

Grant Park

Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Spring 2021

Grant Park NET Responds to Latest Emergencies

Nanci Tangeman, Grant Park NET member

It's a busy time in the world of emergencies.

"We've been pelting active NETs with deployment requests," Glenn Devitt, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management NET administrator writes. "Warming shelters, downed power lines, a major gas leak and evacuation, 211 dispatch and transportation logistics, storm drain clearing, snow extrications, TriMet stop clearances, COVID testing and vaccination clinics..."

It seems there's been an emergency to suit every taste – and your Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) has been busy responding.

NET members' phones lit up all weekend with calls to deploy, including clearing snow to help senior citizens and people with mobility impairments get to medical appointments. Chris Blumenthal helped extricate a van that was blocked by snow and ice. He says, "It was only a 30-minute job, but without our help he wouldn't have been able to get to his medical appointment."

NET member Linda Bebernes made calls from her home, helping 211 with dispatches to warming shelters. With bad road conditions and shelters filling up, she says, "I was impressed with the lengths to which 211 staff went to get people rides to warming centers. They do so much more than just hand out phone numbers."

Molly Hamill and other NET members cleared out storm drains on nearby



NET member Chris Blumenthal clears a storm drain on Tillamook.

corners. Molly says, "I remember what it's like after a frozen rainstorm, when the temperature warms up and the storm drains are blocked. There are many flooded basements in our neighborhood."

Doug Couch and Lis Cooper volunteered at the Arbor Lodge warming shelter. "It was a moving experience," says Doug. "We saw the range of people living in cars and tents who were forced to come indoors. We will likely volunteer at a shelter again."

If you are interested in becoming a NET volunteer, we welcome more members! Certification takes about 30 hours of classroom time, plus a half-day field exercise. There are several opportunities to take the training throughout the year. Please see our team page at http://bit.ly/GrantParkNET for contact and meeting information.

2021 MEETINGS:

- April 6 Annual Meeting including board elections
- June 8
- September 14
- November 9

LOCATION:

All meetings for the foreseeable future will be virtual rather than in person. To check the meeting schedule and agenda, learn how to participate virtually, or to suggest an agenda topic, please go to: http://grantpark-na.org/meetings-minutes. Due to unforeseen circumstances related to the pandemic, meeting dates may be subject to change.

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:

President & Land Use Chair:

Ken Peterson

Vice President:

Ron Laster

Treasurer:

Ron Laster

Secretary:

Jane Comeault

At Large:

Neon Brooks,
Jessica Decker,
Mary Cal Hanson,
Marion James Horna,
Vivek Kothari,
Marisa Morby,
Laurene Mullen,
Lois Okrasinski,
Stacey Tipp

Contact the Board at:

general@grantpark-na.org

Letters to the Editor

Dear GPNA:

I have lived in Grant Park for 34 years and the graffiti, especially visible at the old Gordon's location, is a blight to NE Portland. Many cars and pedestrians pass the NE Broadway and 33rd Avenue intersection daily and can't help but observe the declining condition of that building. I read President Ken Petersen's article in the Fall issue of the GPNA newsletter and have reviewed the City of Portland's rules on graffiti removal. The owners once notified have 10 days to remedy that situation, and that is clearly long past due. While there is now street mural "art" on the ground level of that building, there has been no removal of graffiti on the levels above the street. It has to be addressed with the owners being held accountable.

The owners / Interurban can and should no longer be permitted to abdicate their responsibility for the exterior condition of that unsightly building, a blight to our neighborhood. To the extent that they continue to blame others, according to the article, we as neighbors and the City, by taking no enforcement or instituting fines, are enabling them to continue to do nothing to right that situation.



Beverly Cleary School Connect to Kindergarten

https://www.pps.net/beverlycleary

May 14 – "Everything you want to know about Kindergarten" video, presented by the teachers. Posted on the Beverly Cleary website.

May 17 – Survey is released for incoming families

May 20 – BCS Kindergarten Q. and A. via a virtual Zoom call, check on the BCS website.

Grant Park Church Where All Are Welcome

Sunday Worship 11:00 AM Reverend Jeremy Richards

We're at 2728 NE 34th Ave. 503-282-5596

Visit: www.grantparkchurch.com

Some thoughts on how to move this to resolution:

- 1. Can we again take or threaten legal action to induce the owners to move forward with a firm timeline to remedy the building' exterior?
- 2. Have motion lights and cameras (along with a sign stating that perpetrators will be prosecuted) been applied to the building to serve as some deterrent? If not, when will that be done?
- 3. What is the timeline when this building will be rehabilitated and developed?

