



January-February 2022

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FIND THE Beaumont-Wilshire
Neighborhood Association
ONLINE AT bwnapdx.org

BWNA Calendar of Events

Community Events

*There are no community events
scheduled for January or February.*

*See page 3 for
BWNA meeting schedules*

Volunteerism and networking are key objectives of Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET) in 2022

by Al Ellis

Happily living in his Alameda neighborhood home with wife and kids, Ryan Baker is typical of a growing number of young-family residents in the area. Not so typical, though, is Ryan's dedication to helping neighbors help one another in times of trouble as volunteer team leader of the local "NETs"—the Beaumont-Wilshire/Alameda unit of Portland's Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs). Prompted by an inquiry about the city's NETs program by resident Peggy Ellis, the board invited Ryan to speak at BWNA's general meeting in December.

The dominant theme of Ryan's motivating presentation was that the most important first step in emergency preparation is to take care of ourselves by organizing our blocks—i.e., neighbors meeting with neighbors to formulate a plan: Do we all know each other and have updated contact information for everyone? Who among us has skills and/or equipment that would be useful in the event of a catastrophic disaster? What kind and amount of supplies should be stocked away for each resident in each dwelling? How will we communicate with each other? To that end, Ryan encourages neighbors to research information on these sites:

- www.publicalerts.org/get-ready
- www.oregon.gov/oem/Documents/15022_OEM_Shaky%20Ground_2018%20v4.pdf

Backing up that crucial first line of support in a disaster—you and your neighbors—is where Portland's NETs program comes in. The mission of NETs is to help a neighborhood get along for a week or two if basic services are unavailable. NETs volunteers are trained by city experts to communicate with each other during emergencies via hand-held radios, and each local NET has its own radio communication plan along with additional training in emergency disaster assistance, first aid, organizing helpers, communicating with Portland Fire & Rescue and Police, accessing emergency supply caches, and other needs.

Each local NET devises its own radio communication plan. Here's an excerpt from the Beaumont-Wilshire/Alameda NET Operations Plan:

"In the event of a major emergency in which normal communication channels (phone, text, internet) are not available, and in which team members are self-deploying, team members will check in by radio on the assigned channel at 15 minutes past the hour, each hour for the first three hours."

During Q&A, Ryan candidly admitted that, while almost 100 B-W and Alameda residents have taken the 30-hour NETs training course offered free of charge by the City of Portland and satisfied the minimum-required 12 hours of annual participation in NET-related community service projects, active involvement has waned over the course of the pandemic. BWNA urges those who have already gone through NET training to greet the New Year with a revitalized commitment to participation and for new volunteers to contact Ryan (bwanetpdx@gmail.com) regarding their desire to serve. Ryan told the Zoom audience at December's meeting that he is also available to facilitate block meetings. Additionally, former BWNA board member Bill Markwart (wemarkwart@aol.com), in attendance at the meeting, volunteered to serve as contact person for those interested in amateur ham radio training.

This is just the start of what needs to be a sustained, long-term commitment for all of us to prepare for emergencies and disasters. BWNA will be publicizing more steps and ideas in the months to come.



President's message

by Tim Gillespie

On compassion and heroism

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

— Coretta Scott King

Talk about compassionate action in our community...

Prior to the blood drive we co-sponsored in November with the Beaumont PTA, the Red Cross told us it's been tough to find blood donors during this pandemic. Based on their years of experience, their team planned for an estimated 20 to 25 donations at our drive. Our compassionate neighborhood almost doubled that amount, enough to help save over 120 lives. Our deepest thanks go to all those donors who opened their hearts (and veins!) to help others. Thanks, too, to tireless volunteers Sandy McDaniel from the Beaumont PTA and Karla Lenox and Jan Giske Gillespie from BWNA who made the whole operation work, and to always-supportive Beaumont Principal Dr. Harriette Vimégnon. As Karla noted, "Several people said it made them love their neighborhood to see an event like this."

There's more...In our publicity for the drive, we also encouraged folks unable to donate blood to instead consider donating to the Beaumont PTA's Family Resiliency Fund. That charitable fund was established to help families affected by the pandemic and experiencing emergencies that might impact students' ability to perform at their best in school. As of mid-December when I'm writing this, *over \$5,000* has been raised in conjunction with the blood drive. I am filled with awe and wonder at that generosity.

If you want to learn more about the fund or donate, check out: <https://app.memberhub.gives/gobeumontbobcats/Campaign/Details>

"Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say: this is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better." — Late Oregon Governor Tom McCall

On the front page of this issue you read about the guest presentation at December's general meeting made by Ryan Baker, the volunteer team leader of the city's Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) program for the Beaumont-Wilshire and Alameda neighborhoods. Since 1994, Portland's Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) has operated this program, based on the following goal: in the event of a citywide or regional emergency such as a severe winter storm, flood, wildfire, heatwave, major Cascadia earthquake, or long-term power outage caused by any of those events, households need to be prepared to be on their own for at least a week. If firefighters, police, or emergency responders are overwhelmed by calls for help or slowed by impassable streets, neighbors may need to be first on the scene to help. In other words, the heroes we need are us.

