



Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Winter 2018

Traffic at 33rd and Broadway and Minimizing Neighborhood Traffic: A Historical Perspective

by Tony Barsotti

Recent GPNA newsletters have looked at the current traffic patterns at NE 33rd and Broadway, including a letter to the editor suggesting ways to mitigate these high volumes of traffic by increasing cut through routes through the neighborhood west of 33rd. It may be helpful to some who are more recent residents of Grant Park to review the history of the City Council mandated protections of this part of our neighborhood from north-south traffic on these local service streets.

Portland currently has many challenges related to change and increased population density. A street system designed for smaller vehicles and fewer of them has evolved to include mass transit while encouraging more bicycle and pedestrian use. These adaptations have occurred while seeking to maintain distinct livable neighborhoods in the inner city. Visionaries established Portland's structured Neighborhood Associations in the 1970's to ensure a place at the table for the neighborhoods with inevitable pressures for development and other factors that influence the livability of our neighborhoods.

A significant land use issue that directly affected Grant Park and adjoining neighborhoods occurred in the mid 1980's. At that time, Hyster Company left the long time industrial facility that ultimately transformed into the local Fred Meyer. Approval to construct the Hollywood West Fred Meyer required a Zone Change and Portland Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment. Grant Park and Sullivan's Gulch neighborhood associations, along with five other NA's, the Central Northeast Neighbors, and an ad-hoc organization, Neighborhood Protection Coalition, opposed the proposed zone change because of traffic, impacts to the residential areas and the need to support the nearby declining Hollywood commercial district. Among the points made by many in the prolonged and contentious land use process was the increase in traffic that would result, especially at 33rd and Broadway. It was noted that this would be exacerbated by subsequent development of the Albina Fuel property, which is now the Grant Park Village complex.

On June 5, 1986, the City Council adopted Ordinance 158573, which was later upheld by the Land Use Board of Appeals. To mitigate the potential problems created by the zone change, the Council stipulated 17 specific actions. I've inserted three that are relevant to the compromises that protect the adjoining neighborhoods from cut-through traffic and address the increased traffic at 33rd and Broadway due to the Fred Meyer store:

d. 2) At the applicant's expense, NE Broadway shall be restriped in order to provide a separate westbound-to-southbound left-turn lane at the intersection of NE 30th Avenue. In addition, NE Broadway shall be restriped to lengthen the existing eastbound-to-northbound left-turn lane at NE 33rd in order to facilitate left-turn movements at the intersection.

d. 5) At the applicant's expense, a new traffic signal shall be installed at NE Broadway/30th consistent with city standards. This new signal shall be intercon-

continued page 3

2019 MEETINGS:

January 15 (Board),
April 16 (Annual Meeting),
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
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Letters to the Editor and Articles

The Summer issue of the GPNA newsletter, which focused largely on land use and traffic issues, prompted some readers to submit email comments. As a result, the GPNA board developed a policy for submission of both letters to the editor and articles for publication, set forth below:

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 our Newsletter Editor, Ken Peterson, kbppdx@gmail.com.

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

Letter to the Editor

Dear GPNA Executive Board Members:

I just finished reading the most recent GPNA newsletter. *Thank you* so much for publishing the heartbreaking stories about individuals who grew up in our neighborhood and became homeless. These stories are so important for the community to read about and carry with them. I have lived in the neighborhood for 25 years and walked my dogs at Grant Park through all seasons. I have seen the ever-increasing growth in desperate, mentally ill, struggling to survive homeless in the park

and felt only sympathy for these folks and a little fear. These stories made me cry. I will always think of them now when I see a homeless person in our neighborhood.

With warm regards,

Jane Knechtel

Traffic History, continued

nected with adjacent traffic signals which are located at NE Broadway/28th and NE Broadway/33rd.

d. 6) At the applicant's expense, raised channelization in the form of a "pork chop" design shall be installed on the north approach of both the NE 28th/NE Broadway and the NE 30th/NE Broadway intersections. This channelization shall be designed and constructed in such a way as to allow only westbound-to-northbound and southbound-to-westbound right turns to occur: all through and left-turn movements to and from the north shall be prohibited through this design. A cul-de-sac or other form of barrier shall be installed on NE 32nd on the south side of NE Schuyler. The effect of these improvements will be to discourage or prevent non-local site-generated traffic from encroaching into the neighborhood areas north of Broadway.

