



# Grant Park

## Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Fall 2022

## November Ballot Has Important Implications for Portland

By Stacey Tipp

This November, voters will get to decide on a set of proposals with important implications for the structure of our city government and the way our city officials are elected. After months of study, the Portland Charter Commission has come up with a three-part plan to amend the city's charter (constitution) as follows:

1. Expand the City Council to 12 members, with three members elected from each of four new geographic districts.
2. Allow voters to rank candidates in their order of preference for all elected offices, rather than just voting for one candidate. This is known as ranked choice voting.
3. Replace the current commission form of government with a mayor-council government structure where the City Council focuses on setting policy, the mayor carries out the laws, and a professional city administrator oversees the city bureaus and manages city services.

The three proposals are combined on the ballot, so that voters must approve or reject the entire package, rather than voting on each component separately. If voters say yes, the new voting system with ranked choice voting in geographic-based council elections will start in the November 2024 election. The new City Council and Mayor would begin their terms under the new structure in January 2025.

These issues are complicated and controversial, with strong feelings and different opinions about the upsides and downsides of the proposed changes. Some object to the bundling of the three items together into one ballot question.

So, what's a voter who cares about the future of our city to do? The answer is: your due diligence. Google the Portland Charter Commission recommendations and investigate the pros and cons of the various issues. There is a ton of information on the web and in the press. The voter guide that comes in the mail is another great source of information. Save it and study it when it arrives at your home.

There are limited means for citizens to impact the political system in which they live. The vote is one of the simplest and most powerful. As the late John Lewis said, "The right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool or instrument in a democratic society. We must use it."

## Recycling Program Benefits Beverly Cleary School

By Katie Hammer

Grant Park is a little greener this year, thanks to a new community recycling initiative. The Beverly Cleary School PTA is now proudly partnered with BottleDrop, Oregon's statewide container recycling program. Whenever one purchases a bottle, can, or individual plastic beverage container in Oregon, a 10-cent container deposit is automatically charged. This recycling program, aimed at reducing litter, was pioneered in Oregon in 1971 and was the first of its kind in the nation. Today, the BottleDrop Give

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- October 11, 2022
- January 10, 2023
- April 11, 2023  
(Annual Meeting)

### LOCATION:

All meetings for the foreseeable future will be virtual rather than in person. To obtain the agenda and the Zoom meeting link, go to the meetings page on our website, [grantpark-na.org](http://grantpark-na.org).

### MEETINGS:

GPNA holds elections at the Annual Meeting in April. Necessary special or emergency meetings may be scheduled at any time. Meetings are open to the public. ALL persons living, working, or attending high school within its boundaries are members of Grant Park Neighborhood Association. If you need special accommodation, please contact a Board member.

### GPNA

### EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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Kara Caselas, Tom Fawell,  
Marion Horna, Ron Laster,  
Laurene Mullen, Gary Stamps*

#### Contact the Board at:

[general@grantpark-na.org](mailto:general@grantpark-na.org)

## Land Use and Transportation Updates

By Neon Brooks

### Land Use:

- The **Aircraft Factory Building** is in the process of securing a new general contractor. However, work is currently ongoing in the interior of the building: early demolition work has been completed and restoration of surfaces is taking place. Rob Brewster, president of InterUrban Development, says he is hoping the project can be complete and the 18 new loft apartments ready to rent by fall 2023. The building was featured on the cover of the August 17th issue of the Willamette Week, in which Brewster discussed the challenges the project had with Portland's permitting processes. Brewster has been invited to our October 11th neighborhood association meeting to provide an update on the project and answer neighbor questions.
- Sadly, neither of the **food cart projects** on Broadway (3505 NE Broadway or the old Burger King at 3550 NE Broadway) appear to be moving forward currently. The Burger King building was also featured in the August 17th Willamette Week issue, but no mention of the food cart project was made.
- On a positive note, the **Grant Upper Field** is open and in use! We look forward to seeing the field used by

Grant students, neighbors, and community members during the upcoming school year and beyond.

