

Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Summer 2019

Grant Park Neighborhood Association Board Election Results

By Ron Laster

At the April Annual Meeting of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association those present elected board officers for the coming year.

The volunteer neighbors who make up the Board are elected to serve one year in their respective positions. The Board is responsible for ensuring the financial well-being of the association, maintaining up to date bylaws, providing for a transparent, objective meeting process, and in time sensitive matters, promptly acting for the association.

The Board can also form committees to respond to specific issues and needs as they develop and can designate individuals to represent Grant Park at other venues, such as the Central Northeast Neighbors coalition of neighborhoods.

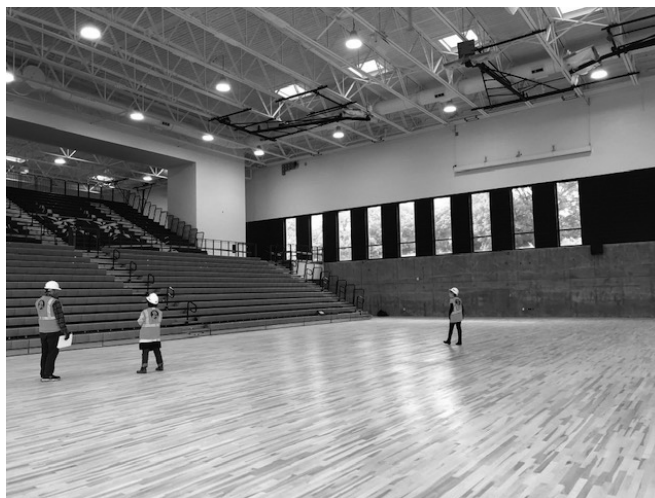
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Grant High Renovation Nears Completion

by Ken Peterson

The final summer before Grant High reopens is here, and a recent tour provided satisfying reassurance that the project is on schedule for a grand reopening in the fall of 2019. Mark your calendars now for a planned community open house visit on Saturday, September 7.

Be prepared to see some old and restored things, many completely new additions, and lots of reused materials repurposed for new lives. Those with sharp eyes should be able to spot the old gym flooring now on many vertical wall surfaces throughout the buildings.



During this visit, the newly created arts center could be seen for the first time with many final components in place. Seven discrete classrooms with flexible uses and resizing options will be available, including graphic arts, ceramics, and digital design. There will be environmentally responsible state of the art equipment, such as multiple kilns of different sizes for students to use. A centrally located student

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2019 MEETINGS:

June 11 (Board),
September 17 (General), &
November 12 (Board)
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](http://grantpark-na.org/thehood/meetings.html)

GPNA MEETINGS

Our Annual Meeting, when elections are held, is in April. 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 accommodation, please contact a Board member.

GPNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:

Ken Peterson

Vice President:

Ron Laster

Treasurer:

Ron Laster

Secretary:

Jane Comeault

At Large:

Neon Brooks, Mary Cal Hanson,
Vivek Kothari, Laurene Mullen,
Lois Okrasinski,

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

Or join us at: grantparkor.nextdoor.com

Board Elections, continued

GPNA bylaws allow for up to 15 members: five Officer positions and ten At-Large positions.

The results of the Board elections are:

- President: Ken Peterson
- Vice President: Ron Laster
- Treasurer: Ron Laster
- Secretary: Jane Comeault
- Communications Officer: Vacant
- Returning At Large Members: Neon Brooks and Mary Cal Hanson; and Newly Elected At-large Members: Laurene Mullen, Lois Okrasinski, and Vivek Kothari.

Brief bios of our new Board members:

Laurene Mullen: “My husband, Bob, and I have been residents of Grant Park since 1982 but this is my first plunge into the GPNA. Over the years I’ve volunteered at Hollyrood, Beverly Cleary, and Grant High. I decided that I would join the GPNA Board because I want to live up to the philosophy of ‘think globally, act locally’ and besides, Ken Peterson said he would bake me a cake. My kids are grown but still live in Northeast Portland. I teach in Hollywood at Harmony Yoga.”

Lois Okrasinski: “We moved to Grant Park 46 years ago, recognizing an excellent environment for our three young daughters. At that time there were 67 children living on the two blocks nearby. As soon as I retired from Portland Public Schools, I became involved in our Neighborhood Association Foot Patrol which was active for most of the 1990’s. I have now returned to service as a Board member because I believe in Portland’s neighborhood association system. I like its inclusiveness, accountability and grass-roots origins.”

