



Grant Park

Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Winter 2025

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Beverly Cleary K-8: Will Century-Old Buildings Finally Receive Seismic Retrofits?

By Antonia Lawler, Kara Caselas, and Neon Brooks, BCS Current and Future Parents

Events and news reporting over the past year have brought new urgency, as well as some hopeful progress, to long-standing concerns about seismic safety in Portland Public Schools (PPS). A story published in Willamette Week in the spring brought fresh attention to the fact that nineteen PPS buildings – including Beverly Cleary – are built with unreinforced masonry and are likely to collapse in a major earthquake. At the time, the PPS bond on the May ballot made no commitment to funding any seismic repairs. This reporting reignited long-held frustrations among parents and community members. The risks at Beverly Cleary and other unreinforced masonry schools have been well known since at least 2012, but when PPS spent money on seismic upgrades in the 13 years since then, it has conducted projects (such as roof work) which fail to appreciably reduce risk or ignored the district's most at-risk schools and instead conducted upgrades at schools with better seismic risk scores.

In response, parents, neighbors, and community advocates have organized to push for stronger action on school seismic safety. Safe Structures PPS, a grassroots group working to increase transparency and accountability, worked with the school board to pass a resolution that commits PPS to using \$90-\$100 million of the 2025 bond funds on seismic retrofits at the eight to ten highest risk schools. In part thanks to this commitment, the 2025 bond passed this spring. In a new round of building assessments completed over the summer, two century-old building components making up most of Beverly Cleary K-8 rank as the most dangerous in the district, receiving risk scores of 9.9 and 9.8 out of 10, indicating a high likelihood of collapse during a large or moderate-sized earthquake.

The process for determining how to spend the seismic bond money has been turbulent and less than transparent. This fall, the district proposed a "seismic formula" that initially weighted seismic risk at only 35% when determining which schools should receive retrofits, prompting strong public outcry. In response, PPS created a new plan which they said increased the seismic weighting to 90%. This plan,

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Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
In person at Grant Park Church and on Zoom

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Grant Park Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting. Our guest speaker will be Multnomah County Commissioner Shannon Singleton. She will speak on the following topic: Understanding how County and City roles intersect around homelessness and livability, and how residents can engage with the County to advance shared goals and priorities. Zoom link available at www.grantpark-na.org meetings page.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **January 13, 2026**
- **March 10, 2026**

LOCATION:

We are now holding hybrid meetings. The in-person meeting location is Grant Park Church. To obtain the agenda and the Zoom meeting link, go to the meetings page on our website, grantpark-na.org.

MEETINGS:

GPNA holds elections at the Annual Meeting in March. Necessary special or emergency meetings may be scheduled at any time. Meetings are open to the public. If you need special accommodation, please contact a Board member.

GPNA

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Contact the Board at:

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Beverly Cleary Retrofit, continued

presented at the PPS Board Facilities Committee meeting on November 11th, would include full seismic retrofits at Beverly Cleary and Rose City Park schools, and targeted seismic retrofits at seven other campuses.

It's not clear if the proposed plan needs to be approved by the school board, or what the next steps are in finalizing

which projects will go forward. Community engagement has been critical in moving PPS towards decisions that prioritize the riskiest schools. Residents are encouraged to contact the PPS Board at schoolboard@pps.net, share information with neighbors, and consider following Safe Structures PPS on social media to learn about ways to get more involved.

Getting The Word Out about Emergency Preparedness

By Debra Haines, Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team

The Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) strengthens our community by getting to know the people who live here. Mutual aid is built by identifying the resources, skills, and networks our neighbors can provide and sharing helpful information with the public—we put our neighborhood in a stronger position to respond effectively when disaster strikes.

Two popular events took place in October. NET and the Grant Park Neighborhood Association shared an outreach table at the Hollywood Farmers Market. We engaged with familiar and new faces interested in NET and issues related to our community.

The Great Shake Out took place at Beverly Cleary School. The event's focus was on educating the community about earthquake preparedness and to prioritize seismic upgrades that are critically needed (see article on p.1).

Interested in learning more about NETs? <https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams>



Neon Brooks (former GPNA Land Use Chair), left, with members of the Grant Park NET at BCS.

