

Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Winter 2007



Grant Park Church Update

As we reported in our last newsletter, the GPNA Board had voted on November 7th to support granting a conditional use (CU) permit to "legalize educational programs that have been introduced" at Grant Park Church, with the understanding that a Good Neighbor Agreement would result from continued open dialog between the church, PICS (the alternative high school) and concerned neighbors. At the last GPNA General meeting on Tuesday, December 5th, a majority of members present voted to oppose granting the CU permit. An unfortunate incident involving the display of an Airsoft handgun, and requiring a police response, on Monday, November 27th, galvanized the opposition of many neighbors living close to the church.

The CU permit hearing was held on November 22nd, before the Hearing Officer, Ian Simpson. At that time, the public comment period was to be closed on January 18th. But, due to the level of opposition voiced at our December 5th general meeting, it was agreed that the comment period be extended for at least an additional 90 days to allow time for dialog between neighbors, the church and PICS. The extension was granted and April 18th is now set as the deadline for submission of any arguments or evidence.

At the December 5th GPNA General meeting the GPNA Board was requested to reconsider its support of the CU permit. The consensus was that neighbors did not want to participate in a GPNA recommended mediation process managed by Resolutions Northwest. Instead they opted to organize their own ad hoc "task force" which has now met twice and has scheduled their next meeting for February 8th. One or more GPNA Board members have been in attendance as observers to assist in keeping the Board informed of progress.

During discussion of this subject at the January 2nd GPNA Board meeting those neighbors in attendance felt that Board reconsideration of its earlier vote was premature considering both the ongoing dialog by the "task force" and the extension of the deadline for comments to the Hearing Officer. Updated information will be available at our next General meeting.

www.grantpark-na.org

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Next General Meeting
February 13, 2007
Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Grant Park Church
2728 N.E. 34th Ave.
(at Knott)

AGENDA

Committee Reports

(GPN) Grant Park Neighborhood

- Vote on bylaw changes
- Youth Gangs in GPN
- GPN Safety & Livability
- Foot Patrol
- Grant Bowl - Lloyd Lindley
- Neighborhood Cleanup
- GP Church CU permit

Future Meetings

(tentative)

March 27, 2007	(Board)
May 8, 2007	(General)
August 28, 2007	(Board)
October 2, 2007	(General)
October 30, 2007	(Board)

GPNA

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Hollywood Sewer Project Update

Work on the Hollywood Sewer project has been going on for nine months now (since April 2006) and it is now more than 80 percent complete.

By mid-January, crews had completed underground work along Sandy Boulevard, on NE 42nd Avenue, and on all the commercial streets north of Sandy, except for the short block of NE 44th Avenue between Sandy and Tillamook.

Overall, the sewer work is ahead of the project's required completion date of July 2007. If you have questions or concerns about the sewer work, you can contact Bob Cynkar of the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services at 503-823-7898 or robertcy@bes.ci.portland.or.us.

Sewer reconstruction still remains on these blocks:

- NE Hancock Street 43rd to 46th
- NE 43rd from Tillamook to Thompson
- NE 44th from Sandy to Thompson
- NE 45th from Hancock to Sandy
- NE 46th from Hancock to Sandy

Final paving remains to be done throughout the project area in all areas where underground work is complete. Paving will be scheduled as soon as possible, but final paving must be delayed by very cold or very wet weather. Weather delays account for much of the paving backlog.


On NE 38th Avenue from Broadway to Thompson, green street construction will build 13 stormwater planters in the parking strips between the curb and sidewalk. This will remove stormwater from the sewer system and is an alternative to enlarging the sewer pipe under NE 38th.

Kick off the New Year at


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Sandy Streetscape

The Sandy Boulevard Resurfacing & Streetscape (SBR&S) project reached the Hollywood District at the end of December and is now fully underway. SBR&S hopes to improve the pedestrian environment, access to transit, vehicular movements and on-street parking.

SBR&S resulted when the city identified several transportation problems on Sandy, including:

- Pavement damage, especially at bus stops
- Inadequate vehicle and pedestrian separation
- Difficult pedestrian and bicycle crossings
- Poor transit access and inadequate shelters
- Inadequate and confusing vehicle circulation
- Lack of streetscape amenities along Sandy

The schedule provided by the contractor shows work continuing primarily along Sandy between NE 37th and 42nd Avenues with a focus on the north side of the street and Kelley Plaza. The work at Kelley Plaza will start the end of February and take all of March and a good portion of the month of April. A two-week schedule is updated and posted to the project web page. (see below)

Some of the projected changes include:

39th to 40th - North of Sandy, Broadway will be a two-way street, reducing the curb extensions on the south side of Broadway at 39th; eastbound vehicles on Broadway will turn left when they reach 39th; the sidewalk on the NE corner of the Sandy Broadway intersection will be extended to reduce the crossing distance and encourage turning vehicles to slow down; the intersection of Sandy and 39th will be channelized to better facilitate dual left turns.