Vivek Kothari: “My wife Erin, our two kids, Matthew the dog, and Fireball the cat, moved to Grant Park earlier this year. We already love the neighborhood and look forward to raising kids here, so it was natural to get involved with the neighborhood association. Before moving to Portland we lived in Atlanta, Washington DC, and New York. We look forward to meeting our neighbors, so stop by anytime. There’s always an open bottle of wine to drink and something delicious to nosh on.”

We welcome our new Board members and look forward to an engaging year.

All Grant Park Board and General meetings are open to the Public. Please check our schedule for dates and times.

Grant High renovations, continued

art gallery display, with a large, newly added skylight overhead will provide abundant natural light.

Support for theater arts will also be abundant. In addition to the auditorium, which will have all new seating for over 900 people, there will be a newly created “black box” theater space large enough to seat 165. Consistent with its experimental theme, the rectangular space can be reconfigured for presentations to audiences seated in a variety of performance focused orientations, wide, narrow, or centered. There will also be two additional spaces for smaller scale events such as author presentations and group discussions, with informal seating built in using a large scale steps design for informal seating, rather than discrete chairs.

Dancers will enjoy a large new space with a floating wood floor to minimize the possibility of injury.

Music will be well supported with large practice spaces for singing groups and instrumental musicians.

The science classrooms and teacher planning areas have been updated and enlarged with state of the art venting, storage, and work areas.

Remember the old library? A lot of the historic shelving will be used in a significantly expanded and relocated space that will provide a variety of work and study options for students, including abundant charging stations for electronic devices.

Those who remember the former interior athletic spaces will be impressed by the completely new gym that borders on US Grant Place. It is large enough to accommodate the entire school in one sitting for assemblies, something that could not occur previously. With flexible, movable seating, and a capacity of over 1,700, those who love to watch the Generals play sports will not be disappointed.

Flexibility and accessibility have been the focus on all of the improvements. In addition the Grant High project has solicited input from teachers, administrators, custodians, coaches, and students to try and provide the infrastructure that will promote safety, learning, and creativity for Grant students.

A visit to the new Grant High may make you wish you were still in high school, and those students lucky enough to inaugurate it should be very happy indeed.

Letters to the Editor and Articles

Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) welcomes letters to the editor and original articles for publication from those residing or working within neighborhood boundaries. Letters concerning prior published articles must be submitted within 30 days of newsletter distribution. Letters or articles that include profanity, libelous statements, personal attacks against individuals or specific organizations, or that are unreasonably long, will be rejected. Articles should be original or with attribution stated, and should address topics of local interest. Letters and articles submitted anonymously will be evaluated on a case by case basis for publication, but the editor must be able to verify the identity of the writer to ensure authenticity. Letters or articles that support or oppose individual candidates for public office cannot be published, but those concerning ballot measures will be considered.

GPNA Newsletter Ads

The GPNA newsletter reaches over 2,000 homes and businesses between NE Broadway and NE Knott and from NE 26th to NE 47th, with some overlap around the outside edges. Distribution of the newsletter occurs quarterly.

Ads need to be print ready about three weeks before delivery of the next issue.

There is a per-issue standard rate, due upon receipt of an invoice with an attached copy of the issue in which the ad has run, and a per-year 10% discounted rate, which must be paid in advance. A copy of each issue will be sent to the advertiser.

For copy information contact Ron Laster, printresults@aol.com, 503-287-9566.

RATES/SIZES

Business card	2"H x 3.5/3.625"W	per issue \$45	per year \$162
Quarter page	4.5"H x 3.5/ 3. 625"W	per issue \$75	per year \$270
Half page (horizontal)	4.5"H x 7.5"W	per issue \$120	per year \$432
Half page (vertical)	9.5"H x 3.5/ 3. 625"W	per issue \$120	per year \$432
Full page	9.5"H x 7.5"W	per issue \$210	per year \$756



SAVE THE DATE:

Community Open House
Remodeled Grant High School
Saturday, September 7

Grant Park Church

Open-minded & welcoming

Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
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Jean is smart, ethical, insightful and hard working. She'll be your good friend at the end of your adventure, as she is ours!"

~Larry & Mary G, Grant Park

Another Successful Cleanup

by Kate Davenport

Once again the weather cooperated on Saturday, May 18, for the 14th annual Grant Park Neighborhood Clean-up and the rain waited until later that evening. A group of dedicated volunteers planned and staffed this year's event, which took place in the parking lot of Grant Park Church at NE Knott and 34th.

