property in a clean condition. This ordinance has greatly contributed to the cleanliness of the City of Portland and thereby helped reduce the workload on inspectors. Specifically, the ordinance reads, “All exterior property areas shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage.” In addition, the inspectors enforce the accumulation or storage of non-trash items such as appliances, building materials, furniture or other items not suited to outdoor use.

Implementation and enforcement of this ordinance are the responsibility of the Bureau of Development Services (BDS)—which, by the way, is also the agency that issues demolition permits. The nuisance complaint number is 503-823-7306, and there’s a “nuisance” page on the BDS website where you can access complaint forms.

But what if you don’t feel comfortable complaining to the City about your neighbor? Here’s a neighborly alternative: last year BWNA President John Sandie organized the “Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Volunteer Group” (publicized in this newsletter), a cadre of big-hearted residents assisting needy neighbors with yard maintenance and home repair. Perhaps that neighbor of yours with the eyesore of a yard and house will be accepting and grateful for this free service. It’s worth a try.



President's Message

by John Sandie

Broken Windows

In previous articles I've cited numerous small and large acts of neighborhood volunteerism that have contributed to the beautification of our neighborhood. To name a few: protection of the mural at Wilshire Park pavilion, graffiti control teams roaming the streets, local groups working on the Beaumont Middle School grounds, the recent cleaning and planting along one of the Alameda Ridge public stairs, and BWNA's informal Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Volunteer Group, assisting needy neighbors with yard and house chores.

Adding to that list, I invite you to take a walk past the traffic triangle at Wistaria and 41st Avenue and enjoy the visual treat. Last year Ryan Mealy, in keeping with the underlying "service" attitude instilled in him while a student at University of Portland, decided to tackle the neglected traffic triangle across from his house. He quickly enlisted other members of the family, in particular his father, Chris. The initial weeding project expanded into some tree removal and mulch spreading, with minimal assistance from the city maintenance workers. But the city did supply the water to make the garden grow, and slowly but surely, sunflowers, other perennials, squash and pumpkins began appearing last fall and this spring. Chris's connections at Orchard Supply Hardware facilitated the process, as well as offerings from neighbors, and even some transplants from the Mealy yard itself. Having resided in their present house about five years, this is the Mealy family's second

tour of duty in Portland, previously living in the Irvington area during the late 1980s and early 1990s before returning to their Midwest roots and then back again to Portland. (Another fact that supports my conspiracy theory that the Midwest is slowly and covertly taking over Portland—sans politics, of course.)

One of the unique features of the traffic island is the hanging basket on the west side of the site, specifically set there to provide a home for picked squash and, hopefully, future blueberries for sharing with neighborhood walkers. If my notes are correct, 600 dahlias and tulips have found their way into this flora-oasis-surrounded-by-pavement, with the sunflowers serving as observant sentries.

This leads me to the "broken window" analogy brought up by Chris during our discussion about his efforts at neighborhood beautification. I'm sure many of you remember the 80s criminal policy that put the focus on first taking care of the small items such as graffiti and broken windows—preemptive measures that would hopefully curtail more serious criminal acts. Here's my theory: The more a neighborhood sees these unselfish acts of beautification, the more residents are motivated to keep the ball rolling, whether trimming those branches overhanging sidewalks, picking up the odd piece of trash while walking, fixing the heaved sidewalk, or plucking that weed in a public space. Make those "broken windows" yours, and we all come out ahead.

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See <http://www.bwna.us> for instructions

Central Northeast Neighbors Board

Beaumont-Wilshire Representatives:
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Kathy Campbell 503-515-6225

Editor's Notes

by Al Ellis



Between the second week of June and the second week of October, BWNA goes into general meeting hibernation. Why? Because odd-numbered months (like July) are reserved for board meetings, and National Night Out Picnic substitutes for the August (even-numbered month) general meeting. But there's no summer

snooze for the newsletter. We keep on keepin' on every other month—informing, educating, entertaining, and hopefully motivating residents to get involved in BWNA—perhaps beginning with attendance at the upcoming general meeting, Monday, October 10!

Of course motivation is predicated on engagement and we're continually looking for ways to engage our readers. One successful strategy has been to encourage submission of articles from Beaumont-Wilshire residents—in effect, neighbors writing for neighbors. Articles of 300 words or less and “Letter to the Board” editorials of 150 words or less are always welcome, and a photo to accompany your article adds a nice touch. (Submit your articles and editorials to me at editor@bwna.us and photos directly to graphic designer Amy Gwilliam at amylee.gwilliam@gmail.com, noting which article the photo should accompany.)