For its part, the city uses PBEM and Portland Fire & Rescue to train volunteer residents through the NETs program in providing emergency disaster assistance in their own neighborhoods until professional responders can arrive. This makes me think of my parents' stories about "block captains" during World War II, neighbors who volunteered (18,000 in Multnomah County alone!) to reinforce air-raid blackouts, conduct civilian defense drills, and make sure everyone was doing okay. Those citizen heroes offered a model of local patriotism. BWNA aims to promote and support the organizing of our neighborhood for potential future emergencies, following in that grand tradition. Join us!

Our Organization

BWNA Board

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president@bwnapdx.org

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Patty Nelson 503-281-8035
John Sandie 219-508-4162
(four open positions)

Immediate Past President

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Related Organizations

Beaumont Business Association

Kathy Madore
beaumontbusinesses@gmail.com

Central Northeast Neighbors Board

Barbara Strunk 503-284-7502

Areas of Interest

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

- **Beaumont Middle School Cmte**
Tim Gillespie, chair 503-287-6272
- **Communications Committee**
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- **Crime Prevention and Safety Cmte**
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- **Land Use Committee**
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- **Friends of Wilshire Park Committee**
Gary Hancock, chair 503-367-0862
- **Newsletter Team**
Chair: Al Ellis, editor@bwnapdx.org
Graphic Design:
Jane Feinberg, design@bwnapdx.org
Copy Editor:
Myrna Sheie 224-659-1537
Distribution:
Georgina Head 360-739-7896
John Sandie 219-508-4162
- **Transportation Committee**
John Sandie, chair 219-508-4162
- **Website (www.bwnapdx.org)**
Andrew Rinke 503-893-2504



Editor's notes

by Al Ellis

That time again, neighbors: fresh start, new resolve. But resolution-making needn't be confined to one season. Take the "Jewish New Year" for example: essentially about resolving to be a better person in the coming year, the "High Holiday" of Rosh Hashanah followed by Yom Kippur 10 days later occurs in September or October in accordance with an ancient Hebrew lunar calendar that designates not one, but four "new years" tied to agricultural cycles. Other cultural motivators include the winter and summer solstices, the spring holidays of Easter and Passover, and of course the first school bell in late August or early September, affording students and educators a "new beginning" for resetting goals and expectations. That said, January 1st works just fine for this editor to reflect back on 2021 and resolve forward into 2022.

Resolution 1: Set aside quality time for final proofreading of the layout draft.

After editing my own articles, then the articles of others, I give the green light to graphic designer Jane Feinberg to work her magic in piecing the puzzle together. The completed layout is then sent back to me for another round of proofreading, followed by review by team members. But here's the rub for me: by this time in the process, I've pretty much had it with proofreading, thus increasing the likelihood of oversights on my part—like my misspelling of the last name of our newest board member, Derek Humbard, in the previous issue's "Our Organization" column (spelling his name "Hubbard" for whatever reason). So, *I resolve to hold off on proofreading the layout until I'm "mentally refreshed" enough to go at it proficiently.*

Resolution 2: Urge economy of composition without sacrificing quality of content.

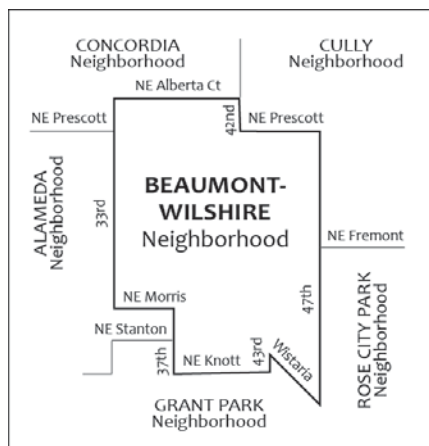
The instructions posted on the "About the Newsletter" page of the BWNA website (www.bwnapdx.org) provide the following guidance: "Residents are encouraged to submit articles and announcements limited to

300 words or "Letter to the Board" editorials on topics of local concern limited to 150 words, all of which are subject to editing." Truth be told, though, I've consistently refrained from editing down articles and editorials that exceed these limits, other than the occasional consolidation of paragraphs and streamlining of sentences—in effect, giving priority to composition quality over word quantity. But skirting word limits comes with a price—in this case, exacerbation of an ongoing problem of not enough room to fit everything in—this despite expansion from 12 to 16 pages three years ago. So, *I resolve to encourage adherence to word limits, albeit increased from 300 to 500 words and 150 to 250 words, respectively.*

Resolution 3: Expand article inclusion and broaden coverage via 20-page issues.

