

BWNA

Newsletter of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association



FREMONT FOOD CART POD GAINS TRACTION

page 4

The 3D renderings of Fremont Garage above were created by Catherine Faye Interiors using Sketchup and Enscape.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT, p 7
Meet Laurie Webber



NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT, p 14
Meet Ron Bockman, the '5-Mile Guy'

January-February 2026

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PROGRESSION

by Al Ellis, BWNA Board President

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

Popularized in a refrain from the 1990s hit song "Closing Time" by the band Semisonic, this lyric actually had its genesis some 2,000 years ago in ancient Rome, courtesy of philosopher, statesman, and dramatist Lucius Annaeus Seneca, known back then as Seneca the Younger (his dad being Seneca the Elder). Later, he was simply known as Seneca.

Selected as a tutor for young prince Nero, Seneca would later be elevated to the perilous position of royal advisor to erratic Emperor Nero, who eventually went off the rails, sentencing mentor Seneca to a "forced suicide" on specious charges of disloyalty. Quoting from a 1960s song, "Paranoia strikes deep."

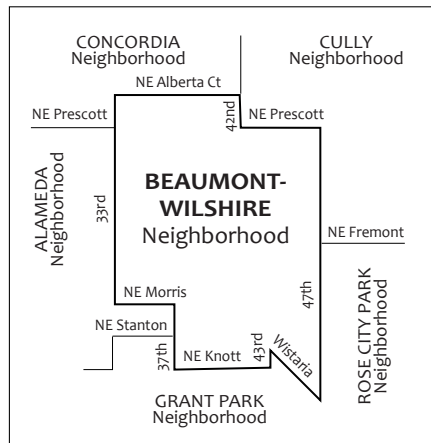
But what's relevant in this for BWNA? Certainly not the erratic behavior of a paranoid autocrat. As we usher in the new year, what's relevant for the BWNA Board is Seneca's philosophical assertion that "every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end" — i.e., that decisions made for the coming year are inextricably tied to what worked well or didn't work so well in the previous year.

Last November, in a meeting room converted from a former classroom at McMenamins Kennedy School, our board met for its annual retreat to strategize for 2026. Five hours in length, the get-together also afforded the opportunity for members to get to know each other better on a personal level, impossible in the fast-paced environment of a BWNA monthly business meeting. Accordingly, at the top of the retreat agenda was the following "ice breaker" question: "What kinds of civic engagement have you participated in over the years, and what kinds of civic engagement are you interested in currently, including BWNA projects?" Responses ran the gamut from politics to volunteerism. It was impressive.

In many ways 2025 was a banner year for BWNA — our neighborhood association implemented the crosswalk safety flags project, expanded the all-neighborhood street party, and was instrumental in gaining the city and state attention needed to help Beaumont Market establish the Green Bag container redemption program, which is coming soon, we hope. We also maintained an engaged, full, 15-member board.

Looking for positive civic engagement on the local level? Look no further. Join one of our BWNA committees to help our neighborhood continue to progress in 2026.

Happy New Year, neighbors!



NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION

NE 33rd to NE 47th Ave and NE Prescott/
Alberta Court to NE Stanton/Wisteria Drive.

2,700 copies printed and hand-delivered six
times per year: Jan., April, July, Sept., & Nov.

Readership estimated at 6,000.

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

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President@BWNApdx.org

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Related Organizations

Beaumont Business Association

beaumontbusinesses@gmail.com

Mary Myers, President

bbaboardpresident@gmail.com

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

Board Liaison: Patty Nelson

Areas of Interest

Residents are encouraged to participate.

Contact committee chairs for details.

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Patty Nelson, co-chair (503) 281-8035

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TAKE THE SURVEY!
**HELP SHAPE OUR
FOOD CART POD**

FREMONT GARAGE, the food cart pod under construction on NE Fremont Street at 44th, is scheduled to open in May, and the developer is inviting you to help with a few final decisions, like:

- Types of Cuisine
- Hours of Operation
- Specific Vendors You Recommend



Use this QR code to
access the brief survey

Not sure how to use a QR code? Simply open the camera on your phone and hover over the QR code as though you were going to take a photo of it. A link will pop up that will take you to the survey.

Julie Brown



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NEWS BITS

FROM B-W
&
BEYOND

Fremont Garage Food Carts Update, Opportunity to Voice Food Preferences

It's really happening! The food cart pod at NE Fremont and 44th, now known as the Fremont Garage, is under construction; the nine-cart pod is expected to open in May of this year.

The fun news: The developer is inviting B-W neighbors to weigh

in on what type of food carts the pod should have via an online survey. Make your wishes known by visiting [surveymonkey.com/r/D2MVMV5](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D2MVMV5) or use the QR code provided on page 3. Daniel Silvey with DBS Group LLC is the developer of Fremont Garage. He earlier reported to BWNA that the project will include expanded interior seating and a play area for kids. "We heard from people that a play space would be a welcome addition," Silvey said.

Readers Take Heed: A B-W Book Club is Forming: Respond by January 20

Are you interested in participating in a new book club? If so, you'll be thrilled to hear that B-W residents Bev Yashar and Karen Kun are working to establish one. The duo is eager to find others who want to do two things: spend time talking about books and also establish new connections in our neighborhood.

