

Grant Park Neighborhood Association



P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Spring 2018

Save the Date!

2018 Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, May 19 • 9 am - 1 pm

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. Come to the annual meeting on Tuesday, April 10, (Grant Park Church, 34th and Knott Streets, 7 p.m.) and consider running for office! Despite many pleas for additional board members, a few loyal officers seem to comprise the GPNA board year after year. Those who do serve are becoming a bit weary, especially when occasional claims surface that the board may not really represent the neighborhood. Remember the old saying that if you are not part of the solution, you could instead be a part of the problem!

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

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Delivering the Newsletter, Part 2

by Ken Peterson

In the last newsletter, we listed the names of those who bring the quarterly GPNA newsletter to your doorstep. Unfortunately, two long-time delivery volunteers were omitted through clerical error: Irene Hecht and Ron Saroff. GPNA sincerely thanks them for their efforts, and hopes those whose homes Ron and Irene faithfully visit will do so as well.

We also promised more information about the production and delivery process. For many years, Kate Davenport, former GPNA board member, both edited and laid out the newsletter. She recently retired from that very demanding volunteer job and we thank her for her tireless past efforts.

Like many enterprises, the newsletter has middlemen (or actually, middlewomen in this case). After printing, the newsletter goes to Beverly Cleary Fernwood

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www.grantpark-na.org

NEXT MEETING

Annual Meeting:
7pm, April 10, 2018
Grant Park Church
2728 NE 34th Ave

(corner of 34th and Knott Streets)

To check the meeting schedule and agenda, or to suggest an agenda topic, please go to:

grantpark-na.org/thehood/meetings.html

GPNA MEETINGS

Our annual meeting, when elections are held is in April. Regularly scheduled meetings for the remainder of 2018 will be determined at the annual meeting. Special or emergency meetings, when needed, may be scheduled at any time. Meetings are open. Grant Park Neighborhood Association is open to ALL persons living or working within its boundaries. If you need special accommodations, please contact a Board member.

GPNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:

Ken Peterson

Vice President:

Ron Laster

Treasurer:

Ron Laster

Secretary:

Mary Cal Hanson

Communications:

Brian Cefola - Webmaster

At Large:

Jane Comeault

John Prell

Stacey Tipp

Patrick Schmidt

Land Use Chair:

Ken Peterson

Contact the board at:

general@grantpark-na.org

STAY IN TOUCH

Find us at Facebook:

[GrantParkNeighborhood;](https://www.facebook.com/GrantParkNeighborhood/)

Join our discussion group at: [groups.](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/gpna-forum)

[google.com/forum/#!forum/gpna-forum](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/gpna-forum)

Or join us at: grantparkor.nextdoor.com

Annual Meeting and Elections, continued

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 five 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 and maintains websites.

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 (listed on page 1) through our general e-mail: general@grantpark-na.org

Delivering the Newsletter, continued

Middle School. There the sixth through eighth grade students of Chrysann Lowe, Intensive Skills Teacher, count them out and make packets for delivery by the many volunteers we listed previously. In a win-win situation, her class, comprised of students with cognitive delays, learns useful skills, while GPNA makes a quarterly financial contribution to help enhance student education. Those funds support technology improvements, fund field trips, and pay for food used in cooking lessons for the students. Says Chrysann, “This experience is special for my students because they see that their work funds tangible things that they actually use in their daily lives, which is a useful life skills lesson.”

Then, Marianne Lynde combines the packets into larger “regional” groups and takes them to eight volunteers who not only make their own individual neighborhood deliveries, but also take several of the smaller packets to other nearby volunteers for distribution. These “super volunteers” are: Francie Borquist, Laura DeSimone, Marjie and Joel Fields, Mary Cal Hansen, Theresa Jentz, Karen Lewis, Meryl Mix, and Julie Schmidt.

Special recognition goes to Marianne Lynde, who organizes and coordinates the entire delivery process,

recruits volunteers, and finds delivery alternates when someone unexpectedly cannot complete a route. When asked why she originally agreed to undertake a very demanding yet largely invisible volunteer job, Marianne replied: “When you are part of a good community, you should do something to support it and help make sure it continues to be as good as possible.” Then she added, “...and my friend and neighbor Meryl Mix, who did the job before me for many years, asked me to help out when she was no longer able to.” Simple but effective logic: help your community and simultaneously help a neighbor.