We're Sorry

By Stacey Tipp, Editor

I would like to apologize on behalf of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) board for a lack of communication regarding the cancellation of the neighborhood Spruce Up, scheduled for October 25th. We cancelled the event because of the rain and high winds predicted for that day (the so-called "atmospheric river."). We believed we had covered our bases about letting neighbors know that the event was cancelled. Unfortunately, the message didn't reach everyone, and on the day several neighbors did show up, including about a dozen Grant High School students. Again, we sincerely apologize and will use this misstep as a guide for doing better next time. Thank you for understanding!

Contributing to this Newsletter

For information on letters to the editor and how to submit an article to this newsletter, as well as newsletter advertising and advertising rates, please go to:
grantpark-na.org/newsletters

New Year, New Home!

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The holidays have a wonderful way of showing us how our homes could better support the moments we love most. From hosting family dinners to welcoming overnight guests, this season often reveals where a little more space, comfort, or functionality could make everyday living even more enjoyable.

This holiday season, did you discover that you need a larger kitchen island to make entertaining a breeze? Maybe you realized it's time to add a comfortable guest suite for overnight visitors. Whatever areas of opportunity you identified, we are here to help. With one team from design through construction, we manage the details so you can enjoy the process as much as the outcome. Give us a call and let's get your home ready for the next holiday season!

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Thank You

By Stacey Tipp, Editor

At this time of year, we'd like to thank some of the wonderful people and organizations that have helped the Grant Park Neighborhood Association continue its work making sure our neighborhood stays clean, safe, and resilient. First of all, kudos to the amazing team of folks who help produce and deliver this newsletter. Special thanks to Nadia Vogt and Laurene Mullen who help organize and bundle these newsletters (nearly 2,000 per issue!) and get them safely to our team of nearly forty awesome neighbors that walk a route or routes to deliver the newsletters to your porch. We are also so grateful for our newsletter's graphic designer, Susan Shepperd, who is a joy to work with.

We would also like to thank all our advertisers this year: they include Vive Fitness, the Pacific Audiology Clinic, Julie Brown Real Estate, Natural Furniture, Brainbox Science, Ashurance Recruiting, Karen Farmer Landscape Architecture, and Copper Hues Interior Design. We are so grateful for these advertisers. Please check them out if you need their services.

Our neighborhood association would be out in the cold were it not for the generosity of Grant Park Church that allows us to meet in its building for free. Its gracious pastor, the Rev. Ari Grubner, also provides refreshments at our meetings, makes a mean cup of coffee, and serves as our GPNA board Secretary.

Last, we would like to thank our corporate sponsor, COOPER Design Build, and their delightful marketing manager, Nicole Brown. The generous support of COOPER Design has helped our neighborhood association weather deep budget cuts from the city this past year. We look forward to working with them again in 2026.

Wow! That's a lot to be grateful for. Cheers Grant Park!



Julie Brown ✦ JulieBrownRealtor.com



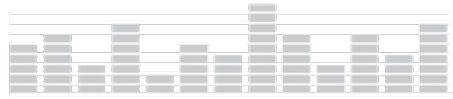
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Land Use Update

By Eldo Varghese, Grant Park Neighborhood Association
Land Use Chair

The Gordon's Fireplace shop building has been sold to a local developer, who plans on turning it over to a non-profit called Do Good Multnomah, with the intent of renovating the building into affordable housing for veterans.

Inner Eastside for All is a proposal currently making its way through Portland city government, to create denser, walkable residential areas in the east side of Portland. The current proposal does include the Grant Park neighborhood, and other "high opportunity neighborhoods" close to the central city. The City of Portland recently finished an infrastructure assessment report*, a collaborative effort between the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and various city departments. The report analyses the infrastructure capacity in the area for possible zoning changes to encourage housing production. We will be providing further updates to this rezoning proposal. For readers unfamiliar with the matter, go to the newsletters page on our website, grantpark-na.org, and read back issues of the 2024 newsletter, each of which addresses this issue.

*<https://www.portland.gov/bps/planning/news/2025/9/23/city-portland-releases-inner-eastside-infrastructure-assessment-report>

Reminder: Free the Trees!

By Carolyn Latierra, Volunteer with Friends of Trees

In the Spring 2025 issue of this newsletter, I wrote an article explaining how year-round, long-term use of green watering bags can cause disease in and even kill your trees. These bags are valuable in providing a long, slow, soaking drink of water, for two to three months through the hot summer weather. But the bags are only meant to be used during the first year or two after planting and are not meant to be kept on year-round. The lingering encasement around the trunk, especially if the bags are left on through the rainy season and winter, leads to a moist, dark, low-oxygen environment that damages bark and can cause fungal growth on the tree trunk. This can weaken and even kill your trees. Walking around the neighborhood, I have seen far too many trees, including well established, quite large trees, with bags still on them. At this time of year, your trees are well-watered, so do them a favor and free them today!

