



Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Spring 2024

You're Welcome!

By Stacey Tipp

At its board meeting on January 9, 2024, the Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) adopted the following welcome statement for our community:

“Grant Park is a historic, tree-lined neighborhood with parks, a large and involved school community, and many kinds of residents: young adults, families, seniors, homeowners, and renters. Grant Park also has a thriving business community that provides a wide variety of services for Grant Park residents and beyond. Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) values our inclusive community and encourages everyone to join us. All meetings are open to the public, and membership is free.

While we believe our neighborhood is wonderful, we also know that there is always room for improvement. Further, we acknowledge the larger picture of Portland’s history of racism and discrimination, and no part of Portland is free of this shameful history. Even today, our neighborhood bears the marks of Portland’s history of redlining, gentrification, and systemic racism. We stand against racism, discrimination, and marginalization of any kind, and we embrace the inherent value in the contributions of different cultures, perspectives, and lived experiences. Our neighborhood becomes a better place when all residents and visitors feel welcomed, safe, and included.”

This statement is now included on the home page of our website, and we hope that it helps remind all our neighbors that they are important and welcome to participate in all our events, activities, and meetings. Please remember that the GPNA is not an HOA; we charge no fees for membership and welcome all regardless of housing situation. Additionally, there is never a charge for any of our events. You are welcome!

City Mulls Ways to Create More Housing

By Ramona Perrault

Most Portlanders can agree that having ample housing of different types that meets the needs of every resident is critical for a healthy city. It’s a value many of us share. And it’s undeniable: we have a housing shortage. The City of Portland is contemplating a new strategy to further increase the availability of housing, and to understand how we got here, it’s useful to know some recent, relevant history.

In 2019, the Oregon Legislature passed several bills to address the state’s housing shortage. For example, HB 2001 required cities to update their local rules that limit what sorts of housing people could build. Cities over 25,000 population, including Portland, must allow people to build duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, cottage clusters and townhouses in residential areas. Portland’s code was amended to comply with HB 2001.

In addition, HB 2003 requires cities above 10,000 population to produce a Housing Capacity Analysis (HCA). Portland completed its HCA in December 2023. A key takeaway from Portland’s HCA is the city needs to support the development of 120,560 new units of housing by 2045 — an average of 5,200 units per year.

HB 2003 also requires that cities produce a Housing Production Strategy (HPS) to meet the demand identified in the HCA. Portland has recently released its draft

continued page 5

www.grantpark-na.org

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- March 12, 2024 (Annual Meeting)
- May 14, 2024
- September 10, 2024
- November 12, 2024

LOCATION:

We are now holding hybrid meetings. The in-person meeting location is Grant Park Church. 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 March. Necessary special or emergency meetings may be scheduled at any time. Meetings are open to the public. ALL adults 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:

Stacey Tipp

Co-Vice Presidents:

Ramona Perrault and Molly Hamill

Secretary:

Kara Caselas

Treasurer:

Kara Caselas

Land Use Chair:

Neon Brooks

Newsletter Editor:

Stacey Tipp

At Large:

Mary Artz, Linda Burch, Jill De Rosa, Remington Evert, Tom Fawell, Laurene Mullen, Bikram Vaidya, Jake Wicks

Contact the Board at:

general@grantpark-na.org

Board Changes

By Stacey Tipp

Our neighborhood association board has seen some changes recently. At-large board members Gian Lozano and Veronica Lozano resigned recently from the board. Veronica and Gian’s creativity and energy will be missed, and we are grateful for their service.



Bikram Vaidya

But the board also recently gained a new at-large member. Meet Bikram Vaidya!

Bikram Vaidya has lived in the Grant Park Neighborhood since 2000 with his family, though originally, he is from Kathmandu, Nepal. He is a hospitality business entrepreneur, culinary educator, and author. In the past 20 years, he has been a culinary instructor at the Le Cordon Bleu, and subsequently, at the Oregon Culinary Institute, where he was teaching flavors of the world and the fundamentals of cookery.

Bikram follows his family’s belief in Ayurveda, “Food as medicine,” by teaching classes at various public events and lecturing on food and spices with Cocu Social. His Nepali cookbook “The Mystic Kitchens of Nepal” is set to be published in the Spring of 2024. Bikram is an active member of the Nepalese Oregon Association and the American Culinary Federation.