I am well aware of the impacts of the pandemic on building rehabs and cautions that landlords are taking out of concerns regarding leasing opportunities. Still, that is no excuse on why more action has not been taken to remedy this eyesore. Given the new Chase Bank and soon to be open CVS in the former QFC location, it's over-due for InterUrban owners to commit to a timeline and be held accountable for improving that building's exterior. This continued problem is a terrible reflection on our entire neighborhood, especially when existing and new businesses are improving their services and welcoming customers.

Thank you for your continued efforts, David Morganstern

Dear GPNA Board Members.

Thank you for endorsing the efforts by Quiet Clean PDX to ban gas leaf blowers from Portland. Everyone on the Board will receive periodic updates concerning the work we are doing.

Thank you so much for making space in the last GPNA meeting for me to present. I was amazed at the number of items you managed to fit into the meeting and impressed with the grace with which you managed it. You made space for each item, but kept the meeting moving along - and stayed on schedule! I realize that is no small feat.

I look forward to attending upcoming GPNA meetings to stay abreast of the happenings in the Grant Park neighborhood. I live right on the edge of it (the east side of NE 26th – neighbors on the other side of the street are in Irvington and for quite a while, I thought we were also in the Irvington neighborhood!)

Thanks again, Tamara Olcott

Annual Meeting and Elections Coming Up!

Just as April brings new blooms, Grant Park Neighborhood Association annually hopes for fresh volunteers to help shape our neighborhood and what goes on here. This is your chance! If you receive this newsletter, you are a member of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) and are eligible to hold office. Two long-serving GPNA board members are unable to continue, and the offices of President and Secretary will be vacant.

This year's annual meeting, when elections will be held, is on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, commencing at 7 p.m. The meeting will be online via Zoom, due to COVID restrictions. If you wish to participate, as an elector or candidate, or simply as an interested member, please send an email to <code>general@grantpark-na.org</code> to let us know you will attend at least two days prior to the date of the meeting, and include your physical address (residence or business) within Grant Park neighborhood, email address, and telephone number. Upon verification, GPNA will provide a link to the meeting.

Over the past few years, the GPNA board has become more diverse in terms of gender, age, and ethnic representation. GPNA seeks to represent all members of our neighborhood, and encourages anyone interested to consider applying to be an officer.

In Portland, a neighborhood association is the officially designated, recognized organization for a specific geographic location. Each association is self-governed, has citizen-written bylaws that determine boundaries, the election and function of officers, and the frequency of meetings. The GPNA Board strives to enhance the livability of Grant Park and to act as liaison for our neighborhood with various government entities, groups, businesses, and other Portland neighborhoods. The Board is also responsible for maintaining and updating the bylaws; ensuring the fiscal well being of the association; developing transparent, open and objective processes; and acting for the association on time sensitive issues.

At the annual meeting, the board will recommend a slate of officers, and nominations will be taken from the floor. Any member of the neighborhood can nominate themselves. There are six elected positions on the board:

 President - the chief executive officer of the GPNA corporation, who presides at all meetings of the membership and the board;

- Vice President (one or two) acts as president when the president is unavailable;
- Treasurer responsible for the corporation funds;
- Secretary manages correspondence and takes the minutes of meetings, maintains lists of meeting attendees.
- Communications manages the newsletter.
- Webmaster updates the GPNA website.

Aside from these officer positions, there can be up to 10 "At Large" board members. At large members have no specifically designated duties other than to attend meetings and vote on issues, although they often serve on subject specific committees. Becoming an at large member is a good way to find out if serving on the GPNA board works for you. For additional information please contact any current board member through our email: <code>general@grantpark-na.org</code>.



Virtual Racial Equity 101 Workshop Saturday, March 20 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm live online

Equitable policies, programs, and practices benefit everyone, not just people of color. We know that ability, motivation, and hard work are not always enough to succeed in life. Race can predict social and economic prosperity. In this training, you will learn about systemic racism, equity and implicit bias. This training is interactive and supportive; people can express themselves without fear of judgment or blame.

The GPNA Board participated in an earlier version of this training, and those attending found it to be illuminating, educational, and thought-provoking. Following the Board event, GPNA requested that the presenters consider offering a community-wide event for the general public.

Offered by the City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights in coordination with the Grant Park Neighborhood Association, all are welcome! We request registration by March 15 to *general@grantpark-na.org*, a link will be sent to all registered participants before the workshop on March 20.

