



Grant Park

Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Fall 2025



Proud Sponsor of the Grant Park
Neighborhood Association

Grant Bowl Lights Get the Greenlight

By Neon Brooks, Member of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Land Use Committee and Former GPNA Land Use Chair

On July 17th, the city hearings clerk approved the land use application to add lighting to the Grant Bowl with a few key conditions outlined below. Construction is planned for December of this year.

Thanks to the thoughtful, collaborative engagement of neighbors, students, families, and other community members over the last 2+ years, this project will provide students and the broader community with much-needed access to evening athletic facilities, while mitigating a number of key concerns brought up by neighbors to the bowl, including issues related to trash and litter, noise, hours of use, and parking and traffic safety.

One condition mandated by the agreement is that Portland Public Schools (PPS) must meet with the Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) to discuss how we can work collaboratively to improve transportation safety around Grant High School. Plans for this meeting are in the works, and a meeting agenda will be discussed at the upcoming GPNA land use committee and board meetings.

I'm proud of the work we did together to bring lights to the bowl while minimizing negative impacts on immediate neighbors. Thanks to all who contributed their time to providing their perspectives on this project.

Below is a summary of the conditions of approval. The full decision can be viewed on our website, accessible at <https://tinyurl.com/GBdecision>.

- Existing Trees around the bowl must be preserved
- School sporting events in the Grant Bowl field must end no later than 9:30 p.m., with field lights around the Grant Bowl field turned off no later than 10:00 p.m.
- Non-school-related use of the Grant Bowl field through Portland Parks & Recreation (PPR) must end no later than 9:00 p.m., with field lights around the Grant Bowl field turned off no later than 9:30 p.m.
- Within and adjacent to the Grant Bowl field, signs advertising a business may not face outward toward the street.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **November 11, 2025**
- **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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David Richardson

Land Use Chair:

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*Jill De Rosa, Daniel Hoyer,
Tess Ipsen, Jake Wicks*

Contact the Board at:

general@grantpark-na.org



Grant Park

Neighborhood Association



SUBSCRIBE

Head over to www.grantpark-na.org to sign-up to receive future emails about GPNA updates, news, event information and more. (Scroll to the bottom of the homepage to sign-up.) Your information will be kept confidential and never shared.

Grant Bowl Lights, continued

- PPS custodial staff (or other responsible parties) must remove litter from the Grant Bowl field area after every scheduled PPS game.
- With PPS's cooperation as to location, PPR must place and regularly service at least two additional trash/recycling receptacles at the Grant Bowl field.
- No amplified sound source may be used on or adjacent to the Grant Bowl field after 7:00 p.m., except for school games and events. The agreement does not authorize the use of any permanent, non-portable voice amplification system for the Grant Bowl field, which is not allowed unless approved through a separate land use process.
- Voice amplification equipment such as a public address (PA) system may be used only by PPS for school-related games and events at the Grant Bowl field. Field users who reserve the field through PPR may not use voice amplification equipment.
- Voice amplification equipment used for Grant Bowl field events must not be used after 9:30 pm and the volume must continuously comply with the limitations in the Portland Noise Control Code (Title 18).
- PPS must arrange and hold a meeting with the GPNA board to discuss the safety of the transportation system in the area.
- PPS shall create a policy to inform all visiting schools that team bus parking shall occur along NE 36th Avenue and on-site in the school parking lot, when feasible, and that team bus parking on NE US Grant Place is discouraged.

Grant Park Neighborhood Association Board Changes. Plus! We need you!

By Stacey Tipp



Neon Brooks

Last month, the GPNA received the resignation from the board of longtime member Neon Brooks. Neon joined the board as an at-large member in Summer 2018. Neon took a particular interest in land use issues and became the GPNA land use chair in Summer 2021. Since that time, Neon has been enormously valuable to both the neighborhood and the GPNA in navigating some of the many thorny

land use and transportation issues that impact our little piece of Portland. These include traffic and pedestrian safety concerns, the (non) progress on Gordon's Fireplace, the improvement project on the Grant H.S. Upper Field and more recently the effort to add lighting to the Grant Bowl. We offer Neon our heartfelt thanks for her tireless work and wish her the very best of luck with her future endeavors.

In addition, the GPNA board would be delighted to welcome more members. We are an all-volunteer board, and just like you, have families, jobs, and other obligations. More people on the board would mean we can do more to improve our neighborhood. If you are interested in learning more about the GPNA board and the work we do, the best place to start is by coming to a meeting. All our meetings are open to the public. We meet in person at Grant Park Church, and our meetings are always hybrid with a Zoom option. Please remember, the GPNA is NOT a homeowner's association. Neighborhood renters and homeowners alike are welcome to be members of the GPNA. There are no dues or initiation fees. In addition, due to a recent bylaw change, folks that work, but do not live in our neighborhood, are also eligible to join our team. All that's required is a desire to make our neighborhood great.

