



Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Winter 2017

Who Delivers Your Newsletter?

by Ken Peterson

Each issue of the quarterly GPNA newsletter does not magically appear on your doorstep. Much like the Pony Express, whose motto was "The mail must go through," a cadre of dedicated Grant Park volunteers brave rain, hail, snow, and barking dogs guarding their homes, to ensure that all who live or work in the neighborhood receive the latest local news. Many volunteers have faithfully walked their routes for years, even decades, and all do so for free, acting as neighborhood supporters in a tangible, reliable way.

GPNA thinks it is time to acknowledge, honor, and thank all those who deliver the newsletters. If you happen to know or see any of them, please do the same. The list below purposely includes a few recent route retirees because some of them delivered for many years before passing the baton to a successor. Apologies in advance to anyone inadvertently omitted:

Francie Borquist

Donna Brown

Liz Capps

Brian Cefola

Anne Clarke

Jane Comeault

Kate Davenport

Arlene Demaret

Laura DeSimone & Bill Roulette

Scott & Denise Edgar

Bonnie & Daniel English

Marjie & Joel Fields

Mike & Laura Fitzpatrick

Mary Gayton

Ann Grant

Mary Cal Hanson

Bruce Harder

Nora Herrera

Judy & Michael Heuman

Adam Highton

Therese Jentz

Larry Keltner

Ron Laster

Cindy Lech

Karen Lewis

Deb Malin

Merryl Mix

Laurene Mullen

Kathy Newlyn

Ken Peterson

Rod & Pamela Plimpton-Grafe

Linda Reisser

Theresa Rutherford

Julie Schmidt

Rebecca Teborak

Stacey Tipp

In the next newsletter issue, learn about the devoted volunteer coordinator and Beverly Cleary class that make sure the delivery volunteers have the right number of newsletters for each route. And if you enjoy a quarterly neighborhood walk, consider volunteering (even in a relief or temporary capacity) for a route yourself.

www.grantpark-na.org

STAY IN TOUCH

Find us at Facebook:

[GrantParkNeighborhood](#);

Tweet us at [@GPNAPortland](#)

Join our discussion group at: [groups.](#)

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

Or join us at: [grantparkor.nextdoor.com](#)

GPNA MEETINGS

Meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of the month. Our annual meeting, when elections are held is in April. Special 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.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Meeting Nov 21, 2017

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

grantpark-na.org/thehood/meetings.html

GPNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Contact the board at:

general@grantpark-na.org

Combating Package Theft

Excerpted in Part from Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement Crime Prevention Guide

According to Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), package theft is a common occurrence in the city of Portland. Grant Park subscribers to NextDoor see daily reports from local residents whose packages disappear from front porches. ONI reports that this type of crime tends to increase during holiday months as residents purchase more goods that are shipped to their homes. Many of these incidents are crimes of opportunity. An offender may not intend to target a particular home, but walks or drives by an area and sees an easy target where something of perceived value can quickly be taken without notice. On occasion thieves may trail a delivery truck, stealing packages shortly after drop off. An untended package visible from the street is vulnerable to theft, and may suggest that no one is home, making the home a possible target for burglary. There are a number of delivery options available to the consumer that can help reduce package theft. Some options to consider:

- Ship your package to a location where someone you know will be available to receive it, which may include your work address or a relative, neighbor, or friend's home. Some shipping companies will allow you to choose a preferred time and date as well as to change locations when the package is in route.
- Consider installing one of the new wi-fi video connected doorbells that record persons near your front door. An Internet search for "best doorbells" can get you started.
- Require a signature for deliveries.
- Track your package and request an email, text, or other alert about the status of delivery.
- Consider using other available delivery options. Retailers, both brick and mortar and online, and shipping companies may deliver to secured locations including lockers or allow you to pick up at the retail store or package carrier.
- If there are no other options, provide specific instructions about where the package should be left on your property. Choose a location that conceals

the item, so that it can't be seen by people walking or driving in the area.