While an overabundance of newsletter submissions is a healthy problem to have for a neighborhood association, it's a problem nonetheless. Accordingly, the board approved my motion at December's general meeting to allot funding for up to two 20-page issues annually. So, *I resolve to utilize 20 pages to boost breadth and scope.*

Having almost reached my 500-word limit, I close by wishing you all the best with your resolutions and by extending a warm Welcome Aboard! to new advertisers Aminta Davis of Village Fit (ad on page 13) and Lori Vance of Body Image Fitness (ad on page 18).



Calendar of Events (cont.)

BWNA Meetings

NOTE:

Check "Upcoming Events" page on BWNA website (www.bwnapdx.org) for venue and/or Zoom link information regarding General and Board meetings.

For Zoom links to Friends of Wilshire Park committee meetings, contact Committee

Chair Gary Hancock via email at

outside503@aol.com or

via phone at 503-367-0862

Monday, January 10: Board meeting via Zoom, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 12: Friends of Wilshire Park Committee meeting via Zoom, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, February 7: General meeting via Zoom, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 9: Friends of Wilshire Park Committee meeting via Zoom, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

BWNA Newsletter

Instructions for Article and Ad Submission

Information about submission of articles and "Letter to the Board" editorials as well as a step-by-step procedure for selection, payment, and submission of ads are provided on the BWNA website (www.bwnapdx.org). Click on "Newsletter/About the Newsletter" at the top of the home page.

Ad Payment

We accept payment by mail and electronically using Venmo. Details for both methods will be provided on your invoice.

Submission Deadline

Friday, February 11 (for the March-April 2022 newsletter)

Email articles and Letter to the Board editorials to Al Ellis (editor@bwnapdx.org)

Email photos, graphics, and ads to Jane Feinberg (design@bwnapdx.org)



Beaumont Middle School Principal Dr. Vimegnon innovates to meet new challenges

by Polly Webber

What a treat it was to walk through the doors of Beaumont Middle School to meet Principal Dr. Harriette Vimegnon! The last time I had been in Beaumont was as a student in the 80s—with much bigger hair and probably listening to Duran Duran on a boombox.

Dr. Vimegnon has been the principal at Beaumont for seven years and is very appreciative of the support received from parent groups, the Beaumont Middle School Foundation, and the community at large. Now more than ever, that support is needed during these uncertain times, with COVID-19 impacting staff and students. An additional social worker and two more counselors have proven indispensable.

The challenges brought on by the pandemic have also presented opportunities for positive changes. As an example, the biggest concern at the beginning of the school year was the students' social skills. Over a year behind, many had forgotten how to interact with others (for instance relying on phones instead of friends during lunch). In response, Dr. Vimegnon initiated a strategy prioritizing teamwork to facilitate social interaction. With students divided into "Squads" of sixth-,



Beaumont Middle School Principal Dr. Harriette Vimegnon turns challenges of the pandemic into opportunities for positive changes.

seventh-, and eighth-graders, teams compete for points in various disciplines, including math, spelling, and PE. She said that students and staff have had a lot of fun with this and that it's been a catalyst not only for socialization, but also a springboard for new relationships throughout the school. Another change aimed at prompting social interaction was to encourage eating lunch outside the building, resulting in students working together to set up their new space. Dr. Vimegnon plans to implement the strategy again in 2022 noting that students will remain inside the building during extreme temperatures.

Dr. Vimegnon also lauded the "Infinity" program at the school, providing race/gender/LGBT-oriented groups in which students can gather to support each other and enjoy a sense of belonging.

Prior to the pandemic, grants were needed to fund this program, but the district is now providing full support.

It was a real joy talking with Dr. Vimegnon—"One Day at a Time" and "Running Strong" seeming to be her mottos as we spoke—who exuded the kind of positive energy and passion for the job that has been of benefit not only to the school, but to the entire community.



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Traffic concerns take front seat at BWNA's February general meeting

by John Sandie

Rather than share limited speaker time with Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) representative Ryan Baker at December's general meeting, it was decided to postpone a presentation from Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) representative Scott Cohen until February to allow more time for neighbors to air their concerns, some of which are listed below:

- Develop traffic calming ideas for Skidmore Street (north of park) in light of the increasing urgency for action; also, stage temporary pop-up events for the purpose of eliciting neighborhood feedback.
- Address neighbor's concerns at the Alameda/Fremont Street intersection and recent accidents at that location.
- Review recent traffic count and speed surveys on Prescott and Shaver streets (surveys did not indicate further action by normal indices employed by PBOT).
- Continue campaign to get signage at the unmarked intersections, primarily those in the section of the

neighborhood south of Prescott Street and north of Fremont Street between 33rd and 42nd avenues.

If you have other transportation-related concerns that you'd like to see addressed, you're encouraged to either attend the February 7 meeting (see page 3 for information about accessing the Zoom link) or contact Transportation Committee Chair John Sandie by phone (219-508-4162) or e-mail (sandiefam@gmail.com).



