

# AlamedaPDX

Winter 2019Volume 33 Number 4

## Alameda: Ground Zero for Coyote Research *by Barbara Brower*

*Alameda resident Dr. Barbara Brower is a retired PSU Geography professor and an advisor for the Portland Urban Coyote Project.*

On a damp fall day in 2010, Sarah Chung came out of her house on NE Alameda Terrace to find a coyote lounging in the driveway. This coyote:



PHOTO BY SARAH CHUNG

She alerted the neighbors, and with her sighting and photo set off what has become an explosion in interest and information about the coyote population of Portland.

Portland Audubon’s conservation director Bob Salinger tells us that there have been coyotes in Portland for a long time. One piece of evidence is the famous MAX-riding one that hitched a brief ride from the airport in 2002, and inspired the Modest Mouse song “Coyotes.” The song’s YouTube video has almost 3 million views.

Despite 150 years of effort and millions of dollars spent to eradicate coyotes, they have only increased their range and numbers; this canid can be found from Central America to the Arctic, and from coast to coast in North America. They are very smart, very resilient, and very

flexible in their habitat requirements: a bowl of dog food left outside, a garbage can uncovered, windfall fruit, rats, squirrels, and outside cats are all fair game for coyotes. Space underneath a seldom-used deck, a large untended yard, and many other overlooked areas can become coyote den sites. Research on city coyotes elsewhere (notably a long-running series of studies in Chicago) tells us that coyotes generally stay out of sight most of the time, and are active at night, early morning and evening. They avoid human contact while exploiting the conveniences of city living.

But that wasn’t the story in Alameda nine years ago. The sudden appearance of not one but several coyotes in our neighborhood, sauntering across yards, trotting down the street, or lounging on lawns, took me and my Alameda neighbors by surprise.

Our reactions ranged from horrified to thrilled. I was on the thrilled end of the reaction spectrum, partly because I love wilderness and wildlife and the idea that wildness can persist even in an urban environment. Also the coyotes - and public reactions to them - suggested a great thesis for one of my Geography Masters students, freshly returned from a summer tracking collared wolves in Montana. The student, Jenny Grant, set to work designing a website through which people could record, and we could then map, sightings of coyotes.



### SAVE THE DATE FOR PIZZA AND PREPAREDNESS

Not sure where to start with earthquake preparedness? Have questions about building or buying a kit? Interested in organizing with the neighbors on your block?

On February 10, the Alameda Neighborhood Association and Alameda Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET) are joining together to bring you pizza dinner and a short presentation on “being two weeks ready” for any emergency. We will also have an emergency kit giveaway!

This is a FREE family event - here are the details:

**Monday, Feb. 10**  
**Fremont United Methodist Church**  
**2620 NE Fremont**  
**6:30 p.m.** - Eat and Greet  
**7-8 p.m.** - Earthquake Preparedness presentation, plus Q & A session with neighborhood experts

RSVP to [alamedapdx@gmail.com](mailto:alamedapdx@gmail.com) by February 17 so we can make sure we have plenty of pizza!



COYOTE RIDES MAX - PHOTO COURTESY OF TRI-MET

Alameda friend, teacher, and fellow geographer Carol Davidson also had her students at Alameda Elementary map and collect data on neighborhood sightings. As Carol tells it, “I remember how engaged my students were in a real-life geography project. It was a rare teaching moment where students could actually practice what they were learning: everything from mapping skills as we plotted coyote sightings to interviewing people to collect sighting data, to formulating hypotheses about the data. It was one of the most fun projects I’ve ever done with students.”

The second-graders’ mapping project ran its course, but our Portland Urban Coyote Project mapping continues today—with 9,130 sightings and a rich variety of comments, reported from all across Portland as of November 8.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# Editor’s Message *by Annette Bendinelli*



On the surface Alameda seems pretty quiet, with tree-lined streets populated by the occasional jogger or dog walker. But don’t let that peaceful appearance fool you – if you read this newsletter you’ll find that whether they’re building a beach on the shore of the Willamette, establishing a museum to honor Portland’s Chinese immigrants, or tracking the city’s coyote population, Alamedans are making their voices heard!

Our neighbors are working to save endangered monarch butterflies, and campaigning for cleaner air before the State Legislature. It’s clear that Alameda residents are willing to get involved, and they don’t hesitate to devote time and energy to the things they believe in.

But while we each have our individual projects and passions, there’s one organization that binds us all together: The Alameda Neighborhood Association. Currently, the ANA is looking for new members to help keep Alameda the livable, thriving place it’s been for over 100 years.

We’ve all heard about the proposed code changes that could alter the structure of Portland’s neighborhood associations, but for now these associations remain an important way to connect people and make their collective voices heard. When issues arise, the ANA helps facilitate communication between neighbors, and it advocates for us in City government.

Participating in the ANA is also a great way to get out and meet your neighbors! Association-sponsored activities have included an annual ice-cream social, a Halloween haunted house, and neighborhood cleanup events.

On February 10, the ANA will host a free “Pizza & Preparedness” event, where families can meet up for pizza and hear an earthquake preparedness presentation from a Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET) member. Now more than ever, neighborhood associations throughout Portland are highlighting the importance of connecting residents to prepare for the possibility of a major earthquake or other disaster. For more info on this event, see the front page of this issue.

So when it’s time to make your New Year’s resolutions for 2020, resolve to take one hour out of your month to attend an ANA meeting. They’re held on the 2nd Monday of every month at 7 pm at Fremont United Methodist Church. You’ll still have time to pursue those other worthwhile projects you’re passionate about, but you’ll also have a say in charting the course of Alameda’s future.

Happy holidays, everyone, and see you next year!

— Annette

## IMPORTANT NOTE: ANA Meetings Now On 2nd Monday

Beginning in January, the Alameda Neighborhood Association will meet on the 2nd Monday of the month, instead of the 4th Monday. Meetings will still be held at 7 pm at Fremont United Methodist Church, 2620 NE Fremont. Hope to see you on January 13 – all are welcome!

### ADVERTISING RATES

Effective Fall 2019 issue.

#### Sizes and Prices:

<b>A - Business Card Size</b>	
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Publication dates:	Deadlines:
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June 10	May 10
September 10	August 10

Please submit pdf, jpg, or Adobe Distiller X-1A compliant artwork at 300dpi or greater.  
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The ANA meets on the 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm at Fremont United Methodist Church.

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## 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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# The Holiday House

by Sonia Acharya

It is a beautifully sunny day in late October when I walk up to The Holiday House at 5111 NE Alameda Street in Northeast Portland. Before I go in I take photos of the front. It is decorated for Halloween with creatures both high and low. Cats’ eyes in the windows, the familiar Bates Hotel sign from the movie Psycho, ghosts, ghouls, and witches in clever little dioramas all over the lawns, artistically arranged under japanese maples, hanging from upper balconies. After sunset I know the house will be aglow, welcoming as well as a little scary.

