

BWNA

Newsletter of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association



Photo courtesy of BBA

BEAUMONT CROSSING OPENS

A ribbon cutting on July 11 marked the official opening of Beaumont Crossing, a joint project of BWNA and the Beaumont Business Association (BBA). The public plaza on NE 44th at Fremont will hold events through September, then close for an assessment by the Portland Bureau of Transportation. Positive results mean it will reopen permanently next summer. Pictured above: BWNA Board President Al Ellis leaning in at left and BBA President Mary Meyers with scissors in hand.



Photo by Susan Trabucco

September-October 2026

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS

by Al Ellis, BWNA Board President

It was spring of 1980 when Mount St. Helens awakened from its long slumber, the destructive eruption blanketing Portland in ash, the endgame anyone's guess (weeks? months? years?). But fate was on our side with this one — the worst of it over in days, totally behind us by fall. Emblematic of the region's collective sigh of relief was the refrain from a popular ballad of the day, beautifully crooned by the harmonizing Australian ensemble Little River Band: "Time for a cool change."

Whether in times of peril or in everyday life, connectedness with friends and neighbors makes a difference. A stanza from "Cool Change" expresses it this way:

There's lots of those friendly people
They're showing me ways to go
But I never want to lose their inspiration

That sentiment is repeatedly expressed in feedback from Beaumont-Wilshire newcomers and longtime residents: namely, appreciation for welcoming, supportive neighbors. Appropriately, then, "community connectedness" is at the heart of BWNA's largest annual event — our all-neighborhood block party along Skidmore Street, adjacent to Wilshire Park. Happening this year on September 11, the party will feature live music, dancing,

food vendors, and games for kids. See page 6 for details.

The theme of connectedness is also central to B-W's summer trial run of the Beaumont Crossing public plaza, located in the center of the Beaumont Village business district on 44th just off of Fremont. Co-sponsored by BWNA, Beaumont Business Association (BBA), and Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), this outdoor venue is designed to serve as a nexus for community "happenings" such as interactive activities and musical performances. Come autumn, Beaumont Crossing will be dismantled and subsequently evaluated by BWNA, BBA, and PBOT in terms of net benefit to the neighborhood... with next year's reprise hanging in the balance.

Another source of community connectedness is the revitalized B-W/ Alameda Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) led by neighbor Bec Lawson. This volunteer group will be an important support system in helping us keep our cool should we experience a natural disaster, such as the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake — aka "The Big One" — or a volcanic eruption, ice storm, or whatever. Bec will be presenting at BWNA's Sept. 14 board meeting at 7 p.m. at Sylvan Learning, 4300 NE Fremont St., Suite 150. I hope you will join us!

OUR ORGANIZATION

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Areas of Interest

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

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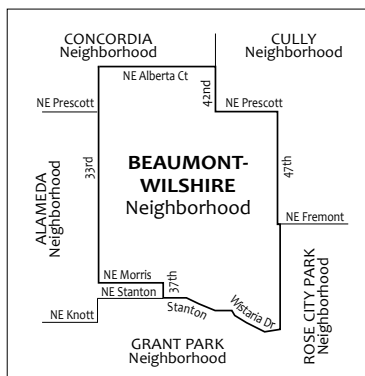
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NE 33rd to 47th Avenue between NE Alberta Court and Prescott on the north and NE Morris, Stanton, and Wistaria Drive on the south.

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

Readership estimated at 6,000.

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

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

EMILY DEAN RETURNS TO HER B-W ROOTS

by Jamie Gardner, BWNA Newsletter Team



Emily Dean, pictured here with her poodle mix, Andie, enjoys walking, working, and living in the neighborhood she grew up in. Photo by Jamie Gardner.

Three and a half years ago, Emily Dean and her now-fiancé, Dylan MacNevin, signed a lease for a home just blocks from her childhood home in Beaumont-Wilshire. After college in Bellingham, Wash., and a stint in southeast Portland, she was pleasantly surprised to find herself back in her old stomping grounds.

"I love the community feel of this neighborhood," she said, noting she recognizes nearly everyone on her short walk to work at Green Dog Pet Supply. Eight years in, Emily doesn't just sell pet food — she's passionate about helping customers and their pets, and regulars know her as "the harness fitter" for her knack for getting the perfect fit. Well-versed in pet nutrition and behavior, she takes pride in building relationships with the dogs who come through the door.

Emily was bound to be a true animal lover, even named after a favorite kitty of her parents. And despite a feline allergy, she swears she still likes cats. She admits she's more of a dog person, though, and adopted an 8-year-old poodle mix, Andie, about a year ago.

She and Dylan met a few years back while she was working at Rose City Book Pub on NE Fremont. Emily worked up the nerve to ask him out at a trivia night, and the two now plan to marry this September at the Warming Hut at Mt. Hood Skibowl.