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NE Knott Street Traffic Calming Project Update

By Susan Weedall, Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Land Use Committee

Residents who were anticipating speed cushions on NE Knott Street this fall will need to wait a bit longer. The Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) has revised the project timeline to begin construction between March and October 2026.

PBOT took additional time this fall to analyze speed data along NE Knott east of NE 28th, and also considered community reports of crashes at the NE 33rd and NE Knott intersection. As a result of additional engineering analysis, the original design was revised to also include a speed cushion between NE 33rd and NE 34th! The speed cushions on either side of the NE 33rd and NE Knott intersection will ideally reduce speeds as people approach the traffic signal.

PBOT will be installing 15 speed cushions on NE Knott between NE 21st and NE 34th. The cushions will have 3 channels through them to accommodate emergency vehicles. After the speed cushions are installed, PBOT will again analyze speed data, and pedestrian counts will also take place to determine placement of one or more crosswalks.

The GPNA Land Use Committee will continue to monitor and provide updates on this project. Thanks to everyone who called 503-823-SAFE to report concerns about traffic safety on Knott! Questions: e mail: gp.landuse@gmail.com

Helping Seniors One Grocery Cart at a Time!

By Linda Fahrenkopf, Volunteer Manager, and Brendan Ffitch, Communications Specialist, Store to Door

Every week, at two grocery stores in the Portland area, dozens of dedicated volunteers come together with one goal: helping their homebound neighbors live independently. Together, they collect, shop, and deliver more than 250 orders of groceries and household items—and even fill prescriptions for neighbors unable to visit the store themselves. These volunteer efforts are part of a larger effort to create a community in which all people are nourished, connected, and able to age safely in the setting of their own choosing.

Founded in 1989, Store to Door is a small nonprofit organization that provides a low-cost, volunteer-based grocery shopping and delivery option to homebound seniors and adults living with disabilities across the Portland Metro Area. While grocery delivery is the centerpiece of our program, it is also the gateway to supporting our clients with additional vital service programs.

Our Free Food Box Program delivers additional nutritional support to many of our most at-risk clients each Friday. Our Friendly Caller Program provides social connection to those experiencing social isolation. Our Resource Referral Program helps connect homebound clients with additional services, provided by a wide range of partner organizations across the city, that they may have difficulty accessing themselves, and stays involved in the process to ensure that clients are able to reach the outcomes they need.



A group of volunteers from Dr. Martens shopped with Store to Door at the Hollywood Fred Meyer.

In 2025, Store to Door serves more than 685 active clients, and we expect to make more than 13,000 grocery and food box deliveries this year. This is only possible because of the commitment and dedication of a wonderful community of volunteers—more than a thousand each year—who will combine to give more than 20,000 hours of their time in 2025 supporting their homebound neighbors.

Please visit StoretoDoorofOregon.org or email our Volunteer Program Manager, Linda Fahrenkopf, at volunteer@storetodooroforegon.org or linda@storetodooroforegon.org for more information about Store to Door and how to get involved today!

A Ticking Time Bomb?

By David Richardson, Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Treasurer

Nestled between the beauty of Forest Park and the serene Willamette River along Highway 30 in NW Portland lies the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub. The CEI Hub is a 6.5-mile stretch of industrial land that serves as a central location for storing and distributing liquid fuels. Approximately 90% of Oregon's liquid fuel supply and 100% of Portland International Airport's jet fuel is stored there. The capacity of the CEI Hub is approximately 350 million gallons of liquid fuel, enough to fill 530 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

The CEI Hub was established in the early 20th century, at a time when the potential hazards of the area were not yet fully known. The site is situated adjacent to an earthquake fault line and on top of a highly liquefiable shoreline, making it vulnerable to earthquakes, wildfires, and mudslides. Many of the more than 500 fuel tanks in the hub were installed prior to the establishment of earthquake codes or standards. The area is also bisected by rail lines and underground pipelines connect to natural gas pipelines that cross under the Willamette River.