- If you are going on vacation, place deliveries on hold until you return from your trip.
- If you frequently receive deliveries to your residence, consider purchasing a locking parcel delivery box that can be bolted down or secured.
- As a good neighbor, be alert and report all crime and suspicious activity. If you see a package being stolen from a neighbor's home, call 9-1-1. Neighbors are encouraged to call suspicious activity to the police by calling 9-1-1 for immediate threats to life or property or the non-emergency number to the police at 503-823-3333.
- Report package theft to the police at 503-823-3333 or www.portlandoregon.gov/police/cor and the delivery company.

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Local Good Causes: The Northeast Emergency Food Program

By Stacey Tipp

I recently had the chance to sit down and chat with Travis Niemann, the director of the Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP). Clients of NEFP can come to the food pantry to “shop” once every other month. The food program is set up like a little grocery store and clients can choose from a selection of fresh, canned, processed, and frozen foods. Quantities offered depend on family size. Clients are also able to shop for toiletries and personal care items, and there’s a clothing closet, with a variety of offerings for all sizes, ages and genders.

Located in the basement of Luther Memorial Church, 4800 NE 72nd Avenue, NEFP serves about 800 families per month. There is no geographic eligibility boundary, so anyone who can get there is welcome to come in for help.

There is a lot of need in northeast Portland, and the NEFP fills a critical gap for many, especially towards the end of the month as paychecks and government checks dwindle. As Travis jokes, there’s “always so much month left at the end of the money.” November is the program’s busiest month, with many additional patrons coming in for food so they can free up scarce dollars to make the holidays special for their families.

The Oregon Food Bank, local businesses, and faith organizations support the NEFP. What can individuals and families do? Travis suggests that when thinking about what foods to donate, think about what your own family likes to eat. Does your kid like Cheerios? Well, chances are there’s another kid who likes it, too, so why not pick up an extra box when you’re shopping? Fill up a bag with your family’s favorites, and drop it off when full. Do you pride yourself on your fruit trees or vegetable garden? Bring some of your extra bounty to the food program (please note that the NEFP cannot accept donations of fruits or vegetables canned at home). With the holiday season approaching, donations of frozen turkeys and hams would also be much appreciated. Take note: if you shop at the New Seasons in Grant Park, and bring in your own reusable cloth bag, you can donate your credit to the NEFP through the end of the year.

Cleaning out your closet? The NEFP clothing closet will take any donations of clean, gently used clothing for grown-ups and kids. Men’s pants in all sizes and styles are always in short supply. With winter coming,



Thomas (left) and Molly Moore, and their beagle Desi

warm weather gear is definitely welcome (gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and jackets).

The NEFP will also accept donations of toiletries and personal care products in both trial and regular sizes. These include toilet paper, diapers, shampoo/conditioner, laundry and dish detergent, razors/shaving supplies, toothbrushes/toothpaste, etc. Food stamps cannot be used to purchase any of these products, so donations in this category are especially welcome.

Donations of all of the above items can be made between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, the three days a week the NEFP is open.

Donations of plain old cash are also greatly appreciated! The NEFP has, for the sixth year, been included in the Willamette Week Give!Guide Campaign, which highlights amazing local nonprofits. From November 1 through December 31, 2017, individuals are encouraged to make end of year donations. Go to giveguide.org/#neemergencyfoodprogram to find NEFP directly, or search for the NEFP at giveguide.org.

Another way to help the food program is to volunteer your time and energy; although as Travis notes, “Whenever I ask for volunteers, I’m aware that volunteers may themselves be in need of our services. They should always feel comfortable asking for help, as they themselves are helping others.”

continued page 4

Local Good Causes, continued

What does being able to rely on the NEFP mean to those who go there for help? Here's what Molly Moore, a client of several years, told me about herself and her husband, Thomas: "Like many seniors who live on nothing but Social Security, but still have too much income to qualify for food stamps, too many months we have to decide between food and prescription medications. We have been going to NEFP every other month for several years to get those staples we need to keep going. Their 'shopping cart' method is so diverse and generous that for seniors it is enough to supplement with fresh foods to last several weeks and then some. And the little extras that donors contribute – pastries and specialty items in the cold case – make us smile. The Staff are what make the experience actually enjoyable. And it's nice to see our diverse neighbors all gathered together, anticipating healthy foods and full tummies for their families."

