



Grant Park

Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Spring 2023

Gordon's Fireplace Project Stalls Out

By Neon Brooks

We have been hearing about plans to redevelop the old Gordon's Fireplace building on the Southeast corner of 33rd and Broadway for nearly five years. As recently as our October 2022 Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) meeting, Rob Brewster, president of the development firm that owns the building, told us that he was hopeful that the building would be complete with 18 new apartments ready to rent by fall of 2023. However, the most recent updates from Mr. Brewster suggest the project is indefinitely paused.

At the end of January, Mr. Brewster responded to an inquiry from me to say that he had no updates on the project and that cost increases were causing the developers to reassess the project. In February, many neighbors noticed that the fence around the property was taken down, and an entrance to the building was opened. After repeated attempts to contact Mr. Brewster by GPNA members, Mr. Brewster informed a board member that the building would be closed up "more permanently" and that construction costs were too high for the project to continue as planned.

GPNA will continue to look for any opportunity to help development move forward on this property, and to discourage trespassing and other illegal activity at the site. Neighbors should feel empowered to contact the Portland Property Compliance Help Line at 503-823-2633 or codec@portlandoregon.gov if they observe property code violations on the property, including trash/debris on the exterior of the property, illegal occupancies, a vacant structure open to entry, or other safety concerns.

Transportation Update: 33rd and Hancock

A reminder the 33rd and Hancock intersection is now right-turn-only for cars traveling on Hancock street in both directions. I have observed and heard reports of cars going straight through Hancock while traveling East – this may seem harmless, but can actually post a large risk as people walking, biking, and in other cars are not expecting this behavior. This traffic pattern change was designed to keep neighbors and Beverly Cleary K-8 families safe – please obey the law and turn right onto 33rd at this intersection.

Cold NETs and Hot Power Lines

By Nanci Tangeman, NET Volunteer

We train for The Big One: earthquake search and rescue, triage, radio communications, basic first aid. The reality is, as part of the Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET), volunteers more commonly help out at warming centers, clear storm inlets, maintain safety pe-

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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **April 11, 2023**
(Annual Meeting, including election of officers and changes to GPNA bylaws)
- **June 27, 2023**
- **October 10, 2023**
- **January 9, 2024**
- **April 9, 2024**

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:

Acting President:

Neon Brooks

Vice President:

Stacey Tipp

Secretary:

Kara Caselas

Treasurer:

Kara Caselas

Land Use Chair:

Neon Brooks

Newsletter Editor:

Stacey Tipp

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*Mary Artz, Linda Burch,
Aaron Druck, Tom Fawell,
Molly Hamill, Laurene Mullen,
Ramona Perrault*

Contact the Board at:

general@grantpark-na.org

Grant Park Neighborhood Association Board Updates

By Stacey Tipp

The GPNA board has seen several transitions over the last several months, with the resignation of long-time member Ron Laster (see below), and the resignations of our treasurer, Jessica Decker, and at-large board member Gary Stamps. We are so grateful for Ron, Jessica and Gary's service, and wish them the very best. But we also gained three new at-large board members too (see p.3).

Our April 11, 2023, annual meeting will include the election of officers and voting on changes to our by-laws. We also

have up to five open at-large board member positions, which YOU could fill! This is your opportunity to have input on the makeup, operation, and direction of your neighborhood association.

Do consider attending the meeting. We have been meeting solely via Zoom since the pandemic began but are very hopeful to have arrangements in place so that our April meeting will be a hybrid option at Grant High School. Check our website www.grantpark-na.org for updates!

Retirement of Ron Laster from the Grant Park Neighborhood Association

By Stacey Tipp

The Board of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) recently and extremely reluctantly accepted the resignation of long-time member, Ron Laster. Ron served various roles during his tenure at the association, including president, vice president, and treasurer. Ron also served as a GPNA representative to Northeast Coalition Of Neighborhoods (NECN), our previous district coalition, for many years serving as President, Vice President and Treasurer and at Central Northeast Neighbors (CNN), our current district coalition, serving briefly as CNN president. We presented Ron with a nice bottle of red from Ora et Labora, the outstanding wine store on N. Williams Avenue that advertises in this newsletter. We also presented Ron with an engraved trophy from Just Right Awards & Engraving right down on NE Broadway (if you need a trophy or plaque, they do an amazing job). Ron's trophy was dedicated to a leader, colleague, and friend, for his extraordinary dedication and service to our community.

