

Grant Park

Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Spring 2022

Your Neighborhood Association Needs You!

By Ron Laster

At the April 12 Annual Meeting of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA), we will be electing our Board of Directors. If you live (owning or renting), work, or go to Grant High school, you are eligible to join the Board. The GPNA hopes for fresh volunteers to help shape our neighborhood and what goes on here. We strive to enhance the livability of Grant Park and to act as the liaison for our neighborhood with various government entities, groups, businesses, as well as our sister neighborhoods.

The City of Portland established the neighborhood association process in the mid-1970's. The City at that time acknowledged the then current phenomena of increased citizen interest and participation in the planning and delivery of government services, as well as requirements on city, state, and federal levels for a defined citizen participation structure. Neighborhood Associations are defined geographically, are self-governed, and have citizen-written bylaws that define boundaries, the election and function of officers, and meeting frequency.

The volunteer neighbors who make up the GPNA Board are elected to serve for one year in their respective positions. The Board is responsible for ensuring the financial wellbeing of the association, maintaining up to date bylaws, providing for a transparent, objective meeting process, and in time-sensitive matters, acting for the association. The Board can also form committees to respond to specific issues and needs as they develop and can designate representatives to represent Grant Park at other venues.

Our bylaws allow for up to 15 Board members, five officer positions and ten "At Large" positions.

- **President:** Chief Executive Officer who presides over all meetings.
- **Vice President:** Acts as president when the president is unavailable (we can have up to 2 vice presidents). This position is currently vacant.
- **Treasurer:** Responsible for maintaining the finances of the Association and filing the appropriate tax forms.
- **Secretary:** Takes and publishes the meeting minutes and attendee lists.
- **Communications:** Manages and coordinates the newsletter publication and website.
- **At Large positions:** These positions are voting positions and are good "training grounds" for future officers. We have an established process of asking that new Board members begin as an at large member, rather than an officer. This allows

continued page 2

2022 MEETINGS:

- April 12 (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.

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

Ron Laster

Secretary:

Mary Cal Hanson

Treasurer:

Jessica Decker

Land Use Chair:

Neon Brooks

Communication Chair/

Newsletter Editor:

Stacey Tipp

At Large:

*Linda Burch, Marion Horna,
Vivek Kothari, Laurene Mullen,
Lois Okrasinski*

Contact the Board at:

general@grantpark-na.org

Association Elections, *continued*

the individual to gain an understanding of process and responsibilities, as well as to develop area(s) of interest.

At the April 12 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. If

you are interested, have questions, or would like more information, please contact any current Board member through our email: general@grantpark-na.org.

We are a nurturing group of neighbors actively seeking new members to ensure that our collective voice is representative of our community. Do consider joining us.

Zoom Meetings

By Stacey Tipp

In pre-pandemic times the Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) held its meetings in a conference room in our beautifully remodeled high school. When the pandemic started shutting things down, the GPNA (like everyone else) started meeting remotely via Zoom.

At the start of the pandemic, as we adapted to this new technology, we all heard stories of “Zoombombing,” where video-conference calls were interrupted by bad actors and Internet trolls. To avoid this happening at GPNA meetings, the association decided to require meeting attendees to provide verifiable evidence of their identity before provid-

ing them the Zoom meeting link. However, we received some feedback from neighbors that this requirement is onerous and potentially reduces neighbor participation in our meetings, especially if someone decides to attend a meeting at the last minute.

To remedy this problem, the GPNA will now simply post the Zoom meeting link and agenda on our website a few days before the meeting. Go to www.grantpark-na.org

Please do consider joining us at GPNA Zoom meetings. We hope it won't be too much longer before we can meet again in person.

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, not 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, 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

Land Use and Transportation Update

By Neon Brooks

Land Use

Grant Park Upper Field Improvement Project (US Grant Place): Construction on the Grant Upper Field Improvement Project began in late January, with construction of fencing, demolition and removal of turf, and installation of the field lights. The construction is currently expected to be completed by May 24th, 2022, and will provide a long-awaited girls' softball diamond.