Neighborhood Racial Justice Protests Are Ongoing

By Stacey Tipp

As you may have noticed, a small but stalwart group of neighbors continues to make a stand for racial justice at the corner of NE Knott and NE 33RD Avenue. The protest is on Monday, Wednesday,



and Friday mornings from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. The number of folks protesting has dwindled since the summer, as people returned to work from furlough and others decided that the time for protesting is over. But for now, the protest is ongoing, and newcomers are always welcome. The protesters have plenty of signs to share, and would be delighted to see some new faces on the corner.

Upper Field Project Remains Stalled

by Ken Peterson

The Fall 2020 GPNA newsletter contained a lengthy article describing plans to install lighting, bleachers, and other improvements on the Grant High/Park Upper Field to facilitate increased on-site interscholastic competition between Grant and its rivals. In particular, the planned improvements would enable on-campus games for the girls' softball team. See http://grantpark-na.org/wp-content/uploads/GPNA_newsletter_Fall2020_webready.pdf

In December, 2020, Mark Moffett, City Planner, City of Portland - Bureau of Development Services, issued a notice of "incompleteness" for the project plans submitted by Portland Public Schools (PPS) and Portland Parks and Recreation (PPR). PPS and PPR have until May 12, 2021, to address the many deficiencies found. Mr. Moffett noted: "It would be advisable to work with the neighbors on additional mitigation measures per their e-mail suggestions over the past month or so since this application came in, in order to address their concerns and improve the proposal. Limiting the maximum number of weekly/monthly/annual events may help with these concerns somewhat, but there also appear to be other issues. We definitely need to know about Parks

versus community versus school use, but additional mitigation measures may also be helpful."

Following receipt of the incompleteness notice, both GPNA and the group of neighbors repeatedly requested to meet with PPS and Parks. No meeting has yet occurred due to inability to agree on format, sponsorship, and scope. David Mayne, Communications Manager PPS Bond Program, recently advised GPNA that PPS and PPR are working to address the deficiencies found, but details of the new proposal have not yet been disclosed either to the neighbors or to GPNA. Mr. Mayne requested that GPNA serve as a conduit for the concerns of the neighbor's group, in lieu of them "emailing or calling PPS and Parks separately." GPNA cannot, and will not, preclude individuals from communicating directly with public agencies; moreover, GPNA does not "represent" the neighbors, but rather seeks to facilitate communication among the project proponents and all interested stakeholders. To that end, recently the GPNA Board agreed to sponsor a committee to consider all community interests in an effort to help resolve the apparent impasse about next steps.

GPNA Engages with New City Council

Following the recent occurrence of significant and costly property damage to businesses near Grant Park and the defacing of Grant High School by vandals, the GPNA Board voted to send the following letter to the Mayor and Commissioners. GPNA representatives also spearheaded a similar letter from our neighborhood coalition, Central Northeast Neighbors. The Mayor and several Commissioners acknowledged the letter and thanked GPNA for sending it.

general@grantpark-na.org
December 11, 2020

Mayor Ted Wheeler;

Commissioners Jo Ann Hardesty; Mingus Mapps; Carmen Rubio; and Dan Ryan: Sent Via Email

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Hardesty, Mapps, Rubio, and Ryan:

As 2021 approaches, Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) looks forward to working with you all to make Portland a better place for everyone.

GPNA strongly supports greater justice, equality, fairness and inclusion towards people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and identifications, disabilities, religions, and home status.

We support the non-violent protests embodied by the Black Lives Matter movement that followed the killing of George Floyd. GPNA previously donated to organizations that further the BLM. Many of our board members have actively organized demonstrations within our neighborhood intended to further goals of BLM. Please see our latest newsletter for additional information concerning our efforts. Here is a link: http://grantpark-na.org/wp-content/up-loads/GPNA newsletter Fall2020 webready.pdf

We support reimagining and re-budgeting the Portland Police Bureau and other city agencies to more equitably and effectively increase public safety for everyone.

We decry and oppose violence, vandalism and criminally destructive behavior. Recently businesses in our adjacent Hollywood neighborhood and our newly renovated Grant High School were subjected to senseless and costly vandalism and defacement. We believe that the positive benefits of the BLM movement will only be diluted and weakened by tolerating random anti-social activities that some may wrongly associate with that movement. They not only hurt our neighborhoods, businesses, and individuals, but also feed and embolden forces of injustice. To reduce this counterproductive behavior, we encourage criminal prosecution of offenders.

We love our neighborhoods, our Portland, our Oregon and our United States Of America. We want to help make them better for all.