Elise Schumock, Emily's former employer at the Book Pub and a fellow Beaumont-Wilshire resident, describes her simply: "a very smart, sensible lady, and such a sweetie."

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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NEWS BITS FROM THE EDITOR

Beaumont Crossing is Open for Your Community Event!

Calling all Beaumont-Wilshire community members! You are encouraged to schedule community events through September at Beaumont Crossing, the trial public plaza on NE 44th at Fremont Street. For event and activity ideas, visit the webpage for the Concordia

neighborhood's public plaza at concordiapdx.org/upcoming-events.

The plaza is open to all, there is no fee for most community events, and the application process is simple! To get started visit portland.gov/transportation/planning/plazas/community-events-plaza.

Beaumont Crossing barriers and furniture will be removed at the end of the trial period in late September, followed by an assessment period during which co-sponsors BWNA, the Beaumont Business Association, and the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) will reach out to residents, businesses, and community members to understand the effects of the plaza. If this assessment proves positive, there would be an opportunity to re-install Beaumont Crossing as a full-fledged member of PBOT's plaza program in spring 2027.

Send any questions or comments to the BWNA Plaza Committee by emailing plaza@bwnapdx.org. To view scheduled plaza events, visit the BBA's calendar page at bbapdx.org/calendar.

NAYA Reveals Early Ideas for Bethany Lutheran Property

Uncertainty about development plans came with the earlier announcement that the Bethany Lutheran Church property at the corner of NE Skidmore and 37th had changed hands from the Oregon Synod to the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA). At BWNA's June general meeting, NAYA representative Sky Waters provided some clarity, confirming that NAYA has no plans to seek a variance from the property's existing zoning. The site, which will be dedicated to elder housing, is zoned R5, which allows for detached houses, row houses, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, cottage clusters, and ADUs, all with a maximum height of 30 feet.

Waters indicated NAYA is likely to pursue cottage clusters, but he emphasized that planning is in its early stages. And, while 14 to 18 units are a preliminary goal for the site, Waters said that could change. Parking is not a requirement at the site as a result of 2019 Oregon legislation. However, Waters said NAYA wishes to be a good neighbor, and the group will need to learn more about its parking options. For more information about NAYA, visit nayapdx.org.

Little Griddle to Be Not So Little

An employee of the business confirmed the rumors are true: Little Griddle, the popular, postage stamp-sized brunch spot on NE 42nd Avenue across from Beaumont Middle School, is growing. The recent

closing of Beaumont Florist left the shop space directly adjacent to Little Griddle available for expansion. Look for a winter opening and more about what's happening there in a future BWNA newsletter.

Women's Gen X Social Group Takes Off

Beaumont-Wilshire resident Karen Burnett recently appealed to Gen X women in the B-W and Alameda neighborhoods to gauge their interest in shared social activity. She reported that 25 people responded in the affirmative. Feedback received revealed that common interests are walking/hiking, game nights, and dining out.

There's still time to jump in! Gen X women interested in joining with the goal of building community, supporting local businesses, and making new Gen X friends, please email portlandeastidesocial@gmail.com to be notified of upcoming events.

Fusion Curry Pizza Moving to NE Fremont

Maybe it was the signs in the windows that gave it away? Additionally, according to a late June post in the blog What Now Portland, Fusion Curry Pizza is moving from its Hollywood District location to 4831 NE Fremont Street, #4. This space formerly housed Pizza Nostra. An employee at Fusion Curry's current location recently confirmed the move-in date will be the first of September. For more information visit fusioncurrypizza.com.

Jim & Patty's Coffee on Fremont Closes... Again

A July 12 Facebook post by the business sprang the news that the resurrected version of beloved coffee shop Jim & Patty's had closed, just a year after it re-opened under new management. No cause was given, but the Facebook post mentioned, "As for the Jim & Patty's space at 4951 NE Fremont, we don't know what the future holds. It's possible it will become another location for Spielman Bagels." We'll provide more information as it comes our way.

Stolen Cars at East End of Beaumont Village

Lori Johnson-Vance, owner of Body Image Fitness on Fremont near NE 50th Avenue, reported to BWNA that in mid-July, two different tenants of apartments adjacent to her business had their car stolen. The business owner took it upon herself to install cameras rather than wait for the property manager to do so. She reported that one family got its car back but it had been "joy ridden" and heavily damaged; it's not known whether the other car has been recovered.

Lori joined in BWNA's August general meeting via Zoom to share her story with board members and meeting guest City Councilor Elana Pirtle-Guiney. The councilor stressed that money for police detectives to investigate crime had been slashed this year, but some of that funding will be reinstated next year. "Enforcement is the most effective way to cut down on these crimes," Pirtle-Guiney said.