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Letters to the board: A cleanup call to action

by Diane Charlton

Editor's Note: Diane is a longtime B-W homeowner, a graduate of Beaumont and Grant, and a former BWNA board member and newsletter co-editor with husband Baer.



Let's Be Clear: Graffiti is not acceptable "street art." Moreover, property owners are required by law to remove it in a timely way at their cost. When we as the public are apathetic, we let someone else mark, deface, and "own" our visible spaces.

APATHY is hurting our neighborhood. Case in point: the unabated spread of graffiti.

I can't be the only one concerned about increased graffiti in Beaumont Wilshire neighborhood, and yet I continue to hear the typical apathetic responses: "I don't like seeing graffiti, but at least it's not in our neighborhood" or "nothing can be done about it anyway."

News Flash: Graffiti is now everywhere in Portland, including our neighborhood!

Graffiti is property damage (private and public), and it is a crime. Graffiti crime is not victimless, and small crimes lead to bigger, more-dangerous crimes.

Another News Flash: Not all graffiti is gang-related. Studies have shown that some graffiti is done by teenagers for various reasons, such as lack of parental guidance, isolation, an absent moral compass, or just wanting attention (even negative attention).

City officials give many excuses for not removing the increasing graffiti, e.g., "lack of resources" or "not in the budget." In the past our neighborhood organized work parties of volunteers to abate it. Seems we're back to doing the cleanup ourselves, because no one else is coming to make our neighborhood clean and livable. Speaking of which, Beaumont Hardware generously stepped up to donate a gallon of "telephone pole brown" paint, which I then used to cover over yellow graffiti on three poles on Skidmore Street.

So how about it, neighbors? How about it, BWNA? Get some graffiti removal supplies and cover-up paint, and let's all get to work!

Thank you.

P.S. Picking up trash on daily walks helps, too.

Calling all Volunteers!



BWNA has volunteer opportunities to suit every interest! From serving on the board to delivering the newsletter to reporting/article writing to offering your neighbor a hand or helping to maintain and beautify Wilshire Park, there's much work to be done to keep our neighborhood strong. Want to know more? Contact Al Ellis (editor@bwnapdx.org) and get involved!



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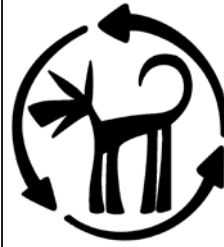
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Recycling with Liz—about those holiday batteries

by Elizabeth Erickson

I find myself using more batteries this time of year, and maybe you do, too. Here are some ideas for reducing the use of batteries, reusing them, and recycling these important little things that have a big impact on the health and safety of our environment.



- **Improper disposal:** Never put any kind of battery in your curbside carts, neither garbage nor recycling. Look out for items with “embedded” batteries, like greeting cards, kid’s shoes, and toothbrushes. Tips for recycling batteries are provided below.
- **Use reduction:** Ask yourself if the item is necessary or needs a battery. Instead of a battery-powered lamp or decoration, is it available with a plug instead? Make sure to turn off items that are run by batteries to extend their life.
- **Reuse:** Consider rechargeable batteries. An investment up front will save in the long run. Also, look for items that are rechargeable, like head lamps and speakers.
- **Recycle:** Different types of batteries can be recycled locally at various places, like Batteries+Bulbs stores, IKEA, and Target, and

also through the subscription service Ridwell. As with paint and cooking oil, batteries can be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste facility at Metro’s Central Transfer Station off Highway 30. The cost is \$5 per load (up to 35-gallon equivalent). It can be a fun and informative field trip for you and the kids to see where materials go. Check out www.OregonMetro.gov and search for Metro Central.

Questions and comments welcome: elizabeth.ann.erickson@gmail.com.



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Neighborhood walkabout scavenger hunt results

by John Sandie

A small but enthusiastic group of neighbors submitted completed scavenger hunt entries into the drawing for gift certificates from local businesses. A few consisted of parent/child teams, while most appeared to be individuals. Some went beyond the initial required 10 steps, providing additional background information about The Arrangement (the building initially a Mobil Station, then a Gas Town location), Amalfi's (the mural artist originally from Detroit), and the fact that the St Andrew's Cross flag of Scotland is also known as The Saltire (an X-shaped cross).

Many entries included comments about how much they enjoyed getting around the neighborhood to spots not normally on their typical walking paths.

Stay tuned for another "walkabout hunt" in 2022. Perhaps you'll be lucky enough to enter the winner's circle as did those listed below—each awarded a \$25 gift certificate, courtesy of BWNA, for use in shopping at local businesses.

Congratulations to the following winners of our 2021 Neighborhood Walkabout Scavenger Hunt!