"We're open to all types of readers," said Bev. "And," she added, "Karen and I plan to hold our meetings at one or more of our local neighborhood establishments."

If this idea piques your interest, please take a moment to answer a few questions about yourself and your reading preferences for Bev and Karen. The following link, tinyurl.com/zukur8xs, will take you to a five-question form. Your answers will help identify B-W

residents' initial interest in this new book club. Submitting the form is not a commitment to participate.

"We encourage you to share your perspective," said Karen, "even if you are a 'maybe' or are uncertain about ultimately participating."

The form will close on January 20, and Karen and Bev will touch base with anyone who expresses interest. Information about the next steps will be provided after the forms are reviewed. Please email yashar@umich.edu or karen.kun@outlook.com with any questions, or if you need help accessing the form.

BWNA Treasurer in the News!



Karla Lenox

At the BWNA Board's retreat in November, we shared examples of our individual civic involvement over the years. Karla Lenox, longtime BWNA treasurer, spoke quietly, as she's known to do, about how she prefers to do work in the "background" when she volunteers.

Imagine our surprise, then, when just weeks later Karla was featured on the front page of *The Oregonian*! She and her boyfriend had stumbled upon a camera left behind at a remote rest stop in the Alvord Desert in southeast Oregon. Karla went to great lengths to find the camera's rightful owner, ultimately securing the assistance of *The Oregonian* reporter Samantha Swindler. An intriguing mystery story and a happy ending led Oregon Live to run a story about it, and *The O's* print editors decided it was front page-worthy, too.

When accolades poured in about the article from BWNA Board members, Karla responded by saying, "Thanks for the kind acknowledgments! Such a good outcome — it really does feel great, especially knowing now what an important trip it was for that father and son."

To read the article visit tinyurl.com/5t57z49k.



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Visit [BWNApdx.org](https://www.BWNApdx.org) to register your email address and keep up to date on neighborhood news, meetings, and activities.

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Dr. Kiran Mistry, DDS

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5 0 3 . 2 8 8 . 7 4 8 1

ACTUAL PATIENT REVIEW:

" I have been going to this office before Dr. Mistry started. I am so glad the retiring dentist chose Dr. Mistry to take over the practice. He is highly skilled, listens well, is extremely gentle, and has solved a cosmetic issue that other dentists could not. The team is great,

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. "

PEQUEÑITOS CHILD CARE CONTINUES TO EXPAND

by Chris Rauber



Stefany Messner, Pequeñitos Child Care multi-site coordinator and administrator. Photo by Chris Rauber.

Pequeñitos Child Care has done it again. The rapidly expanding NE Portland-based Spanish immersion program has made its second recent purchase of a building in or just outside B-W, this time the former Alder Commons property at 4212 NE Prescott St.

Stefany Messner, the company's multi-site coordinator and administrator, says the new building could open as one of

its centers as early as March because it already has permits and classrooms in place.

Earlier, Pequeñitos bought the former U.S. Bank space at 4920 NE 42nd St.. That space, now expected to open in January or February, will include an infant classroom, preschool classroom, and after-school care. Earlier plans to build a second structure there changed, Messner said, when the Alder Commons property became available.

The former Alder Commons site will initially focus on infant care and later add toddler and preschool classrooms.

Pequeñitos operates other sites on NE 55th Avenue (currently its main site), N. Lombard Street, NE 73rd Avenue, and NE Sumner Street. It currently provides care for 170 children.

The company started 19 years ago, when CEO Karen Messner, Stefany's aunt, turned caring for her own daughter into the beginning of a bigger childcare career.

For more information, visit pequenitoschildcare.org.

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

BWNA BOARD & GENERAL MEETINGS

Mon, Jan. 12 @ 7 p.m.: Board meeting
Mon, Feb. 9 @ 7 p.m.: General meeting

Check "Upcoming Events" page on BWNA website for venue and/or Zoom link info regarding Board and General meetings

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Events

Tues., Jan. 6 @ 7 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 3 @ 7 p.m.

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

Newsletter Team

Meets every other month.
For details email Susan Trabucco via Editor@BWNAPdx.org

Deadlines

We publish the 1st of Jan., March, May, July, Sept. & Nov.
Pre-approved articles & ads must be submitted by the 1st of the month PRIOR to publishing date. Submit articles to 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

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Ads are accepted as space allows. For ad rates and instructions, visit BWNAPdx.org/ad-rates

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 31 (Saturday) 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Workshop at 11:15 a.m.)

Seed Swap & Workshop by NE Village PDX

Location: Rose City Park United Methodist Church
Parlor Room (church basement), 5830 NE Alameda St.

Come swap non-GMO seeds, rhizomes, roots, and tubers with other local gardeners at NE Village PDX's third annual Seed Swap. Learn, network, and prepare for the gardening season ahead. No seeds to share? Come anyway! This FREE event is open to the public and is supported by Growing Gardens, Portland Nursery, and Garden Fever. Donations accepted.

A free workshop "How to Start Seeds and Plan a Vegetable Garden," starts at 11:15 a.m.