I’ve long been familiar with the house, not only from many Halloween night excursions but also because the school bus stop has been right across the street for many years. I’ve seen that house from Christmas through Easter, for Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, July 4, each holiday a tribute to owner Neen Fitzwalter’s vision.

So I ring the doorbell, eager to meet Neen and her husband, Steve. I am warmly greeted by Neen, a natty, energetic woman who welcomes me into the house. I wonder what it must be like to put out all these decorations year after year. I think about my house, and the work that goes into the few cords and lights we use. We have eight boxes of Halloween stuff.

Neen and Steve have hundreds of boxes, and every year they cook a big breakfast for the “Halloween Army,” a group of ten to fifteen neighbors who faithfully follow



HALLOWEEN AT THE FITZWALTER HOUSE

Neen’s orders as she directs the decorating process. Everything has to be just so for maximum safety and visibility, with cords tucked away. And not just outside — the inside of the house is covered with ornaments high and low.

Neen points to a shelf full of pumpkin lanterns and witches and explains, “These belonged to my Mom.” When Neen was a child, her mother decorated her house with these very ornaments. And then, to my delight she brings out six remotes dangling from a giant fob. She uses them to turn her Halloween lights on and off from the comfort of her armchair. I am full of admiration.

Holiday-themed decorations aren’t the only ones at the Fitzwalters’. Every room in the house has a theme, from Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn, and Elvis, to the Pacific Northwest as experienced from a pleasure cruise. The overarching motif is the fifties, from old games and Coke freezers to pole lamps. Many of Neen’s Halloween ornaments come from vintage shops, and most are very old.

As I visit and we talk about the people we know in common, three spectators have already stopped to take photos outside, and as Neen and I come up from the basement, neighbors, some friends and some strangers, come in for a tour led by Steve. A kid screams when a ghouel he touches starts raising

itself up from the dead, and a loud voice emanates from the ghouel’s tiny plastic body.

Steve and Neen report that they get about 2,500 trick-or-treaters every Halloween night. They’ve lived in their house for 27 years, and know everyone on the neighboring streets, and everyone knows them. I can’t wait to see Neen’s house at Christmas, and as I look around at the “holiday house,” I am warmed by the Alameda community that embraces us all.



NEEN AND STEVE FITZWALTER



NEEN’S MULTI-REMOTE KEY FOB

## Coyotes... *(cont. from page 1)*

Check out the sightings map, photos, and videos of Portland’s coyotes at <https://www.portlandcoyote.com/>—including our trail-cam series from Alameda Ridge— or try out the tutorial. You can learn how to haze coyotes, and why, like them or loathe them, they are here to stay. You can also investigate some of our early research findings.

The site today reflects the consummate skills and ongoing engagement of Zuriel van Belle, another of my former PSU graduate students, who has created a system for collecting data and monitoring coyotes, and human response to them, that is being copied around the country. PSU Geography grad student Keith VanderBrooke continues

the data analysis for his thesis, and we hope to continue the Urban Coyote Project on into the future.

Our records show no other explosion of sightings quite like the one we had in Alameda nine years ago. What was going on to create that rash of sightings, including those unwary, driveway-napping coyotes? There’s a story, and I hope it’s true.

Early reports from our initial efforts to collect more coyote information included several from the Beaumont-Alameda neighborhood borders. People reported finding cooked chicken and baguettes in the street. Some explained that a restaurant owner had spotted a coyote family living on the grounds of a large estate, and, thinking the pups

looked hungry, decided to drop off leftovers after work. With “take-out” delivered most evenings, it would be no surprise that a coyote family would lose their fear and associate human presence with good things. My theory is that those pups, growing up and dispersing, were the bold actors in the coyote drama that unfolded in Alameda.

We’ve since learned—or I hope we’ve learned—how important it is to keep coyotes uncomfortable with humans, to direct our efforts to keeping them wild, and so keep them and ourselves and our pets safe in our interactions with this wily urban predator. If that means fewer sightings, however thrilling for some of us - though alarming to others - so be it.



## Monarch Butterflies Are Threatened. Will You Help Them? *by Dan LaGrande*

The butterfly is truly one of nature's most lovely creatures – delicate and beautiful, yet industrious and a very important pollinator.

Sadly, it is also a threatened species, especially the beautiful Monarchs – with their orange and yellow wings trimmed with a black and white border – that used to be so plentiful in our gardens.

I learned about the plight of the Monarchs from a neighborhood friend, Ida Galash. She has a sign in her yard stating “Monarch Waystation.”

I also spotted the same sign in the parking strip near the Madeleine School on NE 24th Avenue. Ida explained to me that the signs indicate there is milkweed, along with other plants and shelter, for the butterflies during their life cycle and in preparation for their migratory journey. Those signs mean there is hope for the Monarchs.

An artist and gardener, Ida is focusing her talents and energy on educating people about the Monarch's plight, and recently started a Facebook page, “Portland Monarchs,” as a forum for education and action.

“We care about what we know about,” Ida observed. “So the more we learn about the alarming decline of the Monarch butterflies, the more likely we will act, to be motivated to help save them. There is a lot we can do right here in our own neighborhoods.”

Although it is winter, this is the ideal time, Ida explained, to plan and prepare to help the butterflies early next spring, when they return on their migration path from California. Again, education is important and Ida recommended two websites: [www.MonarchWatch.org](http://www.MonarchWatch.org) and [www.JourneyNorth.org](http://www.JourneyNorth.org)

“As you begin to plan your garden for next season,” Ida said, “and even if your garden is only some plants on your deck or front porch, plant some milkweed, especially our Pacific Northwest native, Showy milkweed. Whether your garden is big or small, consider planting milkweed in pots, because it is a weed and can take over if planted in your soil.”

Why is milkweed so important? Like other insects, the butterfly goes through four life stages, in a process called metamorphosis. The adult lays eggs that hatch in about four days to produce larvae, which are tiny caterpillars. As they grow during their life span of about two weeks, the caterpillars only eat one food – milkweed. It nourishes and protects the caterpillars, because milkweed contains toxins that are poisonous to potential predators. In the last stage the caterpillar turns into a pupa or chrysalis, from which in another two weeks or so, a butterfly emerges in all its beauty.

“There are some small but vital patches of milkweed on the Oregon coast around Brookings, and this year the Monarchs there laid a huge amount of eggs,” Ida recounted with excitement. “So thanks to a friend who drove down to Brookings, I received 50 eggs and 30 caterpillars which I put in a special mesh enclosure in my dining room, feeding them a variety of milkweeds. When the new generation of Monarchs emerged from their chrysalises, I put tiny tags on their wings so they could be tracked.”