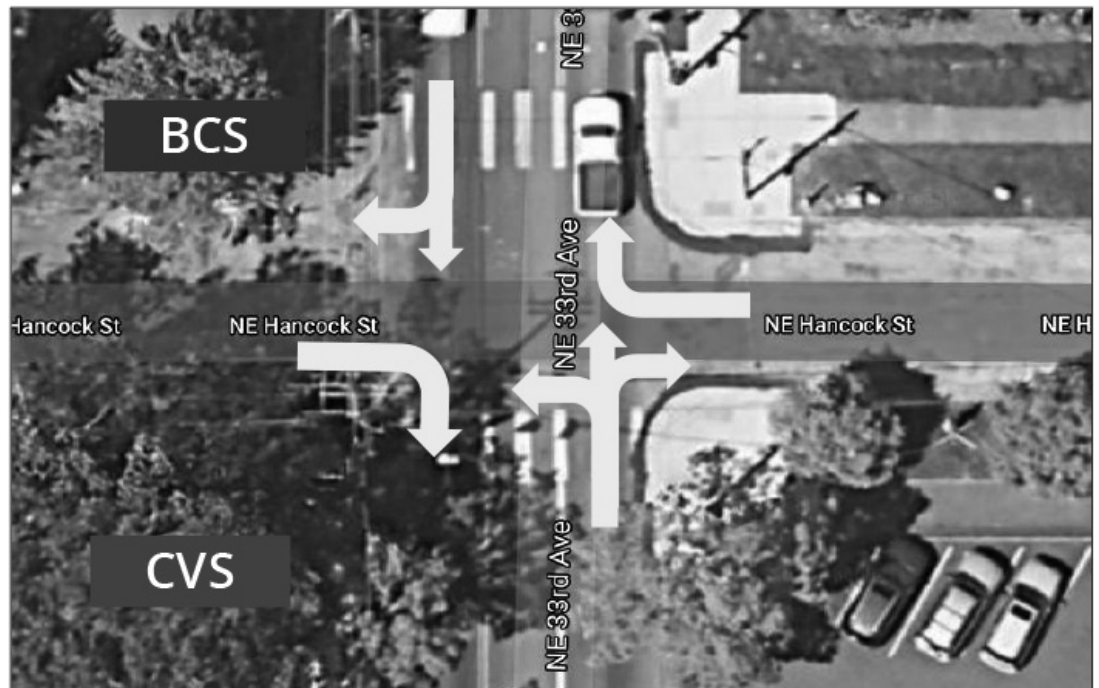
PPS has assured us that the existing Grant High School sign, located in the cluster of trees near the current baseball scoreboard, will not be moved or affected by the construction. They also note that a cedar tree near the baseball scoreboard was recently removed by PPS as it was considered a danger to pedestrians. PPS has submitted a permit to the city to replace this tree with another of the same genus, and hopes to replant this spring.

Food cart updates: The 6-cart food cart pod at 3505 NE Broadway is currently on hold. However, the permit for the 12-cart food cart pod at **3550 NE Broadway** (formerly Burger King) is expected to be approved in the next month or two. The architect says that construction on that pod will begin as soon as the permit is in hand, with an opening expected in late spring or early summer.

Aircraft Factory (former Gordon's Fireplace, 3312 NE Broadway): As of March 1st, the construction permit for the Aircraft Factory Building at NE 33rd and Broadway has still not been approved by the city. The developer, architect, and the city all tell me that this permit is close to approval. We can all continue to hope for construction to commence on that site in the near future.

Transportation

Tillamook-Hancock Greenway: At the February GPNA meeting, Scott Cohen of PBOT shared the final plans for traffic changes at NE 33rd and Hancock to reduce conflicts between people driving, biking, and walking. The changes will allow right turns only at 33rd for cars traveling



on Hancock in both directions and will prohibit left turns onto Hancock for cars traveling South on 33rd. The image above from PBOT illustrates the permitted vehicle movements following the change. This project is planned for this spring by PBOT's maintenance operations group but staffing challenges could delay the timeline. Improvements to the sidewalk and signalized crossing at the southwest corner of this intersection should be completed by the property owner of the CVS building over the next few months.

Following input at the GPNA meeting, PBOT will also fix the placement of the stop sign at NE 36th and Hancock so the pedestrian crossing is past the stop sign. PBOT will also address visibility concerns at the stop sign at NE 38th and Hancock. We also look forward to new signage and pavement markings on this new greenway, hopefully in the coming months.

NE 33rd Ave: We have been told that PBOT continues work on a response to the letter GPNA sent in October regarding the need for further safety improvements on 33rd Ave. Plans for removing parking to improve visibility at 33rd and Hancock and US Grant Place and adding bike boxes at 33rd and US Grant Place are also in PBOT's maintenance and operations queue.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at neonbluebrooks@gmail.com if you have questions or concerns about these or any other land use matters in the neighborhood.