Grant Constitution Team Soars

For the 9th year in a row, the Grant High School Constitution Team (ConTeam) will compete at the “We the People” National Finals in Washington, D.C. this April! At the recent State Competition held in February at the Mark O. Hatfield Courthouse, Grant was awarded 1st runner-up after Lincoln High School, securing Oregon’s “wildcard” slot to compete at Nationals against 44 other schools!

Constitution Team is part of the nationally recognized “We the People” curriculum and competition designed to foster a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and government institutions. Grant ConTeam is available to high school seniors and is comprised of six units, each focused on a different area of Constitutional history and law. The rigorous program includes classroom instruction with teacher Angela DiPasquale, weekly practice hearings with volunteer attorney coaches, and weekend research and development meetings and moot sessions, culminating in competitions at the Regional, State, and National level.

As in previous years, getting to the National Finals takes considerable preparation and expense. If you can, the Grant team would be grateful for your tax-deductible contribution to help support travel expenses for 40 participants. Their tax ID number is 93-6000830. You can donate via School Pay at <https://pps.schoolpay.com/pay/for/Constitution-Team-Nationals-Competition-/Sbhsc6H> or send a check to: Grant High School Constitution Team, c/o Angela DiPasquale, 2245 NE 36th Ave, Portland, OR 97212. Every donation, large or small, will help us reach our goal. Go Grant ConTeam!!

Save The Date: Dumpster Day Is Coming!

The City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) will be hosting a Dumpster Day on Saturday, May 18th, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (or until the dumpsters are full) in the parking lot of Grant Park Church (2728 NE 34TH Avenue). There will be dumpsters for bulky items such as furniture, broken small appliances, wood, mattresses, and box springs. Community Warehouse will be on hand to take items that are still in good working order. For a complete list of items the City will and won’t accept, please visit <https://www.portland.gov/bps/garbage-recycling/dumpster-day>. This event is free for all non-commercial residents of GPNA and will have staff and dumpster capacity only for GPNA residents.

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



Grant Park
Neighborhood Association



SUBSCRIBE

Head over to www.grantpark-na.org to sign-up to receive future emails about GPNA updates, news, event information and more. (Scroll to the bottom of the homepage to sign-up.) Your information will be kept confidential and never shared.

GPNA Land Use Updates

By Neon Brooks

GPNA's land use committee now meets quarterly at Grant Park Church and on Zoom! Our next meeting will be on May 2nd at 7pm. All are welcome to attend. We also encourage input from all neighbors by email - please feel free to contact me with your thoughts on any of the issues below (or anything else) at gplanduse@gmail.com

Grant Bowl and Upper Field Updates

- The Grant Bowl turfing project is complete, and the field is once again open to the public! Resurfacing of the track is planned for this summer.
- In February, Portland Public Schools (PPS) and Portland Parks and Recreation reached a lease agreement in which PPS will manage and maintain the Grant Bowl and the adjacent Upper Field for the next 20 years. Thanks to the advocacy of GPNA and a number of dedicated neighbors, this lease includes strong protections for public access to both the bowl and upper field. A copy of the full lease can be found here: <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/915?meeting=622167> (See page 2 for an overview of public access details)
- Grant High School families and supporters are now advocating for PPS to fund and install lighting for the Grant Bowl, ideally by this fall's sports season. Lights would allow for later practices and many games to be played at the bowl, saving athletes the instructional hours and allowing community attendance. The GPNA

Board plans to discuss and take a formal position on Grant Bowl lights at our March 12th meeting.

AT&T Cell Towers

- As discussed in the Winter 2023 newsletter, AT&T plans to install new radio frequency cell towers at Knott and 33rd Ave and Knott and 35th Pl. Several neighbors have expressed concerns about the impacts of these towers on immediate neighbors.
- AT&T has not yet submitted an application to the city regarding this project. It appears that the city may be open to locating the cell tower in the Grant Park if an appropriate location could be found. This issue will be discussed further at our March 12th board meeting.

