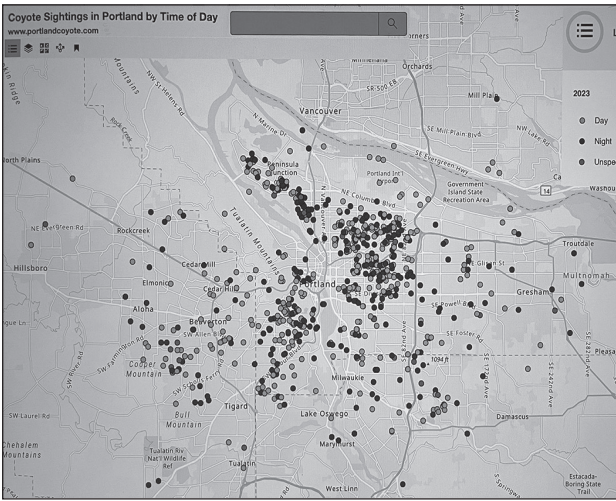


# Alameda PDX

Winter 2023

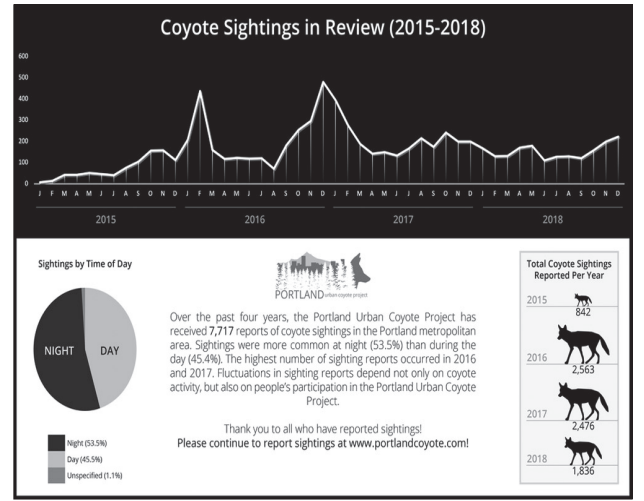
Volume 37 Number 4



A LOOK AT THE PUCP SIGHTINGS MAP SHOWS 2023 SIGHTINGS TO DATE IN THE PORTLAND METRO AREA.



COYOTES HAVE BECOME A COMMON SIGHT IN PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOODS, INCLUDING ALAMEDA.



LONGER-TERM ANALYSIS OF PUCP DATA SHOWS THAT SIGHTINGS INCREASE IN THE FALL AND WINTER. THIS TABLE ALSO CAPTURES THE ANNUAL FLUCTUATION IN SIGHTINGS REPORTS.

## Is Alameda's Coyote Population Growing? by Barbara Brower/Portland Urban Coyote Project

If you've been on social media this fall, you might have the impression that coyotes are running rampant in the Alameda area.

But are there really more coyotes in the neighborhood? And if so, what (if anything) should be done about it? To get more information, we talked to the Portland Urban Coyote Project (PUCP), a group of Portland State University and Oregon State University researchers working in collaboration with Portland Audubon.

Since 2010, PUCP has been collecting and analyzing the coyote sightings Portlanders report, and studying how humans and coyotes interact in the Portland metropolitan area.

Here are some answers from PUCP to questions about the coyote population in our neighborhood, and whether we can peacefully coexist with these intelligent and adaptive animals:

### 1. Has the coyote population in Alameda/Beaumont-Wilshire increased in the last year?

Two northeast Portland neighborhood newsletters in addition to this one are running stories about coyotes this fall, all prompted by what some residents believe to be a surge in coyote numbers. But while there are likely to be

limited local fluctuations, coyotes are territorial, and local populations typically remain pretty stable over time.

The impression that coyote populations are on the rise is more likely driven by seasonal changes in behavior and visibility rather than significant increases in population, as well as increasing awareness that they are here.

Portland Urban Coyote Project tracks sightings reported to our site by the Portland Metro community. According to the data from Alameda and Beaumont-Wilshire zip codes (97211, 97212, and 97213), from February 2022 through November 15, 2023, 506 people reported seeing coyotes. In the last month there were 31 reports—18 fewer than in the same period last year.

The map can't tell us, however, whether there are more coyotes, more coyotes being spotted, or more people making reports.

### 2. Neighbors have seen coyotes in groups of three or more; in one instance five together at Wilshire Park. Is this typical, or a new phenomenon? What might be the cause of coyotes roaming the neighborhood in groups?

One takeaway from the longer-term analysis of PUCP data is that sightings increase in the fall and winter. There are a couple of reasons for this: There is less cover after leaf fall,

and coyote families are out and about before the young disperse. Groups of multiple coyotes are to be expected. Like many canids, coyotes form pair bonds that persist from year to year; they are territorial and the parents are likely to stay in an area where they find shelter and food. Their offspring must leave the family territory to find their own home range, usually in their first year, but they hang out with their parents until that moment arrives.

### 3. Neighbors have voiced concern that coyotes, especially groups of coyotes, pose a danger to humans. Do you agree?

Nope. In all of North America, since record keeping began, coyotes have been responsible for just two human deaths (dogs, by contrast, kill 30-50 people every year). A study of 46 years of reported coyote attacks on people in the United States and Canada found a total of 142 (note that on average, 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs every year). Despite the very low risk that coyotes represent, and the ease with which one can guard against even that low risk, people remain afraid, for reasons that aren't entirely clear.

### 4. What should a person do when confronted by a coyote or coyotes?

An actual confrontation—a hostile encounter with an aggressive coyote—would be a very rare event. Parents defending a den or pups may challenge or attempt to scare off an intruder, and a coyote accustomed to being fed or too much at ease among people might stand its ground in an encounter. In such situations, the same strategies for diffusing hostility from other predators hold true:

- Stay calm; don't run
- Make yourself appear larger
- Walk away slowly, maintaining eye contact

Far more common are benign encounters with coyotes. Young ones, curious and not yet experienced, may approach you. A coyote that appears to be stalking you as you walk your dog is more likely engaging in what is called escort behavior: following to make sure you move away from a den, perhaps.

In these encounters, too, your behavior is very important. A coyote investigating your garbage can or chicken coop, approaching uncomfortably close, or out and about at midday—these are animals that need a lesson in caution around humans, and hazing is the proper response. As a favor to the coyote, yourself, and your neighbors and their pets, you want to make the coyote afraid. Make loud noises, throw things. For more information about hazing, check out the Humane Society website at <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/coyote-hazing> or other online resources.

(continued on page 6)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE ANA!

MAKE A RESOLUTION TO JOIN US IN 2024!

The Alameda Neighborhood Association is recruiting for volunteers to serve on our 2024-25 Board of Directors. We're also currently looking for someone to fill the position of Secretary.

As a board member you'll get:

- A voice in the decisions that affect our neighborhood.
- An opportunity to learn more about local issues.
- A chance to help plan fun and informational neighborhood events.

Consider spending an hour a month to support the ANA – it's a great way to get out and meet your neighbors!

We meet from 7-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Fremont United Methodist Church. To learn more, come to a meeting or email [alamedanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:alamedanewsletter@gmail.com).

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## Editor's Message by Annette Bendinelli



It's hard to believe that this issue marks my fifth year as editor of *AlamedaPDX*. It's been an interesting five years to say the least, and I thought it might be fun to pause and look back at some of the stories we've covered since Winter 2018.

In that issue, we promoted a disaster preparedness presentation the Alameda Neighborhood Association had scheduled for February 2019. The event was a huge success - over 100 neighbors turned out to hear guest speakers share how we can protect ourselves and our homes in case of a natural or manmade disaster.

Ironically, the one disaster no one thought to prepare for was the one that occurred the following year: A pandemic. Nonetheless, the event provided important - and potentially lifesaving - info, and the ANA is hoping to hold a similar presentation in 2024.