Northeast Village PDX, a program of the Northeast Community Center, is a vibrant and engaging community of older adults (60+) living in 18 neighborhoods in northeast Portland. For more info call (503) 895-2750 or email info@nevillagedpx.org.

February 21 (Saturday) 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Neighborhood Styrofoam & Electronics Recycling Event

Location: Great Spirit United Methodist Church
Parking Lot, 3917 NE Shaver St.

Bring your Styrofoam, old batteries, and electronics to this BWNA-sponsored recycling event organized by neighbors Laurie Webber and Geoff Wickes. Donations accepted.

Required: Email Laurie.Webber2011@gmail.com ahead of the event with details about what you intend to drop off so we know how many trucks we'll need!

Fees apply for some items to cover the cost of disposal:

Styrofoam: 45-gal. bags: \$10. Less than 45-gal., prorated

Accepted: Styrofoam #6, Styrofoam picnic/shipping coolers, sheets, take-out containers (must be clean), packing peanuts (packaged to eliminate mess), and XPS foam insulation.

Not Accepted: dirty or wet Styrofoam (none with tape or stickers), Instapacks or plastic-wrapped spray-in foams, hot tub covers, foam with glue, or polyurethane/#1 PETE.

Batteries: lithium batteries – **FREE**; small donation required for alkaline and car/motorcycle batteries.

Electronics: all accepted (even broken holiday lights) – **FREE**

March 9 (Monday) 7 p.m.

BWNA Board Meeting with Special Guest Sameer Kanal, District 2 City Councilor

Location: Sylvan Learning, 4300 NE Fremont St., Suite 150

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Email volunteer event-organizer Laurie.Webber2011@gmail.com ahead of the event with details about what you intend to drop off so we know how many trucks to have on hand!

Fees apply for some items to cover cost of disposal;
See full list of accepted items in Upcoming Events on page 6.

BWNA VOLUNTEER VOICES

LAURIE WEBBER

compiled by Polly Webber



Laurie Webber

BWNA values its many neighborhood volunteers, from board members to committee members to those who can help only occasionally. In this edition, we'd like to introduce you to Events Committee volunteer Laurie Webber (*no relation to Polly*).

What drew you to volunteer with BWNA?

A little over two years ago I joined the first street mural painting project on Fremont. I had such a great time with the other volunteers that I offered to help with the next street mural project. Then the Events Committee was created and I joined in.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering with BWNA?

I love the people I've met through volunteering and enjoy helping to create opportunities for our neighbors to get to know each other.

What would you tell others who might be interested in volunteering?

We have so much fun! And many hands make light work. I participate with the Events Committee, and we'd love more ideas for how to bring our little slice of the city together. Having more folks on the committee with the energy to help make the ideas happen would be great, too!

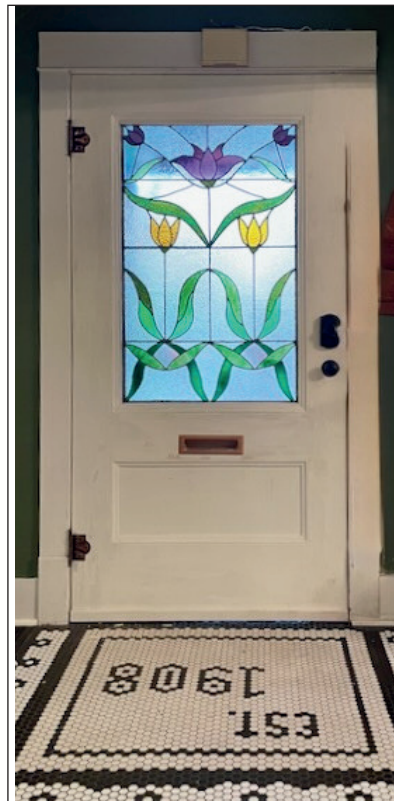
If you are interested in learning more about the Events Committee, please contact John Sandie at SandieFam@gmail.com. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The meeting location rotates among committee members' homes. Email John for the next meeting location.

Next up for the Events Committee: A Styrofoam and electronics recycling event on February 21. Check out Upcoming Events on page 6 for details.

Polly Webber is a real estate agent with Cascade Hasson Sotheby's. 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.



Polly Webber



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RECKONING WITH THE REALLY BIG ONE!

by John Sandie

Dr. Liz Safran, associate professor at Lewis & Clark College, took her audience through a quick overview of Seismology and Plate Tectonics 101 to begin her presentation about a potential Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. The free BWNA-sponsored November Speaker's Forum event, "Reckoning with the Really Big One," attracted more than 100 attendees.

Safran explained that while the science of seismology is only a little over 60 years old, through meticulous analytical work on tsunamis and detailed record keeping in Japan, it was determined that the last major earthquake in the Pacific Northwest occurred 325 years ago. In addition, by investigating unique signals and tell-tale signs in the strata of sea floor channels along the Washington and Oregon coasts, geologists have been able to piece together a 10,000-

year timeline of major quakes along the interface of the North American and Juan De Fuca tectonic plates — otherwise known as the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

"We're not all going to die, but it's going to suck."

While geologists can't pinpoint exactly when the next *BIG* earthquake will occur, they can use historical data to predict that one is due to occur. The only warning within existing scientific capabilities is in terms of seconds — enough to drop, cover, and hang on.