### Transportation:

- Most of us have experienced some level of disruption as a result of the **repaving of 33rd Avenue**, which is thankfully nearly complete as of our publication deadline. This repaving project is preventative maintenance that PBOT says will extend the life of the road by up to 20 years. During the repaving, crews also installed new bike boxes at 33rd and US Grant Place, as well as bike lanes through the intersection of 33rd and NE Hancock.
- Now that the repaving is complete, crews will implement a **new traffic pattern at 33rd and Hancock**. Cars traveling east and west on Hancock will not be permitted to continue straight on Hancock or to turn left on 33rd: the intersection will be right turn only for these cars traveling on Hancock. Cars traveling North on 33rd will still be able to turn right and left. These changes are in response to community concerns about traffic safety on 33rd. These changes should be implemented before winter.

### Letters to the Editor and Articles

Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) welcomes letters to the editor and original articles for publication from those residing or working within neighborhood boundaries. Letters concerning prior published articles must be submitted within 30 days of newsletter distribution. Letters or articles that include profanity, libelous statements, personal attacks against individuals or specific organizations, or that are unreasonably long, will be rejected. Articles should be original or with attribution stated, and should address topics of local interest. Letters and articles submitted anonymously will be evaluated on a case by case basis for publication, but the editor must be able to verify the identity of the writer to ensure authenticity. Letters or articles that support or oppose individual candidates for public office cannot be published, but those concerning ballot measures will be considered. All submissions must be in Word or other text-based format, no PDFs.

### GPNA Newsletter Ads

The GPNA newsletter reaches over 2,000 homes and businesses between NE Broadway and NE Knott and from NE 26th to NE 47th, with some overlap around the outside edges. Distribution of the newsletter occurs quarterly.

Ads need to be print ready about three weeks before delivery of the next issue.

There is a per-issue standard rate, due upon receipt of an invoice with an attached copy of the issue in which the ad has run, and a per-year 10% discounted rate, which must be paid in advance. A copy of each issue will be sent to the advertiser.

For copy information contact Ron Laster, [printresults@aol.com](mailto:printresults@aol.com), 503-287-9566.

**Ad deadlines for 2021-2022:** Dec. 15 issue: November 24, 2021, March 16 issue: February 23, 2022, June 1 issue: May 11, 2022

### RATES/SIZES

Business card	2"H x 3.5/3.625"W	per issue \$45	per year \$162
Quarter page	4.5"H x 3.5/ 3. 625"W	per issue \$75	per year \$270
Half page (horizontal)	4.5"H x 7.5"W	per issue \$120	per year \$432
Half page (vertical)	9.5"H x 3.5/ 3. 625"W	per issue \$120	per year \$432
Full page	9.5"H x 7.5"W	per issue \$210	per year \$756

## Houseless Ministry Opens at Grant Park Church

By The Grant Park Church Houseless Ministry Committee

In July, Grant Park Church (at the corner of 34th and Knott) began hosting houseless families!

GPC is one of 13 host congregations partnering through Family Promise of Metro East, a new rotational shelter network of congregations and organizations on the east side of Portland, to care for homeless children and their families. Each host congregation provides overnight accommodations (during 5:30PM to 7:00AM) for three or four families (up to 14 people total) on a rotating schedule. Each church hosts families for just four weeks per year (one week each quarter). The host congregation provides a full dinner, overnight lodging, and breakfast/lunch-to-go for the families. Additional support congregations provide additional volunteers – and we have also had several great volunteers from the Grant Park Neighborhood!

During the day, the families go to work, school, or the Family Promise Day Center (which is not at GPC) where the families receive case management and other services. Family Promise screens all families before assignment and upon entry. Pets are not permitted on site.