Ida said the tags were provided by David James, a professor at Washington State University, to help study the migration of Monarchs in the Northwest.

“What I want to do now is to promote a Monarch Corridor,” Ida explained, “to sustain the butterflies all along their migration route to the Central California coast. If we can start here in the Portland area, hopefully the idea will spread all along the Pacific coast. The key, of course, is planting milkweed as well as flowers like asters, zinnias and goldenrod.”

There are two Monarch migrations a year – one in the spring, the other in the fall. Although most Western Monarchs live for two to six weeks before reproducing and laying eggs for the next generation, the fourth generation, called the Methuselah, or “super generation,” lives six months or more and this is the generation that generally migrates along the coast to California (in other parts of the United States, the Monarchs migrate to Mexico). Ida hopes that some of the Monarchs passing



IDA GALASH

through Portland will find our gardens and stay awhile.

“I grow milkweed and I’m happy to donate some to any neighbors who want to help the Monarchs,” Ida offered. “Also, I’m willing to do open houses to show how to support the Monarchs through their different lifecycles. You can reach me on NextDoor or join our Facebook group, Portland Monarchs.”

According to Ida, the other thing we can all do is avoid using pesticides and herbicides in our yards, to protect not only butterflies, but also bees and other beneficial insects. Local nurseries offer advice and resources on creating and maintaining a garden that is safe and healthy, and carry milkweed and other insect-friendly plants.

Call it a one-woman crusade, if you like, but thanks to Ida's optimism, energy and tenacity, there is hope for the Monarchs. We can join Ida, and others like her, to turn that hope into reality by helping to save the Monarchs, so that one day we can again marvel at the delicate orange and yellow creatures as they go about pollinating our plants – and reminding us of the beauty of nature.

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# Dead Man's Hill: Alameda's Snowy Slopes Have a History by Doug Decker

## FRED A. JACOBS IS KILLED BY MOTOR

**Realty Dealer Suffers Broken  
Neck When Caught by  
Overturned Automobile.**

### EMERGENCY BRAKE FAILS

**Victim of Accident Not Believed  
Badly Hurt at First, but Dies  
in Hospital—Driver of  
Car Bruised Only.**

Fred A. Jacobs, prominent Portland real estate dealer, clubman and art collector, was killed yesterday morning when the automobile in which he was riding backed off a 25-foot embankment at East Twenty-fourth street and Alameda drive when the emergency brake refused to work, pinning Mr. Jacobs beneath the car and breaking his neck.

Mr. Jacobs was rushed to the Good Samaritan Hospital, where he died at 11:30 o'clock, half an hour after the accident had happened. His chest was crushed besides the mortal injury he received.

In company with J. P. Parker, rental agent for the Fred A. Jacobs Real Estate Agency, Mr. Jacobs had started to view some property in the vicinity of Vernon. The car was being driven by Mr. Parker and he attempted to climb the Alameda hill. When but a short distance up the incline, the car stopped and started to back down.

#### Emergency Brake Fails.

Mr. Parker tried the emergency brake, but it would not hold and the car backed off the embankment, somersaulted and landed on its side. Mr. Parker, but slightly bruised, climbed from the machine and ran around to the other side of the car to find Mr. Jacobs unconscious. It was first thought he was but slightly injured and he was taken to the hospital by the Ambulance Service Company.

The accident happened at a most perilous place on Alameda drive and at a point where many other accidents, though not so serious, have been recorded. That part of the drive ascending the hill is only a block of two in length, but excessively steep.

#### Mr. Jacobs Active Realtor.

Mr. Jacobs is thought to have stood up in the car and taken hold of the steering wheel in the confusion. He was pitched from the car when it started over the embankment, but was dragged along with the machine on its pitch down the hill. Mr. Parker remained at the steering wheel.

Mr. Jacobs was one of the best-known realty operators on the Pacific Coast. When a member of the Jacobs-Stine Company he aided in opening up and developing some of the best residential sections of the city. Some of the city additions developed by him are Belle Crest, Wellesley, Hyde Park, Argyle, Montclair, Wellington, Palmyra, Ribemont, Manitou, Berkeley, Errol Heights and Dover.

He came to Portland after the San Francisco earthquake, in 1906, and had been in this city most of the time since.

He was born in Chillicothe, Mo., September 15, 1870. He moved to California and in 1891 was graduated from the University of California. He engaged in insurance business in San Francisco prior to his removal to this city.

Mr. Jacobs was a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner, a member of the Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club and of the Bohemian Club, of San Francisco. He had long been a prominent figure in Realty Board activities.

He is survived by his widow, whom he married in Missouri, and two children, Elizabeth and Fred A. Jacobs, Jr. His mother also survives.

No funeral arrangements have been made.

If you are 10 years old and live in Alameda, I'll bet you know exactly where Dead Man's Hill is.

As we enter into the cold and hoped-for snowy season, it's time to find your sled, or at least a piece of cardboard or plastic bag that will do the trick for sliding down NE Stuart Avenue from the top at Alameda and NE 26th.

Generations of young Alamedans and many of their parents have enjoyed a snowy night or slippery morning rite of passage downslope on Dead Man's Hill. But how many have wondered about the namesake Dead Man behind the slang for this one-way street that dives off the Alameda Ridge at NE 26th Avenue?

In this case, the Dead Man is not a myth, it's a real story about a well-known and popular Portland businessman who died in June 1917 in a freak accident that rattled the business community and shocked the young Alameda neighborhood.

Fred A. Jacobs, art collector, civic booster, real estate broker and owner of the Fred A. Jacobs Company, was driving with his employee J.P. Parker through Alameda on their way to have a look at properties in the Vernon neighborhood. At the time—and well up until the 1970s, we've been told—Stuart Drive was a two-way street.

On the morning of June 5, 1917, they passed through the intersection at 24th and Regents and started up Stuart Drive on their route north. The car made it about half way up the hill, but then stalled out and started to roll backwards down the street. Unfortunately for Parker and Jacobs, the emergency break did not hold and the car rolled to the far left side of the street, went backwards over the curb, bumped over the small sliver of property that goes with the lovely Greene and Greene style Craftsman home there on the hill, and then flipped over hard, landing on its side 25 feet below on Ridgeview Drive. Here's what The Oregonian said the next morning:

From The Oregonian, June 6, 1917

Jacobs, age 47, left behind his wife Gussie and two children, Elizabeth, and Fred Jr. Pall bearers for the funeral—held with



DEAD MAN'S HILL

full Masonic rite honors—including Portland's most influential business leaders. Services were held at home, and then again at graveside. No known plaque or marker was ever put in place in honor of Fred Jacobs. The real estate company bearing his name lived on for many years.