Newsletter Delivery Volunteers Needed

By Laurene Mullen

Looking for a good excuse to get out and stretch your legs, contribute to your neighborhood, and enjoy the fresh air? Look no further! The Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) needs your help to deliver our newsletter. Quarterly in March, June, September, and December GPNA publishes the newsletter that is in your hands, but we need help to deliver it to every one of the almost 2,000 households and businesses in our area. The average route is 30 or 40 houses and takes 30-40 minutes to distribute. When you volunteer you will be assigned a route that is as near to your house as possible. Then that will be your route. We deliver the newsletters to your doorstep and then you walk the route leaving a newsletter on the porch or wherever it can be out of the rain. Simple, fun, and a real contribution to bringing our community together. If you are interested in joining our newsletter team, email the association at general@grantpark-na.org.

New Features Your Kitchen Needs



1. Countertop Phone Charger - The days of overcrowded outlets and messy phone cords is over! The latest technology lets us install an invisible charging station right in your countertop.

2. Instant Sparkling Water - You've probably heard about instant hot water, but what if you could also get perfectly chilled sparkling filtered water from the tap? This new technology gives you filtered chilled, boiling, or sparkling water right from your tap!

3. Hidden Countertop Cooktops - New induction technology creates a cookspace right on your countertop. And since it doesn't generate direct heat, you don't have to worry about hot spots.

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Land Use Updates

By Eldo Varghese, GPNA Land Use Chair

Gordon's Fireplace Building Auction Update

We have been following the saga of the Gordon's Fireplace Building in the Land Use Updates of the previous newsletters. I'm sad to inform everyone, the auction has been delayed again. This auction is now set to take place Oct. 13th through Oct 15th of this year.

The 1918 building has gone through multiple iterations, has served many functions, and has housed various businesses. The latest occupant, Gordon's Fireplace, closed its shop in 2016 and the building has been vacant ever since. The property avoided foreclosure in September of 2023 and instead entered receivership.

Watch this space for more information in our Winter 2025 Newsletter update.

Constructions and Renovations

- Movie Madness video store and museum will move across the street from the Hollywood Theatre on Sandy Blvd. This move, along with the newly opened David Lynch inspired bar will create a "movie lovers' hub" in our neck of the woods.
- Hollywood Bar and carts: A food cart pod will arrive next to Trader Joes with about nine food carts. Expected opening is Spring of 2026.
- Old Burger King property on NE Broadway will become a new BluePearl Animal Clinic. Demolition/Construction has already started, though the completion date remains unknown.

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 the newsletters page on our website:

www.grantpark-na.org

Julie Brown ✦ JulieBrownRealtor.com



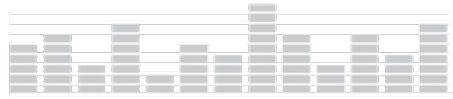
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Fiscal Challenges Have GPNA Mulling a Change in Status

By David Richardson, GPNA Treasurer

The Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) has been the recipient of some amazing generosity over the past several years. Donations from many generous neighbors have helped support our work and ensured the longevity of this newsletter, that keeps Grant Park residents informed about important neighborhood updates, events, and community news.

The GPNA was established in 2004 as a 501c4 tax-exempt entity. 501c4 tax-exempt status means that in years where GPNA revenues exceed expenses, GPNA does not have to pay income tax. However, as a 501c4 entity, donations to GPNA are not tax-deductible. Only donations made to 501c3 tax-exempt entities are tax deductible under certain conditions.

A workaround to the non-deductibility aspect does currently exist. Donations designated for GPNA can be routed through our fiscal sponsor, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN), a 501c3 nonprofit organization serving as one of four Portland neighborhood coalitions affiliated with the City of Portland's Office of Community and Civic Life. The funds are then sent to GPNA by NECN, and it is NECN that issues a receipt to the donor for tax purposes. In practice, unfortunately, this process is confusing for donors, time-consuming, and cumbersome.

Portland's fiscal challenges have resulted in decreased funding for neighborhood associations. GPNA's annual \$3,000 stipend shrunk to \$1,000 this year. Fortunately, the shortfall was offset by the generous \$2,000 corporate sponsorship by COOPER Design Build. In future years, the \$1,000 City of Portland stipend could be eliminated.

The new tax law (aka One Big Beautiful Bill Act) recently approved by Congress and signed into law by President

Trump allows taxpayers claiming the standard deduction to deduct a portion of their cash donations even if they do not itemize their deductions. Starting in 2026, the deductible donation amounts are capped at \$1,000 (for single taxpayers) and \$2,000 (for married filing jointly taxpayers).