Beaumont Middle School Band Wins Award, Seeks Donations

Beaumont Middle School (BMS) Band Director Cynthia Plank announced that the BMS school band, the Beaumont Jazz Ambassadors, received national recognition from DownBeat magazine. The band was the winner of the magazine's 49th Annual Student Music Award for Large Jazz Ensemble in the Junior High School category.

The 2026-2027 school year will be Plank's last after 24 years in her position. As a final hurrah, she is asking for help in funding the students' effort to attend the Reno Jazz Festival that starts April 29 next year. Plank stated all donations are tax deductible, and all contributions will go directly to fund the trip. To donate visit tinyurl.com/23wcfpxj or scan the QR code.



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CITY COUNCILOR ANSWERS QUESTIONS

by Tim Gillespie, BWNA Vice President and Newsletter Team Member

“The goal of being on the City Council was not originally on my bingo card,” said elected District 2 Councilor Elana Pirtle-Guiney during her visit to BWNA’s August 10 general meeting. However, she explained to board members and residents gathered at Sylvan Learning and on Zoom, when a redesigned council structure was enacted by Portland voters, she thought her experience with labor organizations, state government, and as a small business owner could make a positive contribution. After brief remarks, Pirtle-Guiney said, “I’d mostly like to hear from you.”

On the Moda Center

Taking center stage was the controversial issue of dedicating public funds to a Moda Center upgrade without any participation from the Trail Blazers. Pirtle-Guiney noted that not only the Blazers use the facility, but it is also host to the WNBA Portland Fire and other events that are its largest revenue generators, particularly sports tournaments and music concerts.

She explained that the city has three possible scenarios to address the arena’s future: 1) with \$400 million in state and county funds committed, pay its portion of the stadium revamp; 2) not meet all the Blazers’ demands, causing the team to leave town, and the city would need to spend money to keep other events at the center; and 3) spend no money, at which point the team would leave town, and the area would likely run the risk of the Rose Quarter becoming a dead zone with resulting public safety and equity concerns.



District 2 City Councilor Elana Pirtle-Guiney was the guest speaker at a recent BWNA meeting. She answered residents’ questions for an hour at the well-attended session. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

Given all three of those less-than-perfect possibilities, the councilor appeared to tentatively support the city’s addition of \$100

(continued on page 17)

BWNA BOARD & GENERAL MEETINGS

Mon, Sept. 14 @ 7 p.m.: Board meeting
Mon, Oct. 12 @ 7 p.m.: General meeting

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Events

Tues., Sept. 1 @ 7 p.m.
Tues., Oct. 6 @ 7 p.m.

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

Communication

Wed., Sept. 23 @ 4:30 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 28 @ 4:30 p.m.

For meeting location, contact committee chair Steven Avery via hello@stevenavery.com

Newsletter Team

Meets every other month.

For details email Susan Trabucco via Editor@BWNApdx.org

ARTICLES & ADS

Articles

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

Email Editor@BWNApdx.org

Advertising

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

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

what folks say:



Patti Koehler & Kate Krider
Beaumont-Wilshire Residents

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UPCOMING



EVENTS

September 11 (Friday), 5 – 8 p.m.

BWNA Block Party on Skidmore Street

Location: Skidmore Street between NE 35th Place and 37th Ave. Enjoy live music, Grant High School's Royal Blues a cappella group, dancing, kids' games, multiple food trucks, a photo booth, and beer for sale by sponsor pFriem Beer. Additional event sponsors are Hal Jones Automotive, Pacific Audiology, Jamie Gardner at Windermere Realty Trust, Tacovore, Garden Fever, and Ayumi Angel at Simply Living PDX. THANK YOU for helping make this event possible! Entry is free for all; bring a chair if you want a seat!

September 21 (Monday) 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Intro to Northeast Village PDX (Informational Session)

Location: Rose City Park United Methodist Church
Conference Room, 5830 NE Alameda St.

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

October 10 (Saturday) 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Positive Aging Health & Wellness Fair

Location: German American Society, 5626 NE Alameda St. How can we age in place in the comfort of our own home? What Portland-area resources are available to support older adults to live healthy, connected lives? These topics and more are the focus of an upcoming Positive Aging Health & Wellness Fair hosted by the Community for Positive Aging (CfPA). For more information and to RSVP, see the ad on this page and the related article on page 7.

October 29 (Thursday) 7 p.m.

The Ice Age Missoula Floods in Your Neighborhood

Location: Fremont United Methodist Church
2620 NE Fremont St.

Ever wondered why you find so many rocks when you dig in your Portland garden? You can thank the ice age Missoula Floods for this consternating condition. Join your neighbors to hear Jim O'Connor from the U.S. Geological Survey discuss the history of the glacial floods that shaped the remarkable and diverse landscapes of the Columbia Gorge, Willamette Valley, and beyond. Limited seating. To secure your ticket, find the QR code in the ad on this page or visit Eventbrite at tinyurl.com/5f9z6ywr.