To say that Ron will be missed is a huge understatement. Ron's decades of experience in Portland's neighborhood involvement system were invaluable to newer members like me as we learned the ropes. Our neighborhood association is well run, has strong bylaws, and clearly defined board responsibilities. Neighborhood associations can get into a lot of trouble if they don't pay attention to such details as open meetings laws, bylaws, Robert's rules of order, etc. Ron made sure he left GPNA with its house well in order.

Over coffee at Sam's Billiards, Ron and I spoke about our hopes for Portland. Ron believes the city's problems are

multi-faceted. It's more than homelessness. It's drug addiction, a mental health system in crisis, and a lack of consequences for criminals who operate without boundaries or any sense of social engagement. The City and County's inability to effectively manage the situation has left many citizens to question what the end game will be. Citizen engagement is part of the social contract that we have

with the City. Back in the day, when the people wanted our elected officials to "take action," peaceful demonstrations around City Hall got the attention of the press and elected officials....today, emails have a lesser effect. Civic engagement doesn't work if we are not engaged.

With typical generosity, Ron said he's only a phone call away if the GPNA needs his advice or assistance in the future. That's class. Ron you will be missed.



Contributing to this Newsletter

For information on letters to the editor and how to submit an article to this newsletter, as well as newsletter advertising and advertising rates, please go to the newsletters page on our website: www.grantpark-na.org

Meet Your New Board Members



Aaron Druck: Hi, I'm Aaron! My family of 4 (w/ a 2yo and 4yo) moved to Grant Park from the Seattle area in August 2022. We're very excited to be here and get to know the neighbors/neighborhood. By day, I work as a designer at Google. By night, I am a pro-wrestler with my kids.



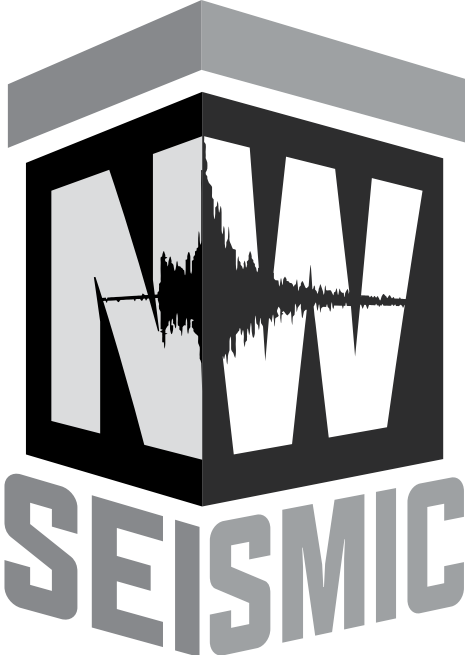
Ramona Perrault: My husband, Dylan, and I moved to Grant Park in 2011 because we loved the neighborhood and so our son could attend Beverly Cleary K8. I've spent the last decade staffing elected officials at the regional government, Metro. When I'm not volunteer-

ing and working, I love birding and spending time with my family and friends.



Molly Hamill, (Team Leader of the Grant Park NET Team): My family has lived in our current home on 42nd Avenue for 43 years. We raised 4 sons who attended nearby public schools (Hollywood, Fernwood, and Grant). I recently retired from teaching science to elementary students. In retirement, both my

husband and I continue to practice as consulting geologists specializing in engineering geology. For enjoyment, we enjoy gardening, going to chamber music concerts, and cooking our home-grown vegetables.



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Cold NETs and Hot Power Lines, continued

rimeters around down power lines or other less newsworthy tasks.

For instance, high winds took down several towering trees in Grant Park last December, along with fences and power lines. Despite temperatures in the low 20s and high winds, local NET volunteers deployed to support Portland Fire and Rescue at the sites. NET volunteers are trained to maintain safety perimeters around the down lines, freeing up fire and rescue pros for other tasks.

Why are those NET line watchers so important? Doesn't it seem like common sense to steer clear of a down line? Not if you're a curious youth – or even an adult set on getting a selfie with a toppled tree. NET volunteers brave the cold/wind/whatever to keep their neighbors a safe 50 feet from the hazard.

Remember, an electrical hazard can come from any down line, even if it's obviously a phone/cable tv wire. You cannot know if it's touching something energized. Not all electrified lines will arc or throw sparks. Electricity can also travel through metal fences and play equipment. It's best

to treat every down line as potentially deadly.

If you see a down power line, call 911.

Stay at least 50 feet way – that's the width of a standard lot in Grant Park.

PGE has more tips about staying safe around down power lines at <https://bit.ly/3XTLLaA>

NET Training Available

If you're interested in volunteering on NET, training is available and includes light search and rescue, basic disaster medicine and triage, radio communications, fire suppression, disaster psychology, trauma intervention – and, of course, down power line perimeters. Anyone who lives or works in Portland can become a NET.