Respectfully submitted,

GRANT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Ken Peterson Marion Horna
President and Land Use Chair Member at Large

Ron Laster Vivek Kothari Vice-President and Treasurer Member at Large

Jane Comeault Marisa Morby
Secretary Member at Large

Neon Brooks Laurene Mullen Member at Large Member at Large

Jessica Decker Lois Okrasinski Member at Large Member at Large

MaryCal Hanson Stacey Tipp
Member at Large Member at Large

Little Libraries in Our Neighborhood

by Laurene Mullen

Around any given corner in our neighborhood, you might stumble on a little box of pure goodness. Perched on posts these small boxes are an oasis in our hyper-teched lives. They are the free book sharing boxes that are scattered hither and thither along our streets. And have no other agenda than to share free knowledge with our neighbors. Walking around and driving around every street in the Grant Park neighborhood netted a dozen book boxes. There is even a special box on NE 37th that shares exclusively jigsaw puzzles. Another box on NE Thompson offered up a tub of dog biscuits. So sharing is an egalitarian adventure! Below you'll find a list of the book boxes in our neighborhood.

These little weather proof barns for books have been placed there usually by the residents of the homes in front of where they sit. The idea is simple: Anyone can leave books or take books. Share books that would otherwise sit on shelves wishing someone would open their pages and reap the bounty from within. A book sharing box can be made and decorated anyway a person wants. It's encouraged that if you take a book you should leave a book, but it is not a strict criterion. Getting books into the hands of a reader is the ultimate goal. You might read a book that you had not considered before or meet a (masked) neighbor while standing and perusing the free offerings.

Although many book boxes or barns are part of an organization known as Little Free Libraries not all book sharing boxes are affiliated with the non-profit.

Little Free Libraries (LFL) got started when Todd Bol decided to put a free book box in front of his Hudson, Wisconsin home in 2009. Today there are more than 100,000 registered Little Free Libraries in 91 countries. But that is the tip of the iceberg. That only counts the folks who want to register with the LFL non-profit. Many people erect their own free sharing boxes and skip the registration. Registering means that your Little Free Library will get an official plaque and registration number and be placed on a virtual map on the LFL website. (littlefreelibrary.org).

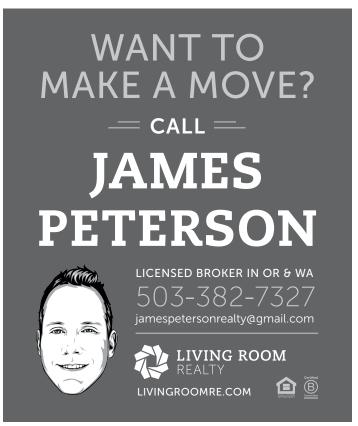
The Little Free Libraries organization can help with design and frequently asked questions, kits to make boxes, or fully constructed boxes. The cost for buying a ready-made box and post is in the \$300/400 dollar range. But it's pretty easy to find book boxes and designs with a search on the web. The main criteria are weather proofing and accessibility. People have made book sharing boxes out of old cabinets, old microwaves,

or mailboxes. Can you put some books in it, does it have a door? Paint it up and you've got yourself a book sharing library.

Todd Bol was a good guy. He died in 2018 at the age of 62 but before he died he sent out this message: "I really believe in a Little Free Library on every block and a book in every hand. I believe people can fix their neighborhoods, fix their communities, develop systems of sharing, learn from each other, and see that they have a better place on this planet to live."

Sharing knowledge and being good neighbors, it doesn't get better than that!

- 3132 NE US Grant PI
- 2527 NE 27th Ave. (LFL #62845)
- 1905 NE 30th Ave
- 2503 NE 34th Ave (LFL #21989)
- 3415 NE Hancock St.
- 3560 NE Hancock St. (LFL #9062)
- 2545 NE 37th Ave. (LFL #5281)
- 1805 NE 37th Ave. (Puzzle Library)
- 2336 NE 45th Ave. (LFL #19064)
- 4415 NE Thompson St.
- 2415 NE 44th Ave.
- 2334 NE 47th Ave.



A Glimmer of Hope for Gordon's?

By Ken Peterson

Past articles detailed concerns about the proposed Aircraft Factory rehab of former Gordon's Fireplace Shop. GPNA, as well as many local residents, decried the failure of new owners Interurban Development to maintain the building and abate graffiti (see letter to the editor, elsewhere in this issue).