This is where Dr. Safran's presentation pivoted from academics to real life impacts. Tsunamis along the coast and urban shaking and soil liquefaction in the metro area will have the biggest impacts, causing destruction of the infrastructure. Steps are being taken to mitigate damage, including plans for a new "earthquake-ready" Burnside Bridge, construction of earthquake-resistant runways at PDX, and legislation of fuel storage standards to name a few. However, there will be no electricity, no water, no passable roads, and first responders cannot be counted on for a minimum of two weeks.

"We're not all going to die, but it's going to suck," Safran announced to a rapt crowd. She said people need to be prepared to depend on close neighbors for weeks or months. She encouraged folks to develop relationships with their neighbors, discuss and coordinate emergency supplies, and build in local resiliency that will be required when the "Big One" does occur.

Check out the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management at portland.gov/pbem for links to many useful sites that aim to help neighborhoods prepare for emergencies.

John Sandie relocated from the Midwest with his wife Kathy to be closer to children and grandchildren in the area, landing on Fremont Street in B-W in early 2011. In retirement they pursue their desires to make a difference locally, John by volunteering with the neighborhood association, Kathy with Alameda School. The duo is contentedly busy volunteering and keeping up with grandchildren.



John Sandie



Lewis & Clark College associate professor of geology Dr. Liz Safran at a recent BWNA-sponsored event. She explained the scientific indicators that make a major earthquake in the Pacific Northwest likely – at any time. Photo by Susan Trabucco.



DOWNSIZING FOR THE FUTURE

AND TO HELP HEAL A BROKEN HEART

by Susan Trabucco

There comes a time in life when you realize you will not, as you believed in your teens, live forever. While that realization came to my husband and me long before now, at 80 and 67 years old, respectively, preparing for our potential infirmity and eventual death moved up on our priority list recently.

Circumstances propelled us into action after my beloved mom passed away last August. She had lived in our ADU for the last four years, and suddenly it was silent and dark, void of my mom's indefatigably joyful spirit and contagious laughter. I couldn't look upon the ADU from our home without experiencing, as a dear friend said, "a tsunami of grief."

Then, soon after, longtime friends downsized and moved to ensure neither spouse ended up with years of collected belongings to pare down should they need to move, also sparing their daughter that work later.

That generated a spark: We, too, could downsize — to our ADU. All on one level, we'd rid ourselves of the many stairs to and within

our home. And by divesting ourselves of our "stuff," we'd lighten the load for the remaining spouse should one of us predecease the other — and save our kids the chore.

Reactions to our decision to ditch our chockablock full, 1,800-square-foot home in favor of a 760-square-foot space included comments such as, "You're doing whaaaat?" and "Don't you need some space away from your husband?" (I don't.) My millennial son, however, who lives simply and decries consumerism, is an unabashed supporter of the change.

But we've done it. Sold many of our once-treasured belongings and schlepped our remaining possessions 20 feet from the house to the ADU, where we now reside. Is there some pain in this process? Yes, but it isn't insurmountable. For those of you who might be considering downsizing, here are some things we've learned:

- Once both of our minds were made up to make this move, it was easy to part with once-coveted items.
- It's gratifying to give things to people who will treasure them. For example, the Cape Water Buffalo head, the animal of which was bagged by my husband's father in the 1950s and served time in a Dufur, Ore., bar before hanging out with us for 20 years, is going to my husband's nephew — and he's thrilled. Whew!
- It's been equally gratifying to sell our treasured stuff to people we didn't know, but you could see from the smile on their faces that they were going to give them a good home.

The best outcome from this move, however, is that I no longer feel sadness about the ADU. Instead, I feel it's my turn to bring joy and laughter to those who venture across the threshold of our tiny home.

Do you have a downsizing story to tell? We'd love to hear it. Email Editor@BWNAPdx.org.

Susan Trabucco is a BWNA Board member and the volunteer editor of this newsletter. She was the founder, editor and publisher of a regional business journal. Since 2012, Susan and her husband have called B-W home, where she practices zonal denial in her tropical-ish garden. Reach her by emailing Editor@BWNAPdx.org.



Susan Trabucco



This Cape Water Buffalo fell victim to our downsizing effort. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

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A ROSE IS A ROSE

by David Friedman



Rose Bonomo, center, performs and is the producer for Love, Shakespeare, a local troupe that has its own creative spin on the Bard. Photo by Summer Hughes.



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HELP YOU
MAKE YOUR
NEXT MOVE.**



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and really enjoy
helping my neighbors
achieve their real
estate goals. If you're
thinking of making
a change, please
reach out for a coffee
on Fremont!

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URBAN NEST REALTY

When Beaumont-Wilshire neighbor Rose Bonomo moved to Portland from New York, she says she naturally landed on the east side. "People that move here from New York gravitate to the east side, 'cause it's a grid. It's familiar." After years in Irvington, she moved up the hill when her kids were at Alameda, Beaumont, and Grant, drawn to "all different kinds of people up here."

Longtime residents may remember Rose from her cozy Fremont shop, Rosabode. "I was in love with faux fur, and I used to make these throws with faux fur on one side and fabric on the other,"

"It's dumb and silly, and you don't have to know anything about Shakespeare. It's guaranteed laughs."

she recalls. "Everything was handmade by us and designed, and it was pretty fun ... it was fun to meet a lot of your neighbors. I met so many neighbors." To this day people tell her, "I still have that throw."