This event is the GPNA's annual fundraiser, with all proceeds helping to fund local neighborhood projects and events. Suggested donations of \$10 per car and \$20 per truck/van brought in a grand total of \$2,250. This cleanup is also a greatly appreciated opportunity for Grant Park residents to rid themselves of junk from their homes and garages, to recycle responsibly, and to share unwanted, usable items with their neighbors. Many of the event customers told volunteers how much they appreciate that we hold it, and that they look forward to it each year.

Thanks to volunteers and customers alike, the event was a great success! In total there were 136 cars, 44 truck/vans, and seven walk in customers from nearby homes. There were also some straight up donations which GPNA greatly appreciates. People brought trash, scrap metal, reusable building materials, batteries, small appliances, items to share, and more.

Many people also walked away with that special "find" from the "freecycle" area, reducing the amount of material that actually went to the landfill. The popularity of the "newfound treasures" area increases each year and we have some ideas to make it even more popular in the future.

At the end of the event, volunteers reluctantly shuttled everything remaining in the freecycle area to dumpsters,



took all usable clothing to the Goodwill and, of course, gathered up their own "special finds" from the freecycle area as well as a few "don't need it, but can't bear to see it go in the dumpster" things that may yet find a new life. The event organizers requested six dumpsters, one more than last year, but only half filled the last one even with the added freecycle rejects.

Specific thanks to those who helped make the event so successful: including Central Northeast Neighbors, especially office manager Ronda Johnson; Metro; and the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. Also, to New Seasons Market and Starbucks, which once again provided food and coffee to nourish and invigorate volunteers. Finally, special thanks to all the working volunteers who did the heavy lifting, including current and former GPNA board members MaryCal Hanson, Jane Comeault, and Kate Davenport. This event could not have happened without you. And also to all the people who were just there to drop off their own trash, but ended up helping someone else.



Commercial Properties Languish

by Ken Peterson

Long-vacant properties surrounding the intersection of NE 33rd and Broadway create the impression of economic blight in Grant Park. That is an unfortunate contrast with the residential vitality readily apparent throughout the rest of the neighborhood.

At last, there appears to be some tangible movement in several locations:

- An “early assistance” request has been filed with the Bureau of Development services indicating an intention to convert the existing former Jacksons building to a bank. Review of the initial permit application completed in February, with no further tangible evidence of forward progress.
- Similarly, the owners of the former QFC building filed an early assistance request on May 17 indicating an intention to convert a portion of the space to a retail pharmacy. The footprint of the building and all other existing property features will be unchanged, including the parking lot.
- According to Rob Brewster of Interurban Development, some demolition work to remove an unnecessary structure will commence shortly on the east end of the former Gordon's building, renamed Aircraft Factory. Brewster expressed frustration with the slow pace of the Portland permit process, which has contributed to the exterior deterioration of the building generally. He also advised that homeless individuals have entered the building from the freeway (south) side of the building via use of land owned by Union Pacific. He asked the railroad to fence or monitor the area without success. Interurban is well aware of the graffiti and transient occupation issues and believes they will abate once the partial demolition commences.
- Nothing new is known about plans by Super Deluxe hamburgers to open a location at the former Burger King.

Letter to the Editor:

Are you annoyed by the sound of leaf blowers? You may not know that two-cycle gas powered leaf blowers not only disrupt the peace and quiet of our neighborhood, but they also pose serious health risks for you and your family and emit greenhouse gasses at a frightening rate.

Gas leaf blowers emit enormous amounts of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbons. Why? Because 2-cycle engines run on a mix of gas and oil. And about a third of the fuel does not combust, making the toxic exhaust harmful to anyone in the vicinity and to the environment. One study concluded that a half hour of 2-cycle leaf blower operation produced the same amount of hydrocarbon as a 3,887-mile drive in a Ford F-150 pickup truck. And the leaf blower emits 23 times the carbon monoxide as the pickup truck. Pollutants released by leaf blowers are linked to cancers, heart disease and other serious ailments.

Every doctor affiliated with Mt. Sinai Children's Hospital in New York signed a proposal to ban gas leaf blowers, stating “Leaf blowers pose multiple hazards to human health...Children are the most susceptible to these hazards...their lungs, ears, eyes, and other organ systems are inherently more sensitive to environmental hazards than the organs of adults.”

And the noise? The body reacts to obnoxious sound with increased adrenaline, changes in heart rate, and elevated blood pressure. This can cause cardiovascular problems, depressed immunity, interrupted sleep, and gastrointestinal distress. And in 2017, the CDC listed leaf blowers as a contributor to permanent hearing loss.

