

BWNA

Newsletter of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association



NEW PLACE TO PLAY IN BEAUMONT VILLAGE page 15

Co-owners and B-W residents Bob and Jess Monsey went all in on fun and games at The Paladins League on NE Fremont Street in Beaumont Village. Jess is a big believer in games as a way to help families and neighbors connect. Photo by Chris Rauber.



MEET BOB KERN, p 9
B-W resident since 1937



PERSPECTIVES, p 16
Kissing a dolphin was a 2024 highlight

January-February 2025

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OUR COMMUNITY, UNITED

by Al Ellis, BWNA Board President

I don't know a soul who's not been battered
I don't have a friend who feels at ease
I don't know a dream that's not been shattered
Or driven to its knees

But it's alright, it's alright
For we lived so well so long
Still, when I think of the
road we're traveling on
I wonder what's gone wrong
I can't help it, I wonder what has gone wrong

(excerpted from "An American Tune"
by Paul Simon, 1973)

As New Year's pendulum swings, unrest and uncertainty are in the air. And so it was amid the Watergate scandal and Vietnam War more than a half century ago when "An American Tune" was composed. Our nation was politically divided back then — pretty much 50-50 on the war — and the same applies now with respect to the 2024 presidential election. But on the neighborhood level, it's a different vibe.

What is it that unites us more than divides us in Beaumont-Wilshire? For starters, our neighborhood is relatively homogeneous in terms of political ideology,

though B-W residents have been anything but lockstep when it comes to opinions on local issues, from traffic calming to leash laws for dogs. Other uniting factors are gardening, fitness (walkers, joggers, and strollers galore), and a vibrant business district. But perhaps what unites us most is a sense of community — caring for one another and taking pride in the neighborhood.

That same communal positivity was on full display in October at the annual BWNA board retreat, held this year in the banquet room of The Mule Bar (previously Stanich's) at 49th and Fremont. With 13 of 15 board members in attendance, we discussed priorities for 2025, based in part on the survey results discussed in this newsletter, which indicate particularly strong support for all-neighborhood events, and in part on collaborative brainstorming among retreat attendees. The resulting sum was greater than the parts in generating fresh ideas and novel approaches for the upcoming months.

In a divided nation, community stability and solidarity on the local level is as practical as it is therapeutic. On behalf of BWNA, all the best to you in 2025.

THANK YOU! to Sylvan Learning

About six months ago, the BWNA board was looking for a (free) place to hold its monthly meetings. Mary Myers, Sylvan Learning's center director, stepped in, offering us space in their facility at 4300 NE Fremont St. Both parties agreed to give it a shot, and both parties now agree it's working out just fine.

A big THANK YOU to Mary Myers and Sylvan Learning for the generosity extended to the Beaumont-Wilshire community!



Welcome & Thank You!



Welcome

to our new-this-issue advertisers:

- Andie Grace Design
- Holiday's Health & Fitness Yoga
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& Thank You!

to our many faithful advertisers, who continue to make this newsletter possible!

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Related Organizations

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Kathy Madore, Community Organizer
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Mary Myers, President
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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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John Sandie, chair 219-508-4162

Land Use Committee

Tim Root, chair root.timothy@gmail.com

Transportation Committee

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THINGS THAT KEEP ME UP AT NIGHT

From The Editor's Desk

by Susan Trabucco

Admittedly I'm a bit obsessed about putting out a quality neighborhood newsletter — and other things. It manifests in sleepless nights when my brain just won't quit. The front cover of the newsletter is one of those things about which I can't stop noodling.

You may have noticed we've been playing with the front page. I wanted to pop up the size of the photo. So, we did, for just two issues. While some of our newsletter team members (myself included), loved the new cover, others were concerned or relayed reader concern that it looked too much like a home improvement magazine. NOT what I was going for!

So, don't be surprised if you see various renditions of the cover this year; there's no rule that says it has to be the same every time, but we want it to be eye-catching and engaging. Let me know if we hit that mark.

Some Survey Details

Due to limited space, we're able to report on only some of the results of our recent survey on page 6. With respect to the newsletter, not much info is included in that article, so I'll touch on a few things here.

- **What Readers Like.** Folks indicated they are most interested in reading articles about new businesses, upcoming events, our News Bits section, and neighborhood history-related articles. We'll keep that in mind!

- **What Readers Want More Of.** While the majority of survey respondents read the newsletter cover to cover or regularly (combined, a total of nearly 94%), there's room for improvement. Folks are interested in more transportation and land use info. BWNA Transportation Committee Chair Colin O'Neill has taken that desire to heart and will be providing regular updates in the newsletter. We'll be working on a solution to land-use reporting.
- **Not Everyone's a Fan.** One reader stated a dislike of photos, especially those that "are pretty to look at but don't inform." Another said there is not much of interest to them in the newsletter. And another wrote "it looks like a business ad magazine." We can't, it seems, please everyone.
- **Another Way of Looking at the Ads.** Those advertisers provide us the funds not just to produce the newsletter — advertising revenue also helps cover the cost of neighborhood events such as Movie-in-the-Park and the Skidmore Block Party. And on that note, a big THANK YOU to our advertisers on behalf of BWNA!