Grant Park Church
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Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
 2728 NE 34th Avenue • 503-282-5596

Visit www.grantparkchurch.com

Please join us

Updates

by John Prell and Ken Peterson

This is the first of a planned recurring newsletter column, intended to provide brief follow-ups to prior articles as the subject matters evolve over time:

Gordon's Fireplace Shop (and adjacent parking lot) has reportedly been sold to a Seattle-based group named InterUrban Development. Plans are for ground floor retail, creative pursuit office space, and also a penthouse office suite along with a rooftop deck. The historic building will be retained with seismic upgrades. All of these plans are strictly conceptual at this writing.

The sale of the former Jacksons convenience store to an undisclosed development group is set to close around the end of March.

Grant Park Village, Phase II remains on schedule for completion in the first Quarter of 2018. The village will feature an outdoor community with a gas fire pit and lounge, a bike repair shop and a pet spa with a grooming station.

Grant High School renovation is on schedule for completion by the fall of 2019. Virtually all demolition has been completed and new structural steel will be

installed soon. The project will no longer include adding a new softball field near or in the portion of Grant Park currently used as an off-leash dog area. The only changes anticipated to impact the area north of the school will be construction of a turnaround at the end of the current parking lot, near the basketball courts.

NET Team Progress

by Lis Cooper

The Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) continues to train, recruit new members, and engage in neighborhood outreach. The team currently has 20 members with more expected to join following completion of another 3-weekend Portland Bureau of Emergency Management training. Members live throughout the Grant Park area, from the western and eastern boundaries as well as the north and south sides.

At monthly team meetings, we conduct training exercises – some recent topics are initial injury assessment, knot-tying practice, and radio communication exercises. We continue to hone our skills on building strategies for triage and effective meet-up.

Our Operations Plan is in final review stage, covering aspects of how and when we safely deploy. We are working with neighboring NETs to share communication and supply caches. We plan to become more involved with business outreach and connections as well.

During the recent winter weather conditions, many NETs volunteered at warming centers throughout the city. During last summer's heat waves, we were similarly at cooling stations.

High on our upcoming agendas are developing an annual training plan and continuing block by block outreach and awareness of specific hazards.

If interested in participating, please contact us for more information at <http://bit.ly/GrantParkNET> In addition to becoming an Emergency Team member, we have opportunities for people to volunteer for short-term specific assignments, as situations require.

NET meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, 7:00-8:30 pm, Grant Park Church, 2728 NE 34th Ave.

Thank you to the GPNA for supporting our team and thanks to all GP neighbors for helping us create awareness of potential emergency needs and how to meet them.

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Local Non-Profits Doing Good Work: Center for Earth Leadership

by Jane Comeault

The Center for Earth Leadership trains citizens to take action and become leaders in creating a sustainable future. Local sustainability superheroes Jeanne and Dick Roy founded the Center in 2006 and have been equipping people with the skills to make things better for the Earth ever since. Volunteers run the organization, and all programs are free. Programs include an Agent of Change Training, Eco-School Network, Being a Naturalist in the Life of a Child, and Home Eco-Parties.

Agent of Change Training

This five-session training takes place over eight weeks. In cohorts of about 15 people, the program claims more than 1200 graduates over the years. During the training, each participant develops a plan to effect change in a personal “circle of influence” and, in consultation with other participants, takes first implementation steps. After completing the training, participants receive ongoing education, inspiration, and support.

Agent of Change graduates have gone on to form neighborhood tool libraries, initiate incentives for bicycle and transit riders commuting to work, and arrange for recycling containers to be placed on each floor of an apartment building.

Eco-School Network

The Center for Earth Leadership also offers change-agent training specifically for parents of elementary school aged children. This is a four-session training over six weeks. During that time, parents build a vision and plan to implement one or more sustainable practices at their community school. Graduates of this program join the Eco School Network, again receiving ongoing support and community from the Center and peers in the Network, who continue to share resources and motivate one another.

Examples of projects completed by Eco School Network leaders include Green School certification, school yard gardens, Earth Day activities, reusable trays in cafeterias, student nature club or green teams, food scrap composting, waste-free lunches, no motor-vehicle-idling campaigns, walk-and-bike to school trains, or book, clothing, and costume exchanges. A few parents at Beverly Cleary School have taken the training (full disclosure, I am one of them!) and recently introduced reusable—as opposed to plastic disposable—eating utensils at the Fernwood campus.

Volunteers from the Center for Earth Leadership also offer one-time presentations or workshops to groups of interested adults, for example, brown bag lunches at work, neighborhood or church groups, PTAs, friends, etc.

Being a Naturalist in the Life of a Child

This presentation program explores how to be a naturalist in the life of a child. The relationship can be daily (parent or neighbor), episodic (grandparent or aunt), or distant (relative). The role requires no pre-existing knowledge of nature or biology but enhances the ability of adults to help children connect to nature.