So next time you want to do something good, either as an individual, family, or group, or if the money for food runs out before the end of the month, remember the Northeast Emergency Food Program. For more information, call 503-284-5470, or visit their website at www.emo-nefp.org.

Connect to Kindergarten

Help Beverly Cleary kick-off the 2018-2019 school year on Thursday, February 15, 2018 either at 9 a.m.-10 a.m. or 6:30 pm-7:30 p.m. by joining us at the Hollywood Campus, 3560 NE Hollywood Court (503) 916-6766. Meet the Principal and learn about our Kindergarten program. Due to limited space, this event is adults only. Connect to Kindergarten is an Open House event so no need to call ahead! Registration packets will be available for parents to take home and return. Kindergarten information is also available at pps.net or www.beverlyclearyschool.org.

Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team Update

By Mitch Schaub

The volunteers of the Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) now meet regularly at 7 p.m., the third Thursday of every month, at the Grant Park Church. The Grant Park NET is part of a city-wide coalition of other neighborhood NETs trained by Portland Bureau of Emergency Management and Portland Fire and Rescue. Each Portland area neighborhood NET acts to extend first responder services, offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive.

Currently, 23 volunteers living in the Grant Park area comprise the neighborhood NET. Grant Park NET has several current objectives: to continue disaster response training and to be able to respond to some of the potential critical structures in Grant Park, including schools, commercial and retail properties, businesses, and multi-family and single-family residences. The NET also plans to provide the Grant Park community with information and resources to enable disaster preparedness planning, including how to stock survival food and water. So part of Grant Park NET's upcoming focus will be to look at opportunities to meet with our Grant Park neighbors to talk about disaster preparedness and ways we can all take concrete steps to protect our families and homes during and after a natural disaster.

Further information regarding Portland NET including how to become a member, and list of NET resources are available at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/31667>



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A Different Kind of Business: Early Education

By Stacey Tipp

Recently I had the decided pleasure to spend some time with “Teacher Maggie” Lewis of the Lee Owen Stone Preschool. As we sat and talked, the classroom pet, Joe, a Russian desert tortoise, trundled slowly around the room. Grant Park Church, (which has no affiliation with the preschool) located at NE 34th Avenue and Knott Street, houses this warm, inviting, and meticulously organized haven for early learning and development.

Lee Owen Stone (LOS) is a cooperative preschool, which means that there’s one professional, paid teacher, Teacher Maggie, with the rest of the staffing needs filled by families, primarily parents (though grandparents, nannies, and even fairy godmothers (!) can fill in for parents as needed). Each day, three parent helpers who volunteer in the classroom on a rotating basis assist Teacher Maggie. In addition to helping out in the classroom, parents also have to hold a “job” to help the preschool thrive. Parents with teaching experience might sit on the Curriculum Committee. Others might serve on the Site Committee, which ensures the space is clean and that everything works properly. Some choose membership or community outreach, or focus on financial matters. The school’s major fundraiser is an annual auction held at the Madeleine Parish School. Attendees say the auction is fun, well organized, and has great food and a well-stocked bar. Consider attending the auction to contribute to a good cause and have a great time!

The preschool opened in 1965, and has been at its current location in Grant Park for 12 years. Maggie herself has been with LOS for 17 years. Before she had children of her own, Maggie was a special education teacher, working on in-home early intervention for the very young, all the way up to special needs adults in the community. When her two children were in elementary school, before coming to LOS, Maggie estimates she volunteered about twenty hours a week at their schools!

One thing that makes LOS so successful is that parents step up and use their talents for the good of the school community. In the full-sized gym in the Grant Park Church basement are a large play structure and tumbling mats purchased from a successful grant request written by a parent to the Fred Meyer

Foundation. The kids can also enjoy a \$3,000 climbing wall, purchased with funds raised in a paddle bid at the auction!