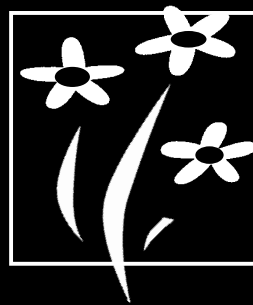
Occasionally a resident will suggest a storyline to me and submit information to go with it. If the topic is compelling and there's space available in the newsletter, I usually oblige. Such is the case with the heartwarming Eleanor Hunting story in this issue, based on information provided by former BWNA newsletter co-editors Diane and Baer Charlton. The article looks back on the life of Diane's 99-year-old mother, who passed away in July. Having resided in our neighborhood for over six decades, Eleanor was a longtime BWNA contributor and the quintessential helpful neighbor.

But while residents' articles and editorials (as well as ideas for articles) are given high priority, the number submitted varies widely from issue to issue. So for the sake of continuity and content, our newsletter counts on a small cadre of dedicated team regulars, all volunteers from the neighborhood. Yet with busy lives being what they are, even our regulars have to pass occasionally on submitting an article, or worse yet, drop from the team completely due to pressing professional and family commitments.

We find ourselves in such a pickle now, very much in need of additional reporter/writer volunteers. Please consider

volunteering. It's a creative way to serve the neighborhood and, take it from me, a very gratifying one. If the spirit moves you, don't hesitate to contact me for details (editor@bwna.us).

Finally—with regard to reader engagement—format and feel are salient factors. Each neighborhood association that distributes newsletter hard copies to residents has its own unique approach, including weight and texture of paper, logo, font, layout, color, number of pages, reflecting a subjective balancing act between quality and cost. A couple of months ago our preferred local printer for the past several years, Natural Press, closed its doors, prompting the BWNA Board to shop around. It was finally decided to contract with AKA Direct Printing (for which the former owner of Natural Press now works) at a substantial savings to BWNA and, along with it, a new look and style to the newsletter without sacrificing quality. Thus, while the next few issues will be a work in progress in terms of form, journalistic substance will remain intact—with a little volunteer help from neighbors in the 'hood.



The Arrangement

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Fremont Fest Success!

All photos courtesy Bill Markwart, BWNA vice president.



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Dealing With Density

by Al Ellis

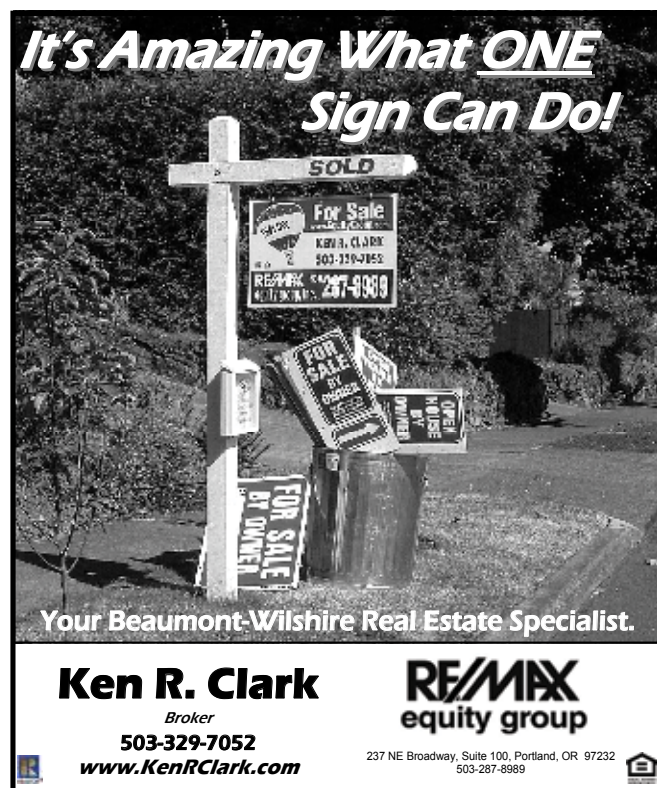
The rich, the poor, and everyone in-between—they've all come to look for Portlandia (apologies to Paul Simon). Well at least it seems that way, and Portlanders are understandably anxious about the fallout: where are these newcomers going to live, in what kinds of dwellings, and how will neighborhood livability be affected? After months of committee deliberations and public input that culminated in Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) recommendations, the ball is in City Council's court to adopt new ordinances that will shape the character of our neighborhoods for decades to come. And the buzzword throughout? Density.