As you might guess, many of our 2020 newsletter stories dealt with how residents and local businesses were coping with Covid-19. But we also covered the Black Lives Matter protests that occurred in our area following the murder of George Floyd. Through street corner protests, lawn signs, and yard/street art, Alameda neighbors showed their support for political and social issues that continue to reverberate three years later.

Our Fall 2021 front page story talked about the reopening of Alameda Elementary School after a year of online instruction, and the arrival of its new principal, Matt Goldstein. Other 2021 stories discussed how local businesses were beginning to rebound, finding creative ways to combat supply chain issues and the lingering effects of Covid.

Some other notable stories over the past five years include the 2019 closing of the QFC grocery store at NE 33rd and Broadway, the reopening of Grant High School after a two-year renovation project, and the 100th anniversary of Fremont United Methodist Church, a place of worship and a community gathering place for multiple generations of Alameda residents.

I'm already excited to see what the big news stories of 2024 will be, but first I'd like to close out this year by recognizing the people who make it possible to publish this newsletter:

Our advertisers - The Alameda Neighborhood Association depends entirely on newsletter ad revenue for its funding. Thank you for your continued support!

Our writers - You consistently create interesting, informative stories, and we're incredibly grateful that you volunteer your time to write for *AlamedaPDX*.

Our staff - A big thanks to our uber-organized ad manager, Teresa St. Martin, and our amazing layout designer, Dave Sparks at Hawthorne Media Group. Dave has been doing the layout for *AlamedaPDX* since 2012!

And that does it for this year! Have a great holiday season, and I'll see you in 2024!

- Annette

## Artistic Portland Gallery Gets RISE Grant

Artistic Portland Gallery in Beaumont Village recently received a \$5,000 RISE Grant from Comcast Corporation. RISE grants were started to help small businesses survive during the pandemic, and are intended to help communities achieve stronger economic growth. RISE stands for representation, investment, strength, and empowerment.

The grants are awarded as a package, and include a business assessment, tactical planning, consultation and coaching, educational resources, assistance with creative production and media, and a "technology makeover" that includes Internet, voice, and cybersecurity services for a year. The \$5,000 monetary portion of the grant is for investment in growth and sustainability.

This year, Portland was one of only five cities chosen by Comcast to receive RISE grants (the others were Baltimore, Detroit, Memphis, and Philadelphia). While the grants are available to all small businesses, the program maintains a focus on diversity, inclusion, and community investment.

Artistic Portland Gallery opened in downtown Portland in 2012, and moved to its current location at 4110 NE Fremont St. in 2020. The gallery is a cooperative of diverse local artists that offers fine art, jewelry, and handcrafted goods, and is stocked and staffed entirely by its members.

For more information, visit [artisticportlandgallery.com](http://artisticportlandgallery.com) and [comcastrise.com](http://comcastrise.com)



ARTISTIC PORTLAND GALLERY RECEIVED A SMALL BUSINESS GRANT THROUGH THE COMCAST RISE PROGRAM.



A PILE OF OLD TURF SITS NEAR THE GRANT HIGH SCHOOL BOWL, WHERE WORKERS BEGAN INSTALLING NEW TURF IN EARLY NOVEMBER. THE BOWL HAS BEEN CLOSED TO INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AND PERMITTED SPORTS ACTIVITIES SINCE AUGUST 12, AFTER THE FIELD FAILED MULTIPLE SAFETY INSPECTIONS. AT PRESS TIME, THE BOWL WAS SCHEDULED TO REOPEN FOR STUDENT AND PUBLIC USE IN FEBRUARY 2024.

## 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.

### Alameda Neighborhood Association Contacts

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**Michael Hall - Board Member**  
**Pastor Erin Martin - Board Member**  
**Michael Richman - Board Member**

**David Sparks - Layout and Design**  
dave@hawthornemediagroup.com

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

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Prices are per issue. To place an ad, contact Teresa St. Martin at [alamedatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:alamedatreasurer@gmail.com).

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

Please submit pdf, jpg, or Adobe Distiller X-1A compliant artwork at 300dpi or greater.

*AlamedaPDX* is a quarterly publication of the Alameda Neighborhood Association, Portland, Oregon.

Dist. by the USPS in December, March, June, and September.

*AlamedaPDX* is available online at [alamedaportland.com](http://alamedaportland.com).



## Wilshire Park Gets Updates

By Mary Roney, Friends of Wilshire Park

As you walk around Wilshire Park this winter, you may notice these recent improvements:

- The children’s playground has been upgraded to include a repaired and improved climbing structure and slide, new tire swings and new toddler swings.
- For workout enthusiasts, the chin up bar (that has been without a bar for quite some time) has been replaced with new and improved equipment featuring two different heights.
- The old blue water fountain has been removed and replaced with a new water fountain that can be found on the wall inside the pavilion.

Friends of Wilshire Park would like to thank Portland Parks and Recreation for its commitment to our neighborhood park, and to our community. We invite you to get outside and enjoy the park!

For more information on Friends of Wilshire Park, visit [friendsofwilshirepark.org](http://friendsofwilshirepark.org), and follow us on Instagram at [friendsofwilshirepark](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofwilshirepark).



THE CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND AT WILSHIRE PARK WAS RECENTLY UPGRADED. OTHER IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE A NEW CHIN UP BAR AND DRINKING FOUNTAIN.

## ••••• SAVE THE DATES! •••••

The Alameda Neighborhood Association has two great programs lined up to kick off the new year!



FORMER DUNDEE MAN OCCUPIES \$25,000 RESIDENCE JUST COMPLETED BY THE OREGON HOME BUILDERS IN THE ALAMEDA PARK DISTRICT.

New Three-Story Home of Thomas Prince, Located at East Twenty-ninth Street and Alameda Drive. The Exterior Is of Brick and Tile. Among the Features of the Interior Is a Fountain Room.

### January 17

**DOUG DECKER PRESENTS: “OREGON HOME BUILDERS: LEAVING A LEGACY IN ALAMEDA AND NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOODS, 1912-1917”**

**Wednesday, January 17, 7:30-9 p.m.  
Fremont United Methodist Church  
2620 NE Fremont St.**

This free program by neighborhood historian Doug Decker will discuss the Oregon Home Builders company, which set out in 1912 to pursue its vision of homebuilding market domination by selling stock to investors and building memorable homes for its customers.

During five years between 1912-1917, the company built more than 125 homes, including many in Alameda, several of which are listed today in the National Register of Historic Places. The company was unique among homebuilders of the era because it catered to both ends of the economic spectrum: large, charismatic custom-designed homes for the wealthy, and simple, affordable, thoughtfully designed bungalows for those just entering the housing market.

Using early photos and documents, Doug will provide an inside look at the intriguing rise and fall of the company, and the legacy of its homes today.

Space is limited! RSVPs required by January 3 to [alamedanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:alamedanewsletter@gmail.com).



PORTLAND CCL MEMBERS AT A RECENT MEETING.

### February 20

**CITIZEN’S CLIMATE LOBBY/GRANT HIGH CLIMATE JUSTICE CLUB**

**Tuesday, February 20, 7-8 p.m.  
Fremont United Methodist Church  
2620 NE Fremont St.**

Join Citizen’s Climate Lobby and the Grant High School Climate Justice Club for this free event to learn about recent climate action these two groups are taking.

Discussion topics will include requests for climate-informed curricula and climate solutions by state legislators, Portland Public Schools, and community members.

Alameda neighbors Jerry Porter and Meg Bowman will also share how volunteering with Citizen’s Climate Lobby (CCL) has allowed them to turn their concern about climate change into action.

CCL is a national volunteer organization with hundreds of chapters around the country, including 10 in Oregon. Volunteers work with local communities to build support for climate action. CCL is currently urging Congress to pass the strongest, most effective bipartisan carbon reduction policies, and members say their work is having an impact.

