

Alameda PDX

Fall 2023

Volume 37 Number 3



KIDS FIND GREAT BACK-TO-SCHOOL ITEMS AT PROJECT LEMONADE. PHOTO BY BEKAH TAYLOR.



STORE VOLUNTEERS INCLUDE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JANICE, ANN, ADRIENNE, CINDY AND BECKY. PHOTO BY BEKAH TAYLOR.



L+EARN INTERNS GAIN IMPORTANT JOB SKILLS BY WORKING IN THE PROJECT LEMONADE STORE. PHOTO BY BEKAH TAYLOR.

Clothing, Connection, and Confidence for Foster Care Youths *by David Spencer*

Every Thursday, Janice Slonecker Berman arrives promptly at noon for her shift at the Project Lemonade store in Lloyd Center Mall. She and her fellow store workers get right to work – no dawdling. It’s the time of year to queue up back-to-school favorites, and Berman checks the sizes of clothing already on the racks. She looks forward to this behind-the-scenes work; she wants to be able to pull out the perfect hoody, the one that her customer wants.

At the Project Lemonade store, foster children can pick out clothing and supplies—all donated, mostly new—under the guidance of an adult who is taking the role an involved parent might serve for most kids. Volunteers like Berman take on that role daily.

“We expect over 1,000 kids to come through in next couple of weeks,” Berman says, “and we’ll move \$150,000 worth of merchandise.” The store is open year-round, and also provides mail order shipments to 32 counties throughout the state.

Started in 2012, Project Lemonade provides foster youth with the resources, opportunities and connections they need to succeed in school and life. Beginning as a pop-up store where foster youth could shop for free, the nonprofit organization’s goal was to send kids back to school with self-esteem and confidence, knowing they looked just like every other kid on the playground.

In one month, the store served 1,000 kids. Today, that pop-up is a permanent store in the mall, and through expanded programs, Project Lemonade has served more than 20,000 foster youth across Oregon and SW Washington. The organization’s name is tied to its belief that “With the odds against our foster children, let’s do what we can to turn lemons into lemonade.”

Helping Foster Kids Dream of a Future

Project Lemonade’s expanded programs include the L+EARN Internship Program, which offers young people the opportunity to gain hands-on work

experience and access to a long-term career support network. Each internship is a 12-week program for foster care youth between the ages of 16 and 24. Statistically, 50% of these young people face unemployment by age 25. The L+EARN program targets this problem and prepares its participants for successful careers. Youths receive paid job training, mentorship, and gain valuable work experience at the Project Lemonade store.

Through the WISH (What Inspires Students’ Hearts) program, foster kids can pursue their dreams through activities that encourage skills and support academic achievement. These activities can include camps, sports, and other programs that provide opportunities to gain knowledge, skills, and confidence.

The Inspire Network is for teens and young adults ages 14-23 who are expected to age out of or have recently exited foster care. The program provides adult and peer support, helping those without family support navigate the difficult transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency.

The network is only available to youths who reside in Multnomah, Clackamas, or Washington counties, and provides a chance to build community connections through social events, volunteering, and one-on-one mentorship. It also provides some paid leadership and scholarship opportunities.

The Fill the Gap Scholarship provides flexible funding to cover a student’s “basic need” expenses, an area often overlooked by other funding sources. Designed with partners in the foster care community and young adults with lived experience, the Fill the Gap Scholarship reduces stressors and barriers created by financial insecurity, so that students can focus on their educational goals.

Volunteers and Donations are Welcome

Allison Specter joined Project Lemonade in January 2022 as Development Director. They enjoy getting to work with the kids, helping them shop and having coffee with interns. This contact lets Specter hear about what’s going on in their lives and figure out

(continued on page 6)

ANA Volunteers Needed

Looking for a fun way to get involved with your neighbors? The Alameda Neighborhood Association is looking for volunteers to help plan and coordinate our 2024 events!

- We’re considering neighborhood cleanups, informational meetings with guest speakers, social activities, and more.
- Time commitment is minimal – events are usually held once a quarter.
- You can help with as many or as few as you like.

To learn more, come to a Board meeting or send us an email at alamedanewsletter@gmail.com. Board meetings are also a great place to find out what’s happening in and around Alameda!

Our next ANA Board meeting is Tuesday, October 10, at 7 pm at Fremont United Methodist Church, 2620 NE Fremont. Hope to see you there!

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Editor's Message by Annette Bendinelli



I know I've been beating the drum on this for quite awhile, but bear with me because I want to address a question my neighbor asked recently. She said, "So why do we need a neighborhood association?"

I thought I'd share my answer with you, in case you have the same question.

Advocacy

Back in May, the City issued a permit to remove four large street trees in our neighborhood. Over the course of a weekend, over 80 people contacted the Alameda Neighborhood Association to see if the trees could be saved.

A nearby resident hired an independent arborist to evaluate them, and after getting her input – and taking residents' opinions into account - the ANA filed a formal appeal. The

City granted it a day later, and three of the trees were saved. A fourth tree was found to have signs of decay, and was removed August 26.

Having a central organization like the ANA to represent our neighborhood gives us a stronger voice to advocate for/against issues that affect Alameda.

Communication

The ANA produces, publishes, and mails this newsletter, which features news and information about the people, places, and events in our area. It's also a forum for residents to share their opinions and experiences. In addition to the newsletter, the ANA also manages a neighborhood website (alamedaportland.com), an Alameda Facebook page, and a growing mailing list. All of these vehicles help keep our community connected.

Community

Building community is one of the main functions of a neighborhood association. In March, the ANA hosted an

Alameda history night featuring Doug Decker. Over 100 neighbors came together at Fremont United Methodist Church to socialize and enjoy Doug's presentation. In August, over 600 people attended a Movies in the Park event at Wilshire Park co-sponsored by the ANA and the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association. Events like these bring neighbors together to enjoy each other's company, and that makes us a closer-knit community.

Those are just some of the things a neighborhood association does. If you want to learn more about the ANA, join our email list! Just send us an email at alamedanewsletter@gmail.com and we'll add your name. You'll be the first to hear about important neighborhood news, events, ANA volunteer opportunities, and more.