After retiring, Rose circled back to her first love: theater. As a young woman in New York, she was an "actor, singer, dancer" who studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and trained in Shakespeare. When her kids left home, she says, "I just wanted to kind of find myself again," taking Spanish, aerial, and improv classes. That path led her to Love, Shakespeare, an improvised Shakespeare troupe where she now performs and serves as producer.

Love, Shakespeare takes the intimidation out of the Bard. Rose laughs, "If someone told me it was improvised Shakespeare, I would run in the opposite direction." But she reassures newcomers, "It's dumb and silly, and you don't have to know anything about Shakespeare. It's guaranteed laughs." At the same time, the ensemble works hard to honor "the spirit of Shakespeare's plays," balancing "the silliness with some amount of authenticity."

The most creative part of the work, she says, is the ensemble itself. "Listening is everything so that you don't miss anything and you don't drop anything. Creating a Shakespearean play out of nothing is pretty amazing."

Neighbors can support the troupe by coming to shows, telling others about the troupe, or by volunteering. "Being audience members, spreading the word, supporting us, all are fantastic ways to get involved," Rose says. For more information, tickets, and a contact form, visit LoveShakespearePDX.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.



David Friedman

SILHOUETTE'S EXTERIOR MURAL EVOKES SKILL OF DESIGNERS WITHIN

by Michael Wright, aka "Mike on a Bike"



The completed mural at Silhouette on NE Fremont Street. Photo by Michael Wright.

How fortunate are we to have an outdoor gallery of art scattered throughout our neighborhood? I'm referencing murals, of course. I'm mesmerized by each new one I come across. Being a curious sort, I wonder what inspired the murals, why they were created in that location, who commissioned them, and who painted them.

In this issue I'm featuring a stylish mural on the wall of Silhouette, a women's tailoring boutique and design studio at NE 42nd and Fremont. I met Julia Studer, Silhouette's owner, quite by chance several years ago when I walked into the shop with a cherished jacket in need of a new zipper.

While I was in the store, I noticed a framed painting identical to the mural on the side wall of the store. "That's pretty cool," I thought. "She must have found the painting and liked it enough to commission a painter to replicate it on a mural." It didn't surprise me, because the style of the clothing on the women in the painting captured the theme of the design studio to a T. Alas, it turns out my assumption about the painting was wrong.

Artist/designer Raziah Roushan actually created the masterpiece, not once, but twice! It turns out that as part of her creative process, Raziah painted the small framed version that adorns the shop wall after consulting with Julia about what she wanted the mural to communicate. Then it was a meticulous process outlining the painting, balancing the background tones just so, and completing a work of art on paper and then again on the shop's exterior wall.

From my perspective, Julia and Raziah formed the perfect team. Both are passionate about their craft, possess a native instinct for style, and have a creative gene. Stop by and view the mural next time you are near the corner of NE 42nd and Fremont. If you see Julia, tell her Mike on a Bike says "Hi!"

For more about Silhouette visit silhouettetailoringstudio.com. Artist Raziah Roushan's work can be seen at raziahrousan.com.

Alameda resident Michael Wright is a rewired (not a typo) sports agent who moved to PDX with his wife Sally in 2009 from New York City. Writing, cycling, and sports of all types are no longer side hustles, but full-time pursuits



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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CALLED BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE 'HOME' — BUT BY ANOTHER NAME

by Tim Gillespie



A Native-inspired mural graces the exterior of the Nesika Illahee apartment building on NE 42nd Avenue in the Cully neighborhood. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

Klahowya tillicum!

That’s “Greetings, people” in Chinook wawa, the inter-tribal trade lingo developed over time by the original inhabitants here. These Columbia Basin peoples’ oral accounts and archeologists agree that Indigenous people lived in our area for up to 10,000 years before Europeans showed up.

When Lewis and Clark’s expedition passed through in 1805-1806, those explorers estimated that nearly 5,000 year-round Native residents — and up to 11,000 during fish runs — populated the lands along the Columbia from the Sandy River to Sauvie Island. In other words, those explorers didn’t travel through some empty, unknown country but were traversing lands long successfully inhabited by thriving Indigenous cultures that had built a vast trade network along the river.

Over 30 villages existed not far from Beaumont-Wilshire. Neerchokikoo, for example, was a flourishing fishing village of the Multnomah band of Chinookan peoples located on the site of today’s Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) at NE 51st and Columbia Boulevard. Other accounts detail settlements near the Portland Airport and The Grotto, and what’s now Sandy Boulevard was a well-traveled Native footpath between fishing grounds on the Columbia and the Willamette rivers.

Largely peaceful, many of these Indigenous groups lived in sturdy riverside cedar-plank longhouses that could accommodate up to 100 people. Expert canoe builders (some of their waxed and painted watercraft could carry 30 paddlers), these Natives were admired as skillful hunters and fishers, helpful guides,

accomplished artists and woodworkers, and masterful weavers of waterproof baskets, hats, and clothes.