It is an antidote to modern influences that disconnect children from a sensory experience in nature, and helps the adult naturalist to amplify and nurture a child’s innate sense of wonder and curiosity. The benefits to both adult and child are countless, and the bonding around a shared interest in the natural world can be one of the most enriching and memorable dimensions of life for both of them.

To explore this role with friends, a host can schedule a presentation in any of three formats:

- A home gathering (1 ½ hours),
- A brown bag lunch at work (1 hour),
- Or a short workshop (2 to 3 hours).

The last offering from the Center is hosting a Home Eco Party.

Home Eco-Parties

Five hundred and fifty Home Eco-Parties have happened in Portland-area homes over the years. They are a two-hour interactive gathering where participants discuss how to make their homes more eco-friendly. A host invites about ten friends, neighbors, or co-workers to a party and provides refreshments. The Center provides a checklist that each participant completes in advance of the party for his/her own home and personal use. At the party, a trained facilitator utilizes the checklist form as a guide for an interactive discussion. Topics include:

- **Waste Reduction:** Setting up effective composting and recycling systems; reducing packaging and junk mail

- **Toxics Reduction:** Identifying toxic products and learning about effective alternatives
- **Energy Savings:** Conducting weatherization audits, testing showerhead flow, installing new technologies for energy reduction
- **Water Conservation:** Saving water through more efficient appliance use and yard irrigation

After completing a checklist, participants receive an introduction to lifestyle issues they may previously not have considered. Guests often share their eco-friendly practices and impediments. Hearing stories from friends inspires participants to make changes in their own

practices. All guests, from eco-novices to green home experts, gain new ideas that can be implemented right away. Parties are generally held on a weekday evening or a Saturday afternoon.

Portlanders are fortunate to have such dedicated and visionary volunteers as Jeanne and Dick and thank them for helping us help ourselves to create a more sustainable future for our part of the Earth. Thank you Jeanne and Dick!

For information on any of the programs or to schedule a party or presentation, contact the Center at 503-227-2315 or info@earthleaders.org

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To Weed or Not to Weed? There Really is No Question

by Lois Okrasinski

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer

We thought spring had arrived early the first two weeks of February. Daffodils in the Grant Park neighborhood bloomed sooner than ever. But garden center employees cautioned folks who were eager to work in their yards to hold off and not be fooled by the warm temperatures. They were right. Then came the snow. The blossoms bent down and rested their heavy heads on the ground. Now we wonder again if it wouldn't be all right to venture out.

Fear not! There are tasks we can do in our yards that will make for better results as the season progresses. We can tune up that lawn mower, even sharpen the blades. Maybe do a soil test to find out what nutrients we need. We can plan our gardens — lots of vegetables can be started in April and a few even earlier, plus think about where we'd like some candytuft, peony, penstemon or cornflower. It's definitely a good time to prune summer blooming shrubs and trees, and, of course, roses. While we're looking at our roses we need to start watching for blackspot and get rid of those leaves so they can't re-infect. Those of us who remembered to store geraniums, begonias and fuchsias can bring them out. By April we'll want to fertilize our lawns, scratch out that moss, and reseed with perennial ryegrass, perhaps even de-thatch.

But maybe the best thing we can do is roll up our sleeves and get after those weeds. Invasive species of weeds can be a real headache. If we get the likes of Scotch broom, blackberry or horsetail in our yards they can be virtually impossible to remove the longer we are oblivious. And with the size of our residential lots in the Grant Park neighborhood, allowing these pests to flourish will not endear us to those who live next door.

The best thing we can do is become familiar with the weeds that grow on our property. Notice when they appear — if they seem to be growing from seeds that fell on open soil or if they sprout up from roots that travel for a good distance underground. With the goal of “knowing your enemy” you can get help identifying your very own weed species by spending time online with the Oregon State University Extension Service question-and-answer feature called “Ask an Expert”. If you post a photo of your mystery weed, they can most likely quickly tell you what it is. In addition, they just may give you the best method of dealing with it. If going online is not your thing you can take an actual sample of your weed into an Extension Service Office. The nearest locations to our neighborhood are Oregon City, 503-655-8631 or Beaverton, 503-821-1150.

Pull the weeds, always getting as much root as possible and put them into your green yard debris roll cart. If you place weeds in your own compost pile you may simply be saving them for another appearance when you utilize that compost in your garden. Any weeds going into the green bin need to be free of discernible soil. Otherwise the gentleman who empties your yard debris may leave it full and simply give you a nice little note about the rules.

If you know that the weed you are pulling is one of the invasive types and it is in seed when you pull it up, DO NOT put it in your green yard debris bin like you ordinarily would. Instead, bag it securely, perhaps in a sturdy plastic bag tied shut, and place it in your garbage can. We do not want these seeds to germinate and grow anywhere.