I'll stop beating the drum now, and wish you a happy and healthy fall. Check out the caramel candy recipe on Page 10 – it will definitely put you in an autumn mood!

– Annette

Resolution Gives PPS Control Of Grant Bowl

On September 5, the Portland Public School Board unanimously approved a resolution to take immediate control of replacing the turf at the Grant High School Bowl. The resolution also included replacing the Buckman track, which serves Benson Polytechnic High School. Officials had previously suggested waiting until 2024 to begin repairs.

Because both facilities are currently owned and managed by Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R), the Board proposed that PP&R grant Portland Public Schools (PPS) a long-term lease in order to manage maintenance issues. The City would then need to expedite all permitting so that work on the facilities can begin this year.

"PP&R currently issues a long-term lease for Buckman Field to a private soccer club," the PPS resolution notes. "The club maintains and replaces the turf at the end of its useful life, thus the precedent for a long-term lease exists and should be extended to PPS."

In addition to approving the leases, PP&R would also agree to let PPS help fund improvements at the facilities. This

could include adding lighting at Grant, which is the only 6A high school in Oregon without lights on its field.

The Grant Bowl has been closed to students since mid-August, after it failed four separate safety inspections. According to an August 12 news release issued jointly by PP&R and PPS, the Grant High Bowl was declared unsafe for use for public school practices and games, and any permitted sports games or practices by community groups, teams and leagues.

The turf at Grant Bowl was installed in September 2013 and had an 8-10 year expected lifespan, with a three-year warranty. Between the community and Grant athletics, the Bowl has seen heavy use and the City has been unable to keep up with maintenance costs.

This left Grant High School's football and soccer teams without a home field to play or practice on.

Portland Public Schools Board Chair Gary Hollands and City Commissioner Dan Ryan had announced they would replace the Grant Bowl's artificial turf field in time for fall sports in

2024, but student athletes and parents weren't satisfied with the PPS plan to bus athletes seven miles to Delta Park for the school year, arguing that it not only denies students a home field but would result in more missed classroom time.

According to School Board Member Julie Brim-Edwards, "There's an urgent need to ensure that the Grant Bowl and the track are safe and useful for our students," Brim-Edwards said. "Having a long-term lease from parks so that we can provide good facilities for our student athletes is really important."

Brim-Edwards added that PPS needs a "different long-term relationship with the city so that we have some certainty for our student athletes and equity across the district."

At press time, discussions were continuing about when repairs will actually begin, and how soon the Grant Bowl will be fully usable. In the meantime, the Grant High track is still safe to use, and the Bowl remains open to the public for non-PPS sports and practices, and other activities not requiring a City permit.



A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED SEPT. 5 GIVING PPS CONTROL OVER MAINTAINING THE GRANT BOWL.

ALAMEDA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF INCLUSION AND SUPPORT

Our community declared the Alameda neighborhood a hate-free zone in 1995. Today, we reaffirm Alameda's commitment to be a loving, caring, supportive and inclusive community for all who reside, work, do business, or visit our neighborhood. We stand against hatred, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and/or marginalization of any kind. We are committed to growing, nurturing and sustaining a community where all feel welcomed, safe and included.

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Michael Hall – Board Member
Pastor Erin Martin – Board Member
Michael Richman – Board Member

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The ANA meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Fremont United Methodist Church.

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Publication dates:	Deadlines:
December 10	November 10
March 10	February 10
June 10	May 10
September 10	August 10

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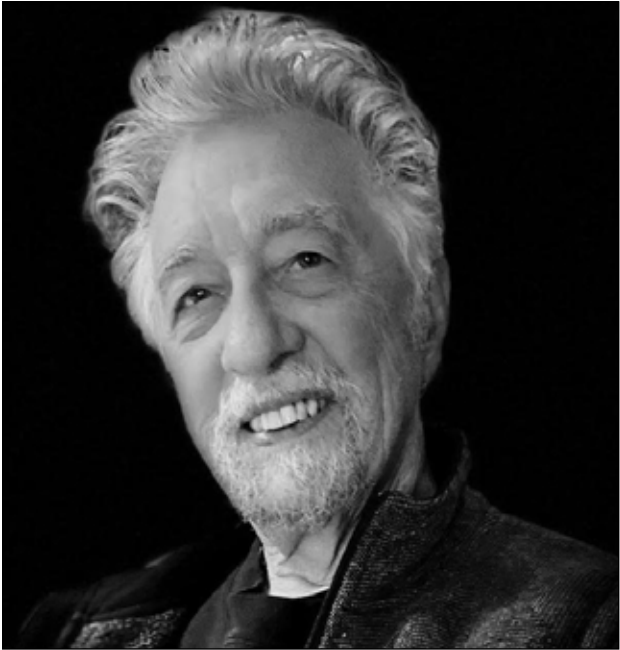
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AlamedaPDX is available online at alamedaportland.com.

ANA Elects Two New Board Members

The Alameda Neighborhood Association is excited to welcome longtime Alameda residents Michael Richman and Michael Hall to its Board of Directors.



Michael Hall

My wife, our son and I moved to Alameda in 1995. Our son's schooling included Alameda, Beaumont and Grant. We love our neighborhood, and feel fortunate to be a part of the Alameda community.

I served as Dean of Student Services at Pacific Northwest College of Art until my retirement in 2013. For six years, I was also the college's representative on the Pearl District Neighborhood Association Board, where I came to understand the positive change that neighborhood associations can influence.

I'm trained and certified as a volunteer in the City of Portland's Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) program, and I'm also co-chair of Quiet Clean PDX, a volunteer organization working to eliminate the noise and pollution in our community caused by gas leaf blowers.

My hobbies include photography and much gaming, with poker, bridge, chess, pool and backgammon being high on the list.

A favorite quote from Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." I hope to do a great job as a member of the Alameda Neighborhood Association Board.



Michael Richman

My husband and I moved to Alameda in 1985. We lived in that "first" Alameda home for 36 years, moving across the street (literally!) just 18 months ago. The time had come for us to downsize, and we wanted to stay in the neighborhood we had grown to love.