So this winter when you're out on the hill, remember this little history lesson. And sled carefully, please.



Neighborhood historian Doug Decker prepares history studies of homes, leads history walks, and makes presentations to groups interested in learning about local history. Write him at [doug@alamedahistory.org](mailto:doug@alamedahistory.org).

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# Alameda Residents Instrumental in Creating Portland Chinatown Museum

by Jackie Peterson-Loomis, PhD, and Sarah Chung

Although Alameda is almost four miles across the river from Portland's Chinatown, several Alameda residents maintain strong ties to the historic neighborhood and played key roles in establishing the Portland Chinatown Museum – the first museum of Chinese American history and contemporary Asian American arts in Oregon.

Among the core group of Museum founders are Alameda residents Terry Chung, a retired educator, and his wife Sarah, a retired health professional. In 2014, they joined with a group of Chinese American elders who grew up in Chinatown - some of them fourth generation Portlanders – to establish the Portland Chinatown History and Museum Foundation.

The Chungs' parents were active in Portland's Chinese community, dating back to the 1950's. Terry's father, Warren, was a pharmacist, and his mother, Ella, was a lead singer in Chinatown's Yat Sing Music Club, a Cantonese Opera revival that began in 1937. She was also a skilled clothing designer, and one of her costumes is part of the Museum's permanent exhibition.

Continuing their families' legacies in the Chinese community, Terry served as the Museum Board's first President, and Sarah is currently the Board Secretary. Both are also docents, advisors, and volunteers.

Dennis Tong, another volunteer docent, also calls Alameda home. He's a fourth generation Chinese Oregonian, and his grandparents and parents lived in the original Chinatown, which was located south of W. Burnside along S.W. 2nd Avenue. Tong's childhood was centered around the current Chinatown on NW 4th Avenue. He recalls that during the 1950's and '60's the area was vibrant with commercial and cultural activity, including Chinese restaurants, grocery stores, and a Chinese language school that attracted people of all ages to the neighborhood.

Dr. Jacqueline Peterson-Loomis, a retired professor of history and creator of the Old Town History Project, is the Museum's Executive Director as well as its Curator and Director of Exhibitions. Also an Alameda resident, Dr. Peterson-Loomis had been conducting oral history projects with Chinese elders when it became apparent that many feared their stories would be forgotten with time. Dr. Peterson-Loomis and others agreed the stories were too important to lose, so the non-profit Portland Chinatown History Foundation was formed to create a place for them to be preserved and shared.

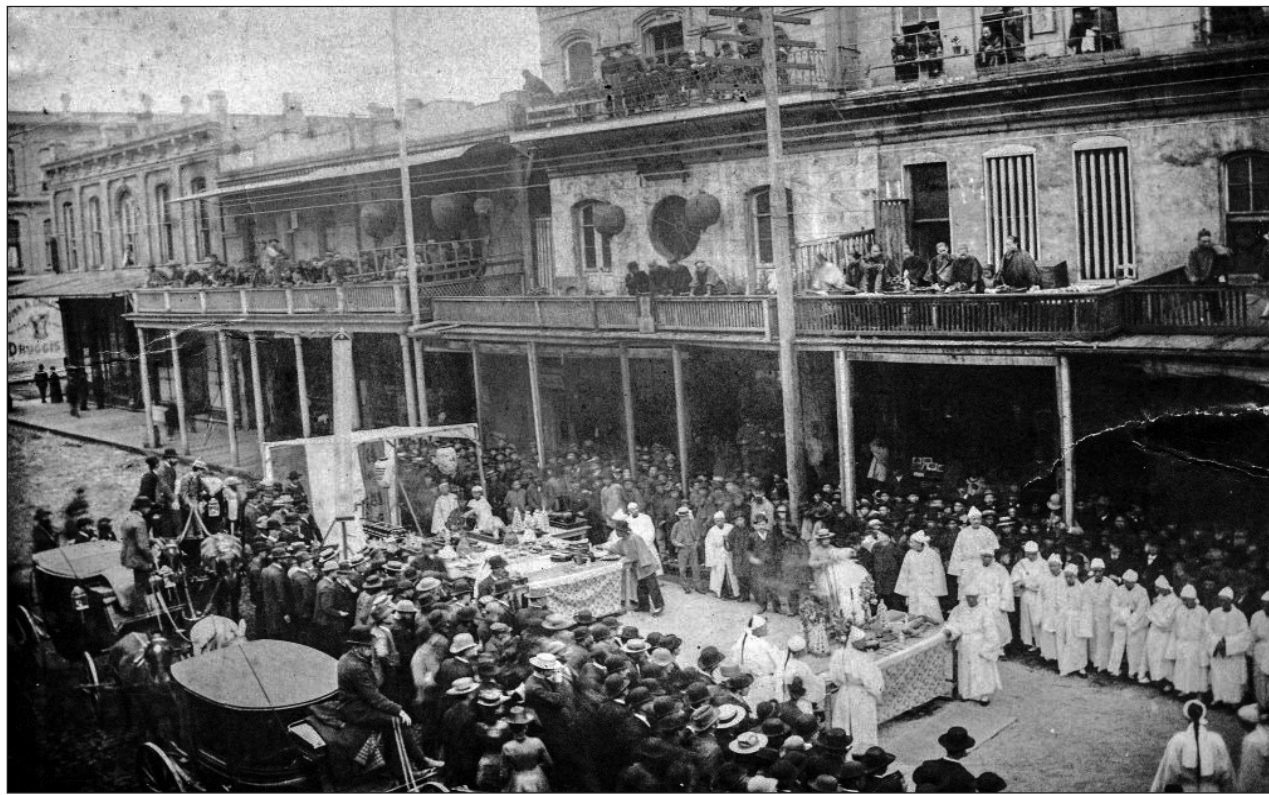
The Chinatown area was Portland's first truly multicultural neighborhood, stretching back to the city's beginnings. By 1900, it was the second largest Chinatown in the nation, despite the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act,

which denied Chinese immigrants citizenship, property rights and ultimately the right to settle until 1943. But even before the Alameda neighborhood had been platted, Portland's Chinese were having a profound impact on the city's architecture, diet, health, and popular culture.

After a \$1,000,000 building remodel, the Portland Chinatown Museum opened in December of 2018. While preserving the past, the Museum also looks to the future, welcoming the engagement of Asian American youth, and celebrating Asian American identity and culture expressed through the arts.

In addition to its permanent exhibition, Beyond the Gate: A Tale of Portland's Historic Chinatown, the museum also features rotating exhibits. Currently on view through February 20 is Visions of Diana, highlighting the brilliantly colored abstract paintings and photographs of Diana Lo Mei Hing, on display for the first time in Portland.