At the end of our first week of hosting, one guest left a note saying, ***“We are happy to be the first family to be part of***

***Family Promise. We want to THANK YOU ALL for all of your love & support during this difficult time.”*** Another guest wrote, ***“In the space of two days, I have had my faith in Christians renewed. Where I grew up [Texas], a program like this would have been filled with holier-than-thou types, but me and my family experienced true kindness here, despite our differences in faith. Thank you.”***

As you know, Portland’s housing crisis has been exacerbated by COVID-19 and inflation, forcing hundreds of families to remain stuck on waiting lists for affordable housing. This Family Promise houseless ministry is one small way that our church and neighborhood can respond by making a positive difference for these children and their parents.

**Our next hosting week will be October 9-16.** If you would like to volunteer as an evening monitor, overnight monitor, or morning monitor to assist these houseless families, please contact David Wheeler ([cadlwheels@yahoo.com](mailto:cadlwheels@yahoo.com)). And please reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your interest and support!

## Recycling Program, continued

program allows non-profit organizations to raise money by collecting bottles and cans in specially tagged “Blue Bags” that can be returned to any BottleDrop collection site.

In the last nine months, Beverly Cleary School PTA has distributed over 1,200 Blue Bags to the community. About half of those bags have been filled and returned so far, which has raised over \$3,200 for the school! The PTA expects to raise an additional \$4,000-\$5,000 this school year, all of which will directly benefit students, teachers, and families. PTA funds are used to organize community-focused events, provide classroom materials, and support families in need.

Volunteers are currently searching for community members who would like to support this BottleDrop program by filling bags at home or in local businesses. Individuals do not have to be affiliated with Beverly Cleary School

to participate! It’s easy to request Blue Bags via email ([bottledrop@beverlyclearyschool.org](mailto:bottledrop@beverlyclearyschool.org)) and students will deliver bags to homes or businesses in the Grant Park neighborhood. When a Blue Bag is filled, it can be taken to any BottleDrop return site in Oregon, including at Whole Foods, Fred Meyer, New Seasons and more. Families have been very enthusiastic about this easy and ongoing way to support Beverly Cleary School. Look for Blue Bags in neighborhood restaurants and small businesses this fall and consider filling a few of your own at home.



### Support Beverly Cleary School!

It’s EASY to raise money for our PTA by recycling your cans, bottles, and plastic beverage containers through BottleDrop!

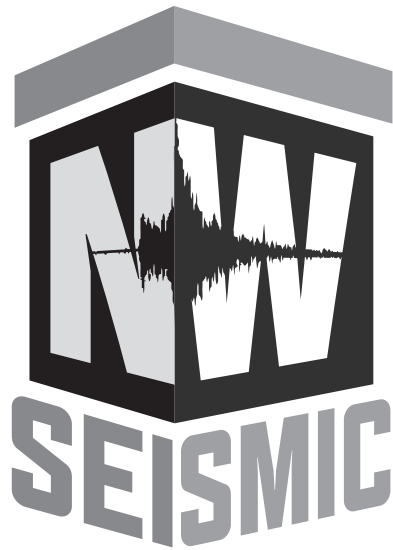
1. Scan QR code below or email [bottledrop@beverlyclearyschool.org](mailto:bottledrop@beverlyclearyschool.org) to request up to 5 Blue Bags at a time. We’ll deliver to your doorstep!
2. Follow instructions on the bag. Fill with empty cans, bottles, and plastic containers eligible for a 10-cent deposit in the state of Oregon.
3. Return your bags to any BottleDrop location: Fred Meyer, New Seasons, Whole Foods and more. You do *not* need a BottleDrop account or card to participate! Just scan the BCS label on the bag to unlock the door and toss your bag into the bin. The scanner works best when you hold the label about 6” away.
4. 10-cent deposit values will automatically be routed to our school PTA...that’s \$7-8 per bag!



**THANK YOU for your support!**

For additional information, please contact us at [bottledrop@beverlyclearyschool.org](mailto:bottledrop@beverlyclearyschool.org).





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## Ten Ways to Stay Informed During a Disaster

By Nanci Tangeman, NET Volunteer

*Some of your neighbors spend an awful lot of time thinking about the next disaster – major earthquakes, windstorms, wildfire smoke, heat domes, pandemics. Your volunteer Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) members, Grant Park residents just like you, regularly participate in training so that they can help during a disaster. Another way they help is sharing information before an event, like these tips on staying informed.*

If a disaster knocks out phone lines and/or cell service and/or electricity for TV and computer connections, how will you get information or request emergency assistance?