Among the other requirements were similar protections for Sullivan's Gulch to the west of 28th, and signal modifications on NE Sandy at 28th.

The 33rd and Broadway intersection creates frustration for many and could see even more traffic depending on developments at the Aircraft Factory (formerly Gordon's Fireplace Shop) and the former Jackson's convenience store. It is worth exploring how to make this intersection more efficient and safer, but it is also important to do this in a way that minimizes traffic on our local service traffic streets.

Land Use Updates

by Ken Peterson

Recent GPNA newsletters focused on land use and traffic issues, largely centered on the intersection of 33rd and Broadway. Here are some brief updates:

- The Aircraft Factory (formerly Gordon's Fireplace Shop) project remains stalled with no final plans submitted for city approval. The new owners continue to seek major retail tenants while arranging financing. GPNA has expressed concern to the developer about the deteriorating condition of the building exterior, the presence of increased graffiti, and the apparent absence of routine security fence maintenance surrounding the existing parking lot. Absence of adequate fencing has unfortunately resulted in frequent trash accumulation.
- The new owner of the former Jacksons convenience store also seeks tenants and formal new building plans are on hold. It appears that final building design will likely be tenant-driven.
- Development of the Broadway-Weidler Corridor plan should begin early in 2019. The plan will continue to encompass all of NE Broadway from I5 to at least Sandy Boulevard, and possibly as far as the Hollywood Transit Center. Structural and traffic changes at 33rd and Broadway will likely not occur until submission and approval of formal plans for the Aircraft Factory project.
- No further concrete information is available concerning the site of the closed Burger King restaurant on Broadway near 37th Avenue, although Super Deluxe reportedly remains interested in the site for an expansion location.
- Grant High school remodeling remains on schedule.

GPNA Makes Grant to Local Schools

The Beverly Cleary School (BCS) Safety Committee thanks the Grant Park Neighborhood Association for its generous donation of \$500 to fund critical safety equipment. The BCS Safety Committee is a group of committed parents and school staff working to improve the BCS facility security and seismic safety.

The committee has prioritized purchasing critical emergency safety equipment and medical supplies this school year, and GPNA's donation puts us well on our way to achieving our goals. In the event of an emergency people with no medical training may use the medical kits

to help save lives. Ensuring the safety of our school facilities requires a community effort, and we are so grateful for GPNA's support and generous financial donation.

Emergency Preparedness Could Be Your Best Holiday Gift

by Peter Maxfield

Most people think of the Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team [NET] as that group of folks who will be helping out in the event of a natural disaster- when a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake [the Big One] hits. But another important part of the NET's function is to raise awareness about the importance of preparedness. After the Big One, it could take many days for help to reach people in need, leaving families to rely on any food, water and first-aid skills they have. So what should you do to prepare?

Experts recommend storing enough supplies [water, food, medications, first aid, etc.] for 14 days. You should plan on a gallon of water/day for each person living in your home. You can buy dehydrated food kits [e.g. Mountain House, Wise Company] but also consider food that doesn't have to be cooked [e.g. condensed or powdered milk, canned beans, canned fish, canned meat, peanut butter]. These foods could be in your emergency supply and then rotated into your pantry before their expiration date and replenished. Getting all of your supplies together can seem like a daunting task. Break it up into small weekly bites [<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/article/678731>] and the tasks become far more digestible. Note that you may want to increase your water and food supplies to meet your family's needs] however, and in six months, you'll be READY.

Jean Johnson, SRES, EA
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"Jean is the realtor everyone wishes they had. She uses her academic knowledge (a Ph.D. in history) and her life experiences as a native Oregonian, to help her clients successfully buy and sell their properties.

She was with us at every step and kept us well informed along the way. We were surprised at the time and effort she put forth for us, and overwhelmed at her availability and by the generous sharing of her many resources.

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 and Mary G, Grant Park, 2018


What else can you do to prepare?