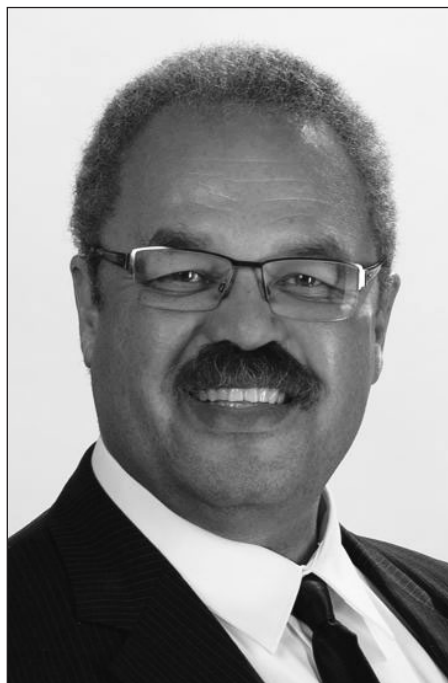
About to celebrate its first birthday this month, the museum's art and history collections and educational programs continue to preserve and interpret the little-known stories, traditions and artifacts of immigrant Chinese merchant families and workers who helped shape Portland's - and Oregon's - future growth.



EARLY CHINATOWN FUNERAL



WARREN AND ELLA CHUNG ON THEIR WEDDING DAY.  
BOTH SERVED IN THE U.S. NAVY



STATE SEN. LEW FREDERICK

## Chat With Lew Frederick

Oregon State Senator Lew Frederick, District 22, is continuing his series of "Second Saturday Chats" in Portland, with the next one scheduled for December 14 at 9 am at The Broadway Grill, 1700 NE Broadway.

According to his office, Frederick hosts the chats on the second Saturday of each month "to help explain what's happening in our State Legislature, and to provide an opportunity for constituents to engage with their elected official."

While the chats are generally held at The Broadway Grill, there's some variation to location and meeting times. Frederick's office recommends signing up for the latest information at <http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/frederick>.



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## Adventures in Advocacy – The Birth of a Beach (Part 3 of 3) *by Willie Levenson*

When Alameda resident Willie Levenson moved to Portland 23 years ago, he was surprised at how little Portlanders interacted with the Willamette River. He decided to do something about it, and organized the first Big Float in 2011. He's currently the self-described Ringleader of Human Access Project, whose mission is "Transforming Portland's Relationship with the Willamette River." Thanks to the hard work of HAP's volunteers, and its partnerships with public and private supporters, Audrey McCall Beach (named after the wife of the late Gov. Tom McCall) opened on Portland's east side July 5, 2019. In the final installment of our three-part series, Levenson describes how the beach has become a multi-use recreational spot just across the river from the heart of downtown Portland.

In the first two parts of this story about the forming of Audrey McCall Beach, Human Access Project (HAP) worked to unearth a beach that was buried in concrete, rip-rap, and abandoned pilings.

We all know humans have a great ability to screw up nature. Perhaps that is why it feels so good when we collectively take action to undo these wrongs – "unscrewing up" nature a little and seeing humans and nature respond in positive ways.

When the work of HAP inspires others to care, participate, feel empowered, and effect change, we feel like we are on to something. It's a slow, incremental process and at times very hard work. But it's also rewarding to dream big, get traction on ideas that were once deemed fanciful, and witness the resulting culture change and community building around HAP's mission: Transforming Portland's Relationship with the Willamette River.

At this stage of our Audrey McCall Beach story, it's now 2015, and we're entering Year 4 of our volunteer work. During that time, friends and I and inmate work crews (which we fundraised for) removed around 14 tons of concrete, 30 pilings, and a rusty 150-ft. long cable that was stuck and buried in sediment. Audrey McCall Beach was showing potential to become a beach park.

While chipping away at AMB, we demonstrated our ability to get things done by receiving approval from Portland Parks and Recreation, the Oregon Department of State Lands, and others to privately fundraise and pull permits to add art and improve access to Poet's Beach on the west bank of the river. We demonstrated broader public support by growing The Big Float and the HAP River Hugger Swim Team. We were covered in the news more and more, developing a reputation as being good partners.

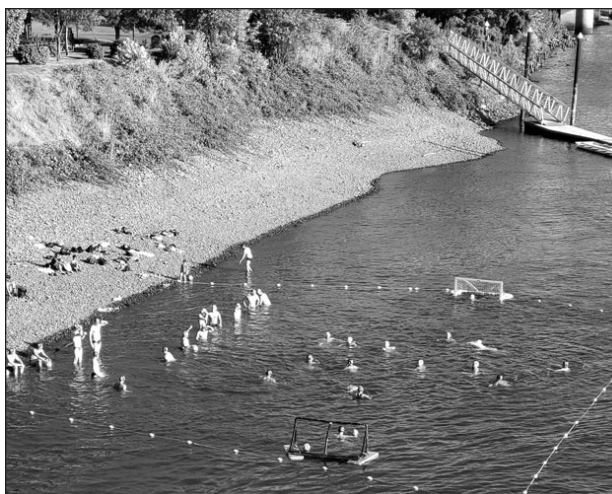
Then-Mayor Charlie Hales took notice of our work and invited us to give a presentation on creating a beach park at the Audrey McCall Beach site. That meeting went well and led to Mayor Hales championing a community process to design the park. A year and a half later, this planning process was completed.



SUNDAY SPLASHWAYS AT AUDREY MCCALL BEACH

determined to not let that happen. To keep the energy alive, in the summer of 2017 we hosted "splash mob" events with a floating food cart at the beach. In 2018 we partnered with Sunday Parkways to host a "Sunday Splashways" at Audrey McCall Beach, privately fundraising for lifeguards and a barge stage where a band provided live music to beachgoers.

This past spring we took it up a notch with the idea of adding lifeguards to the beach. It was difficult timing due to a surprise \$7 million deficit in the Portland Parks budget, but this is where our nine years of hard work and relationship building paid off. By now we had earned some credibility



GRANT HS WATER POLO TEAM PLAYS FIRST MATCH IN AN OREGON RIVER

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with a broad array of partners. Portland Parks cooperated by giving HAP permission to privately fundraise for a summer lifeguard program. We did it, writing grants and filling the financial gap through proceeds from The Big Float. We were able to fully fund a \$30,000 lifeguard program.

The Parks department also allowed us to work in partnership to pull all necessary Federal, State, and City permits to facilitate the lifeguard program (which Parks did not have the resources to do). We even teamed up with an organization called Ground Score to hire homeless people to clean the park over the summer.

It was a lot of work, but so satisfying to see people loving their river in a new way. The most fun surprise of the summer was partnering with Grant High School's water polo team to hold the first official high school water polo match in an Oregon river. Our river. The Willamette. Expect to see a full season of Grant High School water polo matches next summer.

