

Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Fall 2015



Safe Crossing, Traffic, Speeding, and Parking, Oh My!

The GPNA November meeting will focus on speeding and traffic safety issues in our neighborhood.

Traffic related concerns have predominated issues brought to GPNA during much of 2015. They ranged from speeding on Knott Street, Cesar Chavez Boulevard, 33rd and 37th Avenues, to street crossing safety at multiple locations surrounding Grant Park, Grant High, and Beverly Cleary Fernwood schools. Heavy traffic and overloaded streets were a concern, especially because of the potentially risky behavior that was a frequent result.

Reduced parking space availability on Schuyler and Hancock Streets following completion of Grant Park Village has also become a recent issue and is expected to become more of an issue as development continues around the area. Many residents have also observed a general overall increase in traffic congestion throughout the neighborhood. Combined, these issues impact livability in our neighborhood.

GPNA Board members have repeatedly sought assistance from officials at Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) with little visible impact other than a helpful paint "refreshing" of the crosswalk at Thompson and 33rd.

Several concerned residents have also worked diligently and independently on some of these issues, only to be told that short staffing or more urgent priorities preclude prompt PBOT engagement. GPNA has requested formal traffic studies at a number of locations, as well as installation of a user-activated "flashing beacon" to ensure safer crossing at 33rd and Thompson. Thus far, repeated follow-up inquiries over many months yield only advice that GPNA requests are "still in the queue" of those awaiting PBOT attention.

To provide an opportunity for direct engagement, GPNA plans to devote an upcoming meeting on November 10, 2015, primarily to traffic related issues and to invite a high level PBOT official to participate.

If you are concerned about traffic in Grant Park, please plan to attend the meeting. In the interim, send specific issues, concerns, and suggestions to: GrantPark@necoalition.org

www.grantpark-na.org

STAY IN TOUCH

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

GPNA MEETINGS

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

Regular - November 10, 2015
Board - January 12, 2016
Board - March 8, 2016
Annual - April 12, 2016 (Elections!)
Board - June 14, 2016
Meeting dates may change.
To check the meeting schedule and agenda, or to suggest an agenda topic, please go to: grantpark-na.org/thehood/meetings.html

GPNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Contact the board at:
GrantPark@necoalition.org

School is in Session Again

Remember that our neighborhood schools are now in session, so be careful and watch out for kids.

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)

Hollyrood Site | 3560 NE Hollyrood Ct.
 8:30am - 2:45pm | Lunch (closed campus)

Portland International Community School
 (PICS) | 2728 NE 34th
 9am - 3:30pm | 5-9pm | Lunch (closed campus)

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Progress on the Dog Off-Leash Area

By Ken Peterson

After nearly two years of negotiations with the Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation (Parks), there is good news to report concerning off-leash dogs, their human companions, and other affected Grant Park visitors.

Parks recently approved GPNA's project proposal to create a permanent fenced area for dogs. Although some hurdles remain, Parks will no longer require GPNA to raise funds for both a Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA) in Grant Park, but also for another park elsewhere in Portland.

The next step is a "public engagement" meeting to receive input from interested stakeholders before deciding how best to proceed. That meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2015, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Grant Park Church, 2728 NE 34th Ave (corner of 34th and Knott Street).

Expected to attend and participate from Parks are Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Community Engagement Manager; Sue Glenn, Manager, North/Northeast Zone; and Mike Grosso, Parks Maintenance Supervisor. Parks officials will seek to gauge public interest and support for the project, receive input concerning which of three possible locations is most favored, and determine what amenities are important to park users, such as water access and seating.

Cost estimates of different options may be available to help attendees determine preferences, as it will be necessary to privately raise funds for the project. Additional detailed information concerning the meeting agenda will be provided through a variety of media resources, including signs in the park, leaflets, and other forms of print and digital communication likely to reach a broad range of interested parties.

If this issue interests you, please attend the meeting. More perspectives help ensure a successful outcome. One note: Although canine companions are among the interested parties, they should remain at home. There could be a large turnout and space is limited.