NW Natural reminds us to secure natural gas equipment, such as water heaters, to minimize movement during an earthquake. Have semi-rigid gas connectors replaced with flexible connectors. Keep combustibles like paint cans and rags away from your furnace and water heater [not just for quakes].


For families, one of the most important items to accomplish is to have a family emergency plan that is known to every family member. This really helps the kids feel both more comfortable and more secure in the event of a natural disaster.

And if you haven't done so already: secure items that might fall and cause injuries (e.g., bookshelves, mirrors, light fixtures). Develop a communications plan. Practice how to Drop, Cover, and Hold On.

Lastly, there are a host of resources available on-line. For a good starting point, check out Portland Bureau of Emergency Management's site. <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/46475>



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Grant Fields Softball Update

The Summer, 2018 GPNA newsletter contained an article describing efforts to provide a softball diamond for use by the Grant High girls' softball team and the considerable controversy that ensued. Since then Portland Public Schools (PPS), in conjunction with Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R), along with interested stakeholders, have worked to reach a solution. Jamie Hurd, Assistant Project Manager, Grant High School Office of School Modernization, provided the following information:

On October 9, 2018 PPS Board of Education held a work session to review a number of available options to provide a softball field adjacent to Grant High School. These options are available on the PPS Grant Modernization website for review. From the options provided, a recommendation was developed in partnership with Grant High School's administration, the softball and baseball coaches, and with Portland Parks & Recreation. The recommendation is to make improvements to the existing Grant Bowl, creating a multi-use field that will accommodate softball in addition to the currently supported programs such as football, and track & field. All available options for placing softball adjacent to Grant HS are on property owned by Portland Parks & Recreation. Therefore, we will be working in close partnership with PP&R to define the project scope, requirements, and implementation of a successful project plan.

A number of tasks are underway that will allow the team to launch the Master Planning phase of this project. PPS is in discussions with Parks to finalize a formal agreement for the next phase of the Grant Bowl project. Additionally, the project team is developing an RFP to solicit a design team to lead the Master Planning process. The Master Planning phase will include lighting and parking studies, community engagement, defining the scope and priorities for athletics and identification of funding sources. The overall goal of the Grant Bowl project is to provide a safe, and well-functioning sports facility to support softball and other sports at Grant, through the addition of lights, bleachers, and infrastructure to host athletic practices and games. Grant is one of the few schools in Oregon that is not able to host home games due to the nature of the fields.

The Grant Bowl project is independent of the larger modernization project. As the scope is defined through the Master Planning process an independent timeline will be developed. The four options available for review on the PPS Grant Modernization website includes estimates of cost and time. We expect this to be further defined through design and community engagement.

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Birds That Love Our Neighborhood

by Lois Okrasinski

Coming to the end of our leaf-raking weeks in the Grant Park Neighborhood, we are very much aware of our fabulous tree canopy. With the leaves gone we can see the birds who live here with us, plus we can count how many nests our own yards sheltered this past year. We have several excellent attributes that make birds like living here as much as we do.

Not only are the trees plentiful, but the fact that our yards have a big variety of trees, very tall, medium and some short ornamentals, all in close proximity, is perfect for many bird species. Below that we often have shrubs or sapling trees for the next layer. Finally our many ferns will grow, whether or not we are putting forth any gardening effort. The flowers we have, our groundcovers and even the moss that drives us mad, all combine to make a rich biodiverse environment for all living creatures, in addition to the feathered ones.

People who are willing to leave a cover of dead leaves at the back of their property, or even a dead log or branch will be rewarded by seeing birds feasting on the insect life there. This is where you will see the ever-shy **Spotted Towhee**, scratching away in the fallen fir needles, perhaps close to your compost heap. This bird will be two inches smaller than a robin and have black or brownish feathers on its back and head, depending on if it is male or female. There are white spots on the wings and the breast is white with orangish feathers next to the wing. This blessed brushy area is where they may build a nest and raise their babies. Watch for Spotted Towhees carefully — they won't come out into open spaces of turf or cement.

Native habitat like the leaves and branches, and even your discarded Christmas tree, will attract birds far more than purchased items like feeders and bird baths or bird houses. What they really like is water. Luckily many of us water our lawns and flowers and we don't even realize we are providing for the birds. Setting up a little drip of water will attract birds that hear it and show up to investigate. This also appeals to our other lovely winged creatures — butterflies. Providing water is the most surefire way to invite birds into our neighborhood.