So today, things are looking up for this beach initiative that started in 2012. OMSI is a strong supporter of the beach's development, which will be split between recreational use and habitat restoration. OMSI views it as an asset for kids' programming and an amenity to the neighborhood, as does the Central Eastside Industrial Council and the Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood Association. People have discovered the beach and are using it. The City has a new Parks Director who has managed beach programs in New York City, and a staff that is becoming savvier about managing these spaces.

I would like to give a special shout-out to Alameda resident Nina Bell, whose organization Northwest Environmental Advocates successfully sued an unwilling City of Portland to install the Big Pipe (The Big Float's name is a nod to the Big Pipe). There would not be swimming in our river without that successful lawsuit. It inspired many other major cities to follow suit.

I also want to thank the people who were responsible for building the Big Pipe and the diligent people at Bureau of Environmental Services who maintain it. Our Big Pipe is not perfect but it has reduced sewage overflows from 50-100 per year to only one recorded sewage overflow for each of the last two years.

Change can happen. Instead of complaining how things should be different, consider doing something to impact the change you want to see, big or small. Dig in, grab some friends and jump in - you can do it! Or consider lending a little people power to a cause you think is worthy, cool, fun or all the above. It's worked for us!

Mark your calendar for the 10th anniversary of The Big Float (TBF X) on Saturday, July 11, 2020! Get into your river!

For more information on HAP and Audrey McCall Beach, go to [humanaccessproject.com](http://humanaccessproject.com).



FLOATING FOOD CART AT AMB SPLASH MOB EVENT



# Daylight Saving Time: Love it or Hate It *by Blythe Knott*

Daylight saving time is a concept that - like clockwork, twice a year - generates no small amount of controversy. Certainly the biggest lament is the sudden loss of daylight hours when the days are getting shorter anyway. Right now, when headlights are fully necessary when I leave work at 5pm, it's actually hard to imagine a time when it was light at 9:30pm, even though that was just a few months ago. This far north, the swing in daylight hours from summer to winter is so pronounced that losing an hour of daylight in October feels like adding insult to injury.

Having to get up an hour early in the spring is also the source of griping, as well as the need to change all the clocks in the house twice a year. I have a clock in my house that I can't for the life of me figure out how to change. So, I just know that for half the year it's accurate, and for half the year it's off by an hour. Funny the things we put up with...

But if it wasn't for daylight saving, I don't know how anyone would remember to change the batteries in their smoke detectors on a regular basis. To me, that process goes along with daylight saving completely hand in hand.

I would say that most people I know accept this biannual tradition with relative equanimity. Some complaints here and there, but I wouldn't say that I have been aware of a groundswell of support to eliminate the process altogether. But, that is exactly what has been



happening in various state legislatures - including ours. Clearly I haven't been paying attention.

First, a little history: Daylight saving time (DST) is most commonly observed in northern countries, away from the equator (where day and nighttime hours are stable throughout the year). President Woodrow Wilson first introduced DST in the U.S. during WWI in 1918 as a temporary measure to support the war effort. Having more daylight hours alleviated hardships due to coal shortages. After that, DST was repealed and reenacted several times (including a reappearance during World War II). DST was finally standardized in 1966, and extended in 1987.

Proponents of DST generally argue that it saves energy, promotes outdoor leisure activity in the evening (in the summer), reduces traffic accidents, reduces crime and is good for business. Opponents argue that actual

energy savings are inconclusive, that DST increases health risks (such as heart attacks), that it can disrupt morning activities, and that the act of changing clocks twice a year is disruptive and cancels out any benefits. Farmers have tended to oppose DST.

National polls have shown DST to be fairly unpopular - with less than 40% of the population generally supporting it. And, Oregon, being at the forefront of most trends, recently passed a bill to keep the state on DST all year. The catch is that Oregon lawmakers said the change will take effect the first November after both Washington and California also adopt year-round daylight saving time. Washington lawmakers passed legislation to do so, and California voted to do the same. But the bill stalled in the state senate; California lawmakers say they will revisit the issue in 2020. All three states also face one final hurdle: Congress needs to sign off on the deal.

Assuming the good people of the California state senate move this bill along, and that the US Congress takes it up once all three states are on board, the entire west coast could soon be done with the "spring forward" and "fall back" process each year!

**What do you think?** Do you want this change, or do you prefer to continue switching between daylight and standard time? Email Blythe Knott your opinion at [alamedapdx@gmail.com](mailto:alamedapdx@gmail.com) and in our next issue, she'll report how our neighborhood feels about this hot topic.



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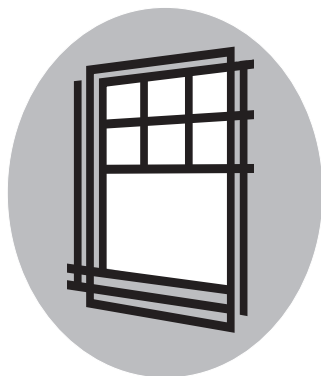
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Letters to the Editor

On the Willamette River:

In the last newsletter, Lenny Anderson wrote to say that “Sadly, Willie Levenson failed to mention in his piece on swimming in the Willamette River (AlamedaPDX, Summer 2019) the key role played by the \$1.5 billion (yes, billion!) Big Pipe project!” In response, I would say that sadly neither Mr. Levenson nor Mr. Anderson chose to mention that the only reason that the City of Portland largely stopped discharging raw sewage to the Willamette River and the Columbia Slough is the federal lawsuit filed by Northwest Environmental Advocates in 1991. That citizen suit was the genesis of the city’s Big Pipe project, a case that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

It is easy to overlook the work of citizens—groups and individuals—in favor of large governmental agencies with their taxpayer-funded ability to promote themselves and the politicians who helm them. But history should remember that Congress had the foresight in 1972 to allow citizens to bring lawsuits; that Northwest Environmental Advocates and its team of lawyers successfully sued the City of Portland to force the virtual end of raw sewage discharges; and that Alameda resident (and winery owner) Mikey Jones was the first to champion a lawsuit against the city in the first place.

Nina Bell, Executive Director  
Northwest Environmental Advocates  
Alameda resident since 1986

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On Leaf Blowers:

This is a follow-up on a previous AlamedaPDX commentary regarding gas leaf blowers. When surveyed, Portlanders consistently state the reasons they most enjoy living here are that it is a livable, healthy, and green environment. For a couple of years now I have been working with a group of local activists in an attempt to mitigate the noise, pollution, and environmental damage caused by gas leaf blowers. We call ourselves QuietCleanPDX.

Social and environmental justice are important aspects of our campaign. We do not want to cause landscape employees to lose their jobs. We do want to help protect the health of those workers, who often are powerless to advocate for healthier working conditions.