Don’t miss this chance to learn how you can get involved in supporting climate action.

Please RSVP to [alamedanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:alamedanewsletter@gmail.com) by February 6.



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## “Join or Die” Film Encourages Community Connections by Marcelle Furrow-Kiebler

On October 21, over 70 Alameda area neighbors met at Fremont United Methodist Church to watch a free screening of “Join or Die,” a film about why you should join a club. Sibling filmmakers Rebecca and Pete Davis made the feature documentary about the work of social scientist Robert Putnam, whose groundbreaking book *Bowling Alone* researched America’s decades-long decline in community connections. Putnam’s research also revealed the way forward to rebuild connection and, in the process, strengthen democracy.

“Join or Die” is currently being screened around the country. After seeing the film at Portland’s Laurelhurst Club this summer, I reached out to the filmmakers to bring the film to our neighborhood, in the interest of strengthening our own community. Pastor Erin Martin and her husband, Charlie Collier, also inspired by the message of the film, agreed to host the screening at Fremont United Methodist Church.

Local clubs were invited to attend, to recruit and inform neighbors about their organizations. A’Jay Scipio, Executive Director of the Northeast Community Center, spoke to the audience about both her organization as well as Northeast Village PDX. Karen

Wells represented our local chapter of AARP, and Dev Burgoyne tabled for the Community for Positive Aging. Meghan Sinnott of Pedalpalooza.org spoke about how to participate in free bike adventures each summer, and Audrey from the restaurant Guero sent along information about the restaurant’s free birdwatching club, which you can join by attending a bird walk (visit [guerortortas.com/outings](http://guerortortas.com/outings) for more information).

Following the film, neighbors were invited to talk with someone in the audience they did not know. We discussed our reactions to the film, clubs we belong to, and what we all can do to help our community and our democracy thrive. About 45 minutes later we reluctantly put away the tables and said goodbye to new friends, with plans to meet again and continue the conversation.

Just as the clubs profiled in “Join or Die” bring together people from diverse backgrounds and lay the groundwork for true community and communication, the folks who were tabling and speaking at the presentation are doing the work to improve our Portland experience by bringing us together - from the companionship of Northeast Village PDX to the Pedalpalooza shenanigans.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MANAGER DEV BURGOYNE (L.) FROM THE CENTER FOR POSITIVE AGING, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AJAY SCIPIO (R.) OF THE NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER HOST AN INFORMATION TABLE AT THE FILM PRESENTATION.

All of us can join them, either at their organizations, or by creating our own unique clubs that build community here in our neighborhood.

*Marcelle Furrow-Kiebler is an Alameda resident and social advocate who describes herself as an “outspoken supporter” of the Join or Die film.*

## Alameda Tuesday Club Creates Pandemic Quilt by Michael Richman

The pandemic years were hard on everyone, but we – as a country, as a neighborhood, and as individuals – are resilient. We found myriad ways to cope, and to bring communities together despite the requisite social distancing.

The Alameda Tuesday Club is a community unto itself, a 110-year-old organization of 36 women committed to strengthening our Alameda neighborhood through social gatherings and philanthropy, with a focus on organizations that serve women and children. We all recognize the value of home, and the many neighborhood “houses” that we care for and make into homes.

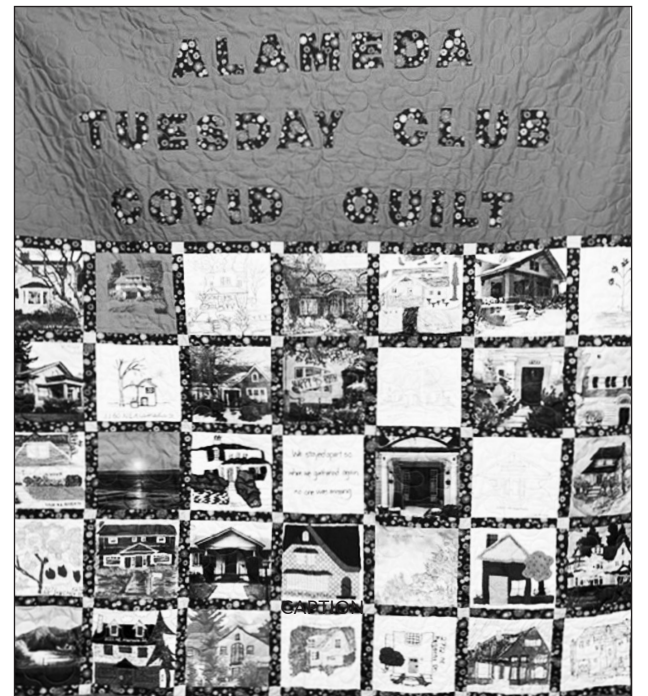
The pandemic allowed us time to sit back and take stock of these older, historic residences that have kept their owners safe during difficult times. As a tribute to them, and to the neighborhood we love – and as one way to

stay connected with each other - Alameda Tuesday Club members created a “Pandemic Quilt.”

Each member was given a blank quilt square and asked to fill it with a representation of their own home. They could use a photo, drawing, embroidery, applique, etc., and the squares were then sewn together. The club’s pandemic motto, “We stayed apart so that when we gathered again no one was missing” is at the center of the quilt, and it kept us true to why we were, in fact, staying home.

The quilt is often displayed at our monthly meetings and will eventually reside in the Oregon Historical Museum, alongside the scrapbooks and meeting minutes from the club’s early years as an organization. As is often the case, especially with quilts, pictures don’t do the finished product justice, but the intention is clear and shines through.

*Michael Richman is Secretary of the Alameda Tuesday Club and chaired the quilt project. She is also an Alameda Neighborhood Association Board Member.*



ALAMEDA TUESDAY CLUB MEMBERS COLLABORATED ON A QUILT TO HELP KEEP THEM CONNECTED DURING THE PANDEMIC.



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# Final Puzzle Pieces: Exploring the Platted Subdivisions that Make Up Today's Alameda Neighborhood *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: the single subdivision bounded by NE Fremont St., NE Prescott St., NE 33rd Avenue and NE 21st Avenue is also the largest chunk of today's Alameda neighborhood, platted in 1909 by the Alameda Land Company.

But everything else considered inside today's Alameda was once named something else, names that have been lost to time. Past articles have explored 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).

The 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition brought hundreds of thousands of visitors to Portland and put our region on the map nationally as a desirable place to live. As Portland's population boomed in the years that followed, investors and developers made small fortunes converting eastside agricultural lands to the residential neighborhoods we know today; an engineering plan for each subdivision was contained in a plat, filed with the Multnomah County Surveyor.

By 1910, the neighborhoods to our north and south were already established, and the Portland Railway, Light and Power Company was opening its Broadway Streetcar line with a connection to the heart of the two main subdivisions in our area: Alameda Park and Olmsted Park.

This roughly five-block square area north of the Alameda Ridge tucks in under the southeast corner of the Alameda Park addition. Out on the ground, these two brand-new districts were indistinguishable, interwoven by the same streets, the same water, gas and sewer mains, and many of the same architects and builders who were beginning to populate this area with homes.

Lombard placed racial restrictions on development of the lots in Olmsted Park, prohibiting anyone other than white residents, which was a common practice in eastside neighborhoods at the time. Restrictions also set minimum construction costs on houses built within the subdivision, and prohibited all commercial uses.

Other properties in Olmsted Park were owned by construction companies, investment banks and real estate developers, including Oregon Home Builders (which built many of the houses here), Colonial Construction Co., Hibernian Investment Bank, Provident Trust Company and Clodfelter Real Estate.

The Olmsted in "Olmsted Park" was probably John Charles Olmsted, stepson and nephew of the legendary landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. John Charles Olmsted and his brother Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. helped design Portland's park system and were busy with other commissions here in Portland — including one for the Alameda Land Company — in the years after the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition (which they also designed).