Of course the process of accommodating more folks in Portland has been well underway for some time now, especially on the east side, where ubiquitous construction of large and increasingly expensive apartment and condo complexes has become the norm, not to mention record-setting demolitions of viable single-family homes to make way for construction of million-dollar-plus replacements that tower above the rest of the block and do little or nothing to increase density and effectively price entry-level families out of the market. Passions run deep, and a good number of Beaumont-Wilshire residents have put up "Stop the Demo!" signs in their yards (purchased for \$5 each from the citywide BWNA-inspired grass-roots preservation organization United Neighborhoods for Reform, UNR) only to find their signs repeatedly stolen. Dozens have vanished to date, including one cemented into the ground by an exasperated resident, but so far no leads. Are these lone wolf heists? Is there complicity by developers? Either way, the intimidation factor is real.

Yet another concern in the density debate is "missing middle housing." (What? you didn't know housing was missing from the middle? You're not alone.) According to middle housing proponents, what's missing from many of our residential areas is a sufficient number of smaller affordable housing units. Think duplexes, triplexes, and accessory dwelling units or ADUs (e.g., a guest house in the backyard). The argument goes that building more of these units will mitigate the housing shortage as well as relieve demand for apartments, condos, and single-family homes, which in turn will help reduce the overall cost of housing. But skeptics warn of an unintended consequence: demolition of even more single-family homes to make way for these new units. With a proposed middle housing zone extending ¼ mile from main corridors, thousands of homes would be in harm's way,

vulnerable to teardown—tantamount, contend middle housing opponents, to destroying the village to save it.

BPS's stated Residential Infill Project goal was to revise the city's building code "so that new infill housing can better meet the changing needs of the current and future generation..." To that end, a Stakeholder Advisory Committee of preservationists, neighborhood association leaders, and homebuilders was created last year, on initiative by UNR and Mayor Hales, to explore ways to regulate scale (i.e., height and footprint limits on newly-built homes in single-dwelling zones), expand affordable housing (possibly via middle housing), and regulate historically narrow lot development (i.e., placing limitations on skinny houses with front-loaded garages). As always, the devil is in the details. City Hall hearings begin in November.



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BWNA National Night Out Picnic Postscript

by John Sandie

Our annual BWNA August picnic enjoyed a larger turnout than had been experienced the last few years, even requiring us to run out for a few extra hot dogs to make sure everyone had enough to eat—and that was a good thing! While the food line stretched out for a 10-15 minute wait at times, musical entertainment from the talented Scott White made the time pass quickly. Requests for some 60s music from those of us who grew up with vinyl were deftly fielded by Scott, along with some original songs.

The pleasantly cool, sometimes windy evening caused a few sweaters and jackets to be donned, but also made things a bit more comfortable for the dedicated grill crew. It sure didn't detract from the water balloon fun near end of evening, where "kids" big and tall all got into the act. Treasure bowls of prizes allowed all the "wee" game participants to walk away winners.

Of course, neighborhood safety is always the main theme of the evening, and visits by two police units (including a K-9 team), along with fire truck and crew (including the Fire Chief Mike Myers), offered neighbors

the opportunity to personally thank them for their service in keeping Beaumont-Wilshire such a secure and safe place to live and raise a family. The Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) Crime Prevention group supplied a variety of information pamphlets along with "Portland" wristbands to help build community, which is essential to any neighborhood's fight against crime. The picnic also afforded a first look at the "Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood" patch that BWNA will be selling as a fundraising activity at meetings and future events.