There are a number of ways to help make that happen. Battery powered leaf blowers, for example, emit much less noise and zero toxic emissions. Hand tools like rakes and brooms are time-tested ways to manage yard waste. Also, there is a rising movement known as Leave the Leaves, changing the paradigm of how we expect our yards to look.

QuietCleanPDX had a bill in the past legislative session (HB 3350) that was sponsored by State Senators Michael Dembrow and Shemia Fagan and by State Representatives Alissa Keny-Guyer and Barbara Smith Warner. It was inspired by the recent passage of Washington D.C. legislation that eliminates the sale and operation of gas leaf blowers in the district after a three-year transition period. That regulation becomes law on January 1, 2022. Our bill got a June hearing in the Oregon House Energy and Environment committee and we have gained supporters and educated the public through that statewide initiative.

If you are interested in learning more about what is now a national movement to eliminate gas leaf blowers, please visit our website, quietcleanpdx.org The website will help you understand why we must get rid of these awful devices that some have referred to as The Devil’s Hairdryer. And, if you are moved to do so, you are invited to sign up to be on our growing list of supporters.

Michael Hall

On Grant High Magazine:

I saw your solicitation in Facebook for submissions to the AlamedaPDX newsletter, and thought I’d respond. I have no ambition to be a regular contributor, but I’d love to put in a pitch for the Grant High School magazine, Grant Magazine. In this era of worshipping and supporting everything sports-related (especially when it comes to fundraising), I thought that drumming up support for journalistic skills would be worthwhile. Though you can view the magazine online, the students produce a high quality hard copy, and since we’re talking about content for a hard copy newsletter, it seemed apropos.

I know no one personally in Grant High School, and I find the way I ended up with a subscription to the Grant Magazine serendipitous. Kids come to the house from time to time trying to raise funds for their causes (often sports), and I usually politely pass on the opportunity. But on a nasty, rainy afternoon a year ago or so, three or four teenagers knocked on my door, looking for financial support for their high school magazine. Though they weren’t attending high school in the Grant building at the time, as it was under renovation, they made a case for supporting their journalistic efforts. Having been a librarian for 30 years, what could I say? I gave them the subscription cost in cash.

A few months later, as I was beginning to wonder what happened to my donation, the first magazine appeared in the mail. It is a really professional, glossy production, and the topics explored by the students have really opened my eyes to problems I see reported in the newspapers, but on a local level: racism, environmental concerns, sexual identity. So I renewed my subscription for this year, and now that Grant High School is open again, the magazine looks even better. And that’s my story!

Bob Mohrman

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# Curbside Recycling is Great...But We Can do Better by Travis Weedman

We live in a city that prides itself on livability and green spaces, and our residents are dedicated recyclers. But even though we have curbside pickup, there are still limits on what can go in our blue bins. As someone who strives to be more conscious about waste, I've often found myself at a loss as to where to take those items that can't be recycled curbside, so I did some research and compiled this short list of resources. I hope you find this information as helpful as I have - and the next time you're planning a trip to one of these great resources, please reach out to your neighbors and see if you can consolidate trips. It's these small gestures that help create great communities!

## STYROFOAM - POLYSTYRENE (#6)

Many everyday items are made of polystyrene, including red Solo cups, to-go coffee lids and all that giant, dense, white Styrofoam that seems to come in every box I receive. Yes, those large pieces that surround your new flat screen TV, or that mirror you ordered online. This is most likely polystyrene and can't be placed in curbside recycling, but sadly, it can be placed in the trash. Fortunately there is a solution, and it's a good one: Agilyx in SW Portland. Agilyx is the ONLY polystyrene recycler near Portland, and they're open 24/7. You just pull up next to the marked dumpsters and simply unload your foam into them. Easy! I realize driving to SW Portland can be a challenge, but with good planning and maybe teaming up with your neighbors, it will be well worth the effort. I personally encourage our company's employees to bring their Styrofoam to the office, and when we have

enough I drive a load out to Agilyx. I know it's responsible and it feels really good.

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## PAINT

I've been taking half-empty cans of paint to Metro Central Hazardous Waste in NW Portland to be recycled since they started the program years ago. In short, they take the old paint, mix it, and make new paint. More info at:

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-working/guide-managing-paint-waste>

Recently it was brought to my attention that some local paint retailers will also take your leftover paint. Amazing! I called around and this is what I found: Miller paint has partnered with Metro Paints, and their SE Grand Avenue store is a drop-off location as well as a retailer of the Metro Paints brand. Here are the guidelines provided to me by Miller Paint:

- 20 gallon limit per day
- Paint must have an original label identifying contents
- Can needs a lid and must not be leaking

## Miller Paint

317 SE Grand 97214 (this location only)  
503.233.4491

Sherwin Williams also offers drop-off for unused paint at their N. Broadway store, and they've partnered with a national company, Paint Care, to collect and recycle it. Although Paint Care does not process the paint locally and does transport the paint to production facilities, this is another great option to rid your life of all those unused paint cans. Guidelines provided to me by Sherwin Williams:

- No limit, but once paint dumpster fills, they can't receive any more (Hint: dumpster is emptied every Monday!)
- Paint must have original label
- Can needs a lid and must not leak

## Sherwin Williams

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503.288.6477

## FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS, BATTERIES, ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES

Batteries and fluorescent light bulbs are small and are often tossed in the trash. However, some of these items can have negative effects on our environment, and should be handled appropriately. All batteries can be recycled - and in my opinion should be - however, regular single-use batteries are made with common metals and are deemed non-hazardous by our federal government. (Interesting note: In California, ALL batteries must be recycled).

We are fortunate to have a local resource to recycle batteries, fluorescent bulbs, appliances and electronics within a few short miles of our neighborhood. Total Reclaim, located near NE Columbia Boulevard, is a great resource and they also offer pick-up services for larger items. There is a fee associated with recycling these items, but the way I see it, we'll pay one way or the other.

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# Picture Windows: Fixes and Fixers *by Gail Jeidy*



Ron and I ran into our neighbor the other Saturday at a nearby coffee shop. We weren't scurrying off to various weekday responsibilities so it was a rare moment to connect. We pulled up chairs and touched on the latest problems of the day, but drilled down quickly to lesser concerns - disruptive just the same - as in what broke or malfunctioned that week in our respective households and how can there be so much stuff to fix?

I also shared my Ron origin story. Some 25 years ago, we'd reconnected at a high school reunion (our 20th) 2,000 miles away and afterwards, me back in Alameda, we talked on the phone daily. I told him how my wooden toilet seat was split down the middle and the bolts were so corroded I couldn't remove it (a true pain in the behind!). Ron came for his first visit soon after that call. As he walked in the door, the late afternoon September sun was low on the horizon, streaming golden rays through my picture window. His eyes sparked with singular focus as he laid down his suitcase on the first chair he found, unzipped it (something like the melody from "Shaft" plays here) and pulled out a sleek tool kit. He then made his way into my bathroom and with confident, experienced hands, removed the broken seat and replaced it with the new one I had at the ready.