With a possible need for future cash donations, the GPNA board is considering obtaining 501c3 tax-exempt status. Several other area neighborhood associations are operating as 501c3 non-profit organizations. These include Boise, Concordia, Laurelhurst, Montavilla, Piedmont, Richmond, Rose City Park, and Woodlawn.

Conversations with a non-profit tax attorney included a recommendation that a new and separate 501c3 corporation be established by GPNA, with existing GPNA assets eventually transferred to the new entity. A majority vote by GPNA members (you) would be required to transfer assets to a new 501c3 corporation and dissolve the current 501c4 GPNA entity. More research is underway, and additional information and updates will be shared in future newsletters.

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From Homelessness to Housing: How to Help the Most Vulnerable in Grant Park

By Kelsey Stark, Volunteer Program Manager, Transition Projects

Transition Projects — a leader in homelessness and housing services across the metro area since 1969 — helps individuals, couples, and families transition from homelessness to housing. To accomplish this, the organization's 350 team members assist 10,000 people annually through eight shelters across the metro area, three affordable housing complexes, a resource center, robust Veterans services, and so much more. In 2024 alone, nearly 900 formerly homeless people found safe, affordable housing in the four-county area with the agency's support.

Over the past five years, the Grant Park neighborhood has been home to Transition Projects' Banfield Shelter Motel, a 60-bed shelter for medically vulnerable adults. Last year alone, 55 participants successfully transitioned into stable or permanent housing in the community with Transition Projects' support. While in shelter, our participants are provided with a range of support including healthcare, income development, nutritious meals, case management, and more.

As the largest provider of shelter services in Oregon, Transition Projects shelters 700 people on any given night, including individuals, couples, and their pets. One of the biggest challenges faced is a lack of funding for food to provide a nutritious hot meal for participants each night, 365 days a year, across all eight shelters.

Banfield Shelter Motel is also unique due to the lack of a kitchen —making it particularly difficult for staff to prepare meals. Fortunately, volunteer groups have supported this need by purchasing ingredients, cooking the food offsite, and delivering dinner, hot and ready to serve to the shelter since its opening. Volunteer meals ensure participants get a nutritious dinner 365 days a year. This opportunity is a wonderful volunteer project for 5-10 individuals to come together and give back, whether team building for company groups, or a meaningful service project for community, family, or friend groups. Supporting the daily nutrition of the Shelter's participants not only supports and improves their well-being but has demonstrated the link between food security, good health outcomes, and long-term housing stability.

One outstanding Grant Park group that has been supporting Banfield Shelter Motel started with neighbor Carol K. wanting to give back during these difficult times. Carol utilized her love of cooking, gathered a group of friends, and began serving monthly meals. Together, she and her friends enjoyed getting to know their neighbors at



Volunteers serve dinner to participants at the Banfield Shelter Motel

Banfield Shelter Motel, sharing conversations and smiles. Carol says, "In the beginning, we were a bit nervous, but we always come out with big smiles." While Carol and her group join other volunteer meal providers who support 38% of all meals served across Transition Projects' shelters, we are in need of more volunteers who truly make a difference through meals for those who are on their unique journey from homelessness to housing.

Other ways to support Banfield Shelter Motel include making sack lunches, assembling hygiene kits, and donating gently used or new adult clothing (especially plus size and men's), and bedding (sheets, pillows, and blankets). If you are interested in volunteering, donating, or learning more about how to help the Banfield Motel Shelter, please email volunteer@tprojects.org. For more information about the work of Transition Projects please check the website at tprojects.org.

Thank you for welcoming and supporting your neighbors at the Banfield Motel Shelter!

NE Knott Street Traffic Safety Project: Survey Results and Next Steps

By Susan Weedall, Member of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association Land Use Committee

Good news for NE Knott Street safety! The Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) has approved funding for traffic calming measures between NE 21st and NE 33rd Avenues, thanks in part to community members who reported unsafe conditions in this area. The improvements will be paid for through the Fixing Our Streets program, which uses includes local gas tax revenue to address speeding and high traffic volumes on neighborhood streets.

What's Coming and When? Speed cushions are planned for installation along this stretch of NE Knott in Spring 2026. After PBOT engineers see how well the speed cushions work, they'll evaluate potential marked crosswalk additions. The earliest we can expect crosswalk installation is Fall 2026.

Community Survey Results PBOT Planning expects to add one crosswalk for the area and Grant Park Neighborhood Association asked Alameda and Grant Park residents to weigh in on where it should go. Here's what the 41 survey participants said:

- **NE 32nd Ave: 20 votes (top choice)**
- **NE 30th Ave: 17 votes**
- **NE 31st Ave: 4 votes**

Will Community Input Matter? Yes! PBOT says the survey results will help their engineers focus their evaluation efforts rather than relying solely on planning documents.