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

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NEWS BITS

FROM B-W
&
BEYOND

Women-owned Winery to Open Full-Time on Fremont

There's a new wine and bottle shop in Beaumont Village. Since spring 2024, Landmass Wines has been open on Sundays as a pop-up shop from noon to 5 p.m. in the Crewel Summer plant shop at 4724 NE Fremont St. Beginning sometime in January, when they

take on the Crewel space full-time, this women-owned winery will be open more days and hours, offering a "fresh take on classical wine-making." Bottles, wine flights, and pours of their own product are available. Look for more information about Landmass in an upcoming BWNA newsletter. For now, visit landmasswines.com or follow [@landmasswines](https://www.instagram.com/landmasswines) on Instagram.

Bang Bang Goes out with a Whisper

NE Fremont Street's Asian-fusion restaurant, Bang Bang, announced on Facebook Dec. 10 that its final day of service would be December 21. The restaurant operated at 4727 NE Fremont St. for 10 years. We're proud to have made it to 10 with the support of all of you," the post stated. And for those who wonder: Wonderly, the bar/restaurant next door on Fremont, also owned by the Bang-Bang folks, remains open for business.

Food Carts and Cottage Cluster at NE 44th & Fremont Progressing

Daniel Silvey with DBS Group LLC is the developer of the food-cart pod at NE Fremont and 44th and the cottage cluster project just north of it on NE 44th. In December Silvey reported to BWNA that both projects are moving closer to completion, with final permitting for the nine-cart pod expected soon. It's now slated to open in late spring or early summer with expanded interior seating and a play area for kids. "We heard from people that a play space would be a welcome addition," Silvey said.

The cottage cluster project includes one existing house and nine newly built detached housing units, each on its own lot. The new builds will be completed and up for sale in late spring. The two- to three-bedroom homes range from 900 to 1,400 square feet. Silvey said the homes will be priced from "the high \$400Ks to \$600Ks." The homes feature open floor plans and higher-end finishes. For more information about purchasing one of the homes, call Daniel Silvey at (503) 201-8537.

Break-in (again) Tough on Puddletown

It came our way in early November that Puddletown Games & Puzzles at 4120 NE Fremont St. was a victim of a break-in in October — their second in just over a year. During the first break-in, the store's valuable supply of Magic: The Gathering cards was stolen.

The most recent theft included boxes of Pokémon cards as well as Magic: The Gathering cards. While fewer cards were stolen in October, the glass front door, costly to replace, was broken. Support store owner Miles English by making your winter indoor game purchases at Puddletown. An article about the break-in is available at tinyurl.com/2wpw9xd7.

Multnomah County Library Hours Change for Consistency

Multnomah County Library recently announced that its locations will have the same open hours beginning December 1, 2024, making it easier for people to plan their visits. This new

schedule is also when library staff will be available to assist by phone and email. Open daily; hours vary. Visit multcolib.org/newstandardshours for more information.

Au Revoir to Long-serving Board Member



In a surprise announcement at BWNA's December general meeting, board member Gary Hancock announced his resignation, a position he's held since 2015. He has also served as chair of BWNA's Friends of Wilshire Park committee. Gary cited his desire to spend more time on environmental protection activities as the reason for his departure.

BWNA President Al Ellis noted that Gary was always a "Mr. Can-Do," stepping up time and again.

"Be it barbecuing at an all-neighborhood picnic or fundraising for Wilshire Park improvements, Gary has been there," Al said. "It's been a pleasure to have him on our board, and we wish him all the best."

Gary's departure leaves two voids: an opening on the board and an open chair position on the Friends of Wilshire Park Committee. Those interested in filling the board position should email President@BWNAPdx.org. Gary suggests anyone who would like to take on chairmanship of the Friends of Wilshire Park Committee should contact him at outside503@aol.com.

Thank you, Gary, from the BWNA board, for your many years of service to the neighborhood!

BWNA BOARD & GENERAL MEETINGS

Mon, Jan. 13 @ 7 p.m.: Board meeting
Mon, Feb. 10 @ 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. 7 @ 7 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 5 @ 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

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](mailto:EmailEditor@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

UPCOMING



EVENTS

January 11 (Saturday) 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Neighborhood Styrofoam & Electronics Recycling Event

Location: 3637 NE 43rd Ave.

Bring your Styrofoam, old batteries, and electronics to this BWNA-sponsored recycling event organized by neighbors Laurie and Geoff Webber. **Required:** email Laurie.Webber2011@gmail.com ahead of the event with details about what you intend to drop off. Fees apply for some items:

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

Payment accepted via Venmo to BWNA or checks made out to BWNA

January 15 (Wednesday) 7 p.m.

Garden Tour Host Informational Session

Location: 3761 NE Alameda St.