Teacher Maggie is passionate about her 30 young charges, and her face lights up when she talks about the families she’s known over the years. Maggie feels that she’s involved in community building as much as education. These days, with increased job mobility, many young families don’t have local extended families they can rely on for help and support. The cooperative preschool model uniquely facilitates community building. Families become much closer to one another than they might in a regular school, where parents are often like ships passing in the night at drop-off and pickup times. The LOS families go camping together, spend the holidays together, and thereby build real friendships. Their commitment to the school, the responsibility and obligations of volunteering in the classroom, and holding a school “job,” all bring young families outside of their little nuclear units into a community. It’s obvious when you talk to Maggie how proud she is of the strong, stable program present at LOS.

Teacher Maggie will likely retire in another three years, and is grooming one or more of her parents with teaching experience to take her place at that time. Her adult son has cystic fibrosis (CF), and when she retires Maggie would like to do something in the CF community. The LOS kids learn early on the importance of helping others in the community, and families participate in several charity collections and events throughout the year. One of these events is the annual CF Trike-A-Thon!

So, if you’re looking for a great first school for your young kids, check out Lee Owen Stone. The school does offer scholarships in cases of financial need. Just fill out a form when first applying. Go to leeowenstonepreschool.org for more information.



Auto theft skyrockets in Portland

by Pat Bellamah, Excerpted by Permission of Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association and the Author

You aren't imagining it. Car thefts in Portland have increased dramatically over the past few years. Portland Police Bureau (PPB) data for the past year show 44 reported stolen vehicles for the Grant Park neighborhood, making it the second most commonly reported crime (larceny offenses were first, totaling 119. See accompanying article in this issue about package theft on page 2).

PPB statistics show a total of 3,552 vehicles reported stolen in 2014, jumping 19 percent to 4,225 in 2015, and another 24 percent to 5,247 in 2016. Through August 2017, the number of vehicles reported stolen was 4,693—an astonishing 65 percent increase over the same period last year.

Astonishing, except that it makes perfect sense. Believe it or not, there is pretty much no penalty for stealing a car in the state of Oregon. In 2014 the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled that the State must prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the driver of a stolen vehicle knows that it is stolen. According to Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Ryan Lufkin, prior to this decision, and today in all the states

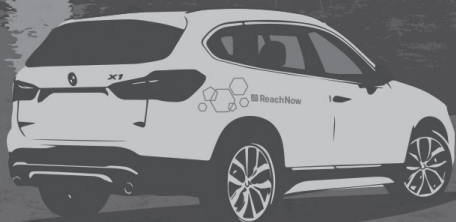
neighboring Oregon, case law held that “the unexplained possession of recently stolen goods raises a presumption or warrants an inference of guilty possession.” Washington State requires “slight corroborative evidence,” which could be anything from stolen license plates, a large ring of car keys, stolen property, controlled substances, documents with other people's names, or the driver's own statements or conduct. As it stands now, the driver of the stolen vehicle must either admit to knowing it is stolen, or there must be an eyewitness who can connect the driver to the theft. Since car thieves often associate with one another and know how to evade the law, this is a standard of evidence the prosecution essentially can never meet. So even though arrests are up, prosecutions are down about 20 percent this year.

The DA's office promoted an amendment to the law known as HB 2794-A that was voted on in April by the Oregon House Judiciary Committee. According to testimony Lufkin provided at the hearing, this bill would have adopted the same standard of proof required in Washington, Idaho, and California (and formerly Oregon): “Being the possessor of the stolen vehicle




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coupled with 'slight corroborative evidence' is sufficient to prove guilt... Leave it to juries to decide on a case by case basis." As it stands now, the DA's office can't even bring the cases to trial. Although the Judiciary Committee approved the amendment, it died in committee and was never voted on by the legislature.

Oregonians who have endured the shock and frustration of having their car stolen might be galled to find out that a significant factor in getting legislation like this to the House floor is whether it will have a fiscal impact—i.e., the cost of arresting and prosecuting car thieves, and potentially incarcerating them, versus letting them walk. "There's a cost to catching more people, a theoretical dollar value," Lufkin said, that the legislature takes into account. "It doesn't reflect the cost to victims. We argue that HB 2794 aims to restore what we used to have, which is a statute that worked."