Smoke Alarm Installation Help

By Stacey Tipp

Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms play a crucial role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half.

But choosing, purchasing, and installing smoke alarms can be a daunting task for seniors, the disabled, and low-income families. To reduce this burden, Portland Fire and Rescue (PF&R) has a Smoke Alarm Program to install smoke alarms at no charge. According to PF&R, “the program is geared toward seniors, the disabled, and low-income residents who do not live in residences where a landlord or property manager is required to have working smoke alarms per fire code.”

Having properly working smoke alarms can bring immense peace of mind. Here are comments from one senior who took advantage of the PF&R's Smoke Alarm Program: “I want to profusely thank the Fire Department for installing my smoke alarms. I'm a senior and I would say this is one of the few silver linings of getting older! I feel a lot safer now with my smoke alarms installed.”

If you would like to know more about this program and request an installation, call the “Smoke Alarm Hotline” at 503-823-3752. For more information on smoke alarms, fire prevention and safety, go to <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/article/379129>

Grant Park Neighborhood Association Small Grants

By Stacey Tipp

The Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) donates funds in the form of small grants to projects that build and sustain strong community ties in the Grant Park neighborhood and surrounding Northeast Portland neighborhoods. The grants are intended to support local efforts that protect and expand neighborhood investments, and to help community-based organizations expand their roles as community anchors. Previous recipients of these grants include Grant Park Church and the NE Village PDX, an organization that helps seniors “age in place.”

GPNA small grants are limited to a maximum of \$500 per request for one-time, short-term (one year maximum) projects. Grant requests may be made any time during the year. Please go to the “Resources” page on the GPNA website (grantpark-na.org) for more details and to find the Small Grant Request Form. This form must be submitted to the GPNA Board at least one week prior to the next GPNA meeting.



mark charlesworth
real estate team



YOUR EXPERIENCED AGENT WITH IN-DEPTH MARKET KNOWLEDGE

With over 700 homes sold in the past 5 years
Mark has the skills, experience, and expertise
to sell your property at the best price!

Call Mark Today!
503-807-9911

or visit

www.markcharlesworth.com/homevalue

Scan me
For a FREE
instant home valuation



Grant Park Church
Where All Are Welcome

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

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

Visit: www.grantparkchurch.com



Something or Nothing to Crow About

By Laurene Mullen

What if crows had a sweet little tweet instead of a raucous caw? Would we feel differently about them? Crows have a loud piercing caw, black eyes, dive bombing protective behaviors, and they are everywhere! Whether you love them or hate them crows have indigenous rights to live in our neighborhood. They've been on the American continent for over a million years.

If it seems that there are more crows in our neighborhood in the winter that is because there are. Crows are partially migratory birds. Some of our crows fly north to Canada in the summer, but some of our crows are permanent residents. When you see a massing (also known as a "murder") of crows in the evening around one of our big neighborhood conifers or oaks they are gathering for their nightly "happy hour" before going to roost. Some small pods of crows roost in our neighborhood. But the largest group of crows heads for the South Park blocks each evening. It's estimated that 15,000 of these birds congregate downtown every winter evening. The city has had to use trained hawks to harass the crows to roost somewhere else as their accumulations of bird poop overwhelm the city resources for cleanup.

The crows we see in our neighborhood are most likely generational family groups that have lived here for decades. An average crow lives 7 -8 years. Every spring crows lay 4-5 eggs, which will hatch in about 20 days and then be fed by the family for another 30 days. The fledging crows are almost full-size by the time they leave the nest, but you can tell a juvenile crow by their blue-grey eyes. After they are grown and on their own the young crows can stay in the family group for 2 years, training the new fledglings each year. The family and extended family of crows are very, very protective of their fledglings.

Crows will go to great lengths to defend their young. If a dog or person walks into an area too close to a fledgling nest, or worse, a fledgling on the ground, the crows will go crazy with cawing and even dive bombing the offending invader. They can call to nearby crows to join in the ruckus to help with defense. Seen from the crows' perspective they are just doing their job. And here's another twist: the crows can remember human faces and individual animals. Say you happen to walk unknowingly near a fledgling on the ground, the adult crows might pick you out as a threat to their baby. Then if you happen to walk the same way those crows could pick you out of the sidewalk lineup and harass you or your dog. Rarely do they make contact, but they can. After the fledglings graduate out of the nest, the crows give up their nest site for the year so they will no longer need to harass passersby. But if you have been targeted by a group of crows the best thing while you wait for the spring nesting season to be over is 1) wear a hat

2) change your hair style and clothes colors and if all else fails 3) carry an umbrella but not a black one!