We're fortunate that our four grown children (all Grant "Generals") live within a few miles of Alameda. They have produced ten wonderful grandchildren, several of whom are (or will be) Generals!

More personally, I'm a knitter, a needlepointer, and a fledgling quilter. I'm also a recently retired social worker, having worked part-time at the Children's Program for 26 years. Volunteer work has always been a large component of my life – for the Alameda, Beaumont, and Grant LSACs and PTAs, for our synagogue, as a Girl Scout leader, and as the Alameda PYSA Registrar for over 23 years.

When the chance to join the Alameda Neighborhood Association Board came along, it felt like a new shift in the direction of my volunteer "career" as we all strive to make this livable neighborhood of ours even better.

Veterans Day Parade Set For November 11th

The 2023 Portland Veterans Day Parade has been scheduled for Saturday, November 11, at 10 a.m. The route will begin at NE Beech St. and NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, travel north to NE Sumner St., and turn left onto Sumner, where it concludes.

The parade committee is currently looking for sponsors, as well as participants (people/organizations/community groups) to march in the parade. The committee also needs volunteers to help on the day of the event.

Portland's only Veteran's Day Parade was established in 1974 by Vernon E. Ross, owner of Ross Hollywood Chapel. Ross founded the parade to honor all veterans, past and present, living or deceased. Today, the tradition is carried on by Veterans Day Portland, Inc. The parade bills itself as "an inclusive, nonpartisan, family-friendly event officially permitted by the City of Portland."

If you would like to be a parade sponsor, participant, or volunteer, visit veteransdaypdx.org.



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Movie in the Park Draws a Crowd

On August 10, nearly 700 people brought their blankets to Wilshire Park to watch the Walt Disney movie *Encanto*. The free showing was co-sponsored by

the Beaumont-Wilshire and Alameda Neighborhood Associations, in partnership with the Portland Parks & Recreation Summer Free for All program. People began

staking out their spots in the grass several hours before the movie began, and enjoyed treats from the Nachos for Dessert food truck and free popcorn provided by PP & R.



NEIGHBORS ARRIVED EARLY TO GET A GOOD SPOT ON THE GRASS.



ANA CHAIR ROBERT MCCONVILLE AND BOARD MEMBER ANNETTE BENDINELLI STAFFED THE ANA TABLE.



PP&R PROVIDED A GIANT SCREEN FOR THE MOVIE.

Happy Hydrated Dogs at Wilshire Park *by Mary Roney*

On Thursday, July 6, community members gathered to celebrate the dedication of the new dog fountain at Wilshire Park. The result of a multi-year fundraising effort, the fountain provides a water source to the busy off-leash dog area at the park.

A number of neighbors – and their dogs – also turned out for the occasion, and The Pip’s Original Doughnuts and Chai mobile van was on site to help celebrate with free doughnuts.

FoWP would like to thank all of the community members and businesses who contributed funds and supported this park improvement. The committee will be researching options for the next project over the coming months.

Friends of Wilshire Park (FoWP), a committee of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association, partnered with Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) to cover the cost of a water line and spigot. FoWP raised \$17,000 through donations from individual donors and local businesses, and PP&R covered the remainder of the estimated \$22,000 total. The project was completed May 15.

The location of the fountain was determined by PP&R to have the least environmental impact on the tree canopy. It also allows for optimal drainage, and minimizes standing water near the perimeter walking and running path.

“Commissioner Carmen Rubio, the prior Parks Commissioner, helped make this a reality,” said Gary Hancock, FoWP chair. Rubio attended the dedication with her dog, Ruthie.



NEIGHBORS AND THEIR DOGS GATHER TO CELEBRATE. PHOTO BY MICHAEL SHAY, POLARA STUDIO.



FORMER PARKS COMMISSIONER CARMEN RUBIO TESTS THE FOUNTAIN WITH HER DOG, RUTHIE. PHOTO BY MICHAEL SHAY, POLARA STUDIO.



LONDON PLANE TREES ON NE REGENTS DRIVE.

Tree Appeal Granted

The Alameda Neighborhood Association was successful in its May 31 appeal to prevent the removal of three mature London Plane trees on the parking strip near NE Edgehill Pl. and Regents Dr.

After learning that a permit had been filed to remove the trees last May, over 80 neighbors contacted the ANA to express support for saving them. Representing these neighbors, ANA Chair Robert McConville filed a formal appeal with the City, and approval was granted the following day.

A fourth tree in that location was removed August 26 because both the City and an independent arborist found it showed signs of decay. Because it contained an active bird nest, it was allowed to remain standing until the birds vacated.

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The Puzzle Pieces Come Together: Exploring Alameda's Small Plats by Doug Decker

Back in Spring 2022 here on Page 5, we began an exploration of the Alameda neighborhood's underlying plats: the 23 separate subdivision plans brought to life over the years by many companies and individuals that delineated the streets, blocks and lots we know today. Few of the names of these bite-sized chunks of property remain in common use. Alameda Park does, for sure: the single subdivision bounded by NE Fremont Street, NE Prescott Street, NE 33rd Avenue, and NE 21st Avenue, which is also the largest chunk of today's neighborhood.

But everything else considered inside today's Alameda neighborhood was once named something else, names that have been lost to time. Past articles in this newsletter have explored places like Gleneyrie, Town of Wayne, Waynewood, Meadow Park, Dunsmeade and most recently Homedale, all plats filed over the years, some as early as the 1880s – before this area was even part of Portland (which happened in 1891, by the way).

For this installment—our next-to-last one on this topic since we're running out of plats—we'll concentrate on the five small subdivisions that make up the neighborhood from NE 24th to NE 29th and between Fremont and Stanton. You'd think that might have all been developed at once by the same developer, but take a good look and you'll see a range of styles and construction dates.

Let's start at the corner of NE 24th and Fremont and work our way clockwise around this big box, which goes like this: Edgemont, Pearson's Addition, Fremont Addition, Irvindale and Miami. Different developers, all filed at different times, and marketed distinctly.