As we close our review of Alameda neighborhood plats, two more small ones are worth noting, both on the western edge of the Alameda Park Addition:

**Gile Addition:** Albion L. Gile — partner in the Gile Investment Company — and his wife Katherine, financed and platted 10 lots in this 1921 addition on the west side of the neighborhood straddling the ridge along Gile Terrace. The Gile family were a prominent Astoria family. Most of the houses on this street were built by local builder Harry Phillips, and designed by Portland architect Harry Wolff.

**George Place:** A four-block plat that takes in what we might think of today as southwest Alameda Park including 40 lots on blocks bounded by Crane Street, Alameda Drive, NE 21st and NE 20th. It was platted in 1910 by Horace C. and Mary George. In 1910, Horace was a federal government surveyor.

Readers today might ask "So what?" Why is this important? While not an essential part of our lives today, knowing the many layers of history in the places we live reminds us of our temporary nature here, of the lives that have known and loved these places, of the nature of change and the stewardship responsibility we have to pass these places and their history forward into the next 100 years.



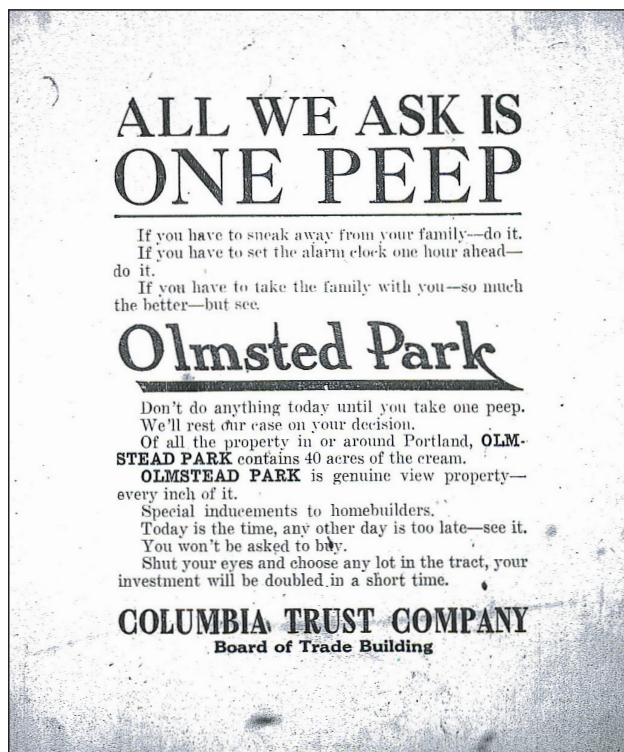
THE OLMSTED PARK PLAT, APRIL 1909. SOME OF THE STREET NAMES HAVE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS, BUT THE GEOGRAPHY HASN'T.]



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](http://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](mailto:doug@alamedahistory.org), and Doug will respond in our next issue. Submissions must be 75 words or less.



FROM THE OREGONIAN ON NOVEMBER 10, 1909. ONE OF A SERIES OF ADS PROMOTING LOT SALES.

The Alameda Land Company—made up of investors from Astoria—had acquired a portion of the open fields of the Bowering Donation Land Claim for their Alameda Park plat, which they filed in January 1909. One of their chief competitors was Benjamin M. Lombard and the Columbia Trust Company, which simultaneously bought adjacent undeveloped lands and in April 1909 began developing Olmsted Park, a 15-block area containing 290 lots. Lombard was a real estate developer who owned large tracts in north and northeast Portland and whose name is memorialized by north Portland's Lombard Street. A close look at the Olmsted Park plat reveals that today's Dunckley Avenue was originally platted as Lombard.

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(continued from page 1, Alameda Coyotes)

Those who love coyotes and would rather be friends need to recognize that the coyote's survival depends on their being wary among humans. You do a wild animal no favors by feeding or trying to befriend it.

**5. Neighbors concerned for their own safety or that of their pets have stated the City of Portland needs to control the coyote population in the area. Is this a necessary step? If not, please explain.**

The city would be hard pressed to do anything about such an abundant animal—if it had the will and resources to try. Recall that despite 200 years of efforts to control coyotes in the US, their numbers and range have only grown.

Coyotes are extraordinarily resilient creatures, very adaptable, with reproductive strategies (earlier age of

reproduction, bigger litters) that increase births in response to stress. And there is an additional argument: Better to have the coyotes you know—and have trained to be wary of humans—than the newcomers that would certainly move into the territory vacated if coyotes are removed.

**6. What else do readers need to understand about the urban coyote population?**

Coyotes are here to stay, and we need to do our part to maintain a peaceful coexistence. Don't feed them, on purpose or by accident; keep an eye on small pets and tiny children; learn how to keep coyotes wary of human contact.

And if you can, appreciate the fact that despite all the disruption we have caused the world of animals, here is a creature that has learned to live beside us, making the most

of the urban environment.

For more information, to report a coyote sighting, or to make a donation visit the Portland Urban Coyote Project website at [portlandcoyote.com](http://portlandcoyote.com). The website also includes an interactive tutorial, printable fact sheets, and links to additional resources.

You can also email PUCP at [portlandcoyote@gmail.com](mailto:portlandcoyote@gmail.com) with questions, or to subscribe to receive PUCP updates.

*Barbara Brower, a retired Portland State University Geography professor, is an Alameda resident and a Project Advisor for PUCP.*

## The Imaginarium Bus: A Vehicle for Happiness by David Spencer

If you've been by the corner of NE 23rd Avenue and Alberta recently, you might have seen a sign offering "Happiness Exhibit—Free Tour" and wondered what that meant.

If you followed the directions to NE 23rd and Going, you'd have seen the Imaginarium Bus itself, with Winnie the Pooh sitting in a lawn chair on the back deck. You might have wondered what purpose this distinctive vehicle serves.

Owner and creator Brent Boyer is happy to tell you. Inspired by *The Tao of Pooh*, a book that uses characters from Winnie the Pooh to explain Taoism's pursuit of happiness, the bus provides a contemplative, "happy" space for visitors. Inside you can play a guitar or keyboard, or you might just sit in lounge seats surrounded by rich wood paneling and let your mind explore. You can even climb to a pair of outside chairs on the bus's roof, but Boyer warns that it's dangerous—"because you can see the future from there."

"The bus is a jewel box and people who enter are the jewels," he adds.

Boyer is the co-founder of an organization called "Ah-Ha" that conducts a monthly seminar called the "Being on Purpose Experience." This three-day program of individual and group educational exercises is intended to help people find their purpose in life.

Boyer has brought this program to a range of people, from Microsoft executives to prison inmates. With the bus, and with help from co-founder and facilitator Amy Cox, he's bringing it to Portlanders. As he says on the Ah-Ha website, "When Portland finds purpose all of us will have well-being!"

What does the Being on Purpose Experience bring you? Boyer wants each participant to reach a "profound knowing of your own sense of purpose: 'your why.'" He explains that having that clear understanding gives you "an expanded conception of what is possible in life, a daily experience of joy, a new recognition of the world's beauty, and an old recognition of your own beauty."

Boyer also does occasional specialized carpentry and repair work on some of Alameda's older homes. "Over the years, I've moved back and forth between helping people remodel



WINNIE THE POOH WELCOMES VISITORS TO THE IMAGINARIUM BUS.

both their homes and themselves," he says.

To learn more about Brent Boyer and the "Being on Purpose Experience," visit the Ah-Ha website at <https://www.ah-ha.life>

## Cafe Eleven Partners With Veterans' Nonprofit

Cafe Eleven, a northeast Portland coffee shop in the Woodlawn neighborhood, is partnering with Do Good Multnomah to provide warm clothing, blankets, gloves, and toiletries to help those in need as the weather gets colder. Do Good Multnomah is a veteran-focused, nonprofit organization that helps veterans and underserved communities navigate shelter and housing.

