



Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Fall 2011

Changes in the Leaf Removal 2011 Program

One of the joys of living in Portland is our urban trees -- especially in the next few months, when they're ablaze with fall color.

But with autumn trees come fallen leaves that must be removed. Not only are they a slippery safety hazard to pedestrians, bikes, and even cars, they clog sewer drains and degrade asphalt, both of which take money to fix, and are another kind of hazard.

Enter "Leaf Day," the Bureau of Transportation's leaf removal and recycling service for the City's most tree-lined neighborhoods. This year's program represents a significant upgrade, offering a lot more value for the fee. For example, sweeper crews will now take any tree leaves, not just those from trees in your parking strip. Just rake them into the street the day before the crews come by. Neighborhoods with a larger volume of leaves will get two Leaf Days, spaced about 3 weeks apart.

The website at www.portlandonline.com/leafday is active now and will be updated as information becomes available. If you visit the site and enter your address in the Leaf Zone Locator you can see if you are in your neighborhood's "Leaf Service Zone." The website will also help you find Leaf Day service dates for your address, the fee and offers easy online payment. Or if you'd like to manage the street leaves yourself, or do not have trees, there is a streamlined opt-out process.

Some of the Improvement Highlights for 2001

- Earlier and better public notification through public mailers, neighborhood meetings, Twitter leaf pickup announcements, and more.
- A new and simple naming convention for the leaf removal service zones.
- Adjusted boundaries of the leaf removal service zones to provide the service where it's most needed.
- An online mapping tool to help you identify your zone and pickup dates.
- The city will sweep leaves that fall in your yard if you pile them in the street on leaf pickup day. LEAVES ONLY, not other yard debris.
- The leaf fees stays the same, and eligible customers may opt out.
- A simplified opt-out program and application process.
- Online opt-out application, as well as mail, fax, e-mail, and in-person.
- Opt-out submission deadline in October before leaf pickup begins.
- If you opt out, you may not rake your yard leaves into the street for pickup.

One important get ready tip?

Be sure to move your car and any other obstacles off the street on your Leaf Days. The sweeper machines can't fit between and behind cars, and you'll get a better leaf clean-up if they can get right to the curb.

www.grantpark-na.org

IN THIS ISSUE

Community Garden
Leaf Removal
Storm Drains
Fruit Tree Project
Six Ways to Be Safer
and more ...

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

October 4, 2011
Tuesday, 7:00 pm
Grant Park Church
2728 NE 34th Ave
(at Knott)

Grant Park Neighborhood Association is open to ALL persons living within its boundaries. We invite our neighbors to involve themselves in neighborhood affairs. If something prevents you from participating, please contact a Board member.

AGENDA

Scheduled:

Reading of the Bylaws
Our Donation Guidelines
Grant HS Community Garden
Leaf Removal
PDX Experimental Preschool

FUTURE MEETINGS

(tentative)

October 4, 2011 (General)
November 8, 2011 (Board)
December 6, 2011 (General)
February 7, 2012 (Board)
March 8, 2012 (General)
April 10, 2012 (Board)
May 8, 2012 (General)

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Learning & Community Gardens at Grant

Do you dream of a gardening experience that exceeds the limitations of Portland's 50 by 100 foot property lines? If so, you will be excited to hear that environmentally-driven Grant High School students are working to establish both learning and community gardens in the northeast-most corner of the school's 10-acre campus.

The need for such gardens has never been higher in the Grant neighborhood. Interest in sustainable living continues to grow, but there is currently no community garden within a 1.6 mile radius of the Grant campus. And with 22% of Grant students being eligible for the federal Free or Reduced Lunch Program, affordable meal options have become all the more critical. Thus, students from the school's Environmental Club are seeking to create two related, interdependent gardens.

The proposed Grant Community Garden, would be capable of supporting upwards of 30 plots of various sizes, and is a joint venture by Portland Public Schools (PPS) and Portland Community Gardens, which will both oversee the garden to ensure its success. Garden amenities will include wheel chair and water access, a tool shed that will store various communal tools, and a relaxing, shaded bench.

The Grant Learning Garden is an L-shaped region that lies between the school's northern wing and the proposed Community Garden. With the oversight of PPS administrators and advisers, students of Grant's new "Intro to Sustainable Agriculture" course and Special Education Department will maintain approximately 1400 square feet of local, nutritious, and sustainable produce that will serve as an invaluable alternative to current school meal options.