Edgemont (1890)

NE 24th & Fremont to NE 27th & Siskiyou

This was a completely speculative plat, filed in 1890 by a young mortgage loan banker named Lewis Russell, a Scottish immigrant who later founded the mortgage firm of Russell and Blyth. His plat lists Fremont (then just a dirt track) as "Cowlitz Street." Seven years after Russell platted this area—in November 1897—most of the lots in Edgemont were auctioned off by the Multnomah County Sheriff due to multiple years of delinquent taxes. It turned out Russell had stopped paying taxes not long after platting. He acquired the land, platted it on paper without doing anything out on the ground, and kept it at the ready waiting for the next real estate expansion, which was at least one economic recession and 20 years down the road. While some of the houses in this area were built in the 19-teens, most were built in the boom of the 1920s, and some even as late as the 1940s. Russell was ahead of his time. Even though he eventually chose to let these lands go tax delinquent and lost out on the speculation, he went on to be a successful mortgage broker. Russell died in 1911 at age 52 just as development of the neighborhood was about to take off in its first boom.

Pearson's Addition (1909)

East side of NE 27th between Fremont and Klickitat

This is a tiny plat with a long history, just one block and nine lots, all of which are now under Alameda School. The Pearson family operated a dairy in this vicinity as early as the 1880s. Samuel and Adeline Pearson planted the seedling that is today's huge ponderosa

pine at the southwest corner of NE 29th and Fremont, marking the northeast corner of the Pearson property. After the turn of the last century, the farm passed to son Alvin and his wife Josephine who subdivided it, creating this small plat, the Fremont Addition, and the Miami Addition.

Fremont Addition (1910)

NE 28th between Fremont and Klickitat

Carved out of the Pearson place one year later by other members of the Pearson family, this one-block subdivision contains 12 lots along the west side of NE 29th, three facing Fremont, and three facing Klickitat.

Irvindale (1909)

NE 27th-Klickitat-NE 29th-Siskiyou

Also originally part of the Pearson dairy, this plat consists of 45 lots. The Portland Trust Company of Oregon brought the money and development strategy, keeping a close eye on the market and on other developers who were preparing to develop nearby properties, including the Alameda Land Company and Lumberman Trust. Most of the homes in this area were built in the 1920s.

Miami (1926)

NE Siskiyou between 27th and NE 29th

25 lots, clustered along Siskiyou Street, platted in October 1927 by the Lumberman Trust Company, which like Portland Trust Company was a bank but also had a commercial real estate development arm. This subdivision took in the far southern edge of the Pearson dairy. After the explosion of homebuilding in the mid-1920s—and with this unbuilt chunk of property just waiting for development—Lumberman's Trust could see this was going to be a good investment. But they had to hurry: they didn't know it, but the crash of 1929 was not far off. Most of the homes in this plat were built before the Great Depression brought an end to Portland's homebuilding extravaganza.

Up next: In the next installment, to close our exploration of Alameda's plats, we'll look at the Olmsted Park Addition, platted at the same time as Alameda Park by Benjamin Lombard, a successful developer who competed



THIS SCREENSHOT FROM THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY SURVEYOR'S WEBSITE SHOWS THE SMALL PLATS JUST SOUTH OF FREMONT THAT ARE PART OF THE 23 DIFFERENT PLATS MAKING UP TODAY'S ALAMEDA NEIGHBORHOOD. NOTE THE "ALAMEDA PARK" PLAT JUST NORTH OF FREMONT, LARGEST OF THE 23 AND ONE OF THE ONLY NAMES STILL IN USE.

head-to-head with the Alameda Land Company and Portland Trust for market share of newcomers to this area. We'll also consider George Place and the Gile addition, two tiny subdivisions in the far northwest corner of the neighborhood.



Neighborhood historian Doug Decker prepares history studies of homes, leads history walks, and makes presentations to groups interested in learning about local history. To learn more about Alameda and surrounding neighborhoods, visit Doug's website at www.alamedahistory.org.

Do You have an Alameda History Question?

Are you interested in learning more about the history of our amazing neighborhood, your street, or the surrounding area? If so, AlamedaPDX and Doug Decker invite you to send your question to doug@alamedahistory.org, and Doug will respond in our next issue. Submissions must be 75 words or less.

ANA Secretary Needed!

The Alameda Neighborhood Association is looking for a new Secretary!

Responsibilities include taking the minutes at monthly ANA Board meetings, and keeping other records as needed. The Board meets from 7-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Fremont United Methodist Church.

This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and learn about the issues and events that affect our community. To apply for this volunteer position, please email alamedanewsletter@gmail.com.

The ANA needs your support!

(continued from page 1, Project Lemonade)

where to help. For example, an intern might mention the difficulty of moving when you don't own a car.

Specter invites others to get involved by volunteering, and by donating items or funds to support youth impacted by family trauma and foster care. To learn more, visit www.projectlemonadepdx.org or contact Allison at allison@projectlemonadepdx.org.

According to the U.S. Government, there are more than 440,000 young people in foster care in this

country. Of those, one fifth are homeless, and only three percent graduate from college. Throughout life, 24 percent never hold a job, and one in four experience post-traumatic stress disorder.

The board members and staff at Project Lemonade believe our community has the power to help, and they're working to change those statistics, one foster youth at a time.



TEENS PARTICIPATING IN A BUDGETING WORKSHOP AT PROJECT LEMONADE. PHOTO BY BEKAH TAYLOR.

You Can Help Oregon's Foster Care Crisis by Daisy Pesak

In Oregon, over 5,000 children will spend time in foster care this year.

Many of these children come from situations of abuse and neglect, only to find themselves facing uncertainty and instability once they enter foster care.

Boys & Girls Aid, a nonprofit founded in Portland in 1885, wants to change that. We are looking for compassionate people to help improve the lives of children in foster care.

A good foster home is often the first place a child in foster care has felt safe in a long time. Foster parents help children build trust in adults and provide a supportive environment where they can thrive.

Boys & Girls Aid supports foster parents with

responsive program staff available 24/7, ongoing free professional training, and generous monthly, tax-free stipends ranging from \$1,200 to \$3,500 per month. There are options to fit every family, from full-time placement to relief care a few days a month.