42nd to 43rd - Vehicles on Sandy will have a left turn lane onto 43rd and the signal will include a left turn phase which will remove some parking spaces on the north; Kelley Plaza will be improved, and will include a landscaped stormwater management area. The sidewalk on the north of Sandy at 43rd will be reconstructed without the existing curb extension to provide for the left turn. The westbound bus stop will move to the east side of 42nd to better facilitate transfers between bus lines 12 and 75.

Details about the SBR&S are online at:
<http://www.portlandonline.com/transportation/>

Youth Gangs Program Fundraiser

Portland Trail Blazers and Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods will hold a fundraising event for the Youth Gangs Program. Please, show your support for the program and commitment to a safer community.

Geared primarily as an event for our local business community and open to everyone, the Trail Blazers and NECN will hold a fundraising dinner on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at the Rose Quarter facilities followed by level 100 seating (floor level) for the game with the Sacramento Kings.

The price is \$99 per person (includes dinner and game ticket.) \$30 from the sale of each ticket will go directly to the Youth Gangs Program, along with all proceeds from the scheduled silent auction.

The Northeast Coalition is excited to unite with the Portland Trail Blazers to create a more positive impact in the community and a role model for our youth. In the effort to develop secured funding for their Youth Gangs Program, the NECN and the Blazers are working together in the spirit of unity which they hope will be a model for future involvement by the local business community.

The Youth Gangs Program, started in 1988 by NECN, has had its share of funding "ups and downs." The program has had as many as eight, but is now down to one and a half outreach workers. The push now is to have the "buy-in" of the private sector to try and build a broader base of funding and support.

Tickets can be purchased directly through the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods or from the Portland Trail Blazers. For more information you can contact the NECN at 503.823.4575, email: grantparkna@yahoo.com; or call Michael Kinney 503.282.2883 or Ron Laster 503.287.9566.

Do Gangs Affect Grant Park?

We have invited John Canda, Director of the City's Office of Youth Violence Prevention, to speak to our members at the February 13th General Meeting. He will speak about why we in the Grant Park neighborhood should be concerned about gang activity and what we can do about it. He will also answer questions.

Relay For Life

You're invited to the 2007 Cancer Society "Relay For Life Of NE Portland" Kick Off & Team Registration Rally. Learn how you can be a part of Relay for Life. Bring friends, co-workers, or family members (kids are welcome!) and help us kick-off our 2007 event with a bang!

The Rally will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Portland Airport, 7900 NE 82nd Avenue. Join us for fun, free appetizers, non-alcoholic drinks, door prizes, and much more! For directions, call 503-460-3000

The Relay for Life of NE Portland will be held at the track of the Portland Christian School on July 28th through July 29th, 2007.

Relay For Life offers everyone in the community an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Teams camp overnight at the track and take turns walking or running. Money raised goes to research and programs to help prevent cancer, save lives and diminish suffering from the disease.

For more information, call Heather Sayah at the American Cancer Society: 503-795-3971.

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Join the Newsletter Team

Ever wonder how this quarterly newsletter lands on your front porch and your neighbor's porches? There is complex coordination and effort behind it.

It starts with the GPNA Board or neighbors coming up with topics. Articles are then written, edited, proofread, and the newsletter is created and given to our printer. Two thousand (2,000) newsletters are printed and delivered to Hal Hay, our volunteer delivery coordinator. Newsletters are counted out into our current 43 newsletter routes with an average of 40 homes/businesses per route. Once the newsletters are counted and bagged in plastic, they are dropped off at each of the 43 volunteer delivery persons homes. Each delivery person then walks a few blocks, putting one newsletter on each porch. And that is how it all happens!

We could use some help with counting and bagging, dropping packets at homes or with the newsletter delivery itself. Newsletter delivery gives you a chance to get some exercise, say "hi" to neighbors and give back to your community.

If you are able to help, please call Hal Hay at 503-287-8647.

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Guitar Lessons

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Citizens Helping Citizens in Crisis

Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) is a national voluntary nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that those who are emotionally traumatized in emergency situations receive the assistance they need and is made possible through partnerships with participating fire and emergency service providers.

Become a TIP Volunteer

Trauma Intervention Programs Portland/Vancouver, Inc. (TIP) is looking for caring people willing to be part of a team of citizen volunteers trained to provide emotional and practical support for victims of traumatic events.