Throughout its 87-year history, Grant's successes have stood as a testament to the support and involvement of its faculty, parents, neighbors, and friends. The ultimate hope, say students seeking the gardens, is for the Grant Community and Learning Gardens to serve as a bridge between Grant and its greater community for many years to come.

Students and faculty alike recognize that there is still much to be done. At this time, support from the Grant community – whether time, materials, expertise, or even a single dollar – is the lifeblood of the Grant Gardens Project.

To discover all of the ways that you can help, please visit "www.ghscommunitygarden.wordpress.com and click on "Get Involved".

Starting at 2 o'clock on October 1st, Grant students will host "Nurture Your Neighborhood: An Afternoon in Support of the Grant Gardens Project". In addition to knowledgeable and involved speakers, attendees will enjoy free food, music, and more.

Make sure to stay tuned for more information on the ongoing effort to establish community and learning gardens at Grant High School. If the tremendous effort of this small group of students is any indicator, the Grant Gardens Project is just the beginning.



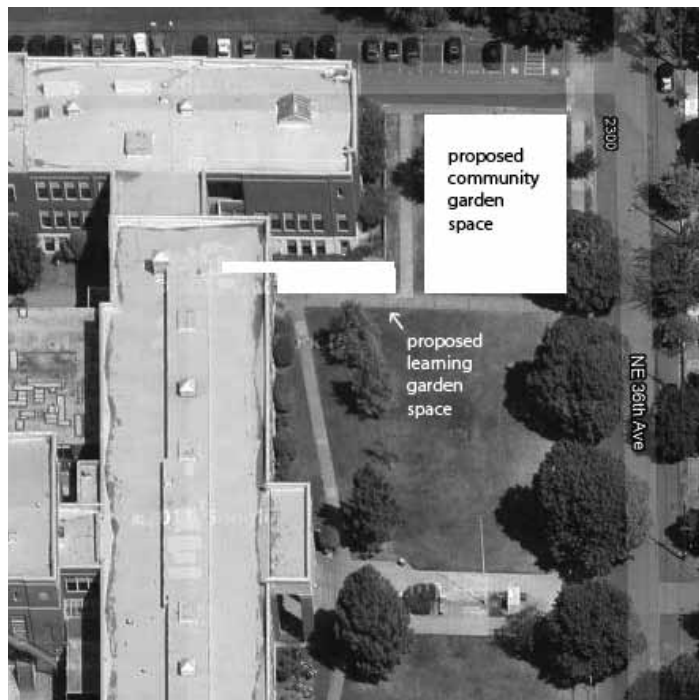
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Keep Storm Drains Clear

Portland receives on average 37 inches of rainfall annually, creating about 20 billion gallons of stormwater runoff. In our neighborhood, it is the catch basins that are prone to blockage, and leaves are the prime culprit in the fall. What are catch basins? They are the grated storm drains that you see in the street, the first step in stormwater collection and disposal.

Given the City's limited budget and staff, PBOT relies heavily on citizens to help keep streets safe and catch basins clean and to notify the City if a higher level of maintenance is needed.

In Case of Street Flooding

- Report a clogged catch basin or stormwater drainage problem at 503-823-1700.
- When you see City crews working, please slow down and drive carefully.
- Watch for pedestrians and bicyclists, who may be in the street to avoid a flooded catch basin.

How You Can Help

- The best time to inspect the catch basin in your neighborhood is before a rain event. Monitor and clean the catch basin in the fall leaf season.
- When you are clearing your sidewalk or driveway, move materials away from gutters or catch basins.
- For leaves that are already in the street, rake them about 12 inches from the curb to allow water to flow without carrying the leaves and other debris.
- If a drain is clogged, use a rake or pitch fork to clear leaves and debris from the grate so that water can drain easily.
- If you cannot clear the basin near your property yourself, notify the City that help is needed. Call 503-823-1700 and report the particular location. Never attempt to remove catch basin grate, only the debris on top of the grate.



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Portland Fruit Tree Project

If you're interested in learning how you can improve the health and productivity of your fruit trees, Portland Fruit Tree Project (PFTP)'s hands-on workshops are fun opportunities to learn basic methods of organic fruit tree care. Workshops are open to anyone, but pre-registration is required.