Fostering children might bring life changes and challenges, but it's a great opportunity to make a difference in a child's life – and in your own life, too.

To learn more, visit boysandgirlsaid.org/fostercare, or contact Outreach & Certification Coordinator Hallie Campbell at 503-544-7003 or hcampbell@boysandgirlsaid.org.

Daisy Pesak is an Outreach and Certification Specialist at Boys & Girls Aid in SW Portland.



BOYS & GIRLS AID IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR FOSTER HOMES.

Alameda Neighbor Shares Harvest by Scott Gunderson

In late August, Alameda neighbors with a bountiful pear crop called the Portland Fruit Tree Project to help them share their harvest with others. Project volunteers picked the pears, boxed them up, and left with a large fruit donation for local food banks and other community resources.

Portland Fruit Tree Project is a nonprofit gleaning organization that works with volunteers to gather excess fruit from the yards of Portland residents. The Project's mission is "To increase equitable access to healthful food, and strengthen communities by empowering neighbors to share in the harvest and care of city-grown produce."

If you would like more information on the Portland Fruit Tree Project or have extra produce you'd like to share, visit info@portlandfruit.org.



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Fremont United Methodist Church Hosts Summer Block Party



NEIGHBORS BROWSE THE BOOTHS.

On Saturday, July 22, Fremont United Methodist Church held a summer block party that drew over 100 neighbors to NE 27th Avenue on the west side of Alameda School.

The event featured a DJ, a bounce house, and a community art project where people could paint their own mandala on a rock to take home. Free tai chi lessons were offered, and there were games and other activities for kids set up along the sidewalk.

The party also showcased local BIPOC food vendors and craftspeople.

According to Diane Rheos, Fremont United Methodist Church's Director of Community Development, "We wanted to provide a way for everyone to gather and to get to know each other. It was thrilling to have so many neighbors join together for this fun event. We plan on doing it again next year!"



PASTOR ERIN MARTIN CHECKS OUT SOME OF THE PRODUCTS FOR SALE.



FLORENCE JENKINS OF NANA'S EXQUISITE CONFECTIONS DISPLAYS HER MOUTH-WATERING PASTRIES.



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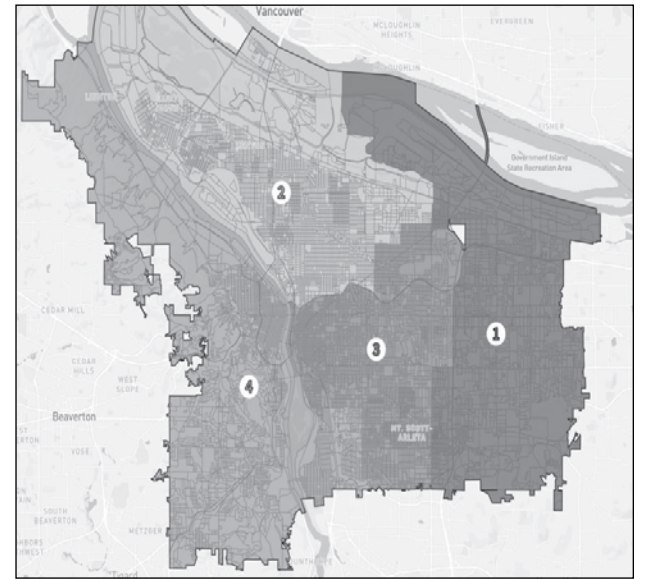
New Portland Voting Districts Approved

As part of Portland's voter-approved transition to a new form of government, members of the citizen-led Independent Districting Commission unanimously approved a new Portland boundary map on August 21. The map defines the four geographic districts for election of city councilors beginning in November 2024.

Alameda will be part of District 2, which is bordered roughly by Sandy Boulevard to the south, St. Johns to the north, Portland Airport to the east, and the Willamette River to the west.

The IDC weighed several different proposals and solicited public input before ultimately selecting a revised version of the Alder map, noting that it promoted strong collaboration and community engagement for the city's future.

Each of the four districts has a population of about 163,000 people, and voters in each district will select three members to represent them through a ranked-choice voting system. Terms for the 12 new city councilors will begin in January 2025.



ALAMEDA IS PART OF DISTRICT 2 IN THE NEW PORTLAND BOUNDARY MAP.

PBOT Makes Steady Progress *by David Spencer*

At the start of the year, we reported on the traffic diverter at NE Fremont and Alameda and on the bridge to NE 33rd from Lombard. Checking with Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), we've found another bridge project that you might encounter on your way to the airport or the Whitaker Ponds Natural Area: the NE 42nd Avenue Bridge over NE Lombard.

We checked recently with the department's spokesperson to see how things are going with these projects. Here's what we found out.

Data collection on diverter at NE Alameda and NE Fremont

This pilot was installed in the spring and PBOT is collecting data its effect on traffic patterns. The diverter is part the Neighborhood Greenways program, an effort to promote quiet, slow streets, to prioritize people walking, bicycling, and rolling, and to be the backbone of the Safe Routes to School network.

Hannah Schafer, PBOT Communications Director, says, "During multiple site visits, project staff have observed the project operating as expected. The upcoming traffic data scheduled for later this year will provide a fuller picture of the project's impacts. The project team will make recommendations for next steps after data collection (Fall 2023) and analysis."

Tacovore's Jonathan Grumbles has had a clear view of this experiment from the beginning. "I have seen people being a little more cautious, and simultaneously, I have been amazed at the number of people crossing Fremont in their cars, who go right through the diverters. Seems as though people living here don't want their routes to be disrupted," he observed.

Paving of NE 33rd Avenue from NE Knott to NE Columbia

PBOT is repaving NE 33rd Avenue from NE Knott to NE Dekum Street in six phases. Work will continue through late September, and requires a series of full road closures and detours during work hours. This preventive maintenance will prevent potholes from occurring for up to 20 years.