Libby Schraufnagel

Jennifer Erickson

Elizabeth Laskey

Claire Adamsick and Emory Schmidt
(parent/child team)



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More native understory for Wilshire Park

by Peter Mogielnicki

Dirt flew, conversation flowed, and by the end of the morning of December 4, a total of 450 native plants had been knocked out of their plastic pots and found themselves tucked snugly into a new bed along Wilshire Park's south fence.

The material was purchased with a generous grant from the Portland Garden Club, for which BWNA had applied last winter through its Friends of Wilshire Park Committee. The planting of salmonberry, Indian plum, evergreen huckleberry, salal, Oregon grape, ninebark, epimedium, and other

Oregon natives was laid out and overseen by Northeast parks horticulturist Sicily Sardino. Thirty energetic volunteers ranging in age from under eight to over eighty, and including members of Boy Scout packs 107 and 117, did the spadework.

Now the area will provide not only biodiversity and visual interest to passing joggers and dog walkers, but also food and shelter for birds and pollinators, as well as a bit of carbon sequestration—all while not needing to be mown or having its leaf cover noisily blown away.





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Who knew? (fun local history—second of two parts)

by Tim Gillespie

As mentioned in a previous newsletter (July-August 2021), our neighborhood has distinctive historical features, and parents can engage their children in learning about some of them. Here are a few more fun Beaumont-Wilshire facts, with follow-up questions for explorations by young historians!



and buildings. How many of those historic numbers are on your street? How long would it take you to find twenty of them still on houses in Beaumont-Wilshire?

Portland's population

And what do you think the population of Portland is today? Take a guess, then find the answer and other interesting facts at this

U.S. Census Bureau site: www.census.gov/quickfacts/portlandcityoregon

Wilshire Park

What is now Wilshire Park used to be a parcel of land owned by one of Portland's richest and most famous men, Jacob Kamm. (He has his own Wikipedia site!) Born in 1823 in Switzerland, Kamm immigrated to the U.S. when he was eight. By the age of 25 he was a steamboat engineer on the Mississippi River, then he migrated to California during the 1849 Gold Rush to pilot a steamer on the Sacramento River. Soon Kamm was hired away by Oregon

continued on page 13

House numbers

Families can spot identical white-tiled house numbers on about half the houses in our neighborhood. They were installed as part of a city program in the early 1930s. Portland grew quickly between 1900 and 1930 (from 90,000 residents to more than 300,000), partly by annexing newly sprouting neighborhoods. Most of those new developments had their own street numbering systems, so Portland had a hodgepodge of addresses. By the late 1920s, the Portland postmaster complained that 2,000 pieces of mail were going astray every day because of the confusing house-addressing system! So the city council voted unanimously in 1931 to re-do all the addresses in the city, with Burnside Street dividing north and south and the Willamette River dividing east and west and all house numbers emanating outward from those baselines. The city furthermore authorized \$10,000 to pay for new black-and-white ceramic number tiles to be set in aluminum frames for every house and business in the city. In a typical Depression-era effort, house-numbering crews of five men (three of whom had to be from the vast ranks of the unemployed) were dispatched with ladders, screwdrivers, and small wheeled wooden carts to carry the tiles and frames. For 23 months those crews walked the city, installing the new white tile numbers at the city's expense on almost 94,000 homes

.....
If you haven't checked out the BWNA blog recently, here are just a few topics we've addressed:

- Beaumont Middle School Grounds Cleanup
- BWNA New Neighbor Welcoming Project
- Community Cycling Center Makes a Community-wide Difference

Take a look at www.bwnapdx.org/blog, and while you're there, register your email address so you can keep up to date on neighborhood news, meetings, and activities. Click "Subscribe" at the top of the home page and enter your contact information.

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Who knew? (continued)

businessmen to help build the first steamboat in our state to sail people and goods between Astoria and Oregon City. Kamm parlayed that success into a business empire that eventually included steamboats, rail lines, banks, and real estate investments, including the Wilshire Park chunk of land that he hoped to develop into a housing subdivision. Kamm died at the age of 84 after being hit by a bicyclist near his downtown Portland mansion (which you can still see today at 1425 SW 20th Avenue). His estate left his property along NE 33rd alone for some years, then decided to sell it to a group of investors in the 1920s who wanted to convert it into a tourist automobile campground, something like a KOA of today. Over a hundred nearby neighbors protested (too much auto traffic!), and so for many more years the tract sat undeveloped and became an unofficial forest playground for neighborhood kids. The Kamm estate finally sold it in 1940 for around \$28,000 to the city for a public park. How many acres large do you think Wilshire Park is? (An acre is roughly the area of a football field.) Find the answer here: www.portland.gov/parks/wilshire-park

Wilshire Park's trees

Wilshire Park has one of the best collections of trees of any Portland park. How many trees would you guess are in the park? (Hint: it's over 300!) What is the most common kind of tree in the park? How tall can that species of tree grow? For a virtual tree walk, tree map, and tree inventory of Wilshire Park, roam around in this site, then go to the park and see how many different kinds of trees you can find and identify: <https://pdx.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=320f84b7a6c4406fa030776c7a813b5b>