Change would eventually come, however. When the U.S. and Britain divvied up the Pacific Northwest, millions of acres of Oregon Territory — including all of Portland — were opened to White settlement. By the mid-1850s, the Indigenous population had been decimated by diseases brought by the newcomers (notably smallpox) and forced relocations to reservations.

Despite their decline in population, Native Americans are still an important component of our community today. According to the online Oregon Encyclopedia, over 40,000 Urban Indians live in the Portland area.

Beaumont-Wilshire is a beneficiary of that presence. For example, Javelina Indigenous Dining on NE 42nd offers Native American chef Alexa Numkena-Anderson’s traditionally inspired cuisine. And just north of us in Cully, apartments co-sponsored by NAYA — including Nesika Illahee (“Our Place”) and Mamook Tokatee (“Make Beautiful”) — showcase Native-inspired architecture and art. NAYA itself is one of the largest employers of urban Native American people in the Pacific Northwest, and nearby Bison Coffeehouse is our city’s only Native-owned coffeeshop and bakery.

We honor our original inhabitants with streets and places named after area tribes — Klickitat, Tillamook, Clackamas, Multnomah — and words from Indigenous peoples’ languages, like Willamette (“still water”).

A short bike ride away is one of the newest Portland Parks, Khunamokwst (KHAN-ah-mockst). In Chinook wawa, that means “together,” which carries the spirit of the First Peoples here that can inspire us today.

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

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BEHIND THE STRIDE OF THE 77-YEAR-OLD '5-MILE GUY'

by Jamie Gardner



Ron Bockman showcases a photo of his first marathon in 1983. At 77 years old, he walks five miles every day in Beaumont-Wilshire. Photo by Jamie Gardner.

If you spend much time at Wilshire Park, you've likely seen Ron Bockman speed walking by. He has a unique gait, swinging his arms high to keep himself on pace. Some neighbors refer to him as "the man that walks" or "the five-mile guy."

Ron is a Portland unicorn, born and raised in the Mt. Tabor area. He bought his current home on NE Skidmore in 1977, not knowing at the time what a big part of his life his walks in the neighborhood would become.

Ron has always been a health nut, and in his late 30s, when he wasn't working with his dad in the family parking lot business downtown, he was usually at Loprinzi's Gym lifting weights. Ron's commitment to health and fitness really took off when some friends at the gym encouraged him to start running, and he quickly found his passion for the sport.

Ron completed his first marathon in Seaside in 1983. He went on to run 12 more, mostly in Oregon, with a few others, including the Avenue of Giants in the California Redwoods, the Seattle Marathon, Canada's BMO Vancouver Marathon, and the Boston Marathon, where he qualified at a respectable 7.5-minute-per-mile pace. Ron also ran some shorter races, like the Hood to Coast Relay and the Cascade Runoff 15K.

As he got older, and after a few injuries, Ron transitioned to slowing his pace. Since then, he has been walking five to six miles a day, every day, through the streets of Beaumont-Wilshire. His route can vary, but he usually walks down Skidmore from his house to Wilshire Park, and snakes through the neighborhood, returning the way he came.

At 77 years old, Ron's power walks have become a key part of his healthy lifestyle. Before every walk, he stretches for 90 minutes to prevent injuries. "It's an investment in my health and has a positive impact on my life," he reflected.

Ron loves living and walking in the neighborhood because of the nice neighbors and the proximity to everything he needs. "My neighbors are worth their weight in gold!" he said proudly.

If you see Ron speeding by, say hello or give him a wave! The steps keep him strong, but it's the people around him who make every mile meaningful.

Jamie Gardner is a Portland native and Windermere agent putting her UO journalism degree to use here – finally! She's lived in Beaumont-Wilshire since 2020 with her husband and two dogs. When she's not with clients or touring homes, Jamie loves to travel, tackle house projects, and enjoy the local food scene.



Jamie Gardner

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Photo of a young girl building with LEGO bricks.

'TICK-TOCKERS' PAIR WITH MOMS TO DO GOOD WORKS

by Pamela Plimpton



Beaumont-Wilshire "Tick-Tockers" in attendance at the National Charity League's Annual Tea held recently at the Waverly Country Club. Standing, from left to right: Amy Donahue, Margot Gilley, Laura Chehab, Kerry Gilley, Colby Lawn, Jennifer Weddel, and Rémy Wagner. Seated: Hazel McKean and Maya Chehab. Photo by Nancy Bartow.

Long before TikTok video influencers claimed international fame, girls participating in the National Charity League (NCL) had adopted the moniker "Tick-Tocker" while working to make the world a better place.

Within the chapters of the NCL, daughters are affectionately referred to as "Tick-Tockers" because, recognizing that the years from sixth through 12th grade are fleeting and that time is "tick-tocking" away, the NCL gives mother-daughter pairs opportunities to volunteer together during the daughters' last six years of school. Girls must join in middle school in order to participate throughout high school, usually joining in sixth grade and beginning participation in seventh grade.

According to NCL mother and Beaumont-Wilshire resident Laura Chehab, NCL fosters the mother-daughter relationship while developing leadership skills in girls and women, primarily through philanthropic work. "Our three pillars are leadership, cultural experiences, and philanthropy," states Chehab. Both of Chehab's daughters, Millie and Maya, volunteer with their mom at various philanthropic organizations throughout Portland.