There may be a glimmer of hope for the building. In November, 2020, Interurban submitted a request for "early assistance" to Portland's Bureau of Design Services. Such a request is often a precursor to actual development. The request specified: "Mixed-use development of existing building for retail, preschool and household living. (...)" Stay tuned!

Jean Johnson Principal Broker

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Jean's doctorate is in Applied History where she studied public policy. Expect an extra layer of expertise on your next real estate transaction.

The Portland Food Project: Fighting Hunger One Green Bag at A Time

By Stacey Tipp



Hunger is a huge problem in our state. An estimated one million Oregonians, close to 1 in 4 people, experienced food insecurity in 2020. This means that they don't always have enough food to feed themselves or their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has only made things worse.

especially in the Portland metro area. For example, one local food bank, the Northeast Emergency Food Pantry, has seen demand increase from an average of 16,000 visitors per month pre-pandemic to 60,000 visitors per month post-pandemic.

One organization fighting hunger is the Portland Food Project (PFP). This small non-profit, which is 100% run by volunteers, has a super-efficient method for getting food to hungry folks. The basic model uses volunteer coordinators to recruit their neighbors to form a team of donors. Each donor gets a green cloth reusable bag to fill with healthy, non-perishable food. Neighborhood coordinators collect full bags from front door steps once every other month. The coordinators then deliver the filled green bags to the PFP for distribution to local food pantries. Donor teams can also be friends or coworkers at a business or other organization, and not necessarily neighbors who live geographically close to one another.

The model is both simple and effective. Many of us lead extremely busy lives, balancing work, family, and other commitments. But bringing a food donation to a front porch or workplace six times a year is very doable for participants. In 2019 the food collected by PFP averaged 19,000 lbs. each month. In 2020 that number jumped to nearly 20,500 lbs. per collection. Responding to the extra demand for food during the pandemic, many donors increased the amount of food contributed (the PFP will also accept food in brown bags, boxes, and cases). Others have also stepped up by giving cash donations that the PFP turns into food. Giving cash is a practical option for donors for whom shopping in the pandemic is difficult.

The Grant Park neighborhood had two food drives recently, on the PFP's two last collection dates. Our neighborhood is full of generous people, and the food drives are a creative way to piggyback on the PFP's collection events. Both food drives, held in the parking lot of Grant Park Church, were a great success and netted large amounts of additional food for the PFP.

If you would like to learn more about the PFP and how you can help, please go to www.portlandfoodproject.org. When you sign up to be a regular food donor, the PFP will assign you to an existing coordinator in your area. If you would like to make a larger commitment, consider becoming a neighborhood coordinator and recruiting your friends, neighbors, or coworkers to form your own route. Perhaps your employer might like to consider joining the existing roster of amazing community partners who support the PFP. Questions can also be e-mailed to info@portlandfoodproject.org.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Are You Worried Your Knee Pain May Cause You To Miss Out On Activities With Family And Friends?



by Leading Back Pain Expert, Dr. Carl Baird DC

Have you, or someone you know, been dealing with knee pain that keeps you from being as active as you'd like? Do you worry that if your knee pain gets any worse, you'll have to give up your favorite activities? Or worse, maybe you're already being forced to miss out on outings, trips,

and adventures with your friends and family because of your pain.

Maybe you've probably been told that you have a 'bad knees', that it's just 'part of getting older,' or that you have 'arthritis' and are 'bone on bone' and the only thing you can really do is accept knee pain and move on.

My name is Dr. Carl Baird and over the last 10+ years I have worked with adults aged 40-70 find relief from knee pain – and what I can tell you is the traditional approach to treating knee pain is not working. Pills, injections, surgeries; they all do nothing to get at the root cause of your knee pain and often lead to more issues later.

In fact, I've written a book on the topic titled:

'Life Without Limitations: A Complete Guide to Overcoming Pain - Regardless of Age" that details what you can do to overcome knee pain and stay active, strong, and doing what you love – even when nothing else has worked...And I want to send you this book at no charge.

I want you to imagine how life will be in five years from now if you don't get a grip on your knee pain. How will it affect your job? Your ability to stay active? Will you be a fun person to be with? Or live with? OK, you get my drift...

If you're ready to stop being limited by knee pain, it's time to get your copy of the FREE KNEE PAIN BOOK mailed directly to your door. You can do any of the following:

- Call us at (503) 954-2495 to request your 100% free copy...you can leave a message 24/7
- Or, simply fill out the form at https://www.performancehealthcarepdx.com/free-book

P.S. There are just 8 free copies available, so please call soon to learn how easy it can be to end knee pain.

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.

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, 503-287-9566.

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