The site has all the hallmarks of a potential catastrophe in the making. An accident (e.g., train derailment), natural disaster, major infrastructure failure, or a combination thereof, creates a profound risk of a major fuel spill or other hazardous material release. The resulting ecological disaster could have calamitous consequences for both the environment and public health. Unfortunately, no viable alternatives for relocating the Hub currently exist.

The CEI Hub Task Force is a volunteer team committed to raising awareness of the risks associated with the CEI Hub. One of its local initiatives is to educate Portland neighborhood associations of the environmental and health dangers connected to the Hub. A representative from the Task Force attended the September GPNA Board meeting and presented an overview of the issue.

After listening to the presentation, the GPNA Board voted unanimously to sign on to a letter to Mayor Wilson, Portland City Council members, and City Manager Jordan asking them to:

- Alert residents about the dangers of the CEI Hub.
- Monitor and mitigate cumulative pollution associated with operations at the CEI Hub.
- Coordinate a new plan for fuel storage.

- Require companies to take full financial responsibility for disaster prevention, emergency services, clean up, and restoration

The City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) solicited feedback on potential policy and zoning code alternatives for the CEI Hub. Four alternatives were released by BPS for public comment, with each option building upon the last and includes increasing levels of requirements and restrictions:

- A) Limit fossil fuel expansions, but allow expansion of renewable and jet fuel storage.
- B) Like A), but places a 5% cap on expansion for renewable and jet fuel storage.
- C) Prohibit all expansions of fossil, renewable, and jet fuel.
- D) Prohibit all expansion and reduce existing storage capacity by 17% by 2035.

Unfortunately, none of the proposed alternatives make a meaningful contribution toward mitigating the risks, so the Task Force is advocating for BPS to propose and consider stronger risk mitigation alternatives.

I strongly encourage you to educate yourself further about the CEI Hub risks. Learn more about the City of Portland's CEI Hub Policy Project at: <https://www.portland.gov/bps/planning/cei-hub/about-cei-hub-policy-project>.

CEI Hub Task Force: Transitioning to Renewable Fuels at the CEI Hub Is Not the Answer

Renewable fuels, whether derived from plant or animal products, are as combustible, flammable, or toxic as fossil fuels. Furthermore:

- More renewables are needed to provide the same amount of energy as fossil fuels, so carbon emission reductions are questionable;
- Tremendous amounts of land are required to grow the feedstock to produce the fuels, taking away land from food production;
- Fossil fuels are used in the production and transport of these "renewable fuels";
- The transition to so-called renewable fuels impedes the urgent need for safer solutions of solar, wind, and energy efficiency



Hollywood Film District conceptual rendering.

A Vibrant New Film District is Growing Around the Hollywood Theatre

By Christen Zatz-Gilman, Deputy Director for Hollywood Theatre and Movie Madness

In case you missed the news (<https://www.wweek.com/arts/movies/2025/05/13/a-vibrant-new-film-district-is-growing-around-hollywood-theatre>), a thriving community of movie lovers is coming together to create a Hollywood Film District in Northeast Portland, with a vision for a fully renovated Hollywood Theatre and an expanded Movie Madness to be relocated to Sandy Blvd, anchored right across from the theatre.

The Film District will draw movie lovers together from the Pacific Northwest region and beyond. A renovated 100-year-old theatre and adjacent Movie Madness video store will engage over 200,000 visitors per year with movie screenings, classes, special programs, and one of the largest publicly accessible film archives in the nation. If all goes according to plan, Movie Madness will open its doors on Sandy Blvd in the fall of 2026. The timeline for the theatre's renovation is still to be determined but could begin as early as 2027.

The community response to the Film District plans has been so positive that some folks are already relocating to the Hollywood neighborhood to be a part of it! Over the last few months, Oregon Film, FilmScience, Oregon Media Production Association (OMPA), Balance Media, NW Documentary, Oregon Media Lab, Aesthetica Post and others have moved their offices across the street from the theatre (4035 NE Sandy Blvd). There are additional spaces available for rent if you or someone you know is interested. If so, you can contact Chad Rennaker at crennaker@palindromecreates.com for more information - ask about the "Hollywood Q" building.

We are in the early stages of getting the word out about this incredibly exciting and critical project for the future of the Hollywood, Movie Madness, and Portland's film community. For more information, please contact Christen Zatz-Gilman, Deputy Director for the Hollywood Theatre: christen@hollywoodtheatre.org.

Happy Holidays!