If you wish to participate but cannot attend, you can send your concerns, and suggestions to:
GrantPark@necoalition.org

August Special Meeting

On August 18th the GPNA held a special meeting to discuss a request by Capstone Partners Group for a zoning change at Grant Park Village. Currently, a maximum of only 108 additional living units can be built on the second and third lots combined. Capstone contends that a project that small is not financially feasible. Instead, Capstone wants to partner with another developer to build a total of 302-312 units, with additional parking. Current plans include a senior living facility on the third portion.

Attendees voiced concerns over increased traffic and parking since phase 1 opened, and the added burden on the neighborhood from the proposed units. Also, if the cap were lifted entirely (which is Capstone's request), future development could include up to 625 dwelling units and 42,000 square feet of new retail space, with no requirement for any additional parking.

Sullivan's Gulch Neighborhood Association had already sent a letter in support of lifting the cap entirely. The GPNA Board was divided, with some members favoring lifting the cap entirely, others preferring to leave the existing cap in place, and some favoring a compromise allowing the current plans to move forward, but not the unrestricted zoning change. Ultimately, the Board voted to send a letter in support of raising the limit to 350 units, while requiring the same ratio of units to parking as exists in Phase 1. The full letter can be found at: grantpark-na.org/thehood/issues/GPVZoning.pdf

Also discussed: safety issues due to the increased traffic on NE Broadway and NE 33rd Ave; an update on the off-leash dog area at Grant Park; and the possibility of GPNA switching from the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) to the Central NE Neighbors (CNN).

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Portland Tool Bank Opens

The Portland Community ToolBank is a not-for-profit tool lending program serving nonprofits by putting high-quality tools in the hands of the volunteers who are painting schools, repairing seniors' roofs, landscaping public spaces, and more—guaranteeing that every volunteer is equipped with the tools they need to get the job done.

For three pennies on the dollar, the Portland Community ToolBank provides fast and easy access to large volumes of high-quality tools to increase the impact of service projects and community revitalization efforts.

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New Partners for Smart Growth

The 15th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference will be in Portland, February 11-13, 2016. No other conference brings together such a cross-section of disciplines. The conference will include over 80 conference sessions!

Details will be available online in October, here are just some of the session titles:

- Tales from the Trenches: Culture, Love, Equity Planning and Real Talk
- Accountable Development: Moving Community from the Back Seat to the Drivers Seat
- Techniques for Providing Diverse, Equitable, and Affordable Housing Choices
- Community Engagement and Political Advocacy in Gentrifying Neighborhoods: A Los Angeles Perspective
- Collaborative Problem-Solving Through Public Interest Design


Early-bird rates will be available through December 4th. Visit: newpartners.org/special-conference-features/ for more information.

Guitar Lessons

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Parks To Be Smoke/Tobacco-Free

Portland City Council approved a policy expanding Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R)'s smoking and tobacco ban throughout the entire parks system. All City parks, natural areas, community centers, trails, golf courses, recreation areas, and all other sites where PP&R park rules apply will be smoke and tobacco-free.

“Expanding PP&R's existing tobacco-free policy across the entire system sends a consistent message,” says Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who brought the policy to Council.

“It helps to create healthy and safe environments within all of Portland Parks & Recreation – especially for children and youth. This policy aligns with PP&R's focus of ‘Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland’,” said Fritz.

Prohibited smoking and tobacco products include, but are not limited to: bidis, cigarettes, cigarillos, cigars, clove cigarettes, e-cigarettes, nicotine vaporizers, nicotine liquids, hookahs, kreteks, pipes, chew, snuff, smokeless tobacco, and marijuana.

PP&R's Director, may establish designated smoking areas for Parks employees for whom there is no reasonably available non-parks property where smoking is allowed.

The policy will apply to any events held at PP&R properties, with a provision for golf tournaments to allow smoking under permitted and certain conditions. Smoking is also prohibited within 25 feet of any play structure, picnic table or designated children's play area.

There will be a five-month grace period to inform and educate the public about the expanded smoke and tobacco-free policy. While any violation of a City Code is a misdemeanor which could lead to citation, beginning July 1, 2015, the primary method of enforcement will be education. Patrons who refuse to comply with the policy may also be subject to a parks exclusion. Enforcement will be administered by PP&R staff and other park officers who have the authority to enforce park rules.