Every day, more than 450 veterans find themselves homeless on the streets of Portland. Do Good Multnomah believes that "no human being should experience homelessness, particularly not a veteran." The organization's purpose is to provide competent, compassionate support, and

its services include shelters and transitional/permanent housing programs that help alleviate the isolation and trauma of homelessness.

The owner of Cafe Eleven, Ankur Dholakia, is a U.S. Army veteran and board chair of Do Good Multnomah. He encourages people to stop by with a donation and enjoy "good coffee and good food" at his cafe, which is located at 435 NE Rosa Parks Way, Portland 97211.

For more info on Do Good Multnomah, visit <https://www.dogoodmultnomah.org/donate-goods>. You can follow Cafe Eleven on Instagram at [@cafe\\_eleven\\_pdx](https://www.instagram.com/@cafe_eleven_pdx) or visit the website at [cafeelevenpdx.com](http://cafeelevenpdx.com).



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# PBOT's Silently Snowballing Crisis by Mariah Hudson

As you travel through many inner northeast Portland neighborhoods, it's hard to miss the signs of a concerted effort by the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to make our city's transportation infrastructure greener. Fresh bike lanes, curb cuts, and traffic-calming measures like pylons and cement diverters are seemingly everywhere.

Green improvements are the result of two significant, citywide initiatives that have the dual purpose of prioritizing non-automobile traffic and enhancing safety. First, there's Vision Zero, an ambitious undertaking aimed at eliminating all traffic-related fatalities. Additionally, there's Portland's Climate Action Plan, which sets a clear goal of dramatically reducing the number of single-occupant vehicles on our roads.

But these programs belie the bureau's mounting budget woes.

Beneath the surface, PBOT is dealing with a silently snowballing crisis of restricted funds, massive budget cuts, and crumbling pavement that threatens our safety and jeopardizes the future of our city's mobility.

How is it that PBOT is facing a devastating budget shortfall that has already created an enormous maintenance backlog, and could cripple our system for years to come?

**The Discretionary Dilemma:** At the core of PBOT's budget challenge are its discretionary resources. Nearly 75% of PBOT's funding is earmarked for specific programs such as those aimed at improving bicycle and pedestrian safety, leaving limited room for flexibility. While earmarks have been baked into Portland's transportation budget over the past decade, essential services like pavement repair - funded by general resources - are at risk of going unfunded or experiencing significant cutbacks as the bureau finds itself compelled to tighten its belt as part of citywide austerity measures.

**Declining Funding:** PBOT's General Transportation Revenue comes mainly from the State Highway Fund, which is supported by fuel taxes, DMV fees, weight-mile fees,

and parking revenue from on-street meters, permits, and citations. But fuel taxes are decreasing due to more fuel-efficient vehicles, and the pandemic led to a significant drop in parking revenue, which remains below pre-Covid levels. Meanwhile, reduced population and fewer vehicle registrations in Portland have decreased the city's share of State Highway Funds.

**Deferred Maintenance:** Delaying maintenance is costly and poses safety hazards, and it will incur exponentially greater funding in the future. Inflation has boosted construction costs - especially for roads - by over 50% nationwide since late 2020 due to rising material prices, adding to PBOT's financial strain. Without action, PBOT could be looking at a staggering \$4 billion bill over the next decade.

**The Bigger Picture:** It's not just Portland. Many cities across the country with aging infrastructure are grappling with similar budget dilemmas that will only worsen in the coming years unless they take proactive measures to fund repairs. The stakes are high, and it's not just about the immediate impact on cities like ours; it's about the long-term health of our nation's infrastructure.

So, what actions can we take?

**Advocate for Renewal:** The renewal of the voter-approved \$0.10 per gallon fuel tax and the Heavy Vehicle Use Tax in May 2024 will be crucial. These taxes fund PBOT's Fixing Our Streets program, which goes toward paving our streets, filling potholes, improving street lighting, increasing safety measures for children walking/riding to school, and more. The renewal of these taxes is essential to prevent further service reductions.

**Raise Your Voice:** Contact Portland City Council members and express your support for PBOT. Encourage the council to actively seek solutions to this budget crisis.

**Stay Engaged:** Attend local meetings and stay informed about PBOT's budget situation. Active citizen engagement in the decision-making process can make a substantial difference.



PBOT RECENTLY ADDED BIKE LANES TO NE 33RD AVE. BY WILSHIRE PARK TO IMPROVE BICYCLE SAFETY.



CURB EXTENSIONS CREATE SAFER AND SHORTER CROSSINGS FOR PEDESTRIANS.

The state of PBOT's budget is not just about numbers; it affects our safety, the functionality of our streets, and the sustainability of our transportation system. It's time for us to act to safeguard our infrastructure, and our collective future, to ensure that Portland continues to be "The City that Works."

*Mariah Hudson is an Alameda resident and the Chair of PBOT's Policy and Budget Advisory Committee. Budget and factual information in this article was provided by the Portland Bureau of Transportation.*

# City Reorganization Plan Takes Shape by Teresa St. Martin

Steady progress is being made on the reorganization plan for the City of Portland, which is based on the City charter reform approved by voters in November 2022 under Measure 26-228.

The three main changes in the reorganization include:

- City Council members will be elected using a ranked-choice voting method.
- City Council will be expanded to 12 members, with three city council members representing each of the four newly established geographic districts.
- City council members will transition day-to-day oversight of city bureaus to a professional city administrator and a citywide elected mayor. This will allow city council members to focus on setting policy and engaging with the community.

City bureaus have been grouped into six service areas. This is a change from the current structure, which distributed all functions between the city councilors and the mayor.

The service areas with their proposed departments are shown shown in the chart at right.

A number of new positions have also been added to the city's leadership team. These include six deputy city administrators, a city administrator and assistant city administrator, and an equity officer.

In October, a proposal by the restructuring transition team suggested that as part of the new reporting structure, neighborhood associations and district coalitions could be paired with a broad range of homeless services into an entity called Portland Solutions.

Along with a number of other neighborhood associations, the Alameda Neighborhood Association provided input to the city during the comment period for this proposal.

A letter from ANA Chair Robert McConville to Commissioner Dan Ryan stated:

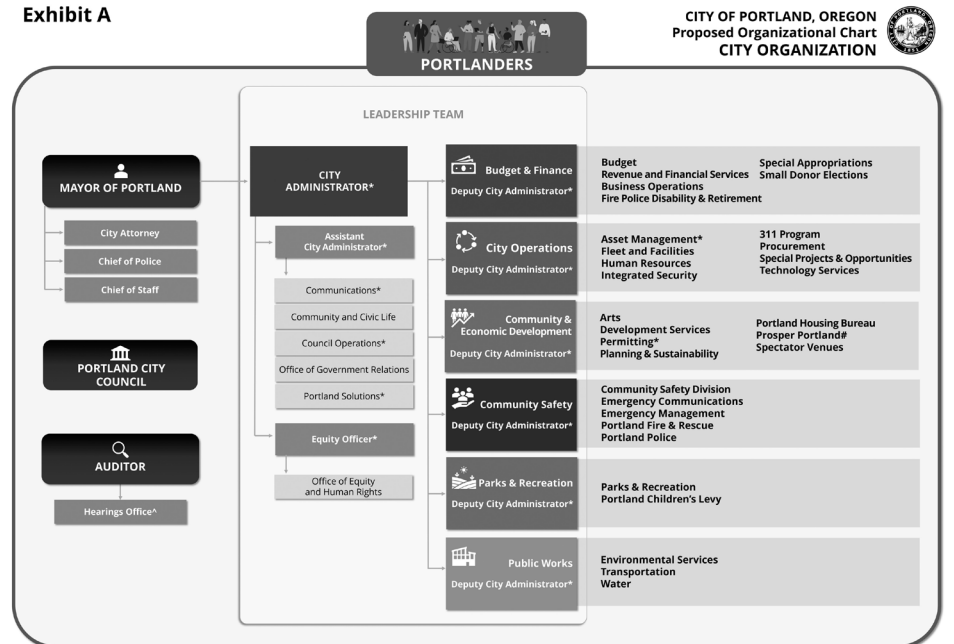
*"We support having the Neighborhood Association liaison activity located under the City Administrator in the Office of Community and Civic Life. This focus will allow our voices to be heard on important questions and provide for enhanced coordination and communication of issues affecting the neighborhood, city livability and distribution of city engagement resources."*

City Council voted to approve the new reporting structure for city bureaus and offices on November 1, leaving the neighborhood associations intact under the Office of Community and Civic Life.