**Visit your Basic Earthquake Emergency Communication Node.** BEECNs (“beacons”) are temporary information centers that can communicate with emergency services. In case of a disaster, trained volunteers, many of them NET members, will staff the BEECNs within 24-48 hours. **The nearest BEECNs for Grant Park will be at the Irvington Elementary School Field, 1320 NE Brazee or at Rigler School Field, corner of NE Going and NE 55th.** Remember that.

*Here’s what else you can do to make life easier when faced with a disaster.*

**Talk to your neighbors.** Build relationships now. During a disaster, most information is shared in-person. Know who might need extra help exiting a home or getting supplies. Be aware. Talk to each other now.

**Have several ways to get information.** Know what technology might be available and how to use it. Know what to do if you don’t have access to that technology.

**Set up out-of-area emergency contacts.** Local telephone networks, if working, could be overloaded. Select one or two contacts that don’t live on the West Coast. Coordinate with them to help relay information from your family to friends and family members outside the area.

**Get Public Alerts.** Sign up now ([www.publicalerts.org/signup](http://www.publicalerts.org/signup)) to receive emergency alerts anywhere in the greater Portland metropolitan area. Their Current Alerts page ([www.publicalerts.org/current-alerts](http://www.publicalerts.org/current-alerts)) also provides live updates. More at [publicalerts.org](http://publicalerts.org).

**Connect on social media.** Follow The Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Add @PublicAlerts to your Twitter feed. During an emergency, use #PublicAlerts to add to the crowd-sourced emergency feed. Use NextDoor.com to share local information and resources.

**Text.** Avoid making voice calls when possible. Texting uses less battery and is more likely to get through when mobile networks are busy. If local text messages fail, try your out-of-area emergency contacts.



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**Save battery life.** If the power goes out, use your phone only when necessary. Change your phone settings to low power mode (or put it in airplane mode). Keep a back-up power source on hand to recharge during an extended outage.

**Update your status on social media.** Let your friends and family know you're safe via social media.

**Tune in to AM/FM radio.** Tune to 91.5 KOPB-FM or 101.1 KXL-FM for local updates. Store extra batteries separate from the radio in case they leak. Consider a solar or hand-crank radio. If you have a NOAA weather radio, get familiar with it now.

And again, know the location of your local BEECN – **Irvington Elementary School Field, 1320 NE Brazee or Rigler School Field, corner of NE Going and NE 55th.**

Thanks to [publicalerts.org](http://publicalerts.org) ([www.publicalerts.org/informed](http://www.publicalerts.org/informed)) for these tips.

*More about NET: Anyone who lives or works in Portland can become a NET volunteer, and anyone over the age of 14 is welcome to attend meetings, regardless of whether they've completed NET training. Training includes light search and rescue, basic disaster medicine and triage, radio communications, fire suppression, disaster psychology, and trauma intervention. After completing basic training, NET members also receive access to free advanced training and practice opportunities, including drills at Portland Fire & Rescue's Scenario Village facility.*

*To learn more about Grant Park NET, please visit [bit.ly/GrantParkNET](http://bit.ly/GrantParkNET) For more information about Portland NET and CERT National, see [portlandprepares.org/net-teams](http://portlandprepares.org/net-teams).*

## On Poetry Posts

By Susan Long

A walk in the Grant Park neighborhood offers lots of gifts. Colorful homes and thoughtful landscapes which may include tiny villages, animal sculptures - there's a tea sipping rabbit in one yard I like to commune with. My favorite features are Poetry Posts. With so much poetry and so many readers, poems of all types and styles appear. I've discovered many poets who are new to me.

I investigated online and found a craftsman who builds and installs the little plastic fronted boxes on posts. I'm a sometimes poet and a regular reader of poetry. I ordered and had one installed by our sidewalk. It's especially nice to see someone stop to read the poem and smile or nod.