If you would rather not have crows in your backyard that is a tricky task. People in America have tried all sorts of nefarious ways to get rid of crows (dynamite!), but some gentler ways of discouragement are to hang fake images of their natural predators like hawks or owls in trees, or shiny silver ribbons, or removing their nests but only after the nesting season is over in June. But all your efforts might fall short as crows are considered one of the most intelligent bird species. The American crow is one of only a few species of bird that has been observed modifying and using tools to obtain food. Once they figure out the ribbons and fake owls are not a threat, they will be back.



And just to be clear, crows are protected under the Migratory Bird Act of 1918. It is illegal to physically harm a crow or to destroy an active nest. It is also illegal to keep a crow as a pet.

If you're a crow lover and feed your black feathered friends, they will be ever so grateful and will come back for years and bring all their friends and relatives cawing and congregating in your yard in droves. Crows are omnivores and will eat anything: bugs, seeds, nuts, small birds and eggs, carrion, or left-over fast food. But if you stop feeding them, they will let you know by loud caws and even aggressive behavior. Not to mention the interactions you might have with your neighbors.

Birds in the crow family are found around the world in virtually every environment. They are adaptable and can be found in urban areas, forests, grasslands, mountains, and deserts. They do provide a service to the ecological food chain by eating waste and insect pests.

No matter how you feel about crows, these fascinating, intelligent social birds are in our neighborhood to stay. We might as well embrace these raucous, social, feathered friends.

Houseless Ministry Ready to Open at Grant Park Church

By The Grant Park Church Houseless Ministry Committee

Our neighborhood will begin hosting houseless families this spring! After 18 months of careful planning, renovation, and preparation, Grant Park Church (at the corner of 34th and Knott) is ready to provide shelter for houseless families.

GPC is one of 13 host congregations partnering with Family Promise of Metro East (<https://www.FamilyPromiseMetroEast.org/>), a new rotational shelter network of congregations and organizations on the east side of Portland, to provide shelter for homeless children and their families. This model allows small congregations to make a meaningful impact.

Through Family Promise, 13 host congregations provide overnight accommodations (during 5:30PM to 7:00AM) for three or four families (up to 14 people total) on a rotating schedule. With 13 host congregations, each church hosts these families for just four weeks per year (one week each quarter). The host congregation provides a full dinner, overnight lodging, and breakfast-to-go for the families. Additional support congregations will partner with the 13 host congregations to provide additional volunteers. Family Promise screens all families before assignment and upon

entry. Pets are not permitted on site. During the day, the families will go to work, school, or the Family Promise Day Center (not at GPC) where the families can receive case management and other services.

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 community can respond by making a positive difference for these children and their parents.

If you want to see our renovated basement where we will house families or learn more about this houseless ministry, please join us for a Community Open House on Saturday, April 23 at 2:00-3:00PM at 2728 NE 34th Avenue.

If you would like to volunteer as an evening monitor, overnight monitor, or morning monitor during hosting weeks to assist these houseless families, please contact David Wheeler (cadlwheels@yahoo.com). And please reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your interest and support!

Leadership Change at Grant Park Church

The Rev. Jeremy Richards, the Pastor of Grant Park Church since 2016, is leaving to take a job as the chaplain at Linfield University in McMinnville, OR. Linfield has historic roots with American Baptism, the denomination of Grant Park Church. Jeremy will be sad to leave Grant Park Church but is proud of this welcoming and service-oriented congregation. The congregation wishes Jeremy and his family the very best on their new adventures.



Rev. Jeremy Richards (right) with his partner Brie and daughter Esther



SEISMIC RETROFITS | GAS VALVES | FOUNDATION REPAIR

NWSEISMIC.COM | 503.741.8311

CCB# 186559

Neighborhood Invaders

By Carolyn Latierra

This is the time of year when one first notices them: the pretty waxy yellow flowers and glossy green leaves. But don't be deceived as they will happily dominate your (and your neighbor's) yard.

Lesser Celandine (pictured) came from Europe as an attractive ground cover. Unfortunately, it will outcompete other vegetation, push out indigenous plant populations, and spread widely. It is also notorious for clogging up waterways. Lesser Celandine is living and spreading among us right now here in Grant Park, with many gardens and parking strips unwittingly playing host.

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) offers an informative page on this and other invasive species of plants that we don't want to welcome in our yards (go to www.emswcd.org and look under "Urban Weeds"). EMSWCD also offers guidance on how to remove the plant when you spot it. Of utmost importance is the county's urgent notice to place all plant parts, taking care not to miss bulblets along the roots, in a plastic bag, tightly seal the bag, clearly label it as "Invasive Plant Material! Do not Compost!" and put it in the trash.

Bright yellow in the Spring: daffodils, crocus, primroses, all generally make a happy early show for us. Let's stick with them.



Questionable Taste

By Stacey Tipp

For many of us, the Portland food scene is one of the greatest things about living in this city. But you can't eat out all the time. If you're like me, you enjoy looking through cookbooks, new and old, to get inspiration. Some older recipes are classics and stand the test of time. Some not so much.

This recipe is taken from Betty Crocker's Good and Easy Cookbook of 1954. I'm not going to lie, it's pretty scary. Are any readers brave enough to try it?

Full O' Boloney

2 cups cubed raw potatoes
1 and ½ cups cut-up bologna
2 tbsp. minced green pepper
6 tbsp. Gold Medal Flour
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
3 tbsp. butter
2 cups milk

Heat oven to 350 degrees (mod.). Arrange potatoes, bologna, green pepper, flour and seasonings in layers in a 1 and ½-qt. baking dish, dotting each layer with butter. Pour milk over and bake 1 hr. 15 min.

Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Bon Appetit!

Protect Yourself from Cybercrimes by Spring-Cleaning your Digital Home

By Hannah Lewis



As I walk through nearby Grant Park, I can't help but notice the flowers blooming and think about days growing longer as we enter the spring—giving me extra energy. It's no wonder that a new season often inspires us to participate in the centuries-old spring-cleaning ritual. Decluttering and starting fresh promotes many health benefits and improves well-being, like improved focus, decreased stress, elevated mood and better-quality sleep. Similarly, getting our digital homes in order can benefit our financial health. As On Point Community Credit Union's Hollywood Branch Manager, I'm keenly aware of community concerns about cybercrime, especially as people increasingly rely on digital tools and scammers use more sophisticated methods to access information.

Five tips to get your digital home in order this spring

Social media, for example, creates a significant vulnerability for people of all ages. In 2021, more than 93% of LinkedIn's user base—700 million users—were victims of a cyberattack with their information put up for sale on the dark web. Although it's difficult to insulate yourself from cybercrime completely, there are proactive steps you can take, including:

1. **Dispose of digital clutter.** Properly dispose of old computers, cell phones, external hard drives, and disks. Clean out your devices' folders by deleting contents in your downloads folder and removing files with sensitive information. Instead, use an external hard drive or cloud storage to secure sensitive data. If you do add information to the cloud, make sure you have multifactor authentication enabled for your login as an extra precaution.
2. **Scrub privacy and security settings.** Make a list of all your email and social media accounts and de-

lete any unused profiles. Review your social media, browser, and email accounts, and update your preferences. Take time to understand what information you are sharing within your accounts and scale it back wherever possible. Lastly, check to see if your login credentials have been compromised—if so, update usernames and passwords.

3. **Organize and protect your usernames and passwords.** Using different usernames and long, unique passwords that are hard to guess but easy to remember will make breaching multiple websites more difficult for attackers. When available, use two-factor authentication and a password manager to safely store your passwords and usernames.
4. **Check your credit report annually.** Another great way to monitor any unwanted or suspicious activity on your accounts is by pulling your credit report annually. Your credit report is a valuable tool to help guard against identity theft or cyber-fraud as you look to protect your personal information from cyber-criminals. If you don't have plans to open new credit accounts, you might consider freezing your credit as an added precaution.
5. **Do not share your personal information over the phone.** Never share your personal information or login credentials such as username, account numbers, and social security numbers over the phone. Your financial institution and the government will never initiate contact and ask for your personal information over the phone or by email. If you are concerned about your account's status or security, hang up and call the number on the back of your ATM card to ensure you are talking with an actual representative from your financial institution.

Like spring cleaning, it's a good idea to set time aside every year to proactively revisit your online security to protect yourself from scams. If you have questions, my team and I encourage you to visit our branch at 3030 NE Weidler Street. We'd be happy to speak with you and assist in helping you take a proactive approach to your personal cybersecurity. Ask about the Onpoint Guide to Personal Cybersecurity, a free resource full of actionable guidance to help keep you safe from fraudsters.