Cost per class: \$10-25 (sliding scale). Scholarships are available. Tree care workshops are free for tree owners who have fruit trees registered with PFTP.

Fall Tree Care: Pest & Disease ID/Assessment

Saturday October 29th, 10am - 1pm
 NW Portland, near Lost Park, Washington County

This hands-on workshop, focusses on identification of pests & diseases that are affecting fruit trees in the city of Portland during this harvest season. You will learn the basics of pest & disease identification and assessment, and fall tree care methods.

The instructors: Heidi Noordijk is the crew leader at Sauvie Island Organics - a 17acre vegetable farm. Alan Clark is an ISA Certified Arborist, holds a BA in EcologyMycology and a Forestry degree.

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Status of the Albina Fuel site

The five-acre Albina Fuel site at 3246 N.E. Broadway has been cleared of its buildings and will be graded, planted with grass, and fenced off as the developer puts its condominium project on hold. The \$30-plus million project, dubbed "Broadway Place" would have redeveloped the site with more than 300 condominiums, parking, retail and other facilities.

Postal Layoffs & Closures Not Needed

You may have heard the dire predictions: Lay off 20% of postal workers? Close 12% of post offices? Gut postal workers health and pension benefits? Eliminate Saturday delivery? All because, on paper, the US Postal Service lost \$20 billion in the since 2006. But 100% of the loss is due to an unnecessary 2006 Congressional mandate to pre-fund retiree health benefits 75 years in advance within 10 years.

The financial "crisis" facing the Post Office is an accounting problem. The USPS has never received tax money, receives no tax money now, and does not need a taxpayer bailout. It just needs action by Congress (HR 1351) or an Executive Order of the President to transfer postal monies from these overfunded pension and retiree health benefit accounts to operating accounts.

----- edited from a letter by Jamie Partridge
Organizing Chair of the National Association of Letter
Carriers, Branch 82 (Portland)

After some research, and a presentation from local postal workers, at our last meeting, the GPNA Board is drafting a letter of support for HR 1351 to be sent to our national representatives. This letter will be presented for discussion and a vote at the next general meeting, October 4, 2011.

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Local Family Hosts ANDEO Teen

The Burgess family of the Grant Park neighborhood hosted a young teen from the ANDEO program for three weeks this summer. The wanted to show him the experience of a real American family, taking him to sports events, both professional and their own children's activities, and showed him some local sights. They found the experience fun and exciting, and enjoyed the chance to compare cultures.

The Burgesses are still in contact with the young man from Madrid who stayed with them, and hope to host again, if circumstances permit, maybe even having the younger sister of this summer's guest.

ANDEO International Homestays (www.andeo.org), is a Portland-based non-profit organization, looking for great host families to host a teen or college-age student from France, Spain, Germany, Japan, or China for a few weeks. You can learn about another culture, share your own, make a new friend, and create some fun memories together!

The participating students are excited to learn more about American culture, practice their English, and discover the Northwest. Some take classes and enjoy group activities with ANDEO. Others are free to follow the everyday flow of life with your family.

ANDEO matches students and families based on age, gender, nationality, and shared interests. The final choice to host a particular student is always yours! Hosting is free, and ANDEO provides a small stipend to help families cover extra food or utility use.

For more information, or to apply to host, please visit ANDEO's website at www.andeo.org, e-mail Paulene Hedgpeth at paulene@andeo.org, or call 503.274.1776.



NE Portland Tool Library

What is a Tool Library?

Tool libraries are just like traditional libraries, but with tools instead of books. They are great for people who can't/don't want to buy/rent tools they are only going to use once in a while.

The Northeast Portland Tool Library (NEPTL) lends out a wide range of home-repair and gardening tools to Northeast residents and local community groups, free of charge. The collection is constantly growing and, as some are checked out regularly, not all tools are always available.

You can sign up to borrow tools for free from NEPTL if you are 18 or older and live in Northeast Portland west of 82nd Avenue. Just become a member. Members can check out up to seven tools per week during our Wednesday or Saturday hours. Tools are due back by 10:00 a.m. the following Saturday, or else late fees will be charged.