October 31 (Saturday) Time TBD

Trick or Treat on Fremont Street

Location: Fremont United Methodist Church
2620 NE Fremont St.

Join the Beaumont Business Association for a fun-filled Halloween celebration with costumes, candy, and plenty of spooky surprises! Mark your calendar, and follow @bbapdx on Instagram and Facebook or visit bbapdx.org. More details coming soon.

Got Events? Email Editor@BWNApdx.org

The Ice Age Missoula Floods in Your Neighborhood

Jim O'Connor, Ph.D.



Jim O'Connor
majored in Geological Science at University of Washington and earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at University of Arizona. Since 1991, he has worked at the U.S. Geological Survey.

October 29th, 7 pm

**Fremont United Methodist Church
2620 NE Fremont Street**

Join your neighbors to hear Jim O'Connor from the USGS discuss the history of the glacial floods that shaped the remarkable and diverse landscapes of the Columbia Gorge and Willamette Valley.

This event is free; donations at the door appreciated!

Reservations are required; scan the QR code to get your ticket!



The Community for Positive Aging
& The German American Society Present

Positive Aging Health & Wellness Fair



Learn more & RSVP!

**Saturday
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11am - 4pm**

**German American Society
5626 NE Alameda St**

**Resource tables, vaccine clinic,
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*A free community event to celebrate and support
the positive aging of older adults in Portland!*

This event is generously supported by our Community Partners!



HEALTH, INDEPENDENCE HIGHLIGHTED IN UPCOMING FAIR

by Molly McRoberts, BWNA Newsletter Team



Event-goers at the 2025 Positive Aging Health & Wellness Fair hosted by the CfPA were treated to information from a host of providers. Submitted photo.

How can we age in place within the comfort of our own home? What resources are available in Portland that can support older adults to live healthy, connected lives? These topics and more are the focus of an upcoming Positive Aging Health & Wellness Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sat., Oct. 10, at the German American Society, 5626 NE Alameda St. This is the second year the fair has been hosted by the Community for Positive Aging (CfPA), which is located in northeast Portland's Hollywood neighborhood. BWNA is a supporting neighborhood partner this year. Fair sponsors include AARP, Health Share of Portland, and Bristol Hospice.

"Our goal is to celebrate the strengths and contributions of older adults and provide resources that support independence and wellness," said Rylie Thayer, community health navigator for CfPA. Maintaining brain health, end-of-life planning, storytelling, and dance instruction are among the fair's offerings. Lecare Pharmacy will be on site to give COVID and flu vaccinations from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Anyone who gets vaccinated will receive a \$10 Fred Meyer gift card.

Other workshops and activities will include Navigating Medicare, fall prevention, speed dating, and more.

"This event supports positive aging in a growing older adult population by promoting healthy connections and engagement," summarized Thayer. Through its outreach, CfPA wants to ensure health equity to all populations, including BIPOC and immigrant communities.

The event will be held rain or shine, but will primarily be indoors at the German American Society. Last held in April 2025, the fair welcomed more than 100 attendees.

An RSVP is not required for admission, but it helps event organizers get a general idea of how many people to expect. For more information and to RSVP, search for Positive Aging Health & Wellness Fair on eventbrite.com, or use the QR code on the event ad at the bottom of page 6.

Molly McRoberts and her spouse, Helen, moved to B-W in 2012. The couple and their dog Sophia love and appreciate their wonderful neighbors and neighborhood.



Molly McRoberts

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Everyone is welcome!

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FREMONT FEST: 40 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

by Chris Rauber, BWNA Newsletter Team



BWNA hosted a booth at Fremont Fest. Board members and other association volunteers staffed the booth over several shifts. Pictured here are BWNA newsletter team members Jamie Gardner (left) and Liz Erickson. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

What can one say about an annual event that features mountains of food, kids of all ages, vendors galore (roughly 200 this year), and gives thousands the chance to explore Beaumont Village?

This year's Fremont Fest on August 1 was the 40th annual iteration of this venerable B-W tradition. The Beaumont Business Association, which sponsors the gathering, says it has celebrated "the history of Fremont Fest since 1986 while looking ahead to the future of our vibrant neighborhood."

Being there felt more tangible and way more Portland-ish than that. There was Lucy, a poet, who was sitting at a typewriter offering custom poems at \$20 a pop. Then there was a table staffed by artists of multiple genders and orientations, each selling their art at ridiculously low prices. One piece, a cute etching of a dog, was just a buck (I bought it). There were dog lovers, game lovers, food and drink lovers, and of course loud percussion lovers enjoying several appearances by the Last Regiment of Syncopated Drummers. And our very own Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association booth, (wo)manned on an afternoon shift by BWNA newsletter team members Jamie Gardner and Liz Erickson.