Transportation and Parking Updates

- The Portland Bureau of Transportation plans to restore parking to the North side of NE Schuyler St between 33rd and 32nd Avenues, stating that they have "been unable to determine why parking has historically only been allowed on the south side." Immediate neighbors should have received a letter detailing this change.
- The GPNA Land Use Committee plans to work with concerned neighbors to address concerns about speeding and unsafe driving on U.S. Grant Place. Please reach out if you have been personally impacted by unsafe conditions on the street or have specific suggestions to improve the street.

Update on Gordon's

By Ramona Perrault

GPNA continues to track the code violations at the old Gordon's building on NE 33rd and NE Broadway. The City of Portland has been seeking remedies and fines through Hearings Court for violations such as broken glass windows, dangerous masonry, and unrestricted access to the building. Neighbors may have noticed work at the site in the last month because of this effort. While more remains to be done, the most recent Hearings Court order allows the City to react to recurrence of violations more expeditiously. This is a good time for neighbors to increase reporting of code violations at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/42240>. The address of the building is 3312 NE Broadway, 97232.

Further expedience for code violations was realized recently when the Portland City Council amended the

code to allow the city to move more aggressively against property owners who fail to clean up graffiti on their property. Again, with these changes, now is a good time to increase neighborhood complaints about graffiti against the owners of the old Gordon's building. You can register complaints on graffiti at <https://pdxreporter.org>.

Finally, GPNA board members have participated in informal conversations with staff from the mayor's office who are interested in amending city codes to make it easier to enforce public nuisance complaints against deteriorating buildings throughout Portland. GPNA will continue to work every avenue to address this blighted building that affects everyone in our neighborhood.

Nathan Vasquez in the Neighborhood

By Stacey Tipp

On February 13th, the Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) hosted Nathan Vasquez, candidate for Multnomah County District Attorney. The event was held at Grant Park Church, and a modest crowd turned out to hear what Mr. Vasquez had to say. Mr. Vasquez is challenging his boss, the incumbent DA, Mike Schmidt (Mr. Schmidt was invited to attend on February 13 but declined).



Mr. Vasquez spoke passionately about his work with crime victims, the need for both safety and compassion, accountability for those who harm our communities, and his desire to use data-driven solutions to find answers to some of Portland's most perplexing problems, including the drug crisis, increasing gun violence, and rampant property crime.

The primary election will be on May 21, 2024. If you'd like to learn more, on Tuesday, April 2, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm, there will be a debate on Zoom between Schmidt and Vasquez hosted by the City Club of Portland (<https://www.pdxcityclub.org>). The debate will be hosted by Conrad Wilson, a reporter and producer covering criminal justice and legal affairs for OPB. Registration information was not available at the time this newsletter went to print.

Emergency Preparedness for Everyone

By Molly Hamill, Grant Park NET Team Lead

Preparing for an emergency is a chore that is easily put off for someday when there is time. The most recent snowstorm with the associated wind and power outages was a reminder that small scale disasters can happen with some regularity.

One of the most important steps you can take to plan for a disaster of any size is to get to know your neighbors. It has been proven that in emergencies, your neighbors are the first responders. Your neighbors know: Who will need more help getting out of their house? Who has tools you can borrow? Who has students that could face an early dismissal while their parents are stuck at work?

Block party season is coming up. This is a terrific way to get together outside, shut down the street, and meet your neighbors. The City of Portland requires a permit which is free.

<https://www.portland.gov/transportation/permitting/portland-streets/apply-block-party-permit>

Some groups sponsor a barbecue, some summer beverages and conversation. One neighbor group last year moved a couple of those portable fireplaces into the street and roasted marshmallows.

The Grant Park NET (grantparknet@gmail.com), if invited, can send a representative to your block party with information and in uniform. We need two weeks' notice. The fire department sometimes sends a fire truck with advanced planning, also.

Anyone who lives or works in Portland can become a NET. For more information about Portland NET see <https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams/volunteer>

Pressing Need for Volunteers at Grant Park Church's Family Shelter

By Matt Edey

Grant Park Church continues to shelter families experiencing houselessness through Family Promise Metro East. We are in urgent need of volunteers for the following weeks: Mar 31 – Apr 7, Aug 25 – Sep 1, and Nov 3 – Nov 10. This is an amazing opportunity to help houseless families right here in the neighborhood! Any help you can provide is so much appreciated.