Poems by Mary Oliver, Billy Collins and many other accessible poets appeared in my box. My friend Mickey Harnage (1938-2022) was a longtime poet, and she contributed many thoughtful poems for my post. When she and her husband retired, they sailed for many years around the Pacific. Here's one of hers for you to enjoy.

### The Passage

Now that I am  
Very old,  
What do I miss?

A poet might say-  
The smell of the earth  
When gentle rain falls.  
Or the laughter  
Of small children.

As an earth bound  
Sailor  
I can only say-  
God grant me one more season  
Far from land  
With the only sound  
The gentle hiss of bow wake,  
The only smell  
Complicated boat smells-  
oil and food and wet gear,  
The only motion  
The waves  
Rocking, rocking, rocking  
Endlessly on  
Toward  
The end of  
My passage.

Sometime stop to read a poem in any of the posts as you walk. You may notice something in our world that could be easy to miss or something new to think about.

## Be Part of the Community

### ATTEND AN UPCOMING GRANT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING:

October 11, 2022  
January 10, 2023  
April 11, 2023 (Annual Meeting)

#### LOCATION:

All meetings for the foreseeable future will be virtual rather than in person. To obtain the agenda and the Zoom meeting link, go to the meetings page on our website, [grantpark-na.org](http://grantpark-na.org).

## Neighborhood Invaders: The Tree of Heaven

By Linda Burch

Don't you love living in Grant Park, where just about everywhere you look, you find gorgeous landscaping and beautiful trees? Unfortunately, we do have some neighborhood invaders that threaten our diverse species. One of these is the tree of heaven. Because it's hard to eradicate once established, it's best to check periodically to see if it's growing in your yard. I've noticed these in several yards on my daily walks, so I wanted to raise awareness.

According to Nature Conservancy:

The tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is a rapidly growing deciduous tree native to China that has become a widespread invasive species across North America. Known by several names including stinking sumac, Chinese sumac, varnish tree and stink tree, the plant releases a strong, offensive smell, particularly from its flowers.

The tree of heaven was brought from China to the United States in the late 1700s as a horticultural specimen and shade tree. Its ease of establishment, rapid growth and absence of insect or disease problems made it popular when planning urban landscaping. These same traits have led it to spread aggressively throughout the United States, crowding out native plants wherever it establishes itself.

The tree of heaven is a problem because it reproduces very quickly and aggressively inhibits (and can even kill) native plants near it. This invasive plant produces an overly abundant number of seeds, crowds out native species with its dense thickets and secretes a chemical into the soil that is toxic to surrounding plants.

When native plants are hindered or killed, it upsets the balance of the native ecosystem and biodiversity, potentially leading to extinctions of native plant and animal species across the whole ecosystem.



The tree of heaven affects people in many ways. Its aggressive root system can cause damage to pavement, sewers and building foundations.

The plant has also helped advance the spread of the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect also originally from China, which is moving farther west every year but has not yet arrived in Oregon. These insects seek out the tree of heaven as a place to lay their eggs.

Thankfully there are multiple ways to get rid of the tree of heaven. The most effective way to control tree of heaven is to pull seedlings by hand before the taproot develops. As an organic gardener, I recommend this method.

If the plant has matured, however, cutting alone will only help temporarily by reducing its ability to spread.

According to Rutgers: If a tree-of-heaven (TOH) is cut and removed without first using an herbicide and waiting at least 30 days, then the tree will respond with potentially dozens of trunk sprouts and root suckers that could emerge 50 feet from a large parent tree. Applying the herbicide during mid-July to mid-October when the tree is most actively translocating photosynthates to the root system will allow the herbicide to move further distances most effectively through the phloem. This will help reduce problems with trunk sprouts and root suckers, which this tree species is notoriously known for.

There is a great deal of information on the internet about tree of heaven, and local arborists are a great resource. If you have a large tree of heaven, you might want to seek professional opinion or at least do some extensive internet research.

Happy gardening! Enjoy the beautiful autumn season in our neighborhood.



## Traffic Safety: It's Everyone's Responsibility

By Neon Brooks

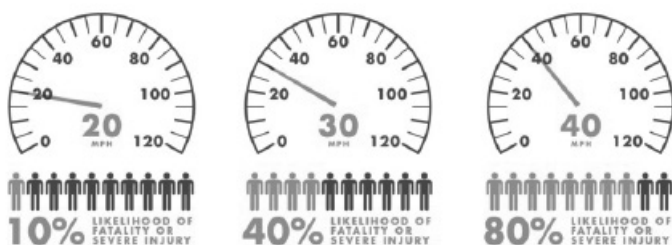
As the Land Use and Transportation Chair of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association, nearly all the emails I get from neighbors are about traffic safety concerns. As the seasons change and we enter into the new school year, these concerns are particularly salient. Between Grant High School and Beverly Cleary K-8, over 2,600 students attend school within our neighborhood – the number is even higher if you include neighborhood daycares and preschools! Many of these students walk and bike to school, and all of us, especially those of us who drive, have a responsibility to keep them safe.

As someone who walks, bikes, and drives through our neighborhood on a near-daily basis, I've identified a few things that people can do when behind the wheel to help ensure the safety of everyone in our neighborhood. Safe driving keeps our neighborhood livable and enjoyable for kids and adults to learn, play, and live.

### Tip #1: Drive the speed limit.

Nearly every street in Grant Park Neighborhood has a speed limit of 20 miles per hour. The only exceptions are 33rd Avenue and 42nd Avenue, which have speed limits of 25 miles per hour, and Broadway and Sandy, where the speed limit is 30 miles per hour. Because it is in a school zone, the speed limit on 33rd between US Grant Place and Broadway is 20 miles per hour between 7am and 5pm on school days.

In 2018, The Portland Bureau of Transportation lowered speed limits on many streets as part of their Vision Zero initiative. Slower speeds reduce the risk of crashes, and when crashes occur, slower speeds make it much less likely that people will die or be seriously injured. Unfortunately, many people habitually drive over the speed limit on our neighborhood streets. By paying attention to the speedometer and keeping to the limit, not only do you dramatically reduce the chance that you'll be involved in a deadly crash, but you also keep cars behind you from traveling at unsafe speeds.



### DEATH DUE TO SPEED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. LITERATURE REVIEWED ON VEHICLE TRAVEL SPEEDS AND PEDESTRIAN INJURIES. MARCH 2006.  
WWW.NHTSA.GOV/ABOUT/NHTSA/TRAFFIC/TECHS/  
CURRENT/LITERATURE-REVIEWED-ON-VEHICLE-TRAVEL-SPEEDS-AND-PEDESTRIAN-INJURIES

(image from portland.gov)

### Tip #2: In Oregon, every intersection is a crosswalk. Yield to people walking or rolling who are trying to cross at every corner.

The law in Oregon requires drivers to stop if any foot, wheel, crutch, stroller, or any other extension of a person is in a public intersection, regardless of whether there is a marked crosswalk or not. Traffic safety guidelines state that you should stop whenever a person is waiting to cross at an intersection. Remember that children and dogs in particular cannot be counted on to continue moving in the same direction of travel – wait until they are safely back on the sidewalk before continuing on your way. It is much easier to spot people waiting to cross when you're driving the speed limit, and stopping for neighbors builds community!

### Tip #3: Talk to your teens about safe driving practices.

Talk regularly with teens and new drivers about the importance of safe driving, including driving at safe speeds and not driving while distracted. Make sure your own driving sets a clear and safe example for your teen. Young drivers should know that driving is a privilege that can be revoked if they don't follow the rules of the road. For many young people, the temptation to speed when in the car alone or with friends can be hard to resist. These days, there are phone apps available that can help you monitor your teen driver's driving habits. Knowing that their driving behavior is being tracked could save your child from making a mistake that could cost them their lives, or the lives of your neighbors.