Who could ask for more on the first day of August?

Lego Contest a Hit

At the BWNA booth, guessing the number of Legos (648) in a jar for a prize was a draw, with 118 festivalgoers wagering a number. Organized by Liz Erickson, the three available prizes were gift cards purchased by BWNA from Beaumont Village businesses Puddletown Games & Puzzles, Beaumont Hardware, and The Arrangement. Two winners were each gifted with a prize as they tied for best guest with 640 Legos. The third prize was randomly selected. Thanks to all who played!



A poet, Lucy, hawked her custom poetry wares at Fremont Fest. Photo by Chris Rauber.



The Pop Wonder guy, purveyor of colorful art, mugs, tote bags, and more. Photo by Chris Rauber.



FOOD AND FUN AT MOVIE IN THE PARK

by Susan Trabucco, BWNA Board Member and Newsletter Editor

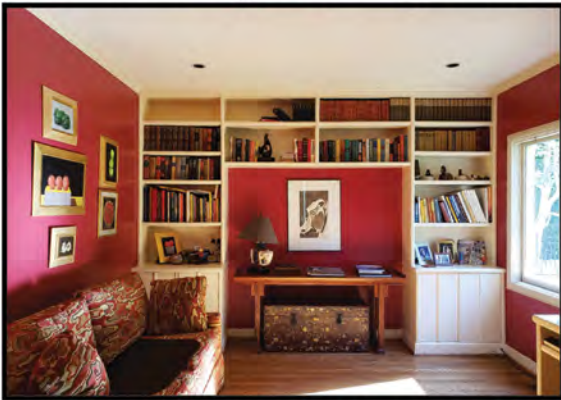
Music to move by, pretty pink cookies, enticing ice cream and a spinning wheel for prizes all served to delight many excited youngsters in advance of the hit movie "How to Train your Dragon" shown at Wilshire Park.

The August 13 event was the fourth year in a row the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association has been able to score one of the available Summer Free for All movies offered by Portland Parks & Recreation. The movies play in Portland parks where there's a neighborhood association willing to pay the \$1,000 fee required by the City of Portland. Also, for the fourth year, the hosting fee was split evenly between BWNA and the Alameda Neighborhood Association. BWNA sprang for the cost of the Mr. Hoo and the Hooligans band, which brought pint-sized, enthusiastic dancers out for a twirl. Another year of tired but happy kids heading home after a successful summer event. Photos by Susan Trabucco.

At left, BWNA volunteer Ann Angulo helps kids with spinning-wheel game.



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ART & GARDEN TOUR

by Susan Trabucco, BWNA Board Member and Newsletter Editor

On a warm, sunlit day in July, 200-ish garden and art enthusiasts roamed the streets of our neighborhood on a mission to tour five Beaumont-Wilshire gardens in the time allotted. In its third year, the 2026 BWNA Art & Garden Tour offered ticket holders the opportunity to gain some gardening ideas, peruse and purchase art from nine presenting artists, meet new people, and connect with neighbors as they crossed paths. Neighborhood kids sold treats and beverages or played music to entertain the crowds at two of the gardens.

The event raised nearly \$3,600 for BWNA, money that helps the association fund its events that are free to participants, such as Movie in the Park, the neighborhood-wide yard sale, the Skidmore Block Party, our speaker's forum programs, as well as community projects including beautification efforts and the pedestrian Flags on Fremont program.

A first this year was a follow-up survey sent to ticket purchasers. Event co-coordinator Patti Koehler expressed appreciation to those who took the time to respond to the survey.

"We learned a lot," she said. "For one thing — we will definitely have a map on hand for garden-goers next year!"

BWNA is grateful to this year's hosts for opening their gardens for this important fundraising event and to local gardening retailer Garden Fever for its generous sponsorship.



This year's BWNA Art & Garden Tour hosts included Geoff Wickes (back row left) and his wife Laurie Webber (front row left); Ian Doescher (back row center) and his wife Jennifer Creswell (back row right), and Bonny Cushman (front row right). Not pictured are garden hosts Deb France and her partner Sally Cochrane, Dennis Bromka, Michelle Rudd, and Jenette Alie. Photo by Susan Trabucco.



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2

- 1) A sweet heuchera plant in a vibrant hue accompanied by a succulent in Bonny Cushman's garden. Photo by Bonny Cushman.
- 2) A blue-glass sculpture in Dennis Bromka's yard; one of three small front gardens on NE Shaver Court. Photo by Susan Trabucco.
- 3) A whimsical mosaic-adorned bench in Deb France and Sally Cochrane's garden. Photo by Susan Trabucco.
- 4) Girls and their mothers explore the garden of Jennifer Creswell and Ian Doescher. Photo by Susan Trabucco.
- 5) A Peace Pole in the garden of Laurie Webber and Geoff Wickes. A Peace Pole is an internationally recognized monument dedicated to peace on earth. The message displayed on the poles reads "May Peace Prevail on Earth," in multiple languages. Photo by Jane Feinberg.