The importance of continued generous support from local businesses for this key neighborhood association event cannot be overstated—from ice and beverages donated by **Beaumont Market** and **Everest M Market** and delectable dessert cake provided by **Whole Foods** of Hollywood to the many gift certificates given in support of our picnic raffle. Wholehearted thanks go out to these generous contributors: **Foot Traffic, Green Dog Pet Supply, Yo Choice, Alameda Brewhouse, The Arrangement, Beaumont Florist, Batter, Fire on the Mountain, Pips,**

Blackbird Wine Shop, and Fire & Stone. Last, but certainly not least, BWNA hats off to the dutiful group of young men and adult leaders of local **Boy Scout Troop 107** for again volunteering to schlep chairs and tables to Wilshire Park from nearby **Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship.** Participation by the scout troop and the church are integral to the success of this event.

continued on next page



BWNA National Night Out Picnic Postscript, continued

At the end of the evening, once the trash was bagged, picnic areas picked up and returned to original condition, leftovers donated, grill and park keys returned, and unused materials placed back in BWNA inventory, the dedicated BWNA Board member crew could breathe a sigh of relief and enjoy a sense of satisfaction for another successful picnic. Don't miss next year's—always on the first Tuesday of August.



All photos courtesy of Bill Markwart.



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For more information, contact
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A Fall Recipe from Kathy Campbell's Kitchen

Zucchini Casserole

Shredded parmesan cheese

1 stick butter

1/2 C chopped onion

4 C cubed zucchini

4 C seasoned croutons

1 8 oz. can tomato sauce

2 C shredded swiss cheese

Saute onion in butter until translucent. Add croutons and 1 or 2 tablespoons water to moisten. Use wooden spoon to soften the crouton and water mixture. Add zucchini, tomato sauce and swiss cheese. Mix together. Season with salt and pepper.

Grease or spray an 8" x 11" (2 quart) rectangular glass pan. Put the mixture in the pan and sprinkle with shredded parmesan cheese.

Bake for 25-30 minutes at 350° until the zucchini is tender. This makes about 6 cups of casserole.

Optional: For some autumn zest, add a can of dried onion rings for the last 5 minutes.

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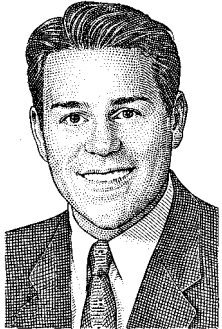
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A Fond Farewell to Eleanor Hunting: Paragon of B-W Neighborliness

by Al Ellis

Always smiling, always willing to lend a helping hand to neighbors, dedicated to the enhancement of the community, Eleanor Hunting passed away in early July at the age of 99 after residing in the same Beaumont-Wilshire home for 65 years (4336 N.E. 40th Ave.). It was in that house that she and husband Len raised four children and later delighted in grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Professionally, Eleanor was influenced by her father (a teacher and principal), and taught for 20 years for the Portland School District in North Portland schools. She also served as president of the Beaumont School PTA from 1966-1977, including years when daughter Diane (now Diane Charlton) was a student there, and as leader of Diane's Campfire Girl troop.

Brought up on a farm, Eleanor had a green thumb for gardening and loved living in verdant Beaumont-Wilshire. Accordingly, she took a special interest in the neighborhood, regularly attending BWNA general meetings, volunteering to assist at community events, and walking the neighborhood every other month as a volunteer newsletter distributor. An avid traveler, Eleanor eventually managed to visit all 50 states. Very spiritual in her



Eleanor B. Hunting April 27, 1917 to July 2, 2016

personal life—by way of family upbringing and personal conviction—Eleanor was a lifelong director of religious education and collaborated with other religious educators in developing a Unitarian Universalist life-span peace and justice curriculum. Additionally, she and Len helped found Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist.

Bottom line: life mattered to Eleanor, and what mattered most was her family, church, community, the United Nations, and other humanitarian causes. Thus, among the values expressed in her “Philosophy of Life”—written for her 77th birthday—was the following commitment: To continually

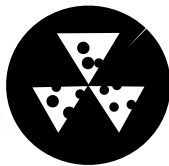
work for peace with justice in my family, church, school, community, and world.

Donations to Eleanor's memory can be made to:

Spiritual: Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist, 1133 NE 181st Ave, Portland, OR 97230;

Global: United Nations Association, Portland Chapter, 6786 SW 204th, Aloha, OR 97078; or

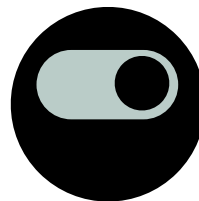
Environmental: Portland Women's Forum (mission is the preservation and beautification of the Columbia Gorge), 33702 E. Bell Rd, Corbett, OR 97019.



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