Frequently Asked Questions may be found at: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/516005>

Back to School Speed Zones

To ensure student safety and increase awareness of the start of the school year, the Portland Police Bureau will be conducting patrols around all schools as part of its annual "Back to School" safety campaign.

Dozens of officers, including Photo Radar Units, will be enforcing traffic laws in these zones to reduce the number of crashes in school zones and to create a safe environment for students returning to school.

Thanks to our officers for helping promote safe travel habits in and around our schools and neighborhoods!

Join the Parke Diem Work Party!

Come join Parke Diem, a citywide work party for Portland's parks! The event will happen over two days, take place at 50+ parks, and involve 1,500 volunteers, in a variety of different park improvement activities from planting, mulching, trimming, and preparing for the rainy season in Laurelhurst Park to ivy pulling in Forest Park. All volunteers will receive a free Nike event t-shirt, KIND bar, and other goodies from our wonderful sponsors!

Portland Parks Foundation is an independent, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization formed in 2001 to bring resources for the long-term stewardship of Portland's parks and park programs, and to ensure that they remain publicly supported.

Portland Parks Foundation has been trailblazing a unique public-private partnership in support of Portland's parks since 2001.

For more go to: www.parklandia.org/parkediem

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Are your dog's ears burning?



A Dog's digging at his ears can be the first sign of an allergy or a simple infection of the outer ear. In fact, about 20% of dogs will get itchy ears at some point in their lives, and it's one of the most common reasons why dogs are seen by veterinarians. Addressing the root cause of itchy ears can save both you and your dog some scratch.

If your dogs ears are burning and it isn't because you're telling someone what a great dog he is, stop by and tell us about your dog. We can help you identify the cause and understand the science, and help you find an effective, natural solution.*

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Getting to Know Our Neighbors

Grant Park Baptist Church

by Slayden Yarbrough

Grant Park Baptist Church has been a fixture in the neighborhood since 1926. We are the only church building in Grant Park, and glad to be here. But who are we today? We are a small congregation who hosts two preschools, three other diverse churches, and various organizations, including the GPNA. But we are much more. We are pilgrims on a journey seeking direction wherever our roads leads.

We are Baptists but bear no resemblance to the Westboro Baptists and other highly intolerant conservative traditions. We welcome all people, races, genders, denominations, and all who want to find sanctuary to think, learn, grow, and serve. We are Baptists who love, promote and practice universal freedom. We believe in God, we believe in science, we believe in education, and we believe that in our diversity there is a core of common good, hopes, and accomplishments.

We see Jesus as a liberator who has set us free to learn, to become, to work with others. We like to sing, and learn, and serve. We want to stand with our neighbors, not against them. We want to communicate and educate, but not indoctrinate.

Gregg Sneller, our well-known pastor in our neighborhood for 8 years, has moved on. I am the interim pastor, a member of the church and university professor of religion, retired after 29 years. My goal is to get people to think, and to respect others.

Grant Park Church meet on Sundays at 11 am. All are invited to join us for worship as pilgrims on the journey of life.

Grant Park Baptist Church Events

9/23/15 – Wed, 7pm “Partnering for Portland”
 9/27/15 - 9:15am – New Sunday Class
 “First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God”
 10/3/15 – Sat. 9:30am “Blessing of the Animals”

More info at www.grantparkchurch.com

Nature in Neighborhoods

Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grants support community projects and programs across the region, from local park improvements to hands-on nature education for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Over the past 10 years, these grants have helped to acquire land, restore habitat and streams, connect residents to nature, transform neighborhoods, promote equity, develop the next generation of nature enthusiasts, and more.

Successful projects involve the community, foster diverse partnerships and innovate. They can lead to bigger social and economic benefits, from jobs and economic development to livable neighborhoods and cleaner air.

Involved in an innovative project that nurtures nature in the community or connects people with the outdoors? You can apply for a Nature in Neighborhoods grant from Metro and help get your project on the ground, forge partnerships and build long-term success. There are three kinds of grants available: capital grants for things like land acquisition and urban transformations; restoration grants; or education grants. Find out which one is right for you.

Who can apply?

Individuals, citizen groups, businesses, neighborhoods, nonprofits, schools and school groups, government agencies, faith groups and service groups with nonprofit or other tax-exempt status may apply. Grants must benefit the Portland metropolitan region.