To learn more about how to become a member and about what kind of tools are available, visit the NEPTL web site at: www.neptl.org or stop by during open hours to get an application packet. Bring in the signed forms, show the requested proof of identity and residency, and you're ready to go!

NEPTL is located in the basement at Redeemer Lutheran Church at NE 20th Avenue and Killingsworth Street (entrance is on Killingsworth). NEPTL is open for borrowing on
Saturdays 9am - 2pm and
Wednesdays 5:30pm - 7:30pm.

If you have tools you would like to donate, please contact Tom Thompson at 503-539-1756.



School Schedules for Fall 2011

Remember that schools are now in session, so watch out for kids travelling to and from school.

In our area:

Grant High School | 2245 NE 36th

8am - 3pm

Lunch 11:37am - 12:19pm (open campus)

Beverly Cleary Schools:

Fernwood Site | 1915 NE 33rd

8:30am - 3pm | Lunch (closed campus)

Hollywood Site | 3560 NE Hollywood Ct.

8:30am - 2:45pm | Lunch (closed campus)

Lee Owens Pre-school | 2728 NE 34th Ave

8:45am - 12 noon | Lunch (closed campus)

Study Hall Mondays at YoChoice

Students can do their homework and enjoy a treat at YoChoice Self-Serve Frozen Yogurt at 4941 NE Fremont, Mondays from 5:00 to 9:00pm starting this fall. "We call it Study Hall Mondays," says YoChoice Yogurt owner Andre LaGrande. "We provide free wi-fi and 10% off on yogurt and toppings." For more information: www.yochoiceryogurt.com.



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Friends of Trees in Grant Park

Last year was the first year of the Friends of Trees three-year "Plant It Portland!" campaign. More than 4,500 street and yard trees were planted in Portland, Vancouver, and Beaverton. With the help of 113 volunteers, 212 of those special trees were planted in a single day, March 12, 2010, 55 of them were planted in the Grant Park neighborhood.

Friends of Trees' mission is to bring people in the Portland-Vancouver metro area together to plant and care for city trees and green spaces. Through their Neighborhood Trees program, homeowners buy discounted trees to plant with their neighbors at weekend plantings. Through our Green Space Initiative, trained crew leaders guide volunteers at weekend events to restore public natural areas and green spaces between freeways and neighborhoods.

Friends of Trees is a member of the Coalition for a Livable Future, Alliance for Community Trees, Oregon Community Trees, and EarthShare Oregon. We meet all 20 BBB Charity Standards.

The next Tree Planting in Grant Park Sat, March 10, 2012, 9am – 1pm

The deadline for ordering trees is February 20, 2012 and the deadline for signing up is February 6, 2012.

To find out more at: www.friendsoftrees.org. You can even determine the value of planting trees with the tree benefits calculator.

EcoChallenge 2011

The EcoChallenge is an opportunity to change your life for good. For two weeks in October, we challenge you to change one habit. This is a NW Earth Institute event that demonstrates the collective impact that many people making sustainable changes can have. You choose your challenge, we connect you with other EcoChallengers, and collectively we prove that small actions can create real change.

The 2011 EcoChallenge takes place October 1-15. Registration is now open. Register today and change your life. You may also win fun prizes in the process!

To register, or for more information go to:
www.ecochallenge.org/

Six Actions You Can Take to Prevent Violence in Our Neighborhood

Mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters

There are currently over 2,000 kids on a waiting list looking for mentorship. Mentors can volunteer anywhere from 30 minutes-1 hour per week for a year. Mentoring options range from having lunch with a child once a week to going together to Timbers, Trailblazers and Winterhawks games.

www.bbbsnorthwest.org/volunteer_programs

Walk with Connected

(or start your own foot patrol)

Connected is a group of community members determined to be a presence and positive role model in the lives of youth. This group meets weekly to walk through and around acknowledged 'hot spots,' acknowledging and engaging with young and old alike as they go about their business.

Connected invites volunteers join them on walks and organize their own groups of walkers. For more information, contact Gary Marschke at 503-412-8520 or look for Connected on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Connected.

Foot patrols send the message: 'This neighborhood cares.' Those who want to volunteer and need help setting up a foot patrol can also call the office of Youth Violence Prevention at 503-823-4180.

