

Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Summer 2014

Another Successful Cleanup!

On May 17th Grant Park Neighborhood Association held our 2014 annual Cleanup event. The weather held off and we were able to service over 160 vehicles and a few walk and bike up people.

All told we took in five full dumpsters of trash totalling 10.3 tons; one full dumpster of wood waste totalling 2.5 tons; 1.2 tons of e-waste (993 pounds of Televisions; 87 pounds of Computer CPUs; 183 pounds of monitors; and 1,218 net pounds of mixed e-waste.)

This year we were also able to take in styrofoam, for a total of 140 net pounds and 475.2 cubic feet; and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and fluorescent tubes totalling 41 pounds.

We don't have totals for the batteries, donatables, metals, and reusable building materials, but they were significant. And for the first time this year our swap area did a thriving business, thanks to Sue Wiff, a volunteer Master Recycler, who was able to help people sort and display the materials they were offering and/or looking for. Which is not counting those enterprising people (both volunteers and visitors) who snagged something they wanted before it made it into a dumpster or other area.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers as well as: Ken, Brian, Gregg, Lamone and Ernesto, Don, John and Christian, Sue, Rachel, Earnest, Merryl, Laurene, Donna, Dave, Armand, the crew from Total Reclaim, the guys from Heiberg Garbage and Recycling and all the other volunteers whose names we didn't write down. You made this happen and we appreciate you so much! Thanks also to Starbucks, for the coffee and pastries and especially to Grant Park Baptist Church, for the loan of their parking lot. And special thanks to the event organizers, Jane Comeault, MaryCal Hanson and Kate Davenport.



Our Greeters welcome cars and direct them (For more pictures check out our back page)

www.grantpark-na.org

STAY IN TOUCH

Find us at Facebook:
[GrantParkNeighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/GrantParkNeighborhood);
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Join our discussion group
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forum/#!forum/gpna-forum](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/gpna-forum)

GPNA MEETINGS

The Board of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association has voted to adjust the meeting schedule for the association.

Future board meetings will be quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month. General meetings will be held twice a year, in April and October. Special meetings, when needed, may be scheduled at any time.

Grant Park Neighborhood Association is open to ALL persons living or working within its boundaries. If something prevents you from participating, please contact a Board member and we'll make accommodations.

NEXT MEETING & AGENDA

The meeting schedule for the remainder of 2014 has not yet been set and will be posted on our web site. To see the schedule or the agenda for our next meeting, or to suggest an agenda topic, Please go to our web site at: grantpark-na.org/thehood/meetings.html

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Homeless Camp at Grant Park Village

There have been growing neighborhood concerns about a homeless encampment on the south end of the Grant Park Village construction site.

The area in question is in the far southwest corner and is not owned by Capstone Partners, the developer of Grant Park Village, although they do have an option to buy it in the future.

The Arntson family, which still owns the property, has long been aware of the use of the property by homeless people. They have fenced the property and installed locking gates, but the fence was repeatedly cut to allow trespassing. So far, because the family does not have a daily presence on the site any more, there has been no practical way they could find to prevent this use.

The following steps have been taken to address the current issue taken:

- Walsh Construction, the Grant Park Village General Contractor, talked to Sgt. Pat Kelly at the Portland Police to make sure he was aware of recent complaints. Sgt. Kelly recommended that if any further incidents occur, the affected party should call either 911, the general police # 503-823-3333, or Sgt. Kelly directly at 503-793-7870 ext. 0.
- Given the recent complaints, Sgt. Kelly indicated that the police will make additional evening and night time surveillance runs of the area.
- A two-day notice was provided to trespassers on May 12th asking that they remove their personal belongings and vacate the site. The site was cleared on May 14th.
- The Arntson family has a Trespassing Agreement on file for the property. They will recommence enforcement now that the site has been cleared of personal belongings.
- The Walsh team on site is aware of this plan and will also be taking extra precautions.

All parties recognize that they will need to stay on top of this issue until construction is underway on future phases.