So we've already got cover for birds in our huge variety of plants, we've made water enticingly available, now we need food. The food birds really crave is something they pluck right off the plant that produced it. Sunflowers and millet are favorites you can grow easily. Beauty

berry, flowering quince, daphne, salal, holly, honeysuckle and Oregon grape will be a draw for birds. And don't forget vines to fill in some vertical space: hardy kiwi, Chinese gooseberry vine, blueberry climbers, hyacinth bean, woodbine, and grapes all provide a feast.

In spite of old images of elderly ladies offering crumbs to pigeons, don't ever feed bread or anything made of white flour to birds, including the ducks at Laurelhurst Pond and elsewhere. These products contain additives, sugar, the wrong kinds of fats and other ingredients that could be harmful. If you have nothing growing that birds want to eat, you can improvise a bird feeder and stock it with an all-purpose "wild-bird mix" from a store. Then watch and see what our Grant Park Neighborhood birds really will consume and next time buy what they like best.

At Portland's Audubon Society Stephanie Herman is the Wildlife Care Center Manager. She herself has two cats that she always keeps from running loose. She says that cats are unfortunately the main cause of injury to birds in a neighborhood like ours. Many of our residents are already aware of this and prevent their cats from roaming about.

In our rich environment of plants for cover and food, plentiful water and supervised pet cats, there are several birds you are almost certain to see. With winter approaching you might be entertained by the little **chickadees** that are acrobats with black heads and perky quick movements in hedges and trees with berries. They enjoy sunflower seeds. You may hear them chirping their name, "Chick-a-dee, chick-a-dee".

Crows are our very large birds with ebony feathers that everyone knows from the movies even if you've not encountered them outdoors. My husband, Ted, enjoys crows, and notices how smart they are. They broadcast his progress through the neighborhood on his early morning treks to buy the newspaper. There are usually three or four crows, with their loud hoarse caws, not angry, just announcing that a human is approaching. Ted remembers his early life, keeping crows away from a newly sown cornfield — the wise crows never took flight until the shotgun was brought up to aim!

House Finches are those assertive, dusky little birds just smaller than a sparrow, which suddenly appear noticeably red during the winter. That's not just my

imagination. They really are a brighter color because that's when the new plumage from fall gears up for spring mating season. The birds most likely to be baby-daddies are those with the most vivid red.

Robins, the first songbird most of us learned to recognize when we started kindergarten, used to be very, very plentiful in the Grant Park Neighborhood. When lawns are damp from a sprinkler or rain, a robin is seen, first cocking its head, then stabbing its beak into the turf and emerging with a good sized earthworm. A few weeks ago when we had our long-awaited downpour, suddenly eight robins appeared and exuberantly bathed in the fresh puddles beneath our Douglas Fir. But they have not been seen since.

Flickers were fascinating to my husband and me for several years since we had a pair regularly mincing about on our lawn, pecking away for ants. Always together. Actually woodpeckers, I'd have felt more in synch had I seen them on trees. But no, right on the turf. The pretty brown barred back, the little shaft of red on the cheek, and the telltale long sharp bill made these birds easy to identify.

A **Dark-Eyed Junco** is often seen in the Grant Park Neighborhood, particularly in warmer weather. The most common is actually called the "Oregon" Junco, with its rusty brown back with blackish hood and brownish sides, about 6 inches long and always crisp white feathers outlining its tail. Look for them feeding on the seeds in fir and pine cones.

Sparrows are ever present. It's easy to see the small house sparrows that are as common as dirt. And speaking of dirt, that is where they like to bathe in warm summer months. In the outdoor seating area at McMenamin's Kennedy School you can notice little saucer-like depressions made by a sparrow taking a dust bath. These small brown birds are not native to this continent and may displace the nesting site of more desirable birds. Or they just nest in places you don't want them. Like the ivy climbing up your chimney, which they want for the warmth and protection during the winter because, unlike other birds, they use their nests as a residence year-round.

A similar species is the **Song Sparrow**, a little bigger and much more civilized in its habits. You will notice his amazing music and he has quite a repertoire. His song

often begins with the first four notes of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Start listening...