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GOING, GOING... GONE!

by John Sandie, BWNA Board Member and Newsletter Team Member

BWNA's first-ever neighborhood-wide yard sale in July brought folks from both inside and outside the neighborhood — and helped B-W residents move their clutter into the hands of treasure hunters.

The idea for a neighborhood-wide yard sale had been discussed by the BWNA Events Committee for over a year but didn't gather steam until B-W resident Claudia Carle stepped up to champion the effort in late 2025. Claudia, joined by Beverly Yashar, researched other nearby neighborhoods' efforts and put together a registration site that incorporated an interactive map showing the sellers' locations along with details for each site's sale items. To encourage more participants, the sellers paid no fees this year. Claudia and Bev worked to market the yard sale via many social media platforms

including garage sale listing sites, an effort that proved fruitful if the roving crowds of folks and happy sellers were an indicator.

At my own home, as one of 116 registered sellers participating in the yard sale, my family was performing our final prep when the "early birds" started arriving. Never one to pass up a potential sale, I graciously welcomed them to come into the yard. A few buyers were a bit overwhelmed with the number of sales on the interactive map, but they were more at ease after I showed them how to view the list of items for sale at each location. Despite hearing of some parking issues at close clusters of sellers, people seemed to enjoy the opportunity to participate in this broader community event while interacting with neighbors and visitors alike.

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

A throng of shoppers line a driveway on NE 40th Avenue (photo by John Sandie). Vintage boots and picture frames beckon buyers (photos by Jane Feinberg). Shelly and Zack were in their new house for just a month when they jumped into the yard sale. Shelly said she was happy to see all the people out on the street, as it helped them get to know their neighbors (photo by John Sandie).



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THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY CONQUERED (WEEDS, NOT PEOPLE)

by Susan Trabucco, BWNA Board Member and Newsletter Editor



BWNA volunteers who whacked at weeds on the BMS school grounds this summer picked up Alameda resident Michael Wright, aka "Mike on a Bike," who stopped by to help. From left: Angela Frome, Patti Koehler, Michael Wright, Joan Meyerhoff, and Kate Krider. Not pictured are Karla Lenox and Mike Frome. Photo by Mike Frome.

If there's any doubt that one person can effect change, Joan Meyerhoff, a Beaumont-Wilshire neighbor, is living proof that it's possible. At BWNA's June general meeting, Joan made a plea for a remedy to the weed buildup on Beaumont Middle School's (BMS) front yards. Her call for help moved a hearty crew of neighborhood volunteers — led by BWNA board member Angela Frome — to produce almost 400 gallons of yard debris from the school's grounds.

Historically there have been two reasons upkeep of Beaumont-Wilshire's signature corner at NE Fremont Street and 42nd Avenue goes undone: Portland Public Schools (PPS) doesn't have the budget for landscape maintenance, and volunteers aren't allowed to just "jump in and do it" because of the district's liability concerns.

While BWNA can't solve PPS's long-running funding challenges, it did find a way to address PPS's liability concerns with the enthusiastic assistance of BMS principal Harriette Vimignnon.

Soon after the June general meeting, BWNA Vice President Tim Gillespie connected with Dr. Vimignnon, who worked to produce "release from harm" waivers from the district. BWNA volunteers signed them. Then, the dedicated band of weeders set out on July 3 to attack the offending foliage. And attack it they did! Over the course of two and a half hours, the spoils of the group's war on weeds produced more than a dozen 30-gallon bags of weeds and debris. THAT is a good day's work!

A different issue was discovered on weeding day: two dead trees at the school's entrance, an injury-in-waiting. One of the weeders, Joan Meyerhoff, connected with Dr. Vimignnon, who put her in touch with PPS maintenance folks. And ta da! The trees were removed soon thereafter. "That was pretty cool," Joan said.



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We're looking for neighborhood artists, makers, designers, musicians, writers, and other creative folks to feature in the Beaumont-Wilshire Newsletter.

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CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET STATS FOR BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE

8 Homes for Sale	\$699,000 Median List Price	24 Median Days on Market
3 Homes Under Contract	\$1,900,000 High Price	\$370,000 Low Price

The statistics above provide an up-to-date snapshot of the listed inventory as of August 16, 2026. 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.



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OLLI OFFERS PROGRAMS

FOR LIFELONG LEARNERS

by Chris Rauber, BWNA Newsletter Team



Bill McNamee, photo courtesy of OLLI.

Bill McNamee is an evangelist for lifelong learning and more specifically for the new Northwest Oregon OLLI program at University of Oregon's campus in the Concordia neighborhood.

"I'm thrilled to be part of it," McNamee said. "I've always been a lifelong learner."