Resurfacing of NE 33rd Drive overpass by Columbia Blvd

Roadwork on NE Columbia Boulevard and on the overpass over NE 33rd Drive was completed this spring. City crews covered the concrete road surface with an epoxy overlay to protect the road surface and improve traction.

Upcoming NE Skidmore Street Corridor Safety Project

NE Skidmore Street is a future neighborhood greenway connecting multiple northeast Portland neighborhoods. Currently, there is a gap between key bicycle and pedestrian routes on NE 32nd Avenue and NE 37th Avenue. The development phase is complete and the project has moved forward into early design. Public outreach began in Fall 2022 and will continue throughout design. Depending on availability of construction forces, the project is set to be completed in Spring 2024.

Repairs to NE 33rd bridge to/from Lombard

In September, PBOT closed the bridge to repair a crack caused by the 2021 heat dome. The bridge is a critical connection over NE Lombard Street, with no nearby alternate routes. At 3 p.m. on July 31, the bridge reopened to traffic in almost all directions, restoring a key corridor in northeast Portland.

Replacement of NE 42nd Avenue Bridge over NE Lombard

The current bridge does not fulfill the numerous functions of this route. It's on a recommended Emergency Transportation Route, but is vulnerable to earthquakes. Freight trucks use the bridge as a connection between Lombard and Columbia, but the bridge's low height and weight restrictions hamper freight transportation. The bridge does not provide sufficient space for people walking and biking.

This new connection would fill the gap between the Holman neighborhood greenway and the upcoming NE 47th Avenue protected bikeway. It will provide better access for freight, walking, and biking, in addition to addressing the commercial and emergency requirements.



CEMENT IS POURED AS WORK IS COMPLETED ON NE 33RD AVE. BRIDGE.

PBOT reports that construction on this bridge replacement has been delayed and won't start until 2024. Construction is expected to last about 18 months once the work begins. Northbound drivers wishing to cross the 42nd Avenue bridge will be detoured at Killingsworth to use the NE 33rd Avenue Bridge. Southbound drivers will be detoured to Cully Blvd.

The links for these four projects are:

DIVERTER AT NE ALAMEDA AND NE FREMONT

<https://www.portland.gov/transportation/safestreetspd/xe-alameda-and-ne-fremont>

NE 42ND AVE BRIDGE OVER NE LOMBARD

<https://www.portland.gov/transportation/pbot-projects/construction/ne-42nd-ave-bridge-over-ne-lombard>

NE 33RD BRIDGE TO/FROM LOMBARD

<https://www.portland.gov/transportation/pbot-projects/construction/ne-33rd-avenue-bridge>

NE SKIDMORE STREET CORRIDOR

<https://www.portland.gov/transportation/pbot-projects/ne-skidmore-33rd-37th-project>

You can also sign up to receive general information and updates on the PBOT website at <https://www.portland.gov/transportation>.

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The Value Of Connections by Chris Rauber

Before I was 13, my family and I had moved at least eight times.

That makes me an expert on the adventures and challenges connected with moving from one place to another. It can be hard on a kid, hard on a teenager, and hard on an adult, even an older one like I am now.

I moved to Portland with my wife Kim and our small dog in June 2022. We bought our house in Beaumont-Wilshire a few weeks later.

Why do I mention all this? Because feeling new, alone, or uprooted, like a stranger in a strange land, is common in 21st Century America. Change is in the air, much of it scary.

Political angst and polarization. Debates over race and gender. Climate change, air and water heating up causing heat domes, and making some of us nostalgic for 1970, when few even contemplated such rapid transformations of the Earth's climate.

We used to be better at this. But battered by Covid and other recent traumas, many of us hole up in our homes, watch a lot of Netflix, play video games, and try to shut out the big bad dangerous world.

But that doesn't work. It results in loneliness, disengagement, fear, and often outright panic and anger.

What does work is community. Here in Portland a year or so ago, I knew only my wife, my nearby daughter and son-in-law, and a handful of others. Not enough to form a community — only a small kernel of one.

So, we reached out. My wife and I joined NE Village PDX, and discovered a small, vibrant group of fellow older folks who wanted to help others and make connections. I also reached out to the Beaumont-Wilshire newsletter's editor, Susan Trabucco, and in so doing enmeshed myself in yet another vibrant, often buoyant community.

I connected with the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club,

too, where I try to spread the word about climate change and the need to alter the way we relate to and envision our natural environment.

My story isn't special, but there may be lessons here for others who feel lonely or disconnected, or are looking for meaning they don't find in their current situations. Reaching out is good. Exploring options. Finding new friends and colleagues. Connecting with neighbors.

It turns out that making connections isn't an option—it's a necessity.

Chris Rauber and his wife, Kim Williams, moved to Portland and the Beaumont Wilshire neighborhood 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.

This article originally ran in the September-October 2023 issue of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association newsletter and has been reprinted with permission.

Pandemic Prompts Neighbors to Make Music by Blythe Knott

“Hey Blythe, I have a scoop for the next issue of Alameda HPDX!” This message, from my friend David Bean, was an extremely welcome one, mainly because it saved me from having to think of a topic for an article on my own.

David went on to explain that, “During the pandemic, a bunch of NE 30th Avenue neighbors started playing music together. We've got a band name: Covie and the Pandemics. We've played at our block party and at a Music in the Park gathering, but more importantly, it's created a wonderful community.”

It feels like every positive story I've heard about the pandemic has related to family and community. My kids and I watched the extended version of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy together, plus all the *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* movies.

Friends developed walking or front yard social routines. Wordle was created, and to this day I share my daily results with my cousins, parents and kids. This reason for daily touch-ins has made us closer.

There are countless examples of Covid - with its terrible disruptions and toll on physical and mental health - having a silver lining in terms of people-to-people connections that wouldn't have otherwise happened, and a great example of this is Covie and the Pandemics.

The band consists of Jude and Paul Kassar, David Bean, Jenny and Alan Spinrad, Steve King, Grant Crowley, Katie Kennedy, Julia Shaughnessy, Minh Pham, and Patty and Tim Carrasco. I visited them while they practiced, and loved the time I got to spend watching them share music together.