Fremont Street

Fremont Street was as busy a commercial center in the 1920s as it is now. Henry and Anna Witt's Buy-Rite Grocery Store was where Pizzicato Pizza is now. A few doors down, where the Sabiang Thai Restaurant is, sat Watson's O-So-Good Restaurant and Sandwich Shop. The Dutch Village building at the corner of NE 41st and Fremont Street was built in 1928 and has housed everything from a grocery store to a pharmacy to a dry goods store that carried textiles, ready-to-wear clothing, and personal care products. The building where The Arrangement is today used to be a gas station with a small attached store that sold a few items like milk. It was called Gas Town USA.

Editor's Note: Got a fun fact or two to share about the neighborhood or local area, past or present? If so, send them to me for publication (editor@bwnapdx.org). Keep the ball rolling!



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Weighing in on the oil terminal controversy

by Al Ellis

It began with a compelling presentation at BWNA's July 2021 Zoom meeting by Greg Bourget, principal researcher for nonprofit Portland Clean Air. Then Jenny Holmes, staff member at their partner environmental organization, Cascadia Action, requested that BWNA, along with other neighborhood associations, endorse a letter to the Portland Bureau of Development Services (BDS) in support of the Linnton Neighborhood Association's opposition to Zenith Energy Company's application for permits to quadruple the company's petroleum terminal capacity at Linnton docks in NW Portland, resulting in an increase of oil trains transiting through the city. On short notice, the BWNA board did its due diligence—reviewing the letter, researching the topic, and exchanging points of views—before voting unanimously to ally itself with Linnton on the controversy.

The history of the issue begins in 2014, when Zenith Energy first applied to BDS for a "Certificate of Occupancy" for its terminal, which was approved. The company later got approval from the BDS to expand the facility, determining that the expansion is permissible under Portland's comprehensive plan. In 2016 the Portland City Council voted to oppose new fossil facilities within the city, but that did not bar Zenith's expansion, and construction continuing unabated. Columbia Riverkeeper and other environmental groups then filed a lawsuit to stop Zenith from transporting fossil fuels into Portland. (According to *The Oregonian*, "... as recently as 2019, the company allowed millions of gallons of Canadian tar sands crude oil to be transported through and stored in Portland.")

BWNA joined a group of 15 neighborhood associations along with two dozen other civic organizations to urge the

City Council to deny Zenith a Land Use Compatibility Statement, which is necessary for the company to complete its plans to offload more oil from their trains in the vicinity of the Linnton neighborhood. Additionally, Linnton Neighborhood Association argued that Zenith's oil-by-rail violates Portland's Climate Action Plan and urged both the Portland City Council and Multnomah County Commission "to pursue protective policies that hold fossil fuel companies

financially accountable for their pollution and other damage to Portland and surrounding waterways." Additionally, the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management expressed concern about the danger posed to the community and waterways by the terminal in the event of a future major Cascadia earthquake (aka "The Big One").

Zenith public relations representative Megan Mastal countered that "the multi-million-dollar project is a significant economic stimulus for the area, providing an even safer and more efficient operation, including new emissions-control technology, which is required by regulation, as well as a state-of-the-art fire suppression system and barrier along the street"

(the safety upgrades confirmed by BDS). Mastal also made the point that the 18 full-time on-site workers are "trained and certified to maintain the highest environmental and operational standards."

Weighing the arguments on both sides, the BWNA board concluded that the risks outweighed the benefits, and in late August 2021 the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality agreed, imposing a \$23,598 penalty on the company contending that the unsanctioned activity at the property



continued on page 16

Beaumont-Wilshire “Creative Souls:” Poet of note in our midst

by Peter Mogielnicki

Editor’s Note: In addition to a love of nature, Peter thinks many of our readers would like to know about some of our neighborhood’s “creative souls,” so here is the first of what we hope will be a recurring feature of the newsletter.

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Reed College, Beaumont-Wilshire resident Elyse Fenton worked on farms, maintained trails in the White Mountains of New England and the Pacific Northwest, and taught in Mongolia and elsewhere. She then received a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Oregon and has subsequently published two books of poetry: *Clamor* explores the complex feelings and thoughts of Fenton, who was a self-described “war bride” while her new husband was a world away serving as a medic in Iraq in the midst of war’s chaos. *Sweet Insurgent* delves deeply into motherhood. Both collections reach out well beyond their central themes. The poetry is hard-hitting and distinctly lyrical, using word sound, rhythm, and imagery more than story and syntax to communicate ideas and feelings. As a result, reading them through more than once maximizes their punch.