The approval cleared the way for the next phase of implementation planning to begin. The council did make one major change to the proposal, which was to ensure that the current commissioners will continue overseeing city bureaus through the end of 2024.

City staff recently released a draft organizational chart that offers a suggested blueprint for how the 12-member council should be staffed. Each elected official would have the equivalent of a chief of staff, and administrative staff would be shared among the three council members who are elected in each of the four geographic council districts. The professional city administrator would have his or her own

Exhibit A



NEW CITY OF PORTLAND SERVICE AREAS AND PROPOSED DEPARTMENTS.

staff, which would also support deputy city administrators that oversee each of the six service areas.

Running Portland's new form of government will cost about \$23.9 million annually, according to newly released estimates by the city's budget office. The current commission-style government costs just over \$10 million per year. Portland's overall city budget for this year is \$7.1 billion.

The city will hold its first election using geographic districts and ranked-choice voting in November 2024, and January 1, 2025 is the target date for the revised structure to be in place.

For more information, visit <https://www.portland.gov/transition>



## A Different Kind of Doula by Blythe Knott

Eventually, many of us will have to confront the range of decisions that accompany the dying process. Are my final days best spent in a hospital or at home? How do I organize my affairs? Are there clear instructions for end-of-life care? Is all of this out in the open, or are loved ones avoiding the subject because they find it depressing?

To help address these questions, Alameda resident Jen Tadjedin founded The Heartwood Collective, an end-of-life doula service here in Portland. After spending the early years of her career in the advertising business, Tadjedin realized she wanted to do something different with her life and began volunteering in hospice care.

"I became very passionate about the impact one can have on making the end a more comfortable, positive experience for both the person dying as well as their loved ones," she explains. "Because of this new interest, I started looking into the practice of being an end-of-life planner and doula. After a bit of research, I found a program that I was very drawn to, and applied for it."

Tadjedin adds, "During that time, my uncle, with whom I was very close, became quite sick. I went to be with him in California and ended up caring for him for the remaining week of his life. While it was an emotional and exhausting time, it felt like the space I was meant to be in. I felt comfortable, empowered and strong throughout. If I could do this for a close family member whom I love deeply, then I was confident that I must heed this calling."

Tadjedin's training included typical classroom work, plus extended study on such topics as the role of a doula, the physical process of dying, hospice and palliative care, being with the dying, advanced directives, end-of-life decisions, and legacy making. In addition to the course, the training included fieldwork hours and a proficiency exam given by the National End-of-life Doula Alliance.

Tadjedin launched her business a year ago, and her happiness in her new field is clear. She says she has never felt more sure about a career choice and has finally found her calling.

The role of an end-of-life doula is to offer non-medical, social, emotional and practical support to clients as well as their caregivers through end-of-life planning stages, as well as during the dying process itself, whether it is imminent or simply in preparation for when that day comes.

Says Tadjedin, "I truly enjoy helping people get through a difficult and heavy time in their life. Death can be scary, devastating, overwhelming. I feel called to offer the additional support and bear a bit of the burden. I want to ease the fear that comes with facing the end, and the necessary decision-making that comes along with that.

She adds, "I enjoy supporting people both in a practical sense, with logistics as well as simply being there to hold space. My aim is to make the process of dying less anxiety-ridden and fearful. While no one can ever take away the sadness and loss that occurs when one passes, having additional support can help tremendously."

End-of-life doula work can involve helping make the transition to hospice, sourcing in-home care, coordinating community support, and assisting with everyday tasks that can be more challenging toward the end. Tadjedin explains that being an end-of-life doula differs from hospice care in that hospice is primarily comfort care. When one is in hospice, that organization provides a team of doctors, nurses and social workers who periodically check in and evaluate the patient's needs. They are the patient's primary medical team, prescribing medications and controlling pain.

An end-of-life doula isn't a medical professional. Rather, they help fill in the non-medical aspects of care based on the needs of a particular client and their caregivers.

"Meeting a person where they are emotionally really drives the support task list. That list also includes helping loved ones, who often need additional support and companionship, and perhaps a reprieve from around-the-clock care," Tadjedin notes.

The end-of-life planning aspect to Tadjedin's work includes helping clients get their paperwork in order well



JEN TADJEDIN, FOUNDER OF THE HEARTWOOD COLLECTIVE.

before they are actively dying. This can include filling out an advance directive, assigning a medical proxy or power of attorney, and organizing financial information and passwords so that their next of kin can access their accounts.

Tadjedin also assists people with legacy projects, such as writing stories about meaningful objects they intend to pass down to future generations, and helps them organize personal items to sell or donate so that loved ones won't have to sort through them. She notes that helping people do this while they are still alive can be a cathartic exercise for all involved.

End-of-life planning discussions can be difficult - people don't want to talk about death. But Tadjedin believes that having these types of conversations when a person is healthy is easier than after they become ill.

She notes, "If a person has been given a diagnosis, whether they choose curative care or not, the last thing they want to focus on is paperwork and logistics. We plan for just about everything else in our lives, so why not plan for the one thing we know is a certainty?"

For more information on the end-of-life services Tadjedin provides, visit [www.theheartwoodcollective.com](http://www.theheartwoodcollective.com).

## Community Warehouse Faces Low Inventory

It's no surprise that Portland area residents become less motivated to transport bulky furniture and home goods to donation sites in cold and rainy weather. This seasonal slowdown presents a challenge for organizations like Community Warehouse, a local nonprofit furniture bank.

To incentivize furniture donations during this time of need, Community Warehouse is offering pickups on a sliding scale starting at just \$20, now through December 31. While donors who can pay more are encouraged to do so, Community Warehouse hopes that offering pickups on a sliding scale will make donating large items more accessible to the community.

As the only furniture bank serving the Tri-County area, Community Warehouse's Portland and Tualatin locations combined provide furnishings for more than 5,500 local residents in need every year, redirecting 600 tons of bulky waste from local landfills annually.

In order to meet current needs, Community Warehouse

must procure approximately 20 couches and 40 mattress donations daily, in addition to a variety of other furniture and household items such as dressers, chairs, linens, lamps, pots, pans, and silverware. The organization relies on donations of these items to help furnish the homes of neighbors struggling with adversity.

Families and individuals are referred to Community Warehouse from more than 150 partner agencies, including Catholic Charities, Central City Concern, Lifeworks NW, NARA, Path Home, and Transition Projects, as well as school districts, health clinics, and faith organizations. When the furniture bank is short on inventory, neighbors in need can experience prolonged periods of unstable living conditions.

All donated items must be clean and free of rips, stains, odors and pet hair. To find a full list of donation guidelines, and how to schedule a pickup online or drop off a donation, visit [communitywarehouse.org/give-furniture/](http://communitywarehouse.org/give-furniture/).



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# Alameda Residents Host Electrification Presentations

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) signed into federal law in 2022 contains many financial incentives for home improvements that mitigate climate change, save money, and improve health. One of the strongest themes within the IRA is that of electrification.