Do you live in B-W and have a garden you'd like to share with others — and for a good cause? BWNA board member Patti Koehler will answer questions for those interested in participating in the 2025 Art & Garden Tour. This BWNA fundraiser helps cover the cost of other neighborhood events. Email PatriceKoehler@gmail.com or call (971) 678-0824 to RSVP.

January 15 (Wednesday) 11 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Set the B.A.R. High: Eat & Drink, Support Local Schools

Location: 2204 NE Alberta St.

In a fundraising collaboration between Beaumont Middle School and Alameda and Rigler elementary schools (B.A.R.), you can eat and drink for a good cause on Wednesday, Jan. 15. Great Notion Brewing and Matt's BBQ will donate a percentage of revenue from food and drinks served that day. Those funds will be split between the participating PTAs based on need.

January 25 (Saturday) 11 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

NE Village PDX Seed Swap & Gardening Workshop

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

Northeast Village PDX is hosting a Seed Swap and Gardening Workshop — free and open to all. Come to swap seeds, rhizomes, roots, and tubers with other local gardeners, and attend gardening workshops with support from Growing Gardens, Garden Fever, and Portland Nursery.

NE Village is a program of the Northeast Community Center. For more information call (503) 895-2750 or email info@nevillagepdx.org.

Got Events? Email Editor@BWNApdx.org

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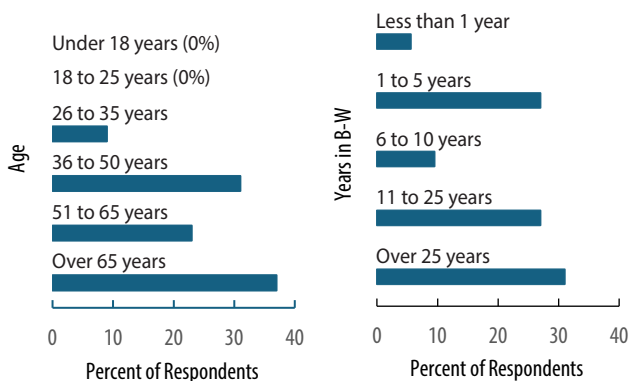


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NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY PROVIDES ROAD MAP FOR BWNA BOARD, COMMITTEES

by Susan Trabucco, Editor

The BWNA survey completed in late October last year revealed neighbors mostly love Beaumont-Wilshire and are enthusiastic about a vibrant commercial district and community engagement opportunities, yet have concerns about traffic-related safety. The responses by the 126 community members who participated (their ages and years in B-W are summarized below) will serve to inform the BWNA board of directors and neighborhood association committees on how to spend their financial and volunteer human resources in the coming year.



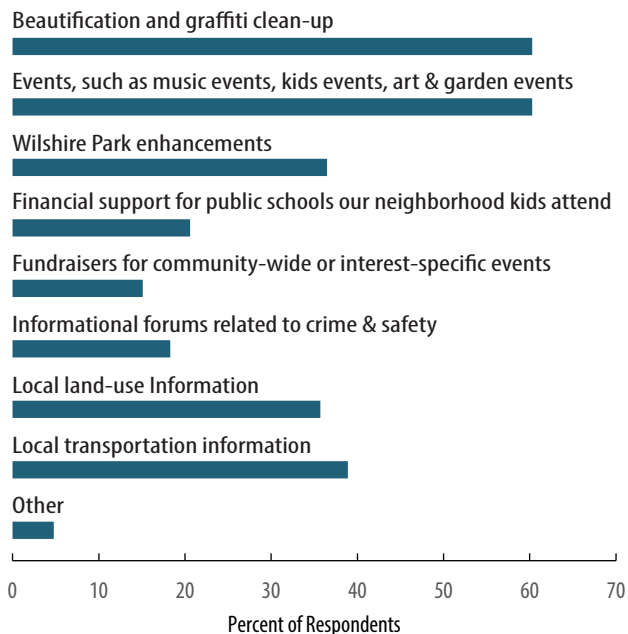
So just what did our respondents have to say? Here are some highlights. They...

- Love pretty much everything about the neighborhood.
- Are concerned about pedestrian safety, speeding, and traffic and associated congestion. Neighbors suggested more traffic calming devices, safer pedestrian crossings, and improved traffic patterns.
- Appreciate the existing BWNA-sponsored community events and are interested in adding more events.
- Would like to see BWNA volunteer efforts and funds focused on beautification, graffiti clean-up, and interest-specific events (see Summary 3).
- Enjoy reading News Bits, Upcoming Events, and news about local businesses.
- Are excited by the business growth occurring in Beaumont Village, namely a coming food-cart pod, new shops, and existing businesses rebounding post-Covid.
- Would like to see more articles about businesses, transportation, and land-use. (We are seeking a volunteer land-use reporter/writer. Email Editor@BWNApdx.org if you're interested.)
- Chose the BWNA newsletter as the source of most of their news about the neighborhood, up over 20 points from our 2022 survey.

A heart-felt "thank you" from the BWNA board and this editor to the B-W folks who took the time to take our inarguably long survey. Your voices have been heard!