What can we do? Contact our Portland City Council Commissioners and request that an ordinance be passed to prohibit gas powered leaf blowers. Make that transition over a reasonable period of time to allow lawn care contractors and residents sufficient opportunity to upgrade their equipment. Thank you.

If you want to receive updates on this campaign, please sign up at <http://tiyurl.com/noGLBs-in-Oregon>.

Michael Hall - michaelhall1946@gmail.com

Grant Park NET: Testing Their Skills in a Not-so-Real-Life Situation

Nanci Tangeman, Grant Park NET member

“People make good decisions with information.”

A good philosophy to start the morning – especially a morning that involves volunteer neighborhood rescuers and a fake earthquake.

It's a cool, Memorial Day Weekend and 12 members of Grant Park's Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) are suited up and ready to go at Portland Police Bureau's Hollywood-set-like Scenario Village.

NET members are Portland residents trained by Portland Bureau of Emergency Management and Portland Fire & Rescue to provide emergency disaster assistance within their own neighborhoods. NET members are trained to save lives and property until professional responders can arrive.

This morning's scenario: A Cascadia subduction zone earthquake has struck on a Saturday morning in May. The weather is clear. The six buildings at the imaginary corner of Oak and Third must be searched, people rescued.

For the next few hours the Grant Park NET will join active NET members from around the city to test their skills. The exercises, sponsored by PBEM, Portland Fire & Rescue, Portland Police Bureau and Cascadia Moulage, have been made as realistic as possible. The team members try out skills learned in workbooks and classroom training. Radio proficiency. Damage size-up. Communication. Search and rescue. Injury triage. They make mistakes, regroup and try again.

Their brush with reality brings them new insights. For instance, in a real emergency there will be more helpful neighbors around than trained NET members. Those neighbors have expertise and knowledge. How will they work together?


Running through every exercise and insight is one common theme: Information. NET members gather information on damage and victims and pass it on to emergency responders through NET incident commanders. They practice communicating with neighbors, including those who speak a different language or cannot hear. They learn to share pertinent details to allow them to do the most good for the most people.

The morning of fake emergencies brings real improvements in skills, teamwork and communication. Next up for the Grant Park NET members is supporting a reunification drill for Beverly Cleary Schools in June and


helping out at cooling stations during the summer. And, of course, more training.

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





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Hyper-Local Emergency Preparedness Guide

(excerpted with permission from an article by Michael Hall, a resident of Alameda neighborhood and NET member there)

Members of local Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET) will initially remain on their own blocks or multi-block mini-neighborhoods and conduct operations there after a major disaster. Given the focus on very local engagement, a model for hyper-local preparation and response is desirable. This particular model is based on activities involving neighbors on NE 29th Avenue between Knott and Stanton Streets, and has evolved over the past few years. Other models may be similarly effective, while being more customized to your block ("block" being broadly defined).

Organizing and preparing for a response is a community building process as well as a disaster preparedness undertaking. It is an enjoyable and rewarding journey.

It appears that most neighbors are interested in disaster Preparation activities before Response planning. The American Red Cross website contains a link to an excellent program presented in a yard or living room to address preparation.

Block organizing activities can be burdensome for a single individual, NET or otherwise. Developing shared leadership is important. This may mean knocking on neighbors' doors promoting hyper-local preparedness and community building on the block. But recruiting fellow block leaders is easier than it sounds.

The leadership group that emerges (creatively named Council of Blockheads on our local block of 23 homes) meets occasionally to raise a glass and plan the next block event. These meetings can become town hall gatherings that are about listening, training, and socializing. Part of the organizing includes building a block directory and inventory of disaster response skills and equipment. Another important element to build into the planning is the pot-luck. Build community with a shared meal.

Level of interest varies from block to block. On our block, a twice-a-year schedule of events (spring and fall) is working out well so far.

For the workshop sessions (10-20 minutes) of a block event, individual blockheads can take turns leading discussions on issues such as water and food storage, fire suppression, search and rescue, triage, stop-the-bleed, first aid, communications, pet care, and emergency human waste planning.

As water storage is a critical issue, bulk purchase of water containers is an important step. 3.5 gallon water-bricks are a good choice. Typically, the price per container goes down as the size of the order goes up.

Information sharing between nearby NET volunteers will be critical after a major disaster, so planning for that is an important aspect to hyper-local preparations. Testing radio contact with nearby blocks is essential.