To learn more about Grant Park NET, please visit <https://bit.ly/GrantParkNET>

For more information about Portland NET and CERT National, see portlandprepares.org/net-teams

Grant High School Constitution Team Going to Nationals

By Charlie Collier

On February 4th, Grant High School won the Oregon state championship in the "We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. In winning state, Grant earned the opportunity to compete for the national title in Washington D.C. in April.

For the last 7 months, 29 students and 12 volunteer coaches have undertaken a deep dive into the U.S. Constitution, with countless hours of research, discussion, and debate on issues both esoteric and everyday. The "We the People" competition, sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, simulates a congressional hearing with judges assessing the depth of students' understanding of the concepts and implications of the United States Constitution. Judges for the competitions routinely echo what parents also experience—a deep appreciation for the hard work

that the students have put in, and a recognition of how their study and preparation will serve as a solid foundation for their roles as citizens and civic leaders today and in the years ahead.

Getting the Grant team to D.C. requires a massive fundraising campaign. Please consider donating to the effort by following this link to SchoolPay:

<https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/Constitution-Team-Nationals-Competition-/Sbqpn8> or by scanning this QR code:





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Students Return to Beverly Cleary School Garden

By Jane Comeault

Thanks to grants from the Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) and other organizations, parent volunteers at Beverly Cleary School were able to rehabilitate the Fernwood school garden for the 2022/23 school year.

It took countless hours of planning, preparation, and labor, but it turned out beautifully. Since the spring of 2022 we went from this:



To this:



The major infrastructure improvements include:

- Replacing an old, dilapidated shed with a bigger and more secure shed from the Hollyrood campus, donated by Campfire Columbia. Moving an intact shed is no joke, but we are grateful to Infinity Excavating, Inc. who lifted it onto a flatbed truck and delivered it to the garden.

- Installing 14 metal raised beds of various shapes, sizes, and accessibility ranges plus a hugelkultur*. Bed material was generously donated by Wind Thin Tree Service.
- Spreading gravel along pathways to reduce muddy feet tracking back into the school.

The raised beds hosted their first crops including: tomatoes, herbs, peas, squash and more during the summer and fall of 2022. And since the beginning of the school year, each K-4 classroom has enjoyed one gardening lesson each month. Having the opportunity to learn outdoors and in such a concrete, hands-on way is a true highlight for many young students. Lessons span the seasonal cycles and are directed by a wonderful garden educator from local non-profit Grow Portland. Students love harvesting and tasting the produce. Parents notice that introducing healthy foods in a fun and engaging manner helps kids welcome more veggie eating at home.

Continued improvements include installing irrigation, creating a more usable outdoor education space, and pursuing a shade/rain structure to make being outdoors more enjoyable. The garden team is looking for help in identifying a solution that meets the needs of our unique space (see call for volunteer expertise below).

Thank you to the volunteers who made this happen. Together with the support of Grow Portland, dozens of parents and students have helped out during garden work parties and Community Cares day, and every effort is appreciated. An extra huge thank you to Janwyn Toy-Blazer, Marina Hyacinth, Ned Damon, and Kelsi Hermain for their dedication to this revitalization project over the past few years.

The major improvements are done, and the garden is thriving, but as they say many hands make light work and we would welcome community volunteers to help continue the improvements and keep it well-maintained. Do you enjoy gardening? Are you handy with tools? Looking for a destination for a morning walk and don't mind turning on the water? Do you have landscape design or architecture expertise? Consider volunteering with the BCS garden, contact garden@beverlyclearyschool.org.

And thank you again to the GPNA for supporting this learning space in our community!

* Fun fact: a hugelkultur is a raised mounded bed filled with logs, branches, leaves, compost, and finally topsoil. This provides variety in growing mediums, methods, and bed types. For now, the hugelkultur is decomposing; we will continue building it up this spring and planting in it for the first time.

Family Promise at Grant Park Church

By The Rev. Dr. Liliana Da Valle

Liliana Da Valle is a member of Grant Park Church and the chair of its Houseless Ministry Committee

When we drive around our city, we cannot avoid being struck by the number of houseless people that live in tents in our midst. Our hearts are moved to compassion, and we wished we could do something about it. In days of dreary winter with snow and freezing temperatures, we know those neighbors in tents suffer more than ever.

Things are not better for families with children. Most shelters don't take families, and if they do, they separate husbands and wives. Shelters are not safe places for children. So, when families lose their housing, many decide to live in their cars. This is not much safer, and it implies a different threat: children can be taken away from their parents.