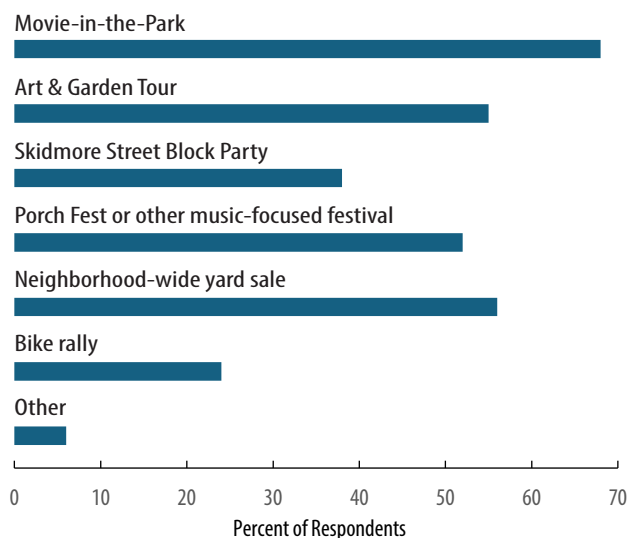
SUMMARY 3

In which THREE of the following activities/efforts would you like to see BWNA prioritize its volunteer time or financial resources?



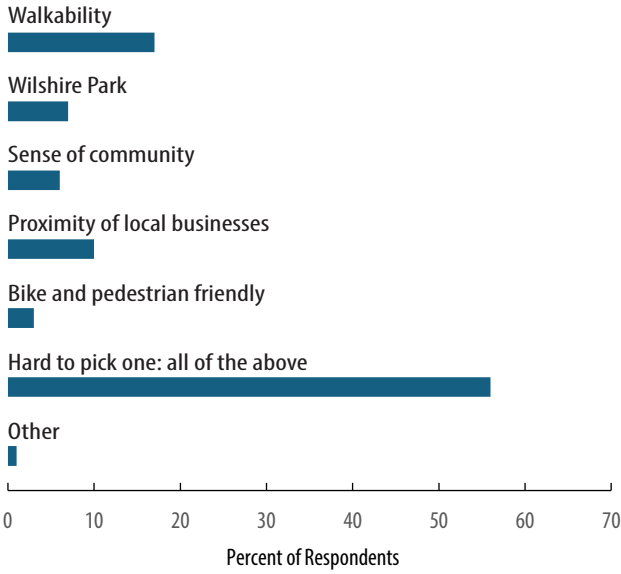
SUMMARY 4

Which of the following events would you like to have, or continue to have, in our neighborhood?



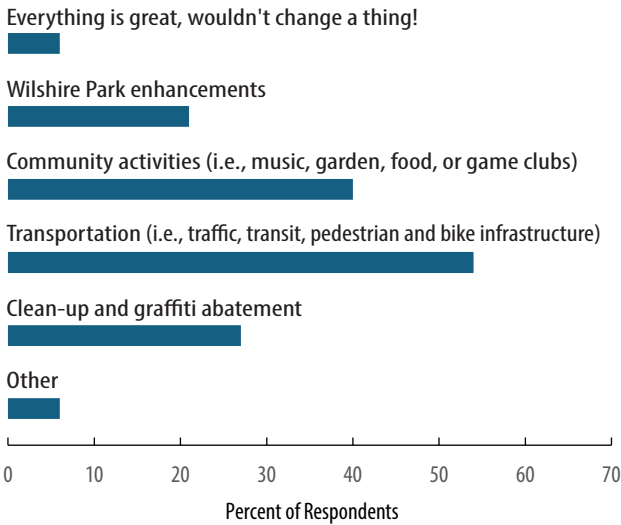
SUMMARY 5

What is your favorite characteristic of our neighborhood?



SUMMARY 6

What improvements would you like to see in our neighborhood?



Some Folks Said...



What's gotten WORSE in B-W?

- “ The turning restrictions at Fremont and Alameda have driven way more traffic down my street. ”
- “ Speeding on Fremont Street, lack of yellow paint around ADA crossings. Need more safe crossings. ”
- “ The traffic change at Alameda and Fremont; people disregard barriers. ”



What's gotten BETTER in B-W?

- “ Continued pothole repairs and neighborhood greenways. ”
- “ Wilshire Park improvements/upkeep. ”
- “ Tacovore intersection improvements! ”
- “ Slowing of traffic and added crosswalks on NE Fremont! ”
- “ Businesses, for the most part, have continued to thrive, even through Covid; it's a testimony to our local neighborhood. ”

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by Maruska Lynch, Community Engagement Coordinator, Metropolitan Family Service

Being able to get to a medical appointment, go to the grocery store, or visit a friend should be easy, but for many older adults and people experiencing a disability in our community, it is a struggle to find affordable, accessible, and friendly transportation to get to these vital destinations.

Project Linkage, a program of Metropolitan Family Service (MFS) — a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to help people move beyond the limitations of poverty, inequity, and social isolation — has been providing such rides for more than 40 years.