Beaumont-Wilshire residents Colby Lawn and Amy Donahue and their daughters, Ella Ferber and Hazel McKean, respectively, are also members of the Portland NCL chapter. They enjoy the opportunity that NCL activities give them to meet NCL members from all over Portland.

Moms Chehab, Lawn, and Donahue all agree that the NCL experience provides mothers and daughters with the opportunity to practice skills such as public speaking, role-modeling, and mentoring, while engaging in community service. Even more important are the benefits each member experiences by performing community service. Moms and daughters develop friendships with new people, learn to be accountable to themselves and to others, and, perhaps most important, experience compassion for those who are less fortunate.

Word-of-mouth and some advertising make people aware of NCL. Chehab stated the League now has over 290 chapters in 32 states, with 200,000 members and alumnae. Annually, members donate over 2.7 million volunteer hours.

"Together with our daughters, we volunteer at various philanthropic organizations around Portland," Chehab said. "Some of these include the Oregon Food Bank, Dress for Success, the Oregon Humane Society, and many other organizations in the local area."

Meetings and activities are scheduled to accommodate the girls' school commitments and mothers' work schedules. Monthly meetings are held on Sundays for the girls and Tuesday evenings for the mothers.

NCL activities can be listed on college applications and can lead to other opportunities. The minimum participation requirement is 15 hours per year. The organization charges an annual fee that covers all costs for the year. There is a limit of 30 girls per grade, and the Portland NCL chapter has room to grow.

The organization's Portland membership drive opens on January 15, 2026. Applications are available for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls. The application deadline is March 1, 2026. If you are interested in more information, you can complete an inquiry form at tinyurl.com/2m9jtt6f. And remember — time is tick-tocking away!

Pamela Plimpton, a B-W resident since 1980, retired as a professor of English in 2020. Her interests include reading, writing, gardening, and singing with a community chorale. She and her husband enjoy playing golf, working out at the N.E. Community Center, traveling, and grandparenting their granddaughter.



Pamela Plimpton

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WE CAN, AND MUST, MAKE THINGS BETTER

by Chris Rauber

It's a new year, following on the heels of a very difficult one. It's been hard in Portland, where we've faced an unnecessary invasion of ICE enforcement agents and the threat of federal troops, and as a nation we've been subjected to an out-of-control federal government, a tough economy for many, and near-constant chaos.

We may not agree on all of the details, but I suspect most of us in NE Portland and B-W can agree this is not the kind of environment we want our children and grandchildren to grow up in or the legacy we want to leave.

Most of us want a nation where differences, including differences of opinion, can be discussed without name calling and denigrating people. A place where our nation's history (and Oregon's and Portland's) is explored honestly. Where we expect evidence to be used as the basis for government policies. Where big corporations and tech billionaires don't have extraordinary power over the rest of us. Where schools do a better job of teaching

OPINION: WHAT I THINK

and students a better job of learning. Where health care quality and availability are higher and costs are controlled. Where our natural environment is valued and protected. Where freedom – real freedom – reigns.

And imagine a Portland that offers more and better housing options for people without big budgets; well-run, responsive city and county governments; and a healthier economy for all.

All of this is possible if We the People take more responsibility for our lives and treat it as our personal responsibility to make this kind of civility and progress a priority. Our children are counting on us.

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

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association.



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- Ticket sales help BWNA fund many free community events throughout the year.
- To learn more, visit BWNApdx.org, choose Get Involved! and click on the pink garden host button. Contact patricekoehler@gmail.com if you have an interest!

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR OUR SPEAKERS FORUM?

- Birds, bees, seeds? History or herstory? City politics? Aging in place? Downsizing? While there are a host of potential topics for our BWNA speakers forum, we'd like to hear from YOU.
- What are you interested in? Or do you have a subject you'd like to present?
- In 2025, BWNA logged talks on our neighborhood's history, beneficial bugs, and going all-electric, and in November we hosted a presentation on the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake (see related article on page 8). What's in store for 2026?
- If you have ideas for us, contact SandieFam@gmail.com.

EVENTS

- Our Events Committee is where all the BWNA-sponsored events and activities begin. Join this team of enthusiastic planners to contribute your ideas, or take the lead role in planning an event.
- If you're not the meeting-goer sort, consider helping occasionally at events like the community clean-up, speaker forums, BWNA Skidmore Block Party, or others.
- We'd also love to have folks skilled at Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, and/or marketing to help with promotion of events.
- To get involved, email Events Committee chair John Sandie at SandieFam@gmail.com.

BE A TRASH WALKER!

- Help us "keep it clean" in the neighborhood by picking up trash and removing graffiti in Beaumont-Wilshire on a regular basis as you walk the neighborhood. To be a Trash Walker, email Angela Frome at angfrome@yahoo.com to receive free cleaning supplies.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

- We always have room for people with writing or reporting experience. Write regularly or occasionally, and plan to have fun! Email Editor@BWNApdx.org for more information.

For more information about any of these ways to volunteer with BWNA visit BWNApdx.org and click Get Involved!

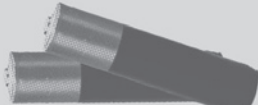


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See full list of accepted items in Upcoming Events on page 6.