### Tip #4: Stay on major streets as much as you can.

Instead of taking the most direct route to your home or destination, consider taking a slightly longer route that keeps you on major streets for longer. When we avoid taking shortcuts on neighborhood streets, we help contribute to a comfortable walking environment on these streets. And if you're driving the speed limit, you may find your shortcuts don't save you as much time as you think!



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## Neighborhood Bunnies

By Laurene Mullen

A few weeks ago, I was faced with a moral dilemma. A bunny appeared in my back yard. On the one hand I believe all living things deserve a chance of a happy life here on earth. On the other hand, the rabbit was eating my hostas and I was dearly tempted to chase her out!

Where on earth did a bunny come from? This was not an escaped domestic breed but probably a juvenile cottontail. Around Grant Park neighborhood there are more and more bunny sightings, something that I have never heard of in my 34 years in this same house. Recently I have seen them out and about on my early morning walks in the neighborhood. Which makes sense as wild rabbits are more active in the morning and evening.

I resolved not to name the bunny so I would not get attached if she had to be relocated. BunBun (as I immediately started calling her) hopped adorably around my back yard. I didn't really know the gender but brazenly assigned her a pronoun.

She was a hungry little thing. I am a semi-avid gardener, my yard is not a pristine work of art but I do love it, and fuss over my little oasis on a weekly basis. BunBun loved the hostas, heucheras, even roses. They will eat grasses, clover, and almost anything green that stays in one place. She happily chomped some ground cover I had nurtured. She was living under the acanthus (Bear's Breeches).

I called up the King Rabbit Micro Sanctuary and found out that no one takes wild bunnies. There are not even enough rescue places for domesticated bunnies. The reason is easy. Rabbits breed like, well...rabbits. A bunny can start breeding when they are 6 months old and have several litters a year. The gestation is only about 30 days, and a female can usually become pregnant again 4 days after birth. They typically have 4 to 7 kits to a litter, so you do the math. Although an interesting fact is that rabbits will naturally regulate how many offspring they have each year to reflect how much food and water is available. The nice lady at King Rabbit said, "If you have a female, she's pregnant, if you have a male a female won't be far." But bunnies are nature's lowest rung on the protein totem pole. They are the favored prey for many predators out there including the coyotes that live in our vicinity. But they are also doomed by dogs, people, cars, and disease. The



average life span for a wild bunny is less than 2 years and often much less than that. Relocating them is tricky and disorienting for a wild bunny.

They can survive the winter if they have some natural shelter from the rain, and they will gnaw on bark for sustenance. To discourage rabbits some people suggest scattering lavender or catnip about. Or planting marigolds around flower beds. But there is conflicting information whether that works to discourage them.

So, what did I do? I went out and bought lettuce plants, in the hopes that BunBun would eat those instead of my ornamentals. She loved the lettuce, ate it down to the ground and considered it a tasty hors d'oeuvres.

I may or may not have bought a bag of rabbit food and left bits of food for her near her hideaway. She enjoyed that as a dessert after her main course of heucheras. But I found out that putting commercial rabbit food out in your yard is probably a bad idea. It discourages the natural foraging tendencies of a rabbit and could encourage other undesirable life into your yard (we're talking rats here).

I finally came to peace that I would share my now slightly ragged yard with my little friend. I did worry about if she had a litter. One bunny was something I could wrap my gardening/vegetarian heart around. Twelve bunnies...I'm not so sure.

As it came to pass, after about 5 weeks Bunbun disappeared. It undoubtedly had something to do with my granddog showing up and making such a ruckus that BunBun went looking for a more peaceful environment. I tried to patch up some holes in my fences but to really be effective you need a 30"high, chicken wire fence that you bury 6" into the ground. Didn't do that!

I miss BunBun and her quiet way of snuffling around the yard. It was sweet to see her hopping about just minding her own business. But I would be less than honest if I didn't admit it was a relief when she decided to move on.

The epilogue: A few weeks after BunBun was gone I was at our neighborhood book group. One of our members, who lives two blocks from me said, "You'll never guess who I have living in my backyard."