Could We Get a Second Crosswalk? Maybe. When asked about preferences for a potential second crosswalk, residents favored NE 32nd Avenue again (14 votes), followed by a tie between NE 29th and NE 31st (8 votes each). PBOT says they'll explore adding multiple crosswalks, but it will depend on engineering analysis, pedestrian crossing demand, and policy guidance.

The survey results and community comments have been shared with PBOT project teams as they move forward with planning.

Questions? Email: gp.landuse@gmail.com



Join Us in Sprucing Up Grant Park on October 25th

By Tess Ipsen, At-Large Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Board Member

The GPNA is hosting an October Spruce Up! The goal of this event is to keep our neighborhood clean and tidy, collecting trash off streets and sidewalks around Grant Park Neighborhood.

With the help of our fellow neighbors, Grant Park can remain the safe staple of our neighborhood. The Spruce Up is welcome to all those willing to help. This family friendly event will follow an easy path around our blocks, picking up trash as seen.

Come join us at 10am on the last Saturday of October. Volunteers will meet in front of Grant Park Church, where all supplies will be provided. But if you happen to have a bucket, trash grabber, and safety vest, be sure to bring them so we won't run out.

We want everyone to be safe, so dress for the weather with sturdy shoes, work gloves, a hat, water, and sunscreen. Minors must be accompanied by an authorized adult. We are excited to see all our neighbors and spruce up our community!



Gas Leaf Blower Phase-Out

By Matt Morrissey, Grant Park Neighbor

The Portland City Council has unanimously voted to phase out gas leaf blowers in order to improve public health and the quality of life for landscape workers and residents. Portland City Code Chapter 17.101 states:

- Effective January 1, 2026, no owner may allow the operation of a gasoline leaf blower on the owner's property from January 1 to September 30, except in cases of inclement weather as determined by the City Administrator.
- Effective January 1, 2028, no owner may allow the operation of a gasoline leaf blower on the owner's property.
- No leaf blower may be operated in a manner that deposits dust and debris onto any neighboring parcel, storm drain, public property, or public street except for the purpose of scheduled debris collection by the City.

Northeast Village Offers Older Adults Pathway to Independence

By Teri McKenzie, Village Manager, Northeast Village PDX

As more and more older adults look to age in place, Northeast Village PDX (NEV) offers a way to support that decision that is both practical and welcoming.

Since its founding in 2016, NE Village has become a source of community and connection for its members and volunteers alike. The Village was started by a group of dedicated citizens who sought to find a way to grow old while remaining in their homes and who wished to remain active in their community. Inspired by the efforts of what is now Beacon Hill Village (Boston, MA), NE Village was formed. NE Village - which became an official program of the NE Community Center in 2023 - serves adults 60+ who are aging in place throughout Grant Park and 17 other neighborhoods in NE Portland, and is part of a growing network of such villages nationwide.

Using a neighbors-helping-neighbors model, volunteers provide members a range of services including transportation, yard work, tech support, “right sizing,” friendly visits and more. Our MedPal service is for members who need someone to accompany them to medical appointments as a second set of ears and/or for procedures such as cataract surgery or a colonoscopy.

In addition to services, members enjoy a host of social/educational activities, support groups (e.g. grief, caregiving, solo aging), and special interest groups (e.g. books, movies, art, writing, death and dying), all of which have the added benefit of being close to home.

Being a member-driven program, inspiration for the activities that are offered comes from the members themselves. One such project involved a team of volunteers who built three demonstration ADA-compliant raised garden beds outside the Rose City Park United Methodist Church where the Village office is located. As an outgrowth to that, our Soil to Supper Group, with support from Growing Gardens, launched a Raised Garden Bed Program that provides free raised garden beds in the back yards of our members (see photos).

Social events are central to Village life including meet ups for coffee and conversation, a dining out group, Village potlucks, an annual Seed Swap and more. These and other activities are great for meeting new friends who live here in NE Portland.

Lifelong learning is a central value of the Village. To that end, NE Village hosts a wide variety of educational programs such as a Housing Options Resource Fair, Lunch & Learns, an emergency preparedness campaign, and workshops on topics of interest such as fraud prevention and Medicare changes.

All of this relies on the generosity of volunteers. In addition to the support services that members enjoy, volunteers provide operational support with help from the Village Manager, the sole paid staff person for the program.

This is just a taste of what Village life has to offer. If you or a loved one are interested in learning more about membership or volunteer opportunities, the Village hosts monthly introductory presentations; more information can be found at <https://nevillagepdx.org/calendar> or by calling 503-895-2750.



Ian Harding and Chris Cross building a raised garden bed for a NE Village member



Pam Peck and Lisa Horowitz adding donated soil to a raised bed prior to the sitting area being added.