At Grant Park Church, we have partnered with Family Promise of Metro East, an organization that offers a safe and warm place for the whole family. Whether the family unit is a couple with children or a single parent with his or her young ones, they can come to us.

Our most recent experience hosting at the church has been incredible. Our guests were fantastic, and their children amazing! We hosted a total of nine people. We had fun with them, we had breakfast and dinner with them, and we offered a home-like atmosphere. All and all, a true blessing!

To learn more about Family Promise, go to <https://www.familypromisemetroeast.org>.

If you'd like to know about volunteering opportunities with us, email Matt Edey at matt@grantparkchurch.com

Oregon Community Solar Program

By Sean Micken, Partnerships Manager, Oregon Shines

At the Grant Park Neighborhood Association Board meeting on April 11, 2023, Oregon Shines will present on a new state program, the Oregon Community Solar Program (oregoncsp.org). Below is an overview for those interested.

Portland residents and businesses can now reduce their power bill and carbon footprint by subscribing to a community solar project through Oregon Shines. The Oregon Community Solar Program was established by the Oregon Legislature to expand the state's renewable energy portfolio and make solar energy available to customers across the state who otherwise would not have access to solar energy. There is no cost to sign up, participate, or cancel, and by law, consumers are required to be incentivized for participating.

Grant Park residents and businesses who are customers of Pacific Power or Portland General Electric can sign up through Oregon Shines, which connects individuals, businesses, municipalities, and other organizations to community solar projects in their utility territory, allowing them to save

money and gain access to clean energy without installing solar panels on their own roof. Participants receive at least 5% savings on subscribed energy, while low-to-moderate income participants are eligible for a 40% discount.

Whether you are a renter or a homeowner, community solar gives you the opportunity to support local solar projects while saving money on your existing utility bill. Lead our community towards a cleaner, brighter future and save money while doing so. It's a win for the planet and your wallet.

Signing up is easy! It just takes a few minutes to switch to renewable energy with no sign-up fees or ongoing costs. Oregon Shines handles subscriber outreach and administration for the program. To learn more about the program and Oregon Shines, visit www.oregonshines.com.

Editor's Note: *The material presented here is provided for informational purposes only. It does not constitute an endorsement of the program, nor an assessment or evaluation of the statements contained here.*

Remember to Report: An Easy Way to Make a Difference

By Ramona Perrault

These days many of us feel discouraged and sometimes even hopeless about the state of our city. But an easy way to do something positive is to report on issues in your neighborhood.

We want to remind readers that <https://pdxreporter.org> is an excellent and easy way to report problems like graffiti, campsites, abandoned vehicles, park maintenance, etc.

Also, folks can report illegal garbage dump sites to Metro

RID patrol at <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling/report-dumped-garbage>. You can report it via phone or on the website. There's also a satisfying dashboard on that webpage that reports all the sites and tonnage that have been cleaned up. Response time is around two days, which is pretty remarkable.

The sooner folks consistently report things, the sooner our neighborhood — and our city — will shine.

The Neighbor Down the Street

By Laurene Mullen

How do we get to know our neighbors? A friendly wave, a chat over the fence, shared dog problems? It can be difficult with our busy lives to explore friendships or relationships with the people who live right in our own village. People can live one block away from you on the same street and you never get to know them.

To remedy this, the neighbors in Dolph Park (Dolph Park is a 1924 plat of 122 homes in the Grant Park neighborhood) have been trying to be a little more proactive. Once a month in the warmer months people gather at a host home in the neighborhood and spend a couple of hours just schmoozing with other folks in the area. Calling it "Thursday in the Dolph," neighbors walk over to a host's house and bring a plate of finger foods. Hosting duties rotate each month. The host provides some soft drinks and a "signature cocktail." The gathering is from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. It's a great way to informally get to know your neighbors and reconnect with new and old friends.

Thursday in the Dolph started in 2018 and for the brief two years it was running, the event proved to be a success. Since our long social isolation from the pandemic looks (for now) to be winding down, Thursday in the Dolph is going to resume. People will be able to decide if they want to mask or not, and as the weather warms up more gatherings can be indoor/outdoor which will make it better for all.

To get a reoccurring gathering going in your own neighborhood: find a host, decide on a time and date, make a flyer, and walk it around to the houses in your neighborhood. You can collect emails from folks who come to the gathering. Word of mouth is also invaluable once you get up and going.

Community is important. We might live in a big city but to feel a bit more connected we can start with getting to know the people who live right down the street.