Grant Park Off Leash Area Update

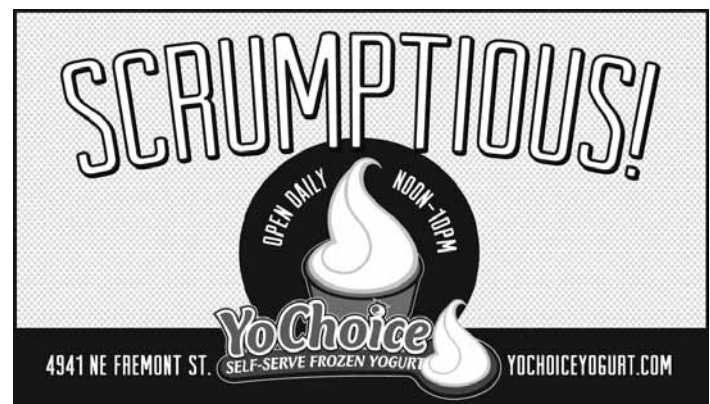
GPNA continues to devote considerable time and energy to finding an acceptable solution to issues pertaining to off leash dogs at Grant Park.

Portland Parks and Recreation (PPR) officials recently approved the first part of a project proposal that was submitted by GPNA, as well as one submitted by a neighbor, to create permanently located, fenced, off leash dog areas (one for large dogs, another for small ones).

Funding and location issues remain to be resolved, and a community meeting to solicit input from interested citizens should be scheduled in the near future. Those interested in this issue should check the GPNA Facebook page regularly for updates at: www.facebook.com/GrantParkNeighborhood.

Kids and Traffic

The last day of school for students this year is/was June 13. Please remember that with school out, and the weather improving, our children will once more be out and about. Please drive cautiously on neighborhood streets at all times.



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Operation Lower the Boom

Portlanders have a proud tradition of hauling illegal 4th of July fireworks over the Columbia River from Washington, creating a large seasonal border economy. Why care? Because fireworks related injuries and fires usually triple around this holiday.

So Portland Fire & Rescue and Portland Police will be working together again to confiscate and write citations for the possession or use of illegal fireworks. The objective of the operation is to educate the public regarding fireworks laws in Oregon.

Fire inspectors will be partnered with police officers and will be "on patrol" in Portland looking for violators. The dates of the operation are July 2,3, and 4. The exact areas of the city they will be patrolling and number of teams is not being released.

If you, or your children, use illegal fireworks and cause damage to the property of someone else, you can be held liable for the damage, the injuries, and the cost of putting the fire out. These costs can easily run into the tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars. check out the Portland Fire & Rescue website:

Steps to safer use of fireworks include:

- Be prepared before lighting fireworks: keep water available by using a garden hose or bucket of water.
- Use only legal fireworks purchased at a licensed fireworks stand in Oregon.
- Be safe when lighting fireworks: keep children and pets away from fireworks.
- Be responsible after lighting fireworks: never relight a dud. Wait 15 to 20 minutes then soak in a bucket of water before disposal.

For more information on the safe use of fireworks check out the Portland Fire & Rescue website:

www.portlandonline.com/fire/fireworks

Portland Fire & Rescue and the Portland Police want everyone to have a safe Independence Day.



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Don't Forget Your Pets on the 4th

Fourth of July is not a time of celebration for our pets. The fireworks that we enjoy can drive pets, especially dogs, into a panic. Explosions (even miles away), screamers, rocket, flashing lights can all be overwhelming. If your pet is terrified of fireworks, you probably know the signs: cowering, trembling, hiding, and disorientation.

Some dogs become so frightened they will crash through a screen door, jump out of a window or leap a fence, and many simply run.

Every year, Portland animal shelters have their hands full dealing with lost dogs and cats that bolted on July 4. Sadly, some lost pets are never recovered.

So keep your pet inside as much as possible on July 4 (and for a few days before and after if your pet is extremely phobic about fireworks). Make sure your pet has a collar with ID and contact info. A microchip is always a good idea. In extreme cases, check with your veterinarian about tranquilizers.

For more information and tips check out the Portland Fire & Rescue page: www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/article/378379



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Boomers Embrace the Future with Innovation and Community Living

Jim Swenson, a Northeast neighbor.

With a massive wave of retirees, down-sizers and aging folks about to inundate society, the Boomer generation is innovating new ways to embrace the next chapters of our lives. A lot of us in this generation are motivated by the sad experiences of assisting our aging parents – many of whom delayed big decisions far too long which left few good options. We want to do things differently.

Some people want to stay longer in their homes. For those who need help doing so, a number of alternatives are becoming available. Moving the kids in, sharing a home by offering a rental room to a friend, and age-in-place remodels are becoming more and more popular.