For more information go to: www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-partners/grants-and-resources/nature-grants

Grant Park Baptist Church

building where four churches, two schools and other groups totaling 500 people come and go each week. There is always room for one more person!

More info at www.grantparkchurch.com

Making Portland A Better Place

Grant Park Baptist Church and the Grant Park Neighborhood Association are co-sponsoring a panel discussion called "**Partners for Portland: Growing a Better Community**" on Wednesday, September 23 - 7:00pm at Grant Park Baptist Church (NE Knott and 34th)

The panel will examine the impact and contributions of sports, education and fine arts upon the Portland community. Three outstanding Portland leaders: Portland Trail Blazer's Head Coach Terry Stotts, Faubion Elementary School Principal LeShawn Lee, and Third Rail Repertory Theatre Artistic Director Scott Yarbrough, will discuss how their respective vocations, disciplines and organizations foster community development.

Coach Stotts will represent the contributions that the sports community makes to Portland. He was hired as head coach of Portland in 2012 and has guided the team to the playoffs in 2014 and 2015.

LaShawn Lee, Principal of Faubion Elementary School has been at Faubion for the last eight years and has served in the field of education for 29 years. She believes that education cannot be comprised.

Scott Yarbrough, Artistic Director of Third Rail Repertory Theatre, will represent the Fine Arts field on our panel. He also represents the business community as he has led the building of Third Rail from the ground up.

Seating is limited to around 200, so check out the information on the GPBC website

For more information on the program and the speakers go to www.grantparkchurch.com.

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Tree Stewardship Training

The neighborhood Tree Stewardship Training Program returns October 17th!

The very popular Neighborhood Tree Stewardship Training Program returns this fall. Since 1997, over 140 community members received tools and resources to be active leaders and urban forest advocates in their neighborhoods.

The seven session course covers general tree care, tree biology, tree identification, urban forest management & policy, and opportunities to develop and implement tree plans, plantings and further activities in support of the urban forest. No previous experience is necessary, but you do need a passion for trees and for helping your community.

The cost for the entire course is only \$26/\$36 (residents/non-residents). Register by September 30th-space is limited! Classes occur evenings and weekends in October/November. For full details, go to: www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/nts or call 503.823.2525, reference course #1040256.

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Everyone, everywhere, should know how to protect themselves in an earthquake. Even if earthquakes are rare where you live, they may happen where you or your family travel. Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills are an annual opportunity for people in homes, schools, and organizations to practice what to do during earthquakes, and to improve preparedness.

Imagine if you could get millions of people around the world all doing the same thing at the same time.

That is what will happen on October 15, 2015 at 10:15 a.m. with the Great ShakeOut. And all of us can join in the fun!


The first ShakeOut drill was held in 2008 in California and has grown to millions of participants across the globe. The drill is an opportunity to practice earthquake safety and to educate people about how to protect themselves during an earthquake.

Oregon lies at the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a 600 mile long earthquake fault stretching from offshore northern California to southern British Columbia. This fault builds up stress as the Juan de Fuca and North America Plates push against each other. Eventually, the two plates rip apart, creating some of the largest earthquakes and tsunamis. The ShakeOut is a fun and easy way for us all to get better prepared.

Statute requires that Oregon schools complete an earthquake drill annually, and to do a tsunami evacuation drill if in the inundation zone.

It's easy to sign up, just go to www.shakeout.org/ Oregon and register for yourself, your business, or your school.

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Safety, Security & Connection


Want to get to know your neighbors better, and learn how to be more secure and prevent crime? Starting a Neighborhood Watch group is easy and fun and your Crime Prevention program is here to help.

The aim of neighborhood watch includes educating residents on safety and how to build a more secure neighborhood. However, it is not a vigilante organization. When a criminal activity is suspected, members are encouraged to report to authorities, not to intervene.

If you are interested, please contact the Mark Wells, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, at 503-823-2781 or by email at: mark.wells@portlandoregon.gov to find out more on how to start a Watch group and work together to reduce crime and build a stronger and more connected neighborhood. You may also access more information on the Neighborhood Watch program through these links:


www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/article/320557
www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/article/26674

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