Two local organizations, Electrify Now and ElectrifyPDX were founded to help promote electrification in Portland homes. Through ElectrifyPDX, households register online to receive a yard sign that showcases milestone badges for electrification progress, as well as contractor recommendations. Electrify Now hosts online webinars about electrification topics and posts them to its YouTube channel.

While serving as a homesite for the 2022 Go Zero Tour of Solar Oregon, Alameda residents Will Musser and Jenny McClister learned about ElectrifyPDX from one of the attendees, and they have since become involved with the organization to advocate for electrification in and around Portland.

Musser and McClister began hosting Electrification Open Houses in August 2022 at their home, so that community members could experience the technologies of electrification for themselves, learn about the IRA, and take steps towards using electricity as a sustainable power source.

Musser conducts local outreach on the benefits of and incentives for electrification, and is available for in-person or virtual presentations. He has presentation slides, materials for distribution, and his own technical equipment for delivering

presentations to interested community members and groups. Since August 2022, he has hosted six Electrification Open Houses for the community at his home in Alameda.

Musser's next Electrification Open House is scheduled for January 20th, 2024. Tickets for this free presentation are available at Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/january-2024-electrification-open-house-tickets-755749155067>

In addition to local organizations, Rewiring America is a national nonprofit founded in 2020 to help consumers "Electrify Everything," and has published a number of online resources to do so. Their online infographic provides an overview for both the "why" and "how" to "Electrify Everything," and their online Savings Calculator helps households calculate the financial incentives (i.e., federal tax credits and rebates) stemming from the IRA for home improvements and appliance upgrades.

The tax credits went into effect immediately when the IRA was signed into law, and the rebates are in the process of being finalized and implemented by State Energy Offices in accordance with guidance from the federal Department of Energy. The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) estimates that these rebates will become available mid-2024 for Oregonians, in line with many other states.

To help consumers learn more about electrifying their households, Rewiring America is rolling out a revamped



THERE ARE MANY OPTIONS FOR HOME ELECTRIFICATION.

consumer website that covers topics like electrifying our kitchens, cars, clothes dryers, water heaters, and home living spaces, managing our electrical supply, and upgrading electrical panels.

For more information, visit the following:

- <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/>
- <https://electrifynow.net/>
- <https://electrifypdx.org/>

<https://sites.google.com/solaroregon.org/go-zero-tour-2022/sites/musser-residence-portland>

## For the Good of the Order by Pamela Plimpton

As a faculty member at a small university, I always enjoyed the last item on our faculty meeting agendas. The meeting would close with an invitation to offer announcements to the faculty community "for the good of the order." They reminded us that despite our differences of opinion, we all had the same goal: educating our students. It is in that same spirit that I relate the following:

Recently, as I walked through Grant Park, I saw a youth about 13 or 14 years old riding his skateboard inside the fenced off tennis courts. There is a sign outside the door leading onto the courts that states, "No Skateboarding" among other prohibited activities. I sighed. Should I say something to this young man? I looked up to see a woman with her tennis racket slung over her shoulder standing outside the gate at the other end of the court. She was watching the young man warily. I had already passed the gate nearest me, but when I saw the woman, I turned around and went inside the court.

I kept my distance from the skateboarder, and raising my voice I called, "Excuse me! There is no skateboarding on the tennis courts!"

There was no response from the young man. He kept

skateboarding; his longish blond hair partially covered his face. I called to him again. "The sign says 'No Skateboarding'. It ruins the surface of the courts," I offered. This time he replied, saying calmly, "I'm not going to be here very long. I'm just waiting for my friends."

"How long you're going to be here isn't the point," I responded. "The problem is that skateboarding on the court surface ruins it." The young man kept skateboarding. Then I heard a voice behind me.

"Get off the \*\*\*\* court!" I turned around to see a man about six feet tall, probably in his mid-thirties, about half my age. "Get off the court!" he yelled again, walking up to stand beside me inside the court. "Look," he continued, "I was a skateboarder too. It's cool, but when you skate in places you aren't supposed to, it gives skateboarding a bad rap. Now get off the court!"

The young man finally stopped skating, flipped his skateboard up, and walked past us off of the court, but not without saying, "I'll just come back here tomorrow."

I thanked the man for his support, and we went our separate ways. When I told my husband about the incident, he

remarked he wasn't surprised that the skateboarder had paid no attention to the sign posted prohibiting skateboarding on the tennis courts.

He added, "Why would we expect a teenager to read and follow the directions given on a sign, when he sees adults ignoring signs every day? They speed through the neighborhood streets; they don't come to a full stop at a stop sign. There are plenty of other examples. Children and teenagers witness their parents and other adults ignoring posted signs all the time."

I had to admit he was right. The speeding has gotten so bad on our street, a designated greenway, that we recently received a notice stating that following a monitored speed check, the City has determined it will install speed bumps. That's a lot of tax dollars to spend just to get people to slow down and do what they should be doing, if they would only read the signs and follow the directions. It benefits all of us, not just economically, but communally, to do what is best-for the good of the order.

*Pamela Plimpton has been a Grant Park neighborhood resident since 1980, and retired as a professor of English in 2020.*



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## Make Your Own Holiday Marshmallows by Jane Feinberg

Every now and then a food item pops up that's just plain fun. Although to be truthful, I don't think this one qualifies as "food!" Its redeeming qualities are that it's light as air and subtle in flavors and colors, and weighs in very heavily in the fun department—just what's needed during the holiday season to please kids and kid-like adults.

### Homemade Marshmallows

Makes approx. 36 pieces

#### Marshmallows

- 1 c water, divided
- 3 pkgs unflavored powdered gelatin (¼ oz. each pkg)
- 2 c granulated white sugar
- ½ c light corn syrup or honey
- ½ tsp fine salt
- 2 Tbs pure vanilla or vanilla bean paste

#### Dusting Mixture

- ½ cup powdered sugar
- ½ cup potato starch or corn starch

1. Spray a 9x9- or 7x11-inch baking pan with a light coating of cooking spray.

2. In the bowl of an electric mixer, sprinkle gelatin over ½ cup cold water.

3. Meanwhile, in medium saucepan over medium high heat, stir together the sugar, corn syrup, salt, and remaining ½ cup water until sugar dissolves and mixture begins to boil. Raise heat to high and continue to cook until syrup reaches 240° F on candy thermometer. Remove from heat. Pour mixture

into a 2-cup glass measuring cup, to make it easier to pour into mixer bowl.

4. Carefully pour the boiling syrup into soaked gelatin and turn on the mixer, using the whisk attachment, starting on low and moving up to high speed. Add salt and beat for 10 to 12 minutes, or until fluffy and cooled to almost room temperature. Add extract and beat to incorporate.

5. Using a spatula or silicone scraper coated with neutral oil, transfer marshmallow into the prepared pan and press it into the pan evenly. Place a piece of lightly oiled plastic wrap on top of the marshmallow and press lightly, creating a seal. Let mixture sit for several hours, or overnight, until cooled and firmly set.

6. Sprinkle a cutting surface generously with the dusting mixture. Remove marshmallow from pan and lay on top of the mixture. Dust the top generously with the mixture as well. Use a large, sharp knife to cut into squares. Separate pieces and toss to coat all surfaces with the dusting mixture.

7. Store in airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 weeks.

To change things up a bit, add a little good-quality ground cinnamon to the dusting mixture (taste and adjust amount), or try rolling the freshly cut plain vanilla marshmallows in toasted shredded coconut instead of the dusting mixture.

You can also add gel or powdered food coloring and flavor extracts to the marshmallow at the same time you add the vanilla—for example, rose or orange blossom water (taste as you go). Or try melting a couple ounces of dark chocolate just before the marshmallows are finished whipping and then swirl it into the marshmallow as you pour it into the prepared pan.



HOMEMADE MARSHMALLOWS ARE A FUN HOLIDAY TREAT.