We need your help to provide more than 32,000 rides a year and to turn down fewer ride requests. We provide the training, scheduling, and support — you provide the ride.

This volunteer opportunity is very flexible. After training and orientation, you let Project Linkage know when you are available; we let you know who needs a ride and to where. Volunteers can drive their own vehicles or be trained to drive a Project Linkage vehicle. You can provide one or two rides per month or several per week.

Please visit mfspdx.org/project-linkage for more information or call (503) 290-9427.

If you find yourself in need of a ride, contact Ride Connection at (503) 226-0700 or visit rideconnection.org, an MFS partner in delivering accessible transportation.



A Project Linkage volunteer assists a rider. Volunteers are needed for this local non-profit program that provides rides to those in need. Submitted photo.

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LOOKING (WAY) BACK WITH NEIGHBOR BOB KERN

by Molly McRoberts

Cokes cost a nickel. Fremont Street was home to many gas stations. Farmland lined with fruit trees was located on NE 37th between NE Skidmore and Prescott streets. A popular barber shop thrived in the current Americana Frame shop.

Robert “Bob” Kern, 92, a lifelong Portland resident who recalls many long-gone businesses, is a “historical reference book” for Beaumont-Wilshire and surrounding neighborhoods. Born in the Kenton neighborhood, Bob and his family moved to NE 41st between Skidmore and Shaver in 1937 when he was five years old. He graduated from Beaumont K-8 School in 1945. His three children and two grandchildren later attended Beaumont. He remembers there were tennis courts and a basketball court adjacent to the school.

“ We never dated because we never had any money. ”

A 1950 graduate of Grant High School, Bob enlisted in the Navy to fight in the Korean War. Bob's father owned Champion Oil Company, so Bob subsequently learned the oil burner repair trade early on. Diesel oil cost 12 cents a gallon when he delivered it to neighboring homes with his father.

Shopping Locally

Small grocery stores dotted NE 42 Avenue, including one next to what is now Wilshire Tavern. A groceteria, a self-service grocery store, inhabited the current Everett Street Market with a meat market next door.

“We shopped locally,” said Bob. “When I was about six years old, my mother would send me to the store. She'd give me a dime to buy a small loaf of bread. And a penny to buy myself a treat.” Bob would stand there debating what to buy. “I'd buy bubble gum because it would last all day.”

Riding Out Tough Times, Finding Fun

Bob was a kid during the Great Depression, and finances were tight. “People do not realize how hard it was to earn money back then,” Bob said. In the summertime, he and his brother would chase sawdust trucks and earned money by shoveling the sawdust into the basements of their neighbors who used it for heating fuel.

But having fun was inexpensive, and Bob had a lot of it. He played basketball, hide and go seek, and kick the can. He and his friends walked to the Hollywood Theater once a month if they could scrounge up enough funds. “We never dated because we never had any money.”

The Spare Room on NE 42nd Avenue, then an actual bowling alley, was where kids also played pool. “Memberships” cost 25 cents. On weekends, he watched small car races at the former Beaumont tennis courts.

Bob dabbled in amateur radios. Hank Wagner's radio shop, where Little Griddle is today, was a favorite neighborhood hangout. “He would help us make crystal set radios,” said Bob, who still has that radio.



Bob Kern, 92, has lived in B-W since 1937 and shares some fond memories of his childhood and his wishes for the future. Photo by Susan Trabucco.

Life Goes On, Wishes for the Future

Today, Bob continues to live in the NE 41st Avenue home, where he has many fond memories of his late wife of 64 years, Barbara, and the life they shared in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood. The couple had three children, two of whom are still living. His grandsons sometimes play baseball at Beaumont Middle School.

Bob's wish list for the neighborhood going forward? “More play space for kids. I'd love to see the tennis courts back at Beaumont. And more gathering areas for kids to play.”

Some of Bob's memories of the “old” neighborhood

- There were several gas stations on NE Fremont. To drum up business, they gave away free plates and drinking glasses.
- Beaumont Hardware was a radio/television shop.
- Bagel Land was a bakery.
- Sabiang Thai was Hamburger Patty's.
- Americana Frame was a barber shop.
- Amalfi's was a gas station. The owner, Howard, would fix Bob's bike tires.
- Lumber yard on Fremont.
- Rose's ice cream on Fremont.
- Papa Murphy's was a large gas station.

Molly McRoberts is a 12-year resident of B-W. She and her spouse Helen and dog Sophia love and appreciate their wonderful neighbors and neighborhood.



Molly McRoberts

A BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE CREATIVES SERIES

COVID ISOLATION OPENS DOOR TO ARTISTIC FULFILLMENT

by David Friedman

Amy Drews, a graphic designer living in the neighborhood, had an artistic transformation during the Covid-19 pandemic. She had spent many years in front of a computer screen but longed to connect with her creative side in a more hands-on and tangible way.