As David said in his initial message to me, all of them live on NE 30th Avenue. Several are professional musicians in their own right, with bands and serious chops. Some are amateur musicians, also with serious chops. When they first started, it was all acoustic, socially distanced, in a front yard. Truly a baby of the pandemic.

On the day of my visit, the group was composed of four guitars (two acoustic and one electric), an electric bass guitar, and one percussionist playing a Peruvian instrument called the cajon. Most everyone joined in for the singing.

The style is eclectic, with a folksy vibe. Their song list grows organically. Typically, one of the members will hear a song they think will work for the group, they'll share it around, and everyone will familiarize themselves with it. At the next practice, they try it, and by the second time around, it's solid.

While I was there they played songs by the Cowboy Junkies and John Prine. They also play music by the Beatles, Bruce



COVIE AND THE PANDEMIC ATTEND A PRACTICE SESSION.

Springsteen, and Willie Nelson. As I said, it's eclectic. But they're so good that they can pull off any number of musical styles. I loved listening to a bunch of guitars playing together, and I really enjoyed being able to attend their most recent practice session. The fun they were having was infectious.

Everyone mentioned that they had no idea there were so many musicians in their neighborhood until the pandemic created the opportunity for them to learn these things about each other. Now they delight in these new friendships, and the chance to play music together. A silver lining, for sure.

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A Simple Treat Packed With Fall Flavor by Jane Feinberg

In a few short weeks, fall will be in full swing and what better way to celebrate the change of season than with a treat that's inspired by a traditional county fair staple: the caramel apple. These candies are the perfect combination of sweet and tart with a hint of warm cinnamon, guaranteed to get you in the mood for autumn.

Apple Cider Caramels (adapted from Smitten Kitchen)

Makes 64 pieces

- 4 cups *unfiltered* apple cider (NOT the clear apple juice found on store shelves)
- 1 cup of granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 tsp flaky sea salt, such as Maldon, or less of a finer one
- 8 Tbs (1 stick) unsalted butter, cut into chunks
- 1/2 cup of packed light brown sugar
- 1/3 cup of heavy cream
- Neutral oil for the knife

Boil the cider in a 3- to- 4-quart saucepan over high heat until reduced to a dark syrup, between 1/3 and 1/2 cup in volume. Stir occasionally. This should take 45 minutes to an hour.

Meanwhile, get your other ingredients ready. Stir the cinnamon and salt together in a small dish; have your butter and cream ready. Line the bottom and sides of an 8-inch square, straight-sided metal baking pan with two criss-crossed sheets of parchment paper long enough to

fold over the sides of the pan by about an inch. Set aside.

Once you've finished reducing the apple cider, remove it from the heat and stir in the butter, sugars, and heavy cream. Return the pot to medium-high heat and attach a candy thermometer to the side. Let the mixture boil until the thermometer reads 252 degrees — about 6 to 8 minutes. Keep a close eye on it.

Using a candy or deep-fry thermometer is best. Alternatively, drop a tiny spoonful of the hot syrup into a cup of very cold water. Look for the syrup to hold its shape when you gather the cooled syrup into a ball.

Once the caramel reaches 252 degrees or holds its shape, immediately remove it from the heat, add the cinnamon-salt mixture, and give the caramel several good stirs. Pour caramel into the parchment-lined pan and let it sit about 2 hours until cool. Once the caramel is firm, use your parchment paper sling to transfer the block to a cutting board. Use a well-oiled knife, oiling it after each cut (trust me!), to cut the caramel into 1-inch squares.

Wrap each candy in a 4-inch square of parchment or wax paper, twisting the sides to close. Caramels will be somewhat soft at room temperature and chewy/firm from the fridge. Caramels keep in an airtight container at room temperature for two weeks, but I bet they won't last that long!

Jane Feinberg does graphic design for the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association newsletter. This recipe originally ran in the September-October 2023 BWNA newsletter and has been reprinted with permission.



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Picture Windows: Triumphant Musings by Gail Jeidy

After we returned from our annual trip to the Midwest, I messaged my nephew, thanking him for his hospitality and extending an open invitation to visit. It's been 15 years since he graduated college and spent the summer with us in Alameda working as a house painter. Now, he's a remote tech guy who doubles as a goat farmer.

"Once I'm a goat billionaire, I'll make my triumphant return to the Pacific Northwest," he messaged.

I chuckled, loving his optimism -- and word choice.

I can't recall when I've written 'triumphant' or to be honest, felt it. I'm not an elite athlete or an extreme adventurer and haven't sold a screenplay (yet). I'm not my friend who put 8,880 miles on his Harley a month ago during a lone trek to the Arctic. Or our other friend who traveled to the Banda Islands, Indonesia, where he bonded with dolphins and was saved from sharks when a brotherhood pod encircled him in protection. And I'm certainly not like my husband Ron, who was an elite athlete and once wrestled a bear. (Ron won.)

My successes tend to be on the less wild-cheering side. (Examples: Someone claimed the astray purple hippo I wrote about in the last *AlamedaPDX* issue, the lost plushie dog we hung in The Canted Spruce tree has re-found its forever home, and my dahlias are blooming.) My quiet joys -coupled with Ron's distaste for superlatives - make our home a "no-words like awesome-uttered-here" space.

Still, I find myself desiring more 'triumphant' in my life, so I decided to zero in on where the word is used.

I open the fridge and there it is in bold type on the tub of my favorite yogurt: "Triumphant taste and texture."

This is truth in advertising for Zoi Greek Honey Vanilla Yogurt. (*Amazing stuff.*)

I grab a *Vogue* magazine and sink into a story by Alice Robb as she processes the past -- her childhood dream to be a professional ballerina. It never happened for her, but now she's a keen observer of dance. Watching the Pacific Northwest Ballet's "Swan Lake," Robb can't help but wonder if the dancer is still thinking about her "triumphant pas de deux..."

I hear and see the triumph-word in the promo for the film *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*, touted as "beyond triumphant." I look forward to the experience.

I've been thinking about what is and isn't "triumphant."

I realize I can't count watching every episode of *Season 10, Naked and Afraid: Last One Standing* in the triumphant column for me, even though it sure was for one contestant.