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CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET STATS FOR BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE

8 Homes for Sale	\$589,900 Median List Price	66 Median Days on Market
5 Homes Under Contract	\$1,049,900 High Price	\$449,900 Low Price

The statistics above provide an up-to-date snapshot of the listed inventory as of December 19, 2025. Median days on market is a good indicator of the average length of time the current inventory has been on the market. Compiled by Polly Webber.

BWNA, BBA JOINTLY EXPLORING PUBLIC PLAZA OPPORTUNITY

by Aaron Breakstone



Concordia Neighborhood Association worked with PBOT to establish the plaza at NE 30th and Killingsworth. Concordia Commons is a popular gathering space. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

Together with the Beaumont Business Association (BBA), BWNA recently submitted an initial application to participate in the City of Portland’s Public Street Plaza Program.



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Launched in 2022 and currently consisting of 20 locations, the program is built upon partnerships between neighborhood groups and the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), with a stated aim of creating “community-oriented public spaces where business and the neighborhood come together.”

Plazas are created via full or partial block closures of relatively low-traffic streets where necessary residential, commercial, and emergency access can be retained. They are established with minimal physical infrastructure, often include outdoor seating for adjacent establishments, and are intended to serve as hubs for informal gatherings and venues for organized events. Specific locations are ultimately identified through consideration of multiple criteria in a collaborative process involving sponsoring organizations, PBOT, neighbors, and nearby businesses.

In the case of Beaumont Village, the most likely configuration would involve the partial closure of a cross street at its intersection with NE Fremont. An example of this concept can be found nearby at Concordia Commons on NE 30th immediately north of NE Killingsworth, with another similar installation in the Montavilla neighborhood at SE 79th and Stark.

The initial application to PBOT consisted of a survey in which prospective partners described their vision for a plaza, their programming and stewardship capacity, and the people and area that the plaza would serve. If the joint BBA-BWNA application is selected to move forward, the next steps would be a refinement phase comprising outreach, budget and funding conversations, and working with PBOT staff to decide on a specific location. This period would include opportunities for neighbors to ask questions and provide feedback; among those opportunities would be a BWNA special meeting devoted to the topic of the plaza proposal prior to a BWNA Board vote on whether to continue.

If selected in the first application round, final proposals will be due on March 1, followed soon after by an announcement of new locations to operate as trial plazas in summer 2026. If a Beaumont Village location is among them, a committee tasked with planning, programming, and upkeep would be formed, and interested neighbors would be encouraged to join.

More information about the plaza program is available at tinyurl.com/bdz3k9a2. You can also find PBOT’s 2024 Portland Street Plazas Annual Report at tinyurl.com/swpsdh9r. See excerpts from the annual report on page 19.

Aaron has lived in Beaumont-Wilshire for 15 years. He and his wife, 12-year-old son, and 4-year-old dog spend lots of time roaming the neighborhood and love having so many destinations within walking distance from their front door.



Aaron Breakstone

EXCERPTS FROM PBOT'S PORTLAND STREET PLAZAS 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

What People Are Saying About Portland Public Plazas

"It's really great that PBOT started these spaces for us. We were happy to jump in and steward the [Concordia] Commons. This space is for everyone and it's great that anyone can schedule an event here..."

John Fitzgerald, Chair of the Concordia Neighborhood Association

"The PBOT Plazas have transformed quiet streets into thriving community gathering places. A place to eat, rest, meet, and host events is key to any successful business district. Montavilla Farmers Market has utilized the Montavilla plaza for fun, neighborhood events that connect community members, increase foot traffic to the business district, and celebrate local food and farms..."

Lisa Hall, Executive Director, Montavilla Farmer's Market

"The support coming from PBOT has been invaluable to the neighborhood. The plaza has become a focal point in our community, and every year it improves. The past four years have been incredibly challenging for small businesses in Portland, but I feel that one of the bright spots has been the tireless efforts of PBOT and other partners to create these community spaces."

Travis Preece, Owner of Ankeny Tap & Table

Key Themes from Survey Respondents

Social Connections and Belonging: The plazas provide an invaluable space for community members to come together and foster meaningful social connections. Neighbors have the chance to meet one another, participate in shared activities, and establish a stronger sense of belonging. People feel that these spaces strengthen local ties and provide opportunities to interact with others in informal and casual ways.

What the community is saying:

"Great spaces for neighbors to get to know each other and see familiar faces. Great to hear music, nice to have street festivals. Park Plaza is a gem."

"I feel like I'm more connected to my neighborhood thanks to these plazas. It gives me a reason to be outside and see people I wouldn't normally run into."

"Having these plazas makes the area feel more like a neighborhood. I know more people in the community because we bump into each other here."

Family-Friendly Spaces: Several respondents highlighted how plazas offer safe and welcoming environments for families, particularly for parents with young children. The openness of the plazas, coupled with regular activities, creates a space where kids can run around freely while parents enjoy the surroundings.

What the community is saying:

"The plazas create such a safe space and community for everyone, and there's room for kids to run around safely."

"I love taking my kids to the plaza. It's one of the few places where I can let them play without worrying about traffic or safety issues."

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