A first silent read finds striking individual images and ideas popping off the page:

... a white twist of rag
pinned in the bloody center of a civilian’s chest

(from “Clamor” in *Clamor*)

A second reading, taking the poem’s title and line structure into account, adds another layer. Then, finally, reading aloud, with special attention to the mouthfeel, cadence, and context, one experiences each poem’s full force:

... As if
this were not the work of shrapnel—
not the body’s wet rending, flesh
reduced to matter—but the litany
of an old field guide, the names
of wildflowers spoken out loud:
*ischium, basal ganglia, myelin-
sheathed endings.* Names for parts.
For all our flowering parts.

(from “Notes on an Atrocity” in *Clamor*)



Sweet Insurgent is dedicated to Elyse’s daughter—her “sweetest insurgent.” “Notes On Labor” gave this never-pregnant reader some hint of what pregnancy and labor might be like:

... weight over distance with the help
of friction or its lack—*Honeyhips,*
Granite, won’t you scoot on down—...

and further on:

... lead cloak of cold
I can’t drape around me without dry-
heaving and cursing the weft of it
your staggering winter-weight ...

In a later poem, “When You Begin Asking About Your Provenance,” the mundane act of completing a census form springboards to the irony of pigeonholing a child with a rich genetic heritage:

... blessed be the box checked and unchecked all the boxes
checked the box labeled *south-anglo-asian/*
ashkenazi-Saxon
brown-white really light-cocoa-pink a helix strand-
stripped & re-equipped ...

and later in the same poem:

... as if we were made entirely of halves and not this burl-
esque village of cells this thatch-roofed
commune
of cells the house of us a house *only mitotically divided*
the lease co-signed as if love were a lease ...

continued on page 16

Oil terminal controversy (continued)

posed a risk of discharging harmful sediment into the Willamette River. Houston-based Zenith then appealed to an Oregon state administrative court to contest the fine.

On the local level, the Portland BDS declined to issue the necessary land use compatibility statement to Zenith, claiming that storing and unloading fossil fuels at the site are incompatible with the city's climate and resiliency goals, despite company plans to gradually transition to 50 percent

renewable fuels by 2026. Portland BDS Director Rebecca Esau explained that "while some of the changes at the site include a move toward bio-fuels and needed safety measures, the extent of the fossil fuel activity and potential adverse impact on the environment . . . are not compatible with Portland's 2035 Comprehensive Plan." Regarding a building permit application by Zenith for permission to install rail infrastructure, Esau clarified that the permit would be exclusively limited to non-fossil fuel uses.

Creative Souls (continued)

Fenton's work has appeared in The New York Times, American Poetry Review, Prairie Schooner, and elsewhere. She has won the Pablo Neruda Award and the Bob Bush Memorial Award, and *Clamor* made her the first American to win The University of Wales Dylan Thomas Prize. Elyse is presently working on a novel. Since her work to date has been distinctly lyrical, I can't wait to see how she handles her novel's narrative arc.

You can hear Elyse Fenton interviewed about her poetry on National Public Radio's All Things Considered:

www.npr.org/2010/12/22/132265874/War-Poetry-Inspired-By-A-Husbands-Service

While Portland bookstores show her books to be out of stock, both *Clamor* and *Sweet Insurgent* can be obtained online.

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Maintenance tips from “pet-friendly” Mike Gardner of Real Estate Roofing

by Mark Mohammadpour

We are pleased to shine the New Year's spotlight on newsletter advertiser Real Estate Roofing, a full-service roofing company providing professional evaluation and analysis of properties at no charge (see ad on this page). Owner Mike Gardner has lived in the area for 60 years, enjoys working and living here, and loves his pets! In fact, when asked for a photograph of himself to accompany this article, Mike opted for a snapshot of his three dogs, noting, “These are our dogs who come to work with my wife and me every day. We actually have two resident cats as well; however, it was tough to get them in the picture with the dogs.”

We asked Mike what local residents should keep in mind during the winter months, and he shared the following tips:

- Moss, debris, and overflowing gutters can cause leaks, flooding, and frustration. Be proactive and have inspections done now, before there is an emergency. Even just a visual inspection can help to see if anything looks out of place; missing shingles, roof debris, overhanging tree limbs can all pose potential problems in the winter. Ongoing preventative maintenance will save you time and money and increase your roof life.
- Emergency repairs are just that: an urgent call for service. As you might imagine, you won't be the only one calling, and even if it's a vendor you consistently use, it may be some time before they're able to come out.
- As winter approaches, we tend to button everything down by closing the windows to stay snuggled in. There is a more significant threat of mold growth due to the lack of airflow and ventilation. While roof leaks can indeed lead to mold growth in the attic, a lot of mold is caused by improper venting and high humidity.



The three faithful canine companions of Mike Gardner, owner of Real Estate Roofing.

Since mold can grow in 24 to 48 hours, it is essential to inspect your property at this time of year for proper ventilation. Bathroom fans are one of the leading causes of mold, because quite often they are not hooked up properly and are blowing hot, moist air into the attic and not venting directly outside.