Perhaps I could give a 50 percent triumphant to my hip replacement surgery earlier this year. The surgery was scheduled to be robot-aided but at the last minute the robot wouldn't launch. The surgeon carried forth with traditional navigation and the outcome was good. But most triumphant for me was the synchronistic gift my daughter brought of Broken Robot coffee, not even knowing the details of my day. (Check out this timely, small batch organic brand at 2860 SE Gladstone St.)

To be fair, "synchronistic" may not rank as triumphant for most scorekeepers. Truly triumphant events seem to include heart, focus, struggle, overcoming obstacles and a passage of time.



WHAT DO YOU FEEL TRIUMPHANT ABOUT?

I continue the search, even as I watch my 8-month-old grandson today. He's corralled in an enclosure formed by the sectional couch and a containment wall of cushions, pillows and quilts. I film him as he discovers a low point in the surround and scootches up and over like an inchworm. He's quick. He's off the rug, onto the wood floor, in a direct line for the floor lamp in the corner. Uh oh. He's moving a lot faster than he did last week.

I jump up to catch him before he topples the lamp. My video bobs and shakes and his image flits offscreen for a bit as I follow him until he stops. He reaches his arm out and grabs a pair of stuffed, smiling avocados at the base of the lamp. He rolls over on his back, squeezes his prizes, and looks at me with a triumphant smile.

RubyViolet Offers Skin Care for Those Facing Cancer

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and RubyViolet Skincare is currently offering treatments and skin care products that are customized for women facing the disease.

As a Breast Cancer survivor herself, RubyViolet owner Sarah Szper is passionate about offering products and services to help women support their skin as they navigate chemo and/or radiation.

RubyViolet offers customized facials using a Cancer Skincare Protocol, and also offers products from the French skincare and wellness company Phytomer.

Phytomer products are designed for use during cancer treatments and for several months after, addressing the effects they have on clients' skin. A curated Cancer Skincare Protocol package of products from Phytomer will be available for purchase starting in October.

Located in the 1829 N.E. Alberta St. building, RubyViolet is a woman-owned, highly personalized esthetics boutique with a 20-year history in Portland. Hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit rubyvioletskinicare.com, or contact Szper via email at sarahrubyskinicare@gmail.com or via phone or text at (503) 282-8877.



RUBYVIOLET OFFERS CUSTOMIZED FACIALS USING A CANCER SKINCARE PROTOCOL. PHOTO BY GREG BARTNING.

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Nectar Frozen Yogurt Open On Fremont

Nectar Frozen Yogurt Lounge is now open on NE Fremont, in the location formerly occupied by Umpqua Bank. The locally owned shop features a large variety of rotating flavors, including vegan and dairy-free options. The "lounge atmosphere" provides a casual, welcoming space to enjoy a healthy treat with friends, or catch up on work (free Wi-Fi provided). Outdoor seating is also available in front of the shop during warmer weather. Nectar is open daily from noon to 10 p.m. at 4335 NE Fremont.



Alameda Parking Strips Yield Summer's Bounty



The Potential of Parking Strips by Barbara Strunk

Our parking strips are often unrecognized as spaces for beautiful gardens. Looking around our neighborhood we see many homeowners replacing their parking strip lawn with trees and smaller plants. A parking strip is a good place to grow longer-lived plants such as bulbs, perennials, small shrubs, trees, and even vegetables.

A conversion from lawn to a parking strip garden has many benefits. First, a lawn's role in capturing atmospheric carbon is lost when chemicals and fossil fuel-burning machines are used in its maintenance. Second, plantings for pollinators and other insects are crucial for a healthy food web given the reported dramatic decline in insect numbers. Parking strip gardens can provide food for many species, including humans.

Pollinator Parkways, developed in Portland, has a very helpful do-it-yourself manual that covers grass removal, plants, planting designs and much more. Visit <https://pollinatorparkways.weebly.com/>

A lawn-to-garden parking strip conversion need not be done all at once; the project can develop over years. I divided the area into several small gardens that I gradually planted. Two gardens have sun-loving plants

and two favor shade plants where our street trees are growing. I put paths in between the gardens to provide access from the street. I also made a narrow path along the curb to make it easier to get out of a car.

Choose plants that you like. If desired take a look online to find out how they grow best: soil, water, light conditions are all important. You can take into account when plants bloom and choose them so that you have something in bloom spring, summer and fall. A green garden of low shrubs, hostas and ferns is a great idea also.

Amending the soil for best plant growth can be helpful since you may have the natural clay/rock soil widespread in our neighborhood. As you dig new planting holes add humus-rich soil for drainage and nutrients. With this option you are slowly improving your soil without a huge all-at-once project of removal and replacement.

Put in new plants in the fall and spring. All new plants need consistent water so fall planting with warmer soil and rain may make plant establishment easier. Our parking strip garden has been growing for over 20 years and I still water the established plants regularly in hot weather.

Some of the plants we have in our parking strip that pollinators love are: small daffodils, tulips and crocuses, red hot poker, daphne, saxifrage, small hardy

geraniums, penstemons, lavender, low growing Oregon Grape, dianthus, verbascum, wall flowers, and sedums and sempervivums. Self-sown plants such as foxglove, feverfew, columbines and larkspur can also thrive. I use Oregon natives and non-natives, but focus on plants that pollinators like. The warmest spot in our garden is the parking strip next to the driveway, where we have large pots in which we plant the heat-loving vegetables like tomatoes, peppers and basil. In spring daffodils emerge between the pots. I frequently try new plants. Sometimes I move ones that are not doing as well. Taking a risk with a new plant may work out. Give it a try.

Good resources for plant choice suggestions are the staff at nearby nurseries such as Garden Fever, Portland Nursery and Marbott's. I also find a lot of information about growing a wide range of plants from online searches. Our own neighborhood gardeners are also great resources for how and what to plant in parking strips. Take a walk and find interesting parking strip gardens. Talk with the gardeners, make new friends, and gain some gardening knowledge.

This article was originally published in the July/August 2020 issue of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association newsletter and has been reprinted with permission.