Once you've seen how easy marshmallows are to make, look for more fun flavor ideas online.

Jane Feinberg is a graphic designer for the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association newsletter. This recipe was featured in the November/December 2022 issue of the BUNA newsletter and has been reprinted with permission.

## Letter to the Editor

Are you tired of the noise and air pollution from gas leaf blowers? The Alameda Neighborhood Association has endorsed Quiet Clean PDX's goal of getting rid of these terrible devices. Thank you, Alameda. Quiet Clean PDX is now asking Portland city commissioners to support a citywide ban on gas leaf blowers that would take effect in a year or two, to allow time for the transition to electric equipment.

The commissioners need to hear from you now! Please email them and let them know your personal complaints about gas leaf blowers and why you'd like to see them eliminated. Your message can be brief, highlighting the noise and nuisance as well as the toxic fumes and dust clouds. For a link to City Council email addresses, go to [www.quietcleanpdx.org](http://www.quietcleanpdx.org) and click on the "Take Action" alert.

The California Air Resources Board reports that operating a gas leaf blower for just one hour creates more air pollution than driving a car 1,100 miles! Thank you for writing to all the commissioners and the mayor. With your help we can create a quieter, cleaner and healthier Portland.

Michael Hall – Portland



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# Picture Windows: When No One Is Watching by Gail Jeidy

My creative process is to get messy and then regroup. Clearing my desk recently, I found the cover of my latest college alumni magazine. I chuckled and was about to toss it away when I realized, “Wait, there’s a story here.” Taylor Swift might even write a song about this.

The cover photo featured the new chancellor for my small Midwest college. Weeks prior, I had used a marker and a couple white mailing labels to give the incoming leader a makeover, turning her long (and a tad frumpy) hair into a smart, above-the-shoulder bob. She really did look better, and her new cut was a power fit with her stylish suit. As a woman a decade older than the subject, I hope I’m forgiven for attempting to “improve” on a female’s appearance. But the bigger issue is “What the heck am I doing with my free time playing paper dolls on a magazine cover?” Am I bored, lonely, a nut-ball?

Truth? I’m angsty about a creative project in the works and stuck in that free-flowing, not-knowing place right now. I’m also fascinated by what characters (and people) do when no one is watching. Being aware of what I’m doing when I am alone is part of understanding. Also, maybe a character in one of my stories needs a new haircut. Or I do.

Which is fitting since I tend to spend a fair amount of time in my head.

Fall came and fluttered, I picked my dahlias, but cocooned in my head. I even missed the September viewing window for the Swifts’ return to Chapman School.

No worries. I compensated in early November by inviting the young women in my family to the movie *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour* filmed at her three stadium concerts in Los Angeles, showing at Lloyd Center. I admire how Swift pays attention to life. I was worried the film would be sold out,

but we missed the premiere rush. There were 15 of us in the theatre.

I am a Swiftie, maybe among the oldest. There, I’ve said it. For someone who traded Beatles cards in second grade and knows the words to all their hits, I’ve long awaited the next musician who could charm the world in a similar way. With Swift, for me, it’s not about her music as much as what she represents. This point was brought to my attention mid-movie as the concertgoers on screen sang along with every song and my daughter whispered in my ear, “Do you think you can call yourself a Swiftie when you don’t know the words to any of her songs?”

Well, yes, I can. Because she’s empowering, owns her life, honors her creativity, shows initiative, strength, grace, confidence, and gratitude. Not to mention musical longevity. At 33! Look at the hundreds of thousands of people cheering her on at SoFi stadium. People long for her brand of positivity in this world. She may not be a Beatle but did you know she actually has a millipede named for her (*Nannaria swiftae*, aka Swift Twisted-Claw Millipede) -- and Carole King calls Swift “her professional granddaughter?”

I did not say these things aloud. I held them in just as I held in the need to use the restroom during the last 30 minutes of the 2.75-hour spectacle, comparable in theatricality to an extended Super Bowl halftime show.

One of my favorite parts of the concert was a reflective moment with Swift alone at her piano, talking about her process of imagining the character in a song as opposed to the reality of her life at home surrounded by cat hair.

We enjoyed the show. The credits roll and we stay until the end. My girls leave, and I dash for the restroom. The



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING?

theatre complex is empty. I enter the first stall, pull the latch closed. Ponder what it would be like to carry the joys and burdens of Swift’s level of influence. I stand, move to slide the door latch open, but it won’t budge. I bought my one-year-old grandson a wooden board with all sorts of latches like this last week. I grunt to force the latch open. No luck. What kind of Grandma am I?

I chuckle. Try again. Then bang on the door. I could call one of my daughters. She’s likely still nearby. I pound the latch. Consider yelling. I shake the door. *Shake, shake, shake, shake.* Check out the space at the bottom. This is not a gender-neutral stall door like at Grant High. Thankfully, this one has a sizable gap. I assess my body. Assess the only egress available. I can do this. I drop and scotch. Then shake it off. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah....

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## UPCOMING ALAMEDA AREA EVENTS

### THE MADELEINE CHURCH

#### Christmas Services:

Sunday, December 24

- 4 p.m.—Pageant with live animals (Main Church)
- 7 p.m.—With Madeleine Musicians & Jazz Trio (Old Madeleine Church)
- 11:20 p.m. — Carols (Main Church)
- Midnight—The Madeleine Choir & Chamber Orchestra (Main Church)

Monday, December 25

- 9 a.m.—The Madeleine Choir & Guest Musicians (Main Church)

### ALAMEDA HISTORY PRESENTATION

DOUG DECKER PRESENTS: "OREGON HOME BUILDERS: LEAVING A LEGACY IN ALAMEDA AND NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOODS, 1912-1917"

Wednesday, January 17, 7:30-9 p.m.

Fremont United Methodist Church,  
2620 NE Fremont St.

This free program by neighborhood historian Doug Decker will discuss the Oregon Home Builders company, which set out in 1912 to pursue its vision of homebuilding market domination by selling stock to investors and building memorable homes for its customers. Using early photos and documents, Doug will provide an inside look at the intriguing rise and fall of the company, and the legacy of its homes today. Space is limited! RSVPs required by January 3 to [alamedanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:alamedanewsletter@gmail.com).



LAST FEBRUARY'S LATE SNOWFALL CAST A ZEN-LIKE CALM OVER ALAMEDA.

### SOLVE - MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Monday, January 15 • 10 a.m. to noon  
Irving Park, 707 NE Fremont St.

Neighbors are invited to join a SOLVE cleanup event to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by enhancing the environment in northeast Portland's Soul District. Meet under the park's covered basketball courts near the corner of NE 7th Avenue and Fremont Street. Trash grabbers, bags, work gloves, and high-vis vests will be provided by SOLVE.

Advance registration is highly recommended but not required. For more information and to sign up, visit [solveoregon.org](http://solveoregon.org).

### THE MADELEINE SCHOOL

Open House and School Tours for Parents & Prospective Students

Sunday, January 28

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Come meet the teachers and tour the school!

For more information visit [www.themadeleine.edu/school](http://www.themadeleine.edu/school).

### CITIZEN'S CLIMATE LOBBY/ GRANT HS CLIMATE JUSTICE CLUB PRESENTATION

Tuesday, February 20 • 7-8 p.m.

Fremont United Methodist Church,  
2620 NE Fremont St.

Join Citizen's Climate Lobby and the Grant High School Climate Justice Club for this free event to learn about recent climate action these two groups are taking and how you can get involved.

Discussion topics will include requests for climate-informed curricula and climate solutions by state legislators, Portland Public Schools, and community members.

Alameda neighbors Jerry Porter and Meg Bowman will also share how volunteering with Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) has allowed them to turn their concern about climate change into action.

Please RSVP to [alamedanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:alamedanewsletter@gmail.com) by February 6.

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