OLLI stands for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. It's a national program started in 1977 for people over 50 and is affiliated with more than 120 universities nationwide, including Clemson, Dartmouth, Florida State, Southern Oregon, and UC Berkeley. In Oregon, OLLI also has outposts in Eugene/Springfield and Central Oregon; Portland members can attend online presentations from around the state, as well as in-person offerings at the Concordia campus.

McNamee is the program's only local employee; its teachers, who give presentations on a wide array of topics, are volunteers.

Presentations this fall include Don Brookhyser on downtown Portland's architecture and architects; Dr. Aaron Beck, a Lewis

& Clark emeritus professor of musicology, on "The Beautiful in Music III," a six-part series; and four writing workshops facilitated by Hannah Kuhn, M.A., among others.

Bill, a former federal 'bureaucrat,' in his words, started evangelizing for OLLI in August 2025, seven months after it launched here. At the time, only about 25 people were enrolled, and some offerings attracted just a handful of learners. In less than a year, that's grown to nearly 140 — thanks to Bill's tireless promotional efforts and a bevy of fascinating presentations, from "The Current State of Journalism" to "A History of Impressionism."

A six-month membership costs \$140 and entitles you to attend any presentation without registration or additional fee. (Year-long and three-month memberships are also available.) Better yet, anyone can attend a lecture for free to get a feel for what OLLI's all about — and there are no tests and no homework!

Find out more at osher.uoregon.edu.

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



Chris Rauber

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CITY COUNCILOR *(continued from page 5)*

million to the state and county funds in exchange for a binding 20-year non-relocation commitment and other concessions from the Trail Blazers. Soon after the BWNA meeting, the city voted to put \$120 million toward the project.

On Stolen Cars

Another issue was raised by a resident who spoke about recent car thefts at the east end of Beaumont Village. The councilor spoke of her work to increase the number of Police Bureau detectives and Public Safety Support Specialists in the upcoming budget.

NE Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard Renaming Process

Asked about the irregular approach to the renaming of NE Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard, Pirtle-Guiney noted she was the only member of the City Council who'd talked with residents of the street; she found no clear consensus among them.

Inner Eastside for All

To a query over concerns about the impending Inner Eastside Zoning Project, the councilor said she believes infill is needed to drive down housing costs and make the city more affordable for young people and families but acknowledged that "this change period could really suck" if there is not enough parking and public transit to accommodate greater density. Her hope is that new housing will be concentrated on feeder corridors and will make for a more vibrant city in the long run.

Pirtle-Guiney finished by thanking BWNA for having her at the meeting. "It is a privilege to get out of City Hall and hear what is on your minds."

Pirtle-Guiney's outreach aide for constituent concerns, Faisal Osman, can be contacted at faisal.osman2@portlandoregon.gov.



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B-W BOOK CLUB: WHERE READING MAKES COMMUNITY

by Pamela Plimpton, BWNA Newsletter Team



Bev Yashar (left) and Karen Kun, founders, B-W Book Club. Photo by Angela Pak.

When was the last time you gave yourself permission to read a book just for the pleasure of reading? Even if you have, how might you extend that pleasure?

Bev Yashar and Karen Kun, founders of the B-W Book Club in Beaumont-Wilshire, have created the opportunity for you to do just that.

While helping children to be better readers for the SMART Reading program (smartreading.org), Yashar and Kun found they shared a love of reading. Both women also wanted to engage in an activity that would build community while supporting neighborhood businesses. They came up with the idea of organizing a book club for Beaumont-Wilshire residents. Book club members would meet monthly to discuss a book, holding their meetings at B-W food and drink spots.

They contacted BWNA newsletter editor, who suggested they use the newsletter to invite B-W residents to contact them if interested in a neighborhood book group. To their delight, nearly 40 people responded.

Yashar and Kun decided to form three separate reading groups with three separate times during the second week of each month to discuss that month's book. Volunteers facilitate the meetings using guiding principles Kun formulated. The principles encourage B-W Book Club members to support the establishments in which book club meetings are held, show respect for others' points of view, and, most important, focus on building community. In addition, members can feel free to attend even if they have not finished the book!

B-W Book Club groups meet at the Hi-Top Tavern (Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 p.m.) and The Mule Bar (Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. and Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.). Yashar and Kun appreciate the hospitality offered by the Hi-Top and The Mule Bar establishments which have graciously accommodated the book club groups. If more people join, more discussion groups could be formed, though "we probably would want to cap each group at 10 members to keep discussions intimate and allow everyone who wants to join the discussion to do so," stated Yashar.

Book club members can choose which meeting they attend. If a member cannot attend their usual meeting, they might attend one of the other meetings. Yashar and Kun also suggested that it might be fun to have an annual meeting when all the reader groups get together. Yashar wondered if they "might reserve a section of tables at the food truck pod for an open-invitation gathering."