If you are interested in volunteering, we have morning, evening, and overnight shifts available. We also welcome food donations and dinner providers. Please contact Matt Edey at matt@grantparkchurch.com for more information and to receive the sign-up instructions. Please note there is no religious component to the family houseless shelter.

City Mulls Ways to Create More Housing, cont.

HPS, which includes 35 potential strategies that range from increasing existing city housing programs, raising additional bond funds to build more affordable housing, expanding the use of tax increment financing, and increasing density through upzoning.

The city is just beginning its community engagement on the draft strategy. Representatives from Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) attended a meeting with city staff to learn about the strategy and next steps. On April 3 at 6:00pm the city will host a virtual open house for any Portland resident interested in attending. And the city has provided an online space for residents to comment. GPNA encourages every neighbor to take

some time to understand the HPS. There are very active advocacy groups who are already pushing for strategies they favor, and we want everyone to have an equal opportunity to weigh in on how our city will grow in the years to come. GPNA has not taken a position on the HPS but may decide to in the future. Come to a meeting and be part of the process!

Find the Housing Production Strategy here: <https://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/record/16611875>

Find the comment portal here: <https://www.portlandmaps.com/bps/mapapp/proposals/#/hps>

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Attend an upcoming Grant Park Neighborhood Association meeting:

- **March 12, 2024 (Annual Meeting)**
- **May 14, 2024**
- **September 10, 2024**
- **November 12, 2024**

LOCATION:
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Get Your Float On

By Laurene Mullen

It might seem a bit early, but do you hear the distant pitter-patter of thousands of little feet? The Rose Festival Fred Meyer Junior Parade will make its 88th appearance in the Hollywood district on Wednesday, June 5th from 1:00-3:00 PM. And it's time to start planning!

Started informally in 1908 the Junior Rose Parade has been an official Rose Festival event since 1936, making it the longest and biggest in the nation. Approximately 40,000 people line the 1-mile route along Sandy Blvd. and into Hollywood to watch the kids dance, sing, and stroll their way down the street that ends at Grant High School. It's free to watch, free to participate, and certainly hard to miss what with the 10,000 or so participating bands, drill teams, dance teams, bikes, and floats. The parade is open to all kids from toddlers to Middle School.

There's plenty of room for individual kids or groups to join in the fun. Kids are encouraged to plan out a float or

decorate their bikes or wagons. On parade day kids and their adult chaperones can just show up at NE 52nd Ave & Sandy about an hour before parade time to claim a spot in this famous event. There's even a free Decoration Station with materials to adorn your bike, scooter, wagon, or person.

In the past there have been spaceships, butterflies, pirates, boats on wheels, clowns, a Max train made out of cardboard, a cavekid pulling a girl on a sled in 1972 that had the banner "I dream of woman liberation." In 1999 six of the kids in our neighborhood gathered all the Beanie Babies that they had (over 20) and tied them up on bamboo poles and dressed themselves in tropical prints, their sign: "Beanie Baby Safari." So, let your imagination fly, dress up, and participate in this unique community event that is there for the delight of young and old alike. For details and official rules go to the Rose Festival website: rosefestival.org and then start crafting your float!

Help Sustain Our Neighborhood: Your Donation Matters

Dear Neighbor,

As a member of our vibrant community, you understand the importance of fostering a strong sense of belonging and engagement within our neighborhood. Today, I reach out to you with a heartfelt request for your support.

Starting July 1, 2024, our district coalitions will face significant funding cuts due to government restructuring. This change means that neighborhood associations like ours will now need to apply for limited funds based on assessed needs. As a wealthy neighborhood without a connected business association, this reality leaves us in a precarious position.

Despite these challenges, I am proud to share that our Grant Park Neighborhood Association board, albeit relatively new with many members joining within the last three years, has been diligently working to enhance our community's engagement and vitality. We firmly believe in the power of grassroots efforts to effect positive change and foster a strong sense of unity among our residents.