During the pandemic, Drews began serving as the art liaison for the Give Grief a Voice Project. The non-profit program pairs grieving parents with professional writers and artists to create an artistic representation of their child's life. The finished work is provided at no cost to the families. Deeply moved by the project, Drews felt a growing desire to create art herself.

“ I just wanted to do something with my hands and get away from the screen. ”

Just before the pandemic shut down our normal lives, Drews found herself brainstorming ideas for an art piece after an emotional interview with a grieving family with whom she was working. A week later, the lockdown began, and she picked up a paintbrush for the first time in years.

“I just wanted to do something with my hands and get away from the screen,” she says.

What began as a creative outlet in a challenging time quickly grew into a passion. Eventually, she stopped taking graphic design projects to focus on her paintings. Over time, she took online art classes and began connecting with other local artists, building her skills and discovering her artistic voice.

Amy's early works were colorful, often reflecting the joy she was experiencing while learning about color mixing and abstract forms. She began with vibrant florals mixed with bright abstract

B-W resident Amy Drews turned time on her hands during the pandemic into an exploration of her own artistic voice. Photo by David Friedman.

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shapes but has since evolved. Today her pieces incorporate more texture, depth, and subtlety. She loves experimenting with layering paint, collage, and mixed-media techniques, often working on multiple pieces at once.

“I love working with textures,” she explains. “I’ll scrape, sand, and cut into the board, using whatever materials feel right in the moment.”

Last year, Amy’s art reached a new milestone when she sold her first piece at an art show in Sisters, Oregon.

“It was surreal,” she says. “I sold it to a complete stranger, and I was so excited!”

Since then, she has continued to develop her unique style, which she describes as “colorful, lively, and balanced.” Her graphic design background still influences her artwork, particularly in her use of white space and her attention to composition.

Amy credits her creative growth to her willingness to experiment and push boundaries.

“If you’re interested in painting, just start,” she advises. “Don’t worry about the outcome. Play, have fun, and let the process take you where it wants to go.”

You can see more of Amy’s work at amydrewsart.com or on Instagram @amydrewsart.

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

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FASTER TRAFFIC, SLOWER RESPONSE

by Colin O'Neill, BWNA Transportation Committee Chair

The BWNA Transportation Committee is working with the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to address key safety concerns in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, progress has been slow due to PBOT's new "priority reporting" system for traffic safety issues.

With growing pedestrian and vehicular traffic on NE Fremont Street, the 47th Avenue block has seen several incidents, including a pedestrian fatality, hit-and-runs, and near misses. The committee has requested a traffic engineering review of NE Fremont at 47th to improve lighting and pedestrian visibility. PBOT estimates the review could take up to four months. Meanwhile, BWNA is exploring additional measures to enhance safety in the area.

The committee is also advocating for traffic safety improvements on NE Wistaria Drive after neighbors reported ongoing issues with speeding and property damage. Wistaria's wide turns and sloping grade make it a hotspot for accidents. BWNA



has requested a traffic study and installation of new signage, including digital speed monitors to alert drivers.

Progress on both issues remains slow, as PBOT has faced five years of budget cuts, with an additional \$4 million reduction expected for 2024-2025. Despite these challenges, the committee is dedicated to pushing forward. You can help support these efforts by reaching out to our new District 2 City Council members

Sameer Kanal, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, and Dan Ryan and voicing your concerns about pedestrian safety. Together, we can make our neighborhood safer for everyone.

Colin O'Neill is a BWNA board member and chairs the Transportation Committee. He's lived in B-W with his wife and kids since 2008.



Colin O'Neill



BE IN THE KNOW!

Visit the BWNApdx.org to register your email address and keep up to date on neighborhood news, meetings, and activities.

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DID YOU KNOW THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAS A PRIVATE JAPANESE CEMETERY?

by Chris Rauber



One of the best things about exploring the history in and around our neighborhood is the surprises you discover. Like the fact that there's a charming 134-year-old Japanese Cemetery hidden deep within the grassy confines of Rose City Cemetery & Funeral Home at 5625 NE Fremont St., just a stone's throw from Beaumont-Wilshire.

The Japanese Cemetery began in 1890, when local railroads were looking for a place to bury single Japanese men who'd worked for them, says Jon Ollerenshaw, Rose City Cemetery's general manager. The bigger cemetery, started 16 years later, eventually surrounded the Japanese one, which is still privately owned by the Japanese Ancestral Society of Portland.

Separated from other gravesites by a black wrought-iron fence, the Japanese Cemetery is the final resting place for an estimated 400 to 500 members of the local Japanese community.

Many graves, some marked by large rocks rather than gravestones, feature Japanese script and images. Names of the deceased, sometimes including several family members, are clearly

of Japanese origin: Wakabayashi, Katasunaya, Kimura, Nakaji, Oda, Furumasa, Naito, and Sasaki, for example.

The cemetery also features a monument to Japanese-American citizens who perished in several of this nation's wars — a lasting memorial to their patriotism.



The Japanese Cemetery near Beaumont-Wilshire's eastern edge has hundreds of graves, some dating back to the 1890s. Photo by Chris Rauber.