For the last 14 years, Emergency responders regularly call these modern-day "Good Samaritans" onto emergency scenes to:

- Provide emotional / practical support to those impacted by crime
- Comfort families after a death or sudden illness
- Help disoriented older persons
- Support survivors of a suicide
- Help emotionally traumatized victims of accidents
- Help those emotionally shaken by any crisis

Right now, TIP is in the process of recruiting adult and teen volunteers to work in the Portland, Vancouver, Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. They are looking for citizens willing to be trained as crisis responders. This training is held once a year. All classes are held at the Portland Fire Bureau Training Center 4800 NE 122nd Ave., Portland, OR 97230

No Prior Experience is Necessary

Volunteers will be trained to provide immediate emotional and practical support to survivors and their families immediately after a crisis situation.

Training starts February 1st, 2007 and preregistration is required. For complete training dates, registration forms, or additional information, please visit the TIP website at: www.tipnational.org.

Read about the training and the TIP Program at: www.portlandonline.com/shared/. For questions, contact June Vining at jvining@fire.ci.portland.or.us or call 503-823-3937.

Rats!

Rats can be a problem any time of year if the conditions are right, but during cold weather, like the rest of us, they head for warmth.

What attracts rats?

- Dog and cat food left outdoors
- Bird and squirrel feeders
- Pet droppings
- Fallen nuts and fruits
- Improperly stored garbage
- Food items in compost piles and bins
- A place to live near food – rubbish piles, wood piles, yard debris, overgrown vegetation, space under decks or hot tubs, etc.

Can rats enter through a sewer pipe?

Yes, rats can enter a home through the toilet or open drains. You should: make sure floor drains are capped with secure drain covers; keep sink rinsed and as clean as possible; limit use of garbage disposal; avoid dumping grease or fat down the drain; keep toilet lid closed when not in use. You should clean out your sewer line once or twice a month by pouring one cup baking soda and one cup vinegar followed by boiling water down the drain as an alternative to bleach

What if you find a rat or rat droppings?

If you find a rat or rat dropping, use great caution. Fleas could be present and you should treat the infested area with a flea spray prior to picking up the used traps and dead animal. Triple bag the rat or rat droppings. Clean area with a 10% bleach water solution and wash hands after handling the rat, even if you wore gloves.

County Vector Control does NOT recommend using poisons in the home or around pets; a poisoned rat could wander off into a wall and die. Use snap traps baited with peanut butter, meat or fruit, secured with fishing line or twine. Place traps along walls or where you have seen rats run or droppings. If you do use poisons, they should only be used outdoors in tamper resistant bait stations and should not be used if there are available entry points into your home.

For more information contact Vector and Nuisance Control at 503-988-3464 or visit their website: www.co.multnomah.or.us/health/vector/rats.htm.



St Patrick's Day Parade

On March 10th, starting at 11 am the 16th annual St. Patrick's day Parade will travel from Fernwood Middle School, down Hancock Street to NE 16th and then back up Tillamook Street to the school. Come, watch, cheer, or even join the parade. This is a fun, free-form neighborhood event and open to all.

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Hollywood Senior Center

The Hollywood Senior Center is looking for reliable, friendly volunteers for their thrift store.. The thrift store is currently open week days 10 am to 4 pm but may soon need to close Fridays and Wednesday afternoons due to a lack of volunteers.

If you can give at least a half day a week, on a specific schedule this is your chance to check out the incoming merchandise, make lots of great friends, and get hooked into all the different activities available at the Hollywood Senior Center.

If you are interested, call Rosalie at 503-234-6265.

NECC

The Northeast Community Center (NECC) is much more than a health club. It is a not-for-profit organization where people of all ages can come together for friendship, family activities, and fun.

Whether you're looking for a high-energy aerobics class, a place to swim laps, lessons for your kids, basketball games, or just some stretching activity, the NECC offers it and more.

Starting in January the NECC will have expanded weekend hours. They now be open on Saturdays from 7 am to 7 pm and on Sundays from 11 am to 6 pm. We have also added a new water fitness class on Saturdays at 5:00 pm.

Stop by any day of the week. Take a tour, meet the staff, and see how you fit in at the NECC! 1630 NE 38th Ave, Portland, Oregon 97232; 503-284-3377. <http://www.necommunitycenter.org/>



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Grant Park Bowl

A revised proposal is being developed for changes to the high school sports facilities in Grant Park. It will be presented at our next GPNA meeting, Tuesday, February 13th, by Lloyd Lindley.

As soon as it becomes available, we intend to make the proposal document available for public view on our website at grantpark-na.org, and we will jointly host an Open House for a public presentation of whatever proposal is finally selected. The Open House will provide another opportunity for questions and comments.

The Grant Park Bowl Committee, chaired by Liz Beeghly, will thoroughly review whatever proposal that is submitted and report back to the Board with their recommendation.

Albina Development

The project is progressing and is much closer to the kind of project that involved neighbors originally envisioned, although the design commission is still not ready to approve it.