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ATTEND AN UPCOMING GRANT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING:

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Avoiding Stereotypes this St. Patrick's Day

By Linda Burch

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, it's good to know that so much of what Americans, even Irish Americans, see as Irish culture is not—it can even be offensive to Irish people.

According to sociologists, the Irish have been heavily stereotyped since the 1800s, and these negative stereotypes have filtered into American culture over the years. For example, the idea that the Irish are short tempered originated from a colonial British stereotype. North American commentators furthered the stereotype as anti-Irish sentiment rose with the arrival of famine-era ships. Between 1846 and 1851, more than one million people—the potato famine emigrants—sailed from Ireland to America. Rampant prejudice led to the stereotype of Irish people being quick to violence and prone to fighting.

This led to the ugly, belligerent leprechaun image which has no relation to the magical little people so important to traditional culture. Many Irish American people, including Notre Dame fans, embrace this image today without understanding its origin and offense. Similarly, the “luck of the Irish” concept was a demeaning phrase from the 1800s. Used to refer to successful Irish miners, the intent was to deride their accomplishments as mere luck. The concept that Irish people have red hair is also wrong. Only ten percent of the population has red hair. Indeed, encountering a natural Irish redhead is so rare that redheads hold an annual convention in County Cork.

The most ubiquitous modern stereotype about the Irish is that they are huge drinkers. In the US, we have recently reexamined the celebration of Cinco de Mayo as people of Mexican and Latin American descent have advocated for a more respectful celebration without the sombreros and Cinco de Drinko slogans. Irish American people would do well to do the same thing. How about throwing away your “Irish I was drunk” shirts? Every Irish car bomb you order at a bar reinforces the image of Irish people as violent and makes light of the horrible violence that occurred during some dark times in Ireland's history.

All of this brings us to St. Patrick's Day. In Ireland, it originated to celebrate the Christianization of the country. It was traditionally a quiet holiday, not celebrated with drinking. People wore blue, which was the national color. The day was devoted to church and a quiet cultural celebration that might have included Irish language recitations. It was not about having a plate of corned beef and cabbage and washing it down with lots of green beer. You will never find green beer in Ireland, and corned beef is not Irish; it was appropriated from Jewish culture when the Irish immigrants were celebrating in America. Corned beef was less expensive in the US than their traditional bacon, ham, or

lamb, and it went well with cabbage and potatoes.

Saint Patrick did not really drive snakes out of Ireland—there never were any snakes there. Historians believe that snakes were a metaphor for the druids and the older religion of Ireland. Legend says he used the three leaves of the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. But many people think that a shamrock and a four-leaf clover are the same. A four-leaf clover was linked to the lucky idea, which you remember was an insult. So, if you are going to use a shamrock for St. Patrick's Day, be sure it's a shamrock. Also, there are things you shouldn't say. It's St. Patrick's Day or Paddy's Day—never Patty's (a woman's name) day. Irish people don't say things like “Top of the mornin' to ye” or “He's talking a load of blarney.”

The holiday as we know it in America was promoted by activists to celebrate Irish culture and fight prejudice against Irish immigrants. Many traditions Americans believe are Irish are the product of stage stereotypes and Hollywood sentimentality: Think “Quiet Man” and “Darby O'Gill and the Little People.”

Many of the songs that people ask Irish musicians to play on St. Patrick's Day are not Irish. These would include “Danny Boy” and “When Irish Eyes are Smiling.” They are sentimental songs born of the diaspora. Try asking for “Black Velvet Band” or “Fields of Athenry.” It's interesting that Irish who are returning to Ireland are bringing American traditions back to Ireland and are trying to please the tourists who are expecting the American version. That, to me, is sad. I've taught semantics, the study of how words influence our beliefs and behavior. I believe that traditions are important to people; I also believe that they should know where their traditions come from. So, celebrate your traditions, hopefully in a way that doesn't disrespect the culture.

If you really want to know and celebrate Irish culture, visit some of the traditional music celebrations close to home at TC O'Leary's or the Moon and Sixpence. Watch Derry Girls. Have a pint of Guinness or Magner's Cider and toast with “Slainte” (pronounced slawn cha), which means “to your health.” Learn a few phrases in Irish. Find a recipe for colcannon or Irish soda bread or make some shepherd's pie. Discover the great Irish writers such as James Joyce or Seamus Heaney. Join us for Irish set dancing (free every Monday at 12:30 at Sellwood Community House and only \$10 on Saturdays from 4 to 6 at Waverly Church in the SE). Unlike step dancing, which is for performance, set dancing was done at the crossroads or in people's kitchens. We have a Portland Set Dancing page on Facebook if you want to see what it looks like.

Have a wonderful St. Patrick's Day!