Yashar and Kun surveyed book club members regarding their choices for the October through January meetings. The books selected are: "Grey Bees" by Andrey Kurkov; "How to Winter: Finding Warmth on Cold, Dark Difficult Days" by Kari Leibowitz; "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow" by Gabrielle Zevin; and "Winter Dance" by Gary Paulson.

If you are interested in joining the B-W Book Club, contact Bev Yashar at yashar@med.umich.edu or Karen Kun at karen.kun@outlook.com. "All are welcome!" Kun said.

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 Northeast Community Center, traveling, and grandparenting their granddaughter.



Pamela Plimpton

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THRONGS IN THONGS (OR LESS)

PDX WORLD NAKED BIKE RIDERS STRUT THEIR STUFF

by Molly McRoberts, BWNA Newsletter Team

On the evening of July 25, Beaumont Wilshire neighbors witnessed nudity on a grand scale as thousands of fully naked or scantily clad and colorfully costumed cyclists congregated at the west end of Wilshire Park. PDX World Naked Bike Ride was the event that spawned the spectacle. Skidmore Street, from NE 33rd to NE 36th, was packed with riders just

before the parade launched at 8:50 p.m. The annual event, established to highlight “oil dependency, cyclist vulnerability, and the beauty of body freedom,” was routed from the park toward Alberta Street and eventually ended at Sewallcrest Park in southeast Portland. The permitted event was amazingly quiet and seemed to go without a hitch. Photo by Peter Gearin.



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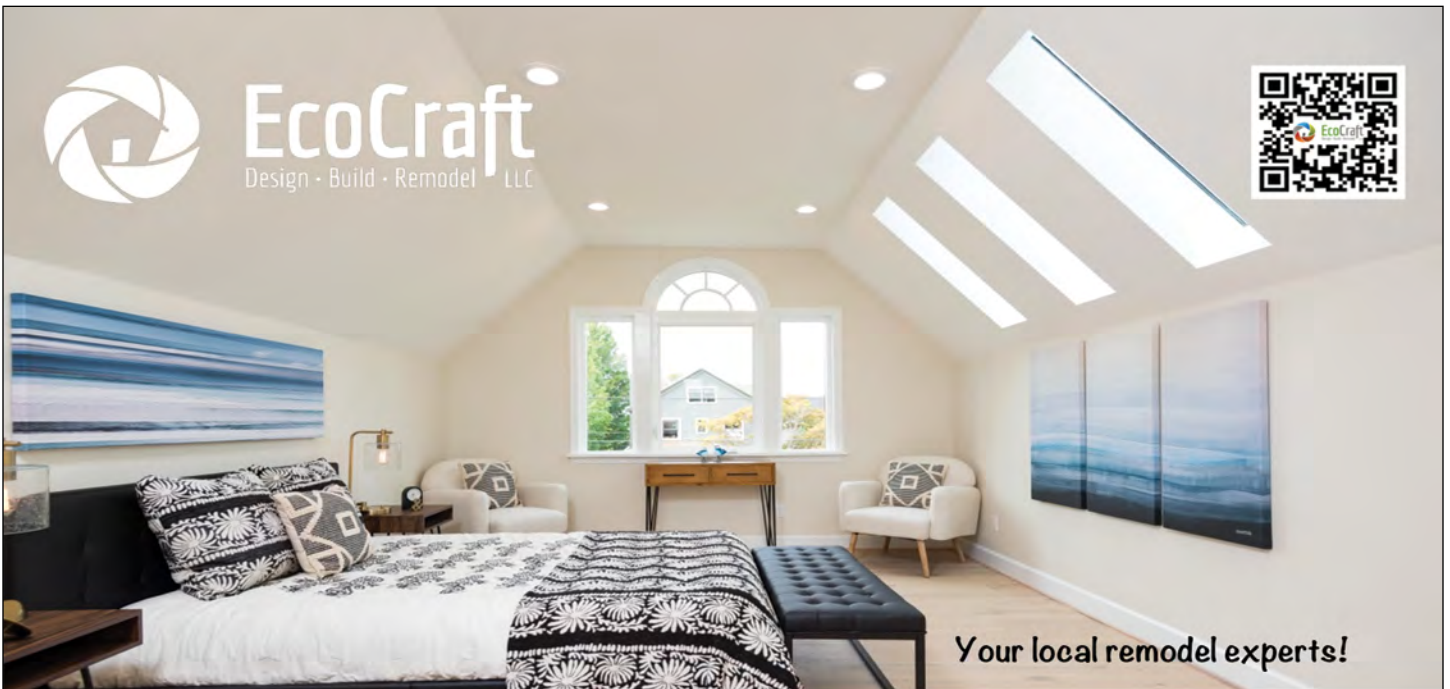
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