Starlings are those lightly speckled black birds that assemble on our lawns to gobble up every insect in sight. They are several inches smaller than a robin and, like house sparrows, they are non-native, running a close second as the bird folks like best to despise. It has been said if you can name it, a starling will eat it. They may take over all your birdhouses if you are not precise about the size of the entrance holes.

Hummingbirds will return to our neighborhood the last week of April or early May. They love the hanging fuchsia baskets that we give as Mother's Day gifts, or other colorful blossoms some distance off the ground. The Portland chapter of the Audubon Society told me that the Grant Park neighborhood probably has both the slightly larger Anna's Hummingbird, which is pinky-purple on its head, and the 3 3/4 inch long Rufous Hummingbird which has a reddish-brown back if it is male and drabber green feathers for female. You'll usually see hummers in flight or hovering at a blossom, but once in a while you could see one perched to sing with tiny squeaky, grating notes. And yes, they can fly backwards.

Grant Park itself probably is home to whatever **owls** we have here. The Audubon Society says there are likely both Great Horned Owls and Barred Owls. They are out and about at night.

Occasionally we see a solitary **raptor** sitting on sentry duty at the top of our tallest tree. In our location this is usually a Sharp-shinned Hawk, a Cooper's Hawk or a Red-tailed Hawk. They eat small mammals like mice, frogs and toads, nestlings and tons of insects. If they show up at your bird feeder it probably means something's amiss, unless they just want to dine on a couple of smaller birds.

Scrub Jays let us know they're here by their rough, rasping, "Kwesh...kwesh", and the flash of blue. They'll eat most everything and adore our residential neighborhoods and city parks. These jays are one of our largest backyard birds at 11 inches.

Enjoy these birds. They are one of the benefits of our wonderful neighborhood. And remember what Yogi Berra said: "You can observe a lot by just watching."

Have A Child Entering Kindergarten?

Beverly Cleary Hollyrood invites parents to **Connect to Kindergarten**, Thursday, February 21, 2019, 9–10 am or 6:30–7:30pm; an open house to kick off the 2019-2020 school year registration. Please join us at either time, (no need to call ahead). There will be an opportunity to meet the Principal, the Assistant Principal and learn about our Kindergarten program. Registration packets will be available to take home to return to the office by May 1st. Due to lack of space, this is a parents' only event.

To register your child you will need:

1. Proof of Address.
2. Your child's birth certificate.
3. Proof of immunization.
4. Emergency contact names and phone numbers.

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GPNA Pursues Greater Inter-Neighborhood and Coalition Collaboration

by Ken Peterson

Sometimes important issues extend beyond the borders of a discrete neighborhood, such as Grant Park. Achieving a positive solution requires cooperation with other neighborhoods and/or groups in order to gain political traction and obtain notice and support from political leaders.

Rampant auto theft in Portland (and all of Oregon) and the future of the Broadway-Weidler business corridor are two such issues. GPNA currently partners with Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood and the Central Northeast Neighbors coalition (of which GPNA is a member) concerning the first, and with Sullivan's Gulch and Irvington, which are part of Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, concerning the second.

Partially as a result of the auto theft issue collaboration, state Senator Michael Dembrow and Representative Barbara Smith Warner have agreed to support legislation that should make auto theft conviction easier to obtain for Oregon's law enforcement officials. At present, such convictions are exceedingly rare because

of an appellate decision requiring proof of knowledge by a car thief that a vehicle is stolen, regardless of the presence of extrinsic evidence making such knowledge obvious. The end result is that Oregon now ranks third among the nation's major cities for car thefts per capita. And the number keeps rising.

As for the Broadway-Weidler issue, Sullivan's Gulch approached GPNA and Irvington to collectively apply for a study by graduate students in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at Portland State University in "the MURP workshop." This course gives students hands-on experience in conceiving, planning, and implementing a community-based planning project in close consultation with committed clients. The study request asks whether one-way "couplets" such as Broadway and Weidler benefit or are detrimental to the viability of business districts. It remains to be seen if the study requested will be chosen for the MURP program, but having a non-partisan academic approach to a contentious issue could be very beneficial.