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PUT UP YOUR DUKES!

by John Sandie

Molly Sparkman, owner of Swing State Boxing Club, gives credit to her older sister for introducing her to boxing by dragging her along to a session when they were both young. Molly stuck with it and became a trainer at Multnomah Athletic Club for more than 15 years.

After an accident that required physical rehab sidelined her for a period of time, Sparkman's husband prompted her to get back into



Swing State Boxing owner, Molly Sparkman, strikes a boxing pose and sports a smile. The business moved to Beaumont-Wilshire and opens in January. Submitted photo.

what she loved, so she did, and Swing State Boxing Club was born about three years ago.

The club offers non-contact, boxing bag-type training with periods of other core-building exercises mixed in for a totally custom workout regimen. Classes are geared for the full spectrum of members' needs: all ages, including youth, parent/child, and seniors, and with varying intensity levels. Class size can range from two to three people when a new class begins, to upwards of twenty for more established classes with a dedicated core group of participants. The classes are supported by Sparkman and six other coaches.

Swing State had been housed in the Hollywood District, but Sparkman was looking for her own independent space to offer more flexibility for building a class schedule around her clientele's needs. She found what she was looking for in the former location of The Refinery at 4803 NE Fremont St. Renovations were underway in late 2024, including a custom-designed support system for an array of boxing bags for larger class sizes. With better natural light, bright decor, and upbeat music, Sparkman strives to make the boxing experience both fun and challenging. Look for an early January opening for Swing State at the new Fremont location.

John Sandie and wife Kathy relocated from the Midwest in early 2011 to be closer to children and grandchildren in the area. In retirement they pursue their desires to make a difference locally, John by volunteering with BWNA, Kathy with Alameda School. The duo is contentedly busy volunteering and keeping up with grandchildren.



John Sandie



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THE PALADINS LEAGUE OFFERS FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN FOR NEIGHBORHOOD

by Chris Rauber

Jess Monsey, B-W resident and co-owner of the new game-playing business, The Paladins League in Beaumont Village, is passionate about tabletop games — the kind you played as a kid or with your kids or friends on a rainy day. She’s also a big believer in games as a way to help families and neighbors connect.

“I believe in the power of games,” says Monsey.

She and her husband Bob had been talking about doing something like this for over a dozen years.

“It’s all about playfulness, imagination, and bringing people together.”

When the duo made the decision to launch their business, Monsey’s first call was to Miles English, the owner of Puddletown Games & Puzzles, also in Beaumont Village.

“I didn’t want to compete with Puddletown,” she says. “So, we worked out a way to help each other.”

She and Bob opened their business shortly after Thanksgiving last year. The business, named after the good guys in Dungeons & Dragons, is located at 4765 NE Fremont St., a space formerly filled by Deeply Rooted, a vegan sports bar, and earlier by Alameda Brewhouse.

Upon entry to Paladins, customers are greeted with a big game-playing room with tables and food and beverage counters. Above, a flock of colorful pendants gives the high-ceilinged place the look of a medieval castle.

But the heart of its 4,000-square-foot space is a library chock-full of games: Don’t Break the Ice, Cootie, Risk, Root, Catan, Klask, Biñho, Chess, Clue, Go, Mahjong, D&D, Monopoly, and many more. Customers buy a \$5 per person “game pass” to play.

Monsey — who is no stranger to business as a former president and managing director at Portland ad agency Wieden & Kennedy — signed the lease in May 2024 and moved as fast as she could to make it a family-friendly destination for the neighborhood, including her own two kids, aged “almost 10 and 12.”

“It’s all about playfulness, imagination, bringing people together,” Monsey says. “I want to help people play new games and rediscover the ones they love the most.”

The Paladins League offers food and drink, too, along the lines of popcorn, mac & cheese, burgers, milkshakes, ice cream, and Italian sodas. Alcohol is available, but isn’t a priority.

The Paladins League is open Tuesday through Sunday; hours are varied. The business is closed on Mondays, except for special events. For more details visit thepaladinsleague.com.

Chris Rauber and his wife, Kim Williams, moved to Portland and B-W in the summer of 2022 after many years in the San Francisco Bay Area. He worked as a journalist at the S.F. Business Times and other publications. He was born in Oregon.



Chris Rauber



A group of neighborhood kids, from left Ella, Brynn, Henry, and Emma, play some of the hundreds of available board and card games offered by The Paladins League. Photo by Jess Monsey.



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I live in Beaumont, and really enjoy helping my neighbors achieve their real estate goals. If you’re thinking of making a change in 2025, please reach out for a coffee on Fremont!

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URBAN NEST REALTY

PERSPECTIVES

compiled by Polly Webber

As the new year unfolds, we thought looking back at the many happy moments life brings us was just the ticket. So, we asked our readers about the good times they had last year. Here's what our neighbors had to say.