I was smitten. In the months that followed, he put up my pencil sharpener (the one I'd been struggling to screw into hardwood for weeks), installed a garbage disposal to help with my perpetually clogged sink, set my sliding closet door back on its rollers and shored up a myriad of other small "perimeter issues." Since then, he's fixed everything everyone in our household has broken — as well as all the stuff that breaks on its own. Case in point, one of my most liked Facebook posts ever was a photo of a dozen pairs of reading glasses Ron made new again from a Ziplock bag of odd parts (his idea to start gathering the broken pairs in one place). Facebook posters begged for his services but I've refused to share.

Ron has, as my neighbor pointed out, "skills." This past month, he replaced a wax ring on a toilet, adjusted a garage door opener, futzed with the adjustment on our outdoor motion lights, and replaced a broken hose on that thing I call a squirter on our kitchen sink. Truth be known, he has what all great fixers have — patience and an engineering-like aptitude for figuring out puzzles.

I am lucky. A person like me cannot underestimate how helpful it is to have a handy Ron — or Rhonda for that matter — in the household. I wield rakes, brushes, putty knives, scissors, and a needle and thread, but I don't do tools beyond a hammer. That was the first lesson I learned



RON...HE CAN FIX IT!

from Ron - get the proper tools. You need: a cordless drill with an assortment of bits (skinny to wide flathead and Phillips screwdriver ends) a pair of vice grips, a crescent wrench, and channel locks which are a giant pair of pliers for water issues, which, when they occur, are a big problem.) Lesson two: know the location of your water shut-off valve.

It's also helpful to know who to ask for advice and where to get help. If what's broken is under warranty, due diligence means you make the calls (generally multiple) to get what you deserve (always keep your receipts). For other fixes and potential fixers, check with your neighbors or post a query on a site like Nextdoor Alameda. You can also start with some of these local resources — there are many more, but here are a few of my favorites:

**Local hardware stores** - for miscellany, like the broken float assembly in our toilet tank. Stores like **Beaumont Hardware** (NE Fremont), **W. C. Winks** (SE Stark St.) and **Hankins** (SE Hawthorne or NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.) have parts and information. Tap the experienced folks for how-to tips — or referrals if you're not about to try it yourself. Take a photo or take the part.

**Woodcrafters** on NE 6th Ave. for anything to do with wood — refinishing, fixing chips and splinters, and matching color for picture frames, cabinetry or floors.

**Batteries Plus Bulbs** on NE Broadway for every kind of battery, from watch to camera to car. My neighbor reminded me of this resource after I shared how it even took Ron 15 minutes to figure out how to open my aunt's key fob to replace the battery. Batteries Plus will do it for you. (I had a similar challenge opening a shampoo bottle recently, but that's another story...)

Appliance parts and repairs — check out **WL May** on East Burnside.

**A-Boy Plumbing** for plumbing parts and, possibly - fingers crossed - plumber referrals. Take a photo or take the part. (Ron tip: never use Drano in drains. Always use a drain catch screen to stop clogs before they start.)

**Asterix Eyewear** on SE Foster for walk-in eye-glass repair. For simple fixes, such as hinges missing screws or absent nose pads, you can do it yourself with an eyeglass repair kit from Walgreens or Fred Meyer.

**Sunlan Lighting** on N. Mississippi Ave. for lighting or lighting needs. Proprietor Kay is the librarian of lighting.

**Fresh Air Sash Cord Repair** - If you're not ready to get tangled up in this complex repair, Patty Spencer of Fresh Air comes highly recommended. She's a trained engineer, has been in business for 20 years, and specializes in old Portland homes.

**Rebuilding Center** on N. Mississippi Ave. They stock an ever-changing array of re-used doors, windows, fixtures, cabinets and more, the folks are knowledgeable and they maintain a list of rebuilding resources at the front desk.

Paint. Everyone has their favorite. **Miller**, perhaps, or **Benjamin Moore**. Ron's favorite all time product for exterior use, particularly on old wood, is Peel Bond that he gets at **Rodda Paint**. He swears by the product's capacity to adhere to anything and withstand wet winters. To remember the product's name, envision Ron saying it this way: "Name's Bond. Peel Bond."

Tech and computer issues. We brainstormed this arena of high-need with our neighbor at our coffee meet-up to little avail so you're on your own here. What I do is call, "Ron, are you home?"

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## UPCOMING ALAMEDA NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

### MADELEINE SCHOOL

#### New Parent Info Night, Adults Only, Please

Tuesday, February 11 @ 7 p.m.  
[www.themadeleine.edu/school](http://www.themadeleine.edu/school)

#### Open House and School Tours, Parents and Prospective Students

Wednesday, February 12 @ 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
[www.themadeleine.edu/school](http://www.themadeleine.edu/school)

### THE MADELEINE OLD CHURCH

#### Christmas Services

December 24 at 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and Midnight  
 December 25 at 10 a.m.

[www.themadeleine.edu/advent](http://www.themadeleine.edu/advent)

#### Concerts at The Madeleine Old Church by Bravo! Northwest

December 8 at 3 p.m. • February 9 at 3 p.m.  
 March 29 at 3 p.m.

[www.bravoconcerts.com/madeleine-series.html](http://www.bravoconcerts.com/madeleine-series.html)

### ALAMEDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### Connect to Kindergarten, Adults Only, Please

Wednesday, Feb. 5  
 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
<https://www.pps.net/alameda>

#### Annual Alameda Foundation “Roaring 20s!” Auction

Saturday, March 7 @ 5:30 p.m.  
 Melody Ballroom  
<https://alameda.schoolauction.net/alameda2020/>



### ALAMEDA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

#### Pizza and Preparedness

Monday, February 10, 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
 Free, family-friendly pizza dinner and earthquake preparedness presentation.

Fremont United Methodist Church

RSVP to [alamedapdx@gmail.com](mailto:alamedapdx@gmail.com) by February 17

### COLUMBIA SLOUGH WATERSHED

#### Holiday Tree Toss

Saturday January 04, 10:00 a.m.

Recycle holiday trees! Restore salmon habitat!  
 Canoe the Slough!

<https://columbiaslough.org/events/event/533/>

#### Groundwater 101

Saturday January 25, 8:45 a.m.

Join the Portland Water Bureau and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for Groundwater 101 – a FREE educational workshop that teaches groundwater basics including local geology and hydrology.

<https://columbiaslough.org/events/event/71/>

## SWING BY POPINA

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