The new Villages movement, if it gets traction, could provide paid and volunteer services to assist people remain in their homes. Moving in with the kids to an in-home apartment or “accessory dwelling unit” will work for some. Retirement homes, continuing care communities, memory care units all offer some traditional options.

“Co-housing” is another phenomenon that is really taking off. It differs from the other ideas by concentrating on forming a tight community of caring, sharing friends and then constructing an intentional pocket neighborhood that encourages community interaction. In Portland there are about eight co-housing communities, several of which are just coming on-line. Until now, most have been “multi-generational,” including people of all ages from babies to great grandmas.

PDX Commons is the first adult-oriented co-housing project in Portland. While focused on adults, they are not imposing a minimum age the way some retirement facilities do. Pioneered by a group of Northeast Portland families, they will build an urban style condominium development that, in addition to fully equipped luxury condos, will include extensive common areas for group use: kitchen, dining room, meeting rooms, library, media room, music room, exercise facilities, patios and gardens.

Some of the members are retired, but some continue to work. “We don’t view it as a retirement project,” says Irvington master gardener Susan Fries. “It’s a

caring community where we will spend the next third of our lives. It counters isolation. It ramps up the Fun Factor. We all thrive living in community.”

Location is also very important.

“We want to be where we can walk to essential services, have great transit connections, be near restaurants, stores, and shops – looking toward a time when we can give up a car,” says Beaumont/Wilshire retiree Tom Bard. The group has zeroed in on two possible locations in within minutes of downtown so they can access Portland’s cultural institutions. The plan is to have a community ready to move into in 2016.

Living in community with people who lookout for each other is proving to be an effective innovation by Boomers who want to maximize the quality of their lives as they thrive in the next chapters.

You can find out more about PDX Commons at: www.pdxcommons.com, about co-housing at: www.co-housing.org and about the Villages movement at: www.villagesnw.org. Or find a different solution and tell us at grantpark@necoalition.org.

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Students Win State Championship

"On Saturday, April 12, five Beverly Cleary School sixth graders won the Oregon Battle of the Books ("OBOB") State Championship, 6th through 8th grade division. The team included Eleanor Wardlaw (spokesperson), Nicky Mister, Claire Chasse, Sophie Van Note, and Kamlyn Yosick.

At the state tournament held in Salem, the Beverly Cleary team beat defending champion ACCESS in the quarterfinals, Linus Pauling Middle School of Corvallis in the semi-finals, and Mosier Middle School in the final round. The final competition was filmed by Capital Community Television and will eventually be available on DVD and YouTube.

The team, who called themselves Quadropode and the Bioluminescent Gummi Squid, were quizzed on the details of the 16 books chosen for the 2014 competition. Lynne Smith, mother of Eleanor Wardlaw, was the team's coach."

Pictured from left to right: Lynne Smith- parent coach, Claire Chasse, Nicky Mister, Sophie Van Note, Eleanor Wardlaw and Kamlyn Yosick.

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Solar Options Available

There has been a shift in residential solar in Portland over the past few years as a variety of choices have become available. State and federal tax credits, and Energy Trust of Oregon incentives, can help bring down the initial cost to an affordable level. An innovative Feed-in Tariff Pilot program allows solar owners to recoup their investment.

A growing number of homeowners are also choosing to lease, rather than own. This trend is driven by the increased availability of leasing companies and the often prohibitive up front costs of solar.

If you've ever considered solar in the past, maybe now is the time to reconsider. For more detailed information on all these different options check out the City's page: www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/61100

Solar Oregon, a non-profit organization that provides outreach and education on solar technology and its applications, is also a useful resource. They offer workshops, peer-to-peer support, and information on going solar. Info at: www.solaroregon.org/

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Host an International Student

Why not invite a teen or college student from France, Spain, Germany, Japan, or China to discover what we all know? That the Grant Park Neighborhood is such a great place to live!


Local host families are needed for 3 or 4 weeks for students arriving late-June through September. Hosting is a great way to learn about another culture, share your own, and make some fun summer memories with a new friend!