My favorite memory from 2024:



"It's hard to pick just one! I really loved watching fireworks together as a family on the 4th of July."
(Eryn, 11 years in B-W)



"...is going to Hawaii. I got to kiss a dolphin! And when the Dodgers won the World Series."
(Conner, 8 years in B-W)



"...was finding out we were going to be grandparents and seeing our first grandchild through an ultrasound image."
(Patty, 33 years in B-W)



"...is our oldest daughter and her husband buying their first home."
(Jeff, 33 years in B-W)



"...is going to Sunriver and riding our bikes as a family. We rode over 60 miles!"
(Mike, 11 years in B-W)

Polly Webber is a realtor and mom of two teenage girls. Born and raised in the neighborhood, she purchased and lives in the B-W home next door to her childhood home. Reach her by emailing polly.webber@cascadehassonsir.com.



Polly Webber

Be Heard!

Let us know if you'd be game to be interviewed for a Perspectives question by emailing Polly at the address above. Suggest a question for Polly, too!



TO BE IN THE NEWS!

Got News? Got an Event? Got a News Tip? Got an Opinion?
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STIRRING THE POT

AN OLD FAMILY RECIPE OFFERS COMFORT, LOVE, AND LASTING MEMORIES

by Myrna Sheie

Comfort food. These two words evoke rich memories of tastes and smells, warmth and safety, beloved people and places. In our family, Norwegian waffles equal comfort food. They're softer and richer than their Belgian cousins and are heart-shaped, an uncharacteristically Norwegian nod to immigrant homesickness (although they're served everywhere in Norway, too).



After almost 60 years, I know the recipe by heart, but still use the tattered and splotched card hand-written by my husband's grandmother. I never alter it, although some recipes add spices, usually cinnamon or cardamom. The table is always full of toppings: yogurt, a variety of jams, cinnamon and sugar, maple syrup, and sometimes homemade applesauce.

My twin grandsons have loved them since they were toddlers. Once, grandson Charlie, 2½ and feverish, spent the day with us. After napping in my arms all morning, he woke up about noon.

When asked what he'd like for lunch he said, "Waffles would be nice." Comfort food!

Last summer I invited Charlie and his brother Sam, now 14, to my house for lunch. They said, "Waffles, please," and biked over. As we ate, we talked about the source of the recipe, and they quickly calculated that their kids will be at least the fifth generation of Norwegian waffle lovers in our family.

It's true! Norwegian waffles are comfort food for the generations!

Norwegian Buttermilk Waffles

Serves 4 adults or 2 teenagers

2 beaten eggs	1 tsp salt
⅓ c sugar	½ tsp baking soda
1 pint buttermilk	1 tsp baking powder
2 c flour	2 Tbsp melted butter

Beat the eggs, add the sugar, then buttermilk, then dry ingredients, and melted butter last. For authenticity, these are baked in a Five-of-Hearts waffle iron.

Myrna Sheie is this newsletter's copy editor. She's a former English teacher and church body executive. Now happily retired to NE Portland, she loves finding new walking routes, hanging out with her 14-year-old twin grandsons, and keeping the Portland Water Bureau solvent by obsessively watering her gardens.



Myrna Sheie

Do you have a story to tell with food as the focus?

With or without a recipe, we welcome tales that tantalize the tastebuds or tug at the heart! Send your 250-ish words with a photo to Editor@BWNAPdx.org.

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MORNING COMMUTE

by Katy Fackler

This fall, I got ready for my commute. I tied my shoes, grabbed my water bottle, headed out the door, and walked 451 steps to my office.

You see, after almost 25 years commuting to a corporate job downtown and later in the West Hills, I'm thrilled to say I've traded my daily drive to a job I no longer loved for a new one right here in my own beloved Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood.

My new office is about two blocks from my home. On my walk, I see familiar sites and friendly faces. I say hello each day to Kerby, the elder canine statesman of my building, preparing for his daily job guarding the office next door. I sometimes catch a glimpse of my son walking to school. I smell the pastries of the bakery.

OPINION:
WHAT I
THINK

My affection for my neighborhood only grew one day when I witnessed a dramatic car crash along the way. Dr. Kiran Mistry, our neighborhood dentist, rushed out with a fire extinguisher. The folks at Grand Central Bakery brought knives to cut the car's airbags and seat belts. I stayed and made sure the police had all the information and the passengers were safe before walking on.

I felt so proud to live where we come together to help others.

It is not just the saving of time and money that makes me happy. It's a feeling of belonging to a place I love and being around people who make it a community"

Katy Fackler has lived in B-W since purchasing her home near Fremont Street 25 years ago. She raised her family here, and is now thrilled to be able to walk to work at our local Edward Jones office — on Fremont Street.



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It's small, simple, and has a nice family business feel to it. All the staff are kind and skilled and my dental visits are back

to feeling like a treat to myself and my health. This is not an office with fancy decor and a bunch of extras... that's actually my preference; I prefer the sense that their priority is the work they do, not the facade of the business.

If you're in search of an office that will take good care of you and leave you feeling you're in good hands, I'd highly recommend Dr. Mistry and his staff. ”



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