■ If anyone has had water leaks repaired (roofing or plumbing) over the summer, it is an excellent time to fix any resulting water damage to the interior plaster. For the exterior, if they have noticed areas where water has started to infiltrate the stucco, such as around windows or doors, it is good to fix them as soon as possible, because freezing temps make the problem grow. Get it while it's still small.

Thanks for the helpful tips, Mike. Great to have you aboard as an advertiser!

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Cook like no one is watching!

by Susan Trabucco

It's not officially winter as I write this, but it sure is acting like it! Frequent deluges of rain and strong winds batter the windows; it's getting colder. But look at the bright side—it's time for soup!

In the spirit of community building, which is ideally one of the outcomes of this newsletter, one of my neighbors submitted this recipe. It was at my request after, in a passing sidewalk confab, Robert described the soup he and his wife had created. He spoke with the passion of a chef and soup aficionado—and it sounded like just the thing to cure the wintertime blues. Enjoy!

Recipe by Robert Tyska and Chelsea Herzog

This recipe (shown on page 19) is perfect for those cold and wet Portland winter months. It is super easy to make and a family

**"NO ONE
IS BORN A
GREAT
COOK,
ONE LEARNS
BY DOING."**

—Julia Child
Chef & Author

favorite in our household. With the right garnishes and some bread, or bread bowl, this simple recipe can easily be served as a filling meal. It's also not entirely unhealthy as we avoided using ingredients common to autumn bisques, such as heavy cream. The recipe was honed through an ongoing process of trial and error and can be modified to suit your specific dietary restrictions or tastes. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

Susan Trabucco is a Beaumont-Wilshire resident who is passionate about cooking and tropical-ish gardening. Her wish for this regular column is to inspire the fearful to cook with abandon and the experienced to find a new "keeper" recipe. Cook on! For recipe questions or to submit your recipe ideas for this column, contact Susan (susan@trabucco.biz).



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Neighborhood Flavor

“Cook Like No One is Watching!” recipe from Robert Tyska and Chelsea Herzog

Serves 4 to 6

Autumn Bisque

Note: don't worry about chopping everything precisely to the same size because the soup will need to be blended before the last step. We use our Vitamix, which requires the blending to be done in batches. An immersion blender would be an easier way to go.

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|--|
| ½ butternut squash (peeled and chopped) | 1 can coconut milk |
| 1 medium-sized sweet potato (peeled and chopped, approximately equivalent to the amount of butternut squash) | 2 c low-sodium vegetable broth |
| 1 large carrot (peeled and chopped) | ⅛ tsp cayenne pepper |
| 1 medium white onion (peeled and chopped) | ⅛ Tbs ground nutmeg |
| 1 Honeycrisp apple (cored and chopped) | 1 to 2 Tbs ground cinnamon (this is more of a low-end guideline, we load our soup with more than 2 Tbs of cinnamon, but it may be too much for some) |
| 4 cloves of garlic (peeled and minced) | Salt and pepper to taste |

Garnishes for serving (optional)

- Sour cream
- Sage and brown butter
- Toasted pumpkin seeds

Instructions

1. Saute the onions and carrots in the slow cooker (or stovetop).
2. When soft, add in the garlic for a minute or so.
3. Immediately turn off the saute setting on slow cooker and add in the 2 cups of vegetable broth. Make sure to scrape all the onions, garlic, and carrot off the sides and into the broth. (If prepared on stove top, now's the time to put everything into your slow cooker).
4. Add the chopped butternut squash, sweet potato, carrot, and apple.
5. Add seasonings.
6. Cook on the normal setting for 7 to 8 hours.
7. When ready, blend the soup using a mixer or immersion blender (see the note above)
8. After blending, add back to the slow cooker, and mix in the coconut milk.
9. Cook for another 20 to 30 minutes.
10. Serve and garnish as desired.

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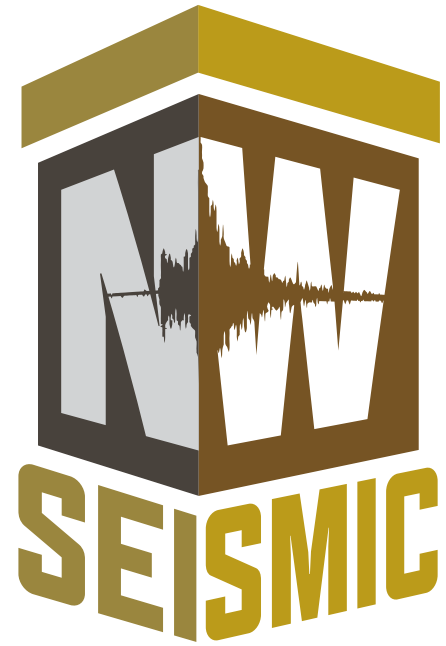


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