Attend Gang Violence Task Force Meetings

The Gang Violence Task Force is a group of committed partners who have come together to develop solutions, interventions and prevention strategies to reduce gang - related violence and crime in Multnomah County. The progress and achievements of this Task Force will be a result of our collaborative strategies, responsiveness to community priorities and our focus on the reduction of crime and the fear of crime. Join in on these meetings to learn about the city-wide effort to reduce gang violence.

When:

Fridays at 10 am. To be added to the e-mail list, and to know when meetings are coming up, you can e-mail Rob Ingram, at the office of Youth Violence Prevention at rob.ingram@portlandoregon.gov.

Where:

Portland Police North Precinct, 449 N.E. Emerson

www.grantpark-na.org

Enroll in the Community Educator Program

The Office of Youth Violence Prevention is developing a two-part training for community members that will include in-depth information about gangs. Trained volunteers will then educate their neighbors.

For more information on enrolling, contact Rob Ingram, at rob.ingram@portlandoregon.gov or 503-823-3584.

Seek solutions with Restore the Village

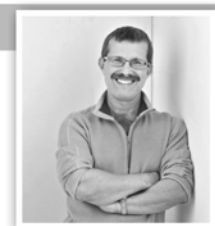
Restore the Village is a rolling series of community forums across Multnomah County where concerned citizens, neighbors, parents and young people can come together to openly discuss their reactions to violence in their community and work together to find solutions. Individuals and neighborhoods working together can have an impact on community safety.

For information about upcoming meetings, please contact Sam Thompson at 971-340-6339 or Kate Desmond at 503-988-4999.

Partner with the Restorative Justice in Schools Program

The Restorative Justice in Schools program is a preventative measure currently underway in Portland Schools. This program is designed to keep youth in school and engaged in the community (as well as engage the community with youth) through dialogue and meaningful accountability where there has been a crime or harm. Northeast schools working with this program include King, Beverly Cleary, Rigler, Grant, POIC, David Douglas and Parkrose.

To volunteer or get involved: contact Maria Scanelli, maria@resolutionsnorthwest.org or Tobin Krell, tobin@resolutionsnorthwest.org.



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Changes at Grant Park Church

Greetings Church Neighbors,

Four years ago the church entered into a Good Neighbor Agreement when Portland International Community School (PICS) was using the building. PICS has left the building in May and we have been working with the city to change the occupancy rating of the building since that time.

This summer fire sprinklers and an alarm system were installed. To see more about permitted work in the building, you can go to: www.portlandmaps.com. When there, type in the church address "2728 NE 34th", click on "miscellaneous" and then "building permits/cases" to see what we are doing to comply with the City regulations.

We are working with Portland Experiential Education Preschool to bring them into the building. You can learn more about them at: pdxedschool.org.

We will continue to have Lee Owen Stone Preschool and two other churches worshipping with us, Hope Presbyterian and Impact: Life Change Community.

You also may have noticed the solar trucks here this summer. We now are creating some of our own energy with 42 panels on the roof. You can see pictures at www.grantparkchurch.com. Click on the going green in the building link.

We are grateful to be in the neighborhood with you and wish you the best in the upcoming days.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either Liz Alexander, our Grant Park Neighborhood representative at junebug@iinet.com or me, or you can attend the GPNA meeting on October 4th, 7 pm, at Grant Park Church.

If there is any other manner we can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to give us a call at the church.

Sincerely,
Gregg A. Sneller
Grant Park Church
2728 NE 34th Ave • Portland, OR 97212
971-207-9263 or church office 503-282-5596

Our United Villages

Do you have an idea to build community, create a more vibrant neighborhood, or a project that will benefit the community as a whole?

Community Outreach of Our United Villages offers free consultation and brainstorming to individuals and groups working to make a positive difference in their community or neighborhood.

During a one-hour session they listen, brainstorm, strategize, and give feedback to build capacity for people to turn their ideas into action. They may link you to other people or groups working on similar projects, or identify community resources that will help bring your idea to fruition.

Following the consultation, Community Outreach will give away the tools and strategies relevant and/or useful to the idea or project. Individuals, volunteer groups or non-profits with new or existing projects and ideas are eligible.

To learn more go to: www.ouvcommunityoutreach.org. Find out if you are eligible and request a consultation online. You can also call or e-mail us at 503.546.7499 or outreach@ourunitedvillages.org.



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