In our 2023 Winter newsletter, we appealed to our neighbors for donations, and we are humbled and deeply grateful to those who have already contributed. Your generosity has been instrumental in helping us maintain the momentum we've worked so hard to build.

Today, I write to kindly request your continued support. Your donation, no matter the size, will go a long way in ensuring that we can sustain our ongoing initiatives and programs aimed at enriching the lives of everyone in our neighborhood.

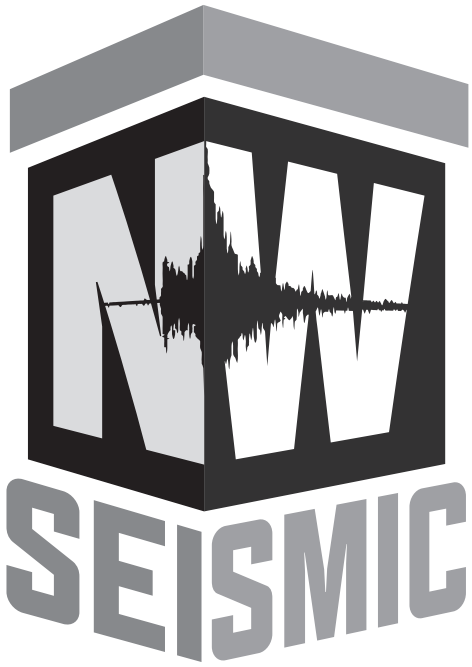
Donating is simple. You can contribute through our PayPal account at paypal.me/GPNApdx. If you prefer to donate by check, please make it payable to Central Northeast Neighbors, and remember to note "For Grant Park Neighborhood Association" in the memo line. Checks should be sent to Central Northeast Neighbors at 4415 NE 87th Avenue, Portland, 97220. Rest assured, Central Northeast Neighbors will promptly send you a heartfelt thank-you letter acknowledging your donation, which you can use for tax purposes.

Your support is invaluable and deeply appreciated. Together, we can continue to foster a thriving, connected, and vibrant community that we are all proud to call home. Thank you for considering our request and thank you for being an integral part of our neighborhood family.

Warm regards,
Kara Caselas, Grant Park Neighborhood Association Treasurer

www.grantpark-na.org

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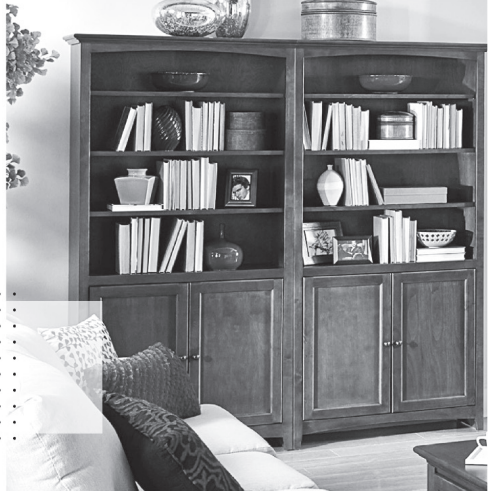
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You Can Help Oregon's Foster Care Crisis

By Hallie Campbell

On any given day, there are over 7,500 children in Oregon's foster care system. Many of these children come from situations of abuse and neglect only to find themselves facing uncertainty and instability once they enter foster care.

Boys & Girls Aid, a nonprofit founded in Portland in 1885, wants to change that. We are looking for compassionate people to help improve the lives of children in foster care.

A good foster home is often the first place a child in foster care has felt safe in a long time. Foster parents help children build trust in adults and provide a supportive environment where they can thrive.

Boys & Girls Aid supports foster parents with responsive program staff available 24/7, ongoing free professional

training, and generous monthly, tax-free stipends ranging from \$1,200 to \$3,500 per month. There are options to fit every family, from full-time placement to relief care a few days a month. Fostering children might bring life changes and challenges, but it's a great opportunity to make a difference in a child's life — and in your own life, too.

"It's worth it to get to know these kids," said experienced foster parents Jen and Chad. "It's enriched our lives a lot."

To learn more, visit our website: boysandgirlsaid.org/fostercare, or contact our Director of Outreach & Certification, Hallie Campbell, at 503-544-7003 or hcampbell@boysandgirlsaid.org



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