The car thieves are, for the most part, professionals, according to Lufkin, which means that repeat offenders who are skilled at stealing cars commit most of the thefts. Often they are drug addicts who sell a car quickly for a couple hundred dollars, or a fraction of the Blue Book value of what are typically older cars, because they are looking for quick cash. The buyers, on the other hand, understand that their use of the car will be short term. Either the seller or the buyer strips the car of anything of value, which is why even though upwards of 90 percent of all vehicles stolen in Portland are recovered, most recovered cars are "trashed, with greatly depreciated value," he said.

But the primary reason this legislative amendment never made it to a vote is a lack of time and attention in the legislature. "It's a squeaky wheel issue," Lufkin said. The legislature takes action depending on "who is at their front door making the biggest stink." And so

far the citizens of Portland haven't insisted that the car theft issue be addressed, which is tragic considering how simple the solution is. The Deputy District Attorney urges all citizens who care about this issue to contact their state representatives (below), by phone, mail, or email, and copy their letters to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees: Senator Michael Dembrow, Democrat, District 23 Phone: 503-986-1723 Address: 900 Court St NE, S-407 Salem, OR, 97301 Sen.MichaelDembrow@oregonlegislature.gov; Representative Barbara Smith Warner, Democrat, District 45 Phone: 503-986-1445 Address: 900 Court St NE, H-275 Salem, OR, 97301 rep.barbarasmithwarner@oregonlegislature.gov



Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 7:30 pm

Central Lutheran Church

1820 NE 21st Ave. Portland, Oregon

Suggested ticket price Adults:

\$15 Youth (6-10) \$7, Kids (0-5) Free

(No one turned away for lack of funds.)

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My students are all ages: high schoolers needing extra support with writing, test preparation, and study skills; college students; adults writing job application cover letters; and elementary students learning to read and write.

I hold an MFA and teach at PSU. I have taught extensively throughout the region, at universities, through Literary Arts, and with all grade levels. I also work with non-native speakers through Multnomah County Library. I am the author of several books and work prolifically as a freelance writer.

Kirsten Rian: 503.348.5249, riankirsten@gmail.com

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Recipe from Grant Park Resident

In this issue we begin a regular recurring column featuring a recipe submitted by a local resident or other GPNA member. If you have a favorite, 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!

And now, our first recipe submission:

Susan Long’s Peanut Butter-Vegetable Chicken Soup

Ingredients:

- 8 cups chicken stock (two 32 oz. boxes)
- 2 cups diced cooked chicken (canned chicken breast is fine)
- 1 14 ½ oz can chopped tomatoes
- 1 cup each diced potato, carrots, and zucchini (unpeeled)
- 1 cup chopped broccoli
- ½ cup each diced green pepper, onion, & celery ***
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup peanut butter (smooth or chunky)
- Parsley and black pepper to taste

Instructions:

In a large pot, combine stock, chicken, potatoes, and carrots.

Bring to a boil and simmer over medium heat until vegetables are nearly tender. 10-15 minutes. Test with fork.

Add rest of vegetables. Simmer for 8-10 minutes.

Add peanut butter, parsley, pepper. Stir soup until peanut butter is fully blended. Simmer another 5 minutes.

***Vegetable amounts are approximate and can be varied. Use as much as seems easy. Not necessary to waste half a pepper!

Note: This can also be made as a vegetarian soup. Use vegetable stock and omit the chicken.



Susan Long enjoys walking the neighborhood with her dogs, Gilly and Darcy.

Web Designer Needed

The Grant Park Neighborhood Association seeks a volunteer neighborhood resident with a background in web design/development to re-design our presence at www.grantpark-na.org. We need your help. Help give your neighborhood a compelling and functional home on the internet. Contact Stacey Tipp at mrs.tipp@hotmail.com to learn more.

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Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
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