Helpful written materials are available through Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM). Living on Shaky Ground is a great starter booklet for earthquake preparation and response.

Link for NET materials is: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/65768>

You can pick up instructional materials at PBEM's headquarters building at 9911 SE Bush Street. If you need additional information or assistance, reach out to helpful PBEM Program and Information Specialist Glenn Devitt glenn.devitt@portlandoregon.gov

There are many variations to the model described here. The keys are collaboration and patience. And maybe audacity. Create a model that works best for you and your neighbors. Maybe you, too, can become a Block-head!

Fools and Flowerland

by Laurene Mullen

One day while talking with newly met neighbors, I asked them which house they lived in. Upon hearing the location and description I exclaimed, "Oh the Zenner House!" The current owners of the "Zenner House" are not, nor never have been a Zenner, and they have owned their home for 10 years, for goodness sake.

Why do we longtime inhabitants of the neighborhood still call houses by the name of a previous owner? I'll tell you why: it's because our houses don't have their own specific names. We need names for our homes like they do in the UK, or some manors in China, Japan, or India. House names can be found in Urdu, Arabic, Hebrew, and Malayalam, to name a few.

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Fools and Flowerland, continued

Are you ready to start searching for your house's name? It could have a name that reflects the history: The Library or The Old Store. Perhaps a prominent feature stands out: The Turret or Widow's Walk. Or your home could have had an illustrious (or infamous) previous owner. I know of a house in Irvington that was a brothel in the 1930's. Could it be called The Fallen Lady? The house I grew up in had three sycamores in the front yard, so we named it Three Trees.

In a totally informal survey people were intrigued by this idea. What would you call your house? Whispering Wisteria? Portland Porch? Dogland? Everyone I asked had to hit the pause button and think about it, this was an important decision! Our neighbors across the street had a beloved but not forgotten Husky named Cooper. He ruled their little slice of real estate with a benevolent, goofy friendliness. They are thinking Cooper's Cottage might be a fitting tribute.

Our homes are a reflection of the way we live. Our homes give us shelter, and provide us with privacy. We protect our children in our homes and even create children in our homes. We drink, eat, and make merry under our roofs. We paint, clean, ignore, and break our homes. Then we repair them and pray that they will not break again. Don't these homes deserve a moniker? Of course, it might be tricky coming up with a consensus opinion among your family members. One person's

Cherry Tree Haven is another person's Squashed Cherry Cottage.

Are you stuck? There's a website called House Name Heritage that lists 10,000 house name ideas. Or the site called The House Name Generator where you fill in various prompts, such as rural or suburban, how big, color, etc. and the website will spit out a dozen ideas. After filling out the prompts the program suggested for my house these names: Camelia Lodge, Rainy End, Douglas Firland, or Beige End. Beige End? I don't think so. I like gardening and my house has a barely contained landscape. I love flowers and the more color around me, the happier I am. So, I think my house should be called The Fool's Flowerland. I'd make a little placard and then people passing by in winter would gaze upon the ruined barren front yard and wonder what fool thought that this house was a flower land?

Not convinced? One last incentive: Researchers with Globrix in the United Kingdom found after surveying 4,000 consumers that 40% of home buyers would be more interested in looking at a property if it had a name. So, there you have it. Name your house and you just might make your own legacy a little richer.

Many of us cherish our homes. Maybe the Grant Park Neighborhood can become known for our interesting homes, our great neighborhood, and yes, our named houses.

Easy and Great Rocky Road

by Laurene Mullen

Marshmallows are a funny product. They are good for floating on a cup of hot cocoa on a cold winter's day, or maybe on your yams at Thanksgiving, but what to do with the little funny puffs of sweetness when the weather turns warmer? Rocky Road! With the kids about to get out of school, below is a super easy and sinfully delicious Rocky Road recipe that they can make themselves and enjoy. It will keep them busy for at least a half hour. Now only three more months of projects to go!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup bittersweet chocolate chips (Ghirardelli 60% Cacao Bittersweet baking chips are great)
- ¼ cup butter
- 2 tablespoons shortening
- 1-1/2 cups mini marshmallows
- ¾ - 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts

Preparation:

1. Butter 8" square pan
2. In a medium/large non-metallic bowl melt chocolate chips for a couple of minutes in the microwave. Stir until smooth.
3. Add butter and shortening into melted chocolate. Stir again until smooth.
4. Add marshmallows and nuts. Spread into pan and cool in fridge, covered.
5. Cut into squares. Indulge.