Families provide three meals per day, a comfortable bed (sharing a room with a host sibling of a similar age and the same gender is fine), and plenty of day-to-day interaction. Some students attend language classes and participate in cultural activities during the work week, while others are free to become immersed in their family's summer routine. ANDEO can help you choose the program that best fits your summer schedule. You can also request to host a student who shares your interest or dedication to a particular sport, musical practice, or hobby

Students bring their own spending money and are covered by comprehensive medical and accident insurance. A small hosting stipend will be provided.

Established in 1981, ANDEO is a Portland-based nonprofit whose mission is to promote cross-cultural understanding and friendship through international homestays and educational programs. ANDEO welcomes more than 1500 international students to the Northwest for short-term homestays each year.

For more information or to apply to host, please visit www.andeo.org. You can contact ANDEO at 503.274.1776 or by email at: info@andeo.org.

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Web Map Helps Find Local Farmers

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) offers a new tool to find 63 local farms that deliver fresh food to over 150 drop-off sites across Portland. A new map on the BPS website details Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm drop-off points in Portland and makes it easy for hungry (and busy) shoppers to locate farmers who deliver fresh, locally grown food to specific neighborhoods. Some farms will even deliver to private addresses.

In a CSA, the community (households that are "shareholders" or "subscribers") provides the financial support for the season's farming by purchasing a share of the harvest or becoming a member of the farm. Once harvesting begins, shareholders typically receive weekly deliveries of seasonal vegetables. Some farms include fruit, eggs, dairy, and meat.

By committing in advance, shareholders also provide a significant benefit to farms by assuming some of the risk and enabling the farmer to cover up-front operating costs. CSA farming is a less wasteful system, as farmers plant according to their customers' demands. And farmers get a fair price for their labor by selling directly to consumers.

"The CSA map is a great new tool for Portland residents to find fresh and healthful food in their own neighborhood while supporting local farmers," said Mayor Charlie Hales.

Almost 4,000 Portland households support a CSA farm. Potential CSA customers should choose their CSA farmer carefully to determine that he/she has the appropriate experience to deliver a diverse array of quality produce throughout the growing season.

Inclusion in this list does not imply City of Portland endorsement of any particular CSA farm.

To find CSA farms: www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/csa.

Find a farmers market at:
www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/farmersmarkets.

Learn about Learn about Portland Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition (PACSAC) at:
www.portlandcsa.org.

For questions about adding a CSA farm to the map, contact food@portlandoregon.gov.

37th Avenue and Broadway Traffic Issues

37th Avenue is a shared boundary street between GPNA and the Hollywood neighborhood, with residents on the west side of the street being part of GPNA and those on the east belonging to Hollywood. On a larger scale, GPNA is one of 12 neighborhoods comprising the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, while Hollywood is one of eight neighborhoods constituting Central Northeast Neighbors. Thus, there are four overlapping shared neighborhood entities having jurisdiction over the street.

This has become important because 37th Avenue currently carries many hundreds of vehicles daily headed for the entrances to I-84 and Cesar Chavez Avenue south, as well as Halsey Street. Some residents on 37th believe that through traffic on their narrow residential street has increased, with adverse safety and livability consequences. They contacted Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) for assistance, which resulted in a proposal to alter traffic flow by requiring a right turn at 37th and Broadway.

GPNA learned of this in late April, when a neighbor expressed concern about the proposed change on the GPNA Facebook page. He and other neighbors

feared such a change would simply transfer existing traffic problems to the surrounding streets instead.

In response, the GPNA Board voted to convene an emergency meeting to discuss the issue. GPNA also sent a letter to PBOT requesting more information and asking for an opportunity for greater public input before any changes would be made.

At the emergency meeting on May 5th, which was attended by residents from both neighborhoods, there was overwhelming support for requesting a delay to allow for further study and public involvement. The GPNA Board voted to send a letter to PBOT reflecting those concerns. In response, the proposed traffic change has been shelved for now, and current funding does not permit a more comprehensive evaluation at this time.

GPNA stands ready to address any traffic issues raised, with a goal of finding a solution that addresses the concerns of all involved parties. Those interested in this issue should join the GPNA Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/GrantParkNeighborhood where updates will be posted.



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FROM THE TOP:

People came with cars, trucks, vans, large and small loads, and even loads tied to the top of their car.

Total Reclaim had an organized and efficient intake process and had all their materials sorted. (awe and envy)

Our Swap area did a thriving business, with some things going out almost as fast as they came in and others lingering a while.



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