Still at issue are the quality and long term durability of materials specified for the development, the fact that the project still "feels" like a single building from Broadway, some of the finishing details, and the eastern end of the Broadway building at NE 33rd. A private company has also been engaged to produce a comprehensive, integrated signage package for the entire project.

To accommodate the work that needs to be done, the next hearing has been pushed back from Jan. 18th to February 1st.



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Abandoned Cars

In 2005, the Grant Park Neighborhood had 96 reported cases of abandoned autos, all were investigated, but only 8 were eventually towed. The goal of the City's Abandoned Autos program is voluntary compliance rather than enforcement. Towing is the last step of the process, not the first.

An abandoned auto is one that remains in the public rights-of-way for more than 24 hours and meets one or more of the following conditions:

- The vehicle does not have a lawfully affixed, unexpired registration plate.
- It appears to be inoperative or disabled.
- It appears to be wrecked, dismantled or junked.

What can you do about possible abandoned autos?

Report them. Most reports are made by citizens. Anyone can report an abandoned auto by calling the City of Portland's 24-hour hotline at 503-823-7309. You will need to provide: your name; the vehicle location; the make/color/body style; the license plate number and state; any other information about it.

The program handles only abandoned vehicles or vehicles that are prohibited from parking in the public right of way, like trailers, boats, busses and RVs. It does not apply to vehicles on private property. These are nuisances. To report a nuisance vehicle, call the Neighborhood Nuisance Line at 503-823-7306.

When a vehicle is found to be abandoned or in violation, a tow warning notice is placed on it, so that the vehicle owner can correct the violation. Vehicles remaining in violation after being warned can be towed and impounded by City order. If the vehicle poses an immediate threat to public health and/or safety, a 24-hour warning tag may be placed on it and the vehicle removed at the end of that time. Notification of the tow with the right to request a hearing will then be mailed to the registered owner.

Due to the high volume of reports, the goal is to look at a vehicle within a week of receiving a report, depending on workload.

Remember, the streets and sidewalks in front of your hours are public space and should not be used for permanent parking or storage.

Next Town Hall

Representative Jackie Dingfelder's first Town Hall of the 2007 Session is scheduled for Saturday, February 3rd, from 10:00-12:00 at the Hollywood Senior Center.

Representative Ben Cannon will also be there to hear your questions and comments about state government issues. This is a general forum. The representatives are interested in learning what issues are most important to our neighbors in Southeast and Northeast Portland.

The Town Hall is free and everyone is welcome. Please mark it on your calendar.

Hollywood-Fernwood

Come see the new Hollywood-Fernwood Transition Website, where you can find the latest information on the school's transition to a K-8 campus at Grant Park. Please bookmark and revisit frequently for news, contact information, surveys, calendars, and more. Created in the spirit of community involvement and transparency, this site is maintained by volunteers at www.hollywood-fernwood.org/.

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Yard Debris vs. Garbage and Building Materials vs. Trash

The biggest confusion people have had in the past two years, when coming to the neighborhood clean-up is what qualifies as yard debris and when is yard debris actually trash; and what building materials can be reused or recycled rather than thrown away?

Basically, the rules are similar to the rules for your curbside yard debris: no stumps; metal, plastic, branches more than 4" thick, rocks, animal waste, garbage, dirt, or sod. You can include unpainted and untreated wood like garden stakes and trellises, but not plywood or particle board.

Recyclable building materials should be basically sound and free of major defects, Lumber and wood trim should be at least four feet in length and free of nails and hardware

With these rules in mind, you can also save yourself a lot of trouble and effort by separating or grouping your materials as you load your vehicle, rather than after you arrive at the clean-up.

What Would You Like Us to Have?

Our last two neighborhood clean ups in 2005 and 2006 were so well received that we decided to do it again in 2007, and you can help us plan the event.

There will be separate drop boxes for general bulky waste and yard debris as there has been in the past.

We hope that other vendors will be available to recycle or reuse unwanted items including scrap metal, building materials and supplies, household items, computer processors, TVs and phones.

We cannot accept hazardous waste, which includes paint, pesticides, fertilizer, disinfectants, batteries, motor oil, medical waste, etc. We also cannot accept tires or refrigerators.

But we want to know from you: what else would you like to see at the clean-up? How can we make it a better event for the entire neighborhood? Let us know what you think. E-mail your suggestions to us at: grantparkna@yahoo.com or call Michael Kinney at: 503-282-2883.

Grant Park Neighborhood Association Drive-thru Spring Clean-up 2007

Volunteers Needed!

We are aiming for the Saturday of Earth Day weekend, April 21, 2007

You provide muscles & brains, we will provide coffee & muffins.

For three hours of your time, you get to help clean up your neighborhood, meet many of your neighbors, and check out all the great stuff people throw away. We can also use volunteer planners and organizers, if that's where your strengths are.

For information or to volunteer,
please contact us at grantparkna@yahoo.com