When a Little Means a Lot: Being Able to See to Turn onto Broadway

By Lois Okrasinski

One of the nicest perks about the designated bike route on the west edge of the Grant Park Neighborhood has been the installation of a traffic light that stops vehicles on Broadway to allow bikes or pedestrians to cross safely going north or south on N.E. 26th Avenue. Unfortunately, the visibility is very poor for motorists trying to enter Broadway from our neighborhood. Many neighbors will admit to feeling scared at this intersection.

That is about to change. Elizabeth Allen, who is an Engineering Technician for the Portland Bureau of Transportation, came out to survey the situation in February. It was immediately apparent to her that the concerns of

this neighborhood were completely justified. She recommended the removal of 30 feet of parking on the north side of Broadway looking east from N.E. 26th Avenue to improve sightlines.

Allen states that “the next step in the process is the final approval from Parking Control and they will install the new signage” which will declare that space to be a no parking zone. She is accessible to GPNA citizens who have questions or concerns. Reach her at 503-823-4249 or elizabeth.allen@portlandoregon.gov. For those who wish to follow this particular change at N.E. Broadway and 26th Avenue the reference is TrackIt #1295940.

Shirley Tipp's Cheesy-Spinach Quiche

This is a hearty, crowd-pleasing appetizer for a picnic or party. It can be eaten hot or cold.

Ingredients:

1 lb bag of fresh spinach, coarsely chopped
 2 eggs, beaten
 1 stick butter or margarine, melted
 1 lb Cheddar cheese, shredded
 1 cup flour
 1 cup milk
 1 Tbsp olive oil
 1 tsp baking powder
 1 tsp salt

Instructions:

Sautee the spinach in the olive oil until just wilted.

Put the spinach and all the remaining ingredients together in a large bowl. Mix well.

Pour the mixture into a buttered jelly roll pan (10 x 15 inches in size).

Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

Cut the quiche into small squares.
 Eat hot or cold.



Shirley lives in Grant Park Village and enjoys baking, playing cards, and attending Grant Park Church.

If you have a favorite recipe, please send it to us at general@grantpark-na.org. Remember to include all quantities specifically (for example, one 32 ounce can of rutabagas, not just "a can of rutabagas") as well as favorite brands if you think they make a difference. Here's to good eating!

Interested in Forming A Parking District?

by Nicholas Dodge

Editor's Note: Nicholas Dodge is a resident of Sullivan's Gulch and appeared at a Grant Park Neighborhood Association meeting to request support for creation of a parking district that would overlap the two neighborhoods. The GPNA board has taken no position either in favor of or opposed to the proposed district.

A number of residents in the Sullivan's Gulch/Grant Park neighborhoods struggle daily with a reduction in available residential street parking. Persons who do not live, work, or do business in the area take a good portion of the public street spaces, making parking difficult for those who do live or work in the neighborhood. Further development in the area will likely only worsen the problem. In response, we would like to request that the city make long-term street parking available only to neighbors via annual permits.

Other parts of Portland (the NW district is one of the larger examples) already use this strategy. We believe that a parking district will benefit everyone in the neighborhood, not just those who park on the street. We expect that it will discourage vehicles from parking in the neighborhood for illicit purposes (drug sales, stolen goods exchange points, etc.). We expect that it will

result in greater police presence. We expect that it will make the neighborhood safer, cleaner and more open, friendly and vibrant. We hope to encourage your support for this.

We will be coming around in the next few weeks with a petition to present to those living in Grant Park who would be part of the proposed zone (residents of portions of 28th, 30th and 32nd Avenues, and Schuyler Street). If permit parking is something that you would like to see take effect, please sign it. You may email with questions to NEpermitparking@gmail.com.

Official information concerning the parking permit process can be found at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/82702>

Here are the required steps:

1. The city must be supplied with a petition with signatures from at least 50% of the affected addresses. An affected address is any address that is adjacent to any street face in the permit zone. Note that one face (side) of a street may be included in a zone and, if so, only addresses on that face are

continued next page

Parking District, continued

considered affected addresses. This applies to both residential and business addresses. Eligible signers of the petition are any current resident or business employees at an affected address.

2. The city will perform a survey. The proposed zone must meet the city’s parking requirements. See <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/82702> for details of the requirements.

3. The city mails ballots to all of the affected addresses. If the number of ‘Yes’ votes is sufficient then the zone will go into effect.

All of this information is based on current city policies. The city can change these policies at any time. However, whatever policies are in place at the time of ballot mailing will be guaranteed for the first year of the zone, including the annual permit cost.

