



# Grant Park

Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Spring 2026

**COOPER**  
DESIGN BUILD

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Neighborhood Association

## The Courage of Kindness

By Indie Roberts

As we stand at the edge of a new year, many of us carry a quiet mix of hope and fear. The world can feel loud, uncertain, and divided. Times like these make me think of one of my favorite television shows, *Doctor Who*. The show follows a centuries-old traveler known as the Doctor, an alien who journeys through time and space, helping people and civilizations face moments of crisis. Though endlessly changing in appearance, the Doctor remains defined by compassion, curiosity, and a deep belief in the value of every life. One of the most enduring lessons from this show, for me, is the reminder that even in the darkest moments, extraordinary goodness often comes from the most ordinary places and people.

In the world of *Doctor Who*, heroes are rarely kings, generals, or people seeking power. They are shopkeepers, nannies, teachers, parents, and strangers who decide to do the right thing when it matters most. Perfectly normal people become the most important people in the universe simply because they choose to care for the people around them. The Doctor once said that in 900 years of time and space, he had never met anyone who wasn't important. That truth feels easy to forget in a world that often measures worth by visibility, status, or volume. Yet it is a truth worth holding tightly as we move forward into growing uncertainty in our world.

In times like this, I like to remember that the Doctor never went into a fight armed with weapons. He went in with his mind, his empathy, and an unshakable belief in the best parts of humanity. He saw potential where others saw fear. He trusted people when they doubted themselves. He fought for life, dignity, and compassion, even when it was dangerous to do so. Again and again, the Doctor showed that kindness is not naïve, and hope is not foolish. They are acts of courage.

As a new year begins, I am reminded that we are given the same choice, day after day. We can let fear harden us, or we can let care shape us. We can assume the

*continued page 2*

## REMINDER

### GRANT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

In person at Grant Park Church and on Zoom

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](http://www.grantpark-na.org) meetings page. Please stay on for our annual meeting after Commissioner's Singleton's talk. We will be electing officers and at-large board members. If you live, own property or a business, or work in Grant Park, you are eligible to join the board and help keep our neighborhood strong!

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- March 10, 2026
- May 12, 2026
- September 8, 2026
- November 10, 2026
- January 12, 2027
- March 9, 2027

### 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](http://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 EXECUTIVE BOARD:

#### President:

*Molly Hamill*

#### Vice President:

*Miro Wesener*

#### Secretary:

*Ari Grubner*

#### Treasurer:

*David Richardson*

#### Land Use Chair:

*Eldo Varghese*

#### Newsletter Editor:

*Stacey Tipp*

#### At Large:

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

#### Contact the Board at:

[general@grantpark-na.org](mailto:general@grantpark-na.org)

[www.grantpark-na.org](http://www.grantpark-na.org)

## The Courage of Kindness, continued

worst of one another, or we can take the brave step of trust. We can choose patience over anger, understanding over division, and kindness over indifference. These choices may seem small, but they are how real change begins. Any day, our own bravery and love could be the difference the world needs to be a better place.

I think the Doctor would remind us that we do not need a time machine to make a difference. We only need the willingness to see one another as important, to show up with empathy, and to believe that being better is always possible. If we do that, we become the kind of people the Doctor would be proud to call friends. And together, we can make a better tomorrow for everyone.

## GPNA Prepares for an Uncertain Future

*By David Richardson, GPNA Treasurer*

As regular readers of this newsletter will know, Portland's fiscal challenges have resulted in major cuts in city funding to neighborhood associations. Fortunately, our neighborhood association has been able to weather these cuts more easily than some other neighborhoods. First, we have an amazing community partner in our friends at COOPER Design Build, whose annual sponsorship has offset the City's budget cuts for the past two years. Second, in the past when we needed to call on our neighbors to step up financially to help us continue our work, we were humbled and astounded by your generosity.

However, the fact is, these are very uncertain times. To make sure that GPNA can stand on its own two financial feet, we have been exploring what is needed for GPNA to become its own 501c3 tax-exempt entity. This new status will allow GPNA to offset the potential elimination of all city funding with a streamlined, simplified method for receiving tax deductible donations from individuals and corporations.

In what follows, we would like to update you on the progress of the GPNA board in forming the new 501c3 entity and outline remaining steps.

To date, the following has been accomplished for the new 501c3 entity:

- 1) New name chosen and registered (Grant Park Neighbors Association).
- 2) Bylaws adopted and a governing board appointed (the new bylaws and the governing board are the same as the current 501c4 entity).
- 3) Entity incorporated with the Oregon Secretary of State.

- 4) Employer Identification Number (EIN) applied for and received.
- 5) Form 1023-EZ for federal tax-exempt status successfully submitted and approved.
- 6) Entity registered with the Oregon Department of Justice.

Remaining steps include:

- 1) Obtain approval from current GPNA membership to authorize the transfer of cash from the current 501c4 entity to the new 501c3 entity and then dissolve the current 501c4 entity.
- 2) Establish a bank account for the new 501c3 entity.
- 3) Establish new e-mail, website, and social media accounts.
- 4) Register the new 501c3 entity with local agencies such as NECN (Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods).
- 5) Complete and file documents to dissolve the current GPNA entity.

**A majority vote by GPNA members (you) is required to approve the transfer of assets to a new 501c3 corporation and dissolve the current 501c4 GPNA entity. We expect this vote to occur at the March 10, 2026, Annual Meeting.**

Should GPNA members vote to move the assets to the new 501c3 entity, we will be one of several nearby neighborhood associations in making this move. These include the Boise, Concordia, Laurelhurst, Montavilla, Piedmont, Richmond, Rose City Park, and Woodlawn neighborhood associations.

## 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](http://grantpark-na.org/newsletters)

# Love the Neighborhood, But Need More Space? ADUs & Additions



We're seeing this quite often: families who need more space but love the Grant Park schools, amenities, and neighbors. Demand for ADUs and home additions is rising as more homeowners choose to stay in their homes rather than move. High home prices and locked-in mortgage rates are keeping people in place.

With housing costs outpacing income growth, expanding existing homes has become a more practical and financially stable option for many. Whether you're growing your family or bringing aging family members into your home, we are here to help you design and create a space that seamlessly gives you the space you need!

Ready to explore a home remodel?

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## Emergency Preparedness: Where Is as Important as What

By Debra Haines, Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) Member


Wondering where to store emergency supplies? Because you never know where you'll be when an emergency strikes, it's best to think **here, there, and everywhere**, more specifically, **home, work, and car**. Basic ingredients include **water, non-perishable food, and essential supplies**.

In your car, keep a smaller kit with water, snacks, a flashlight, blankets, a first aid kit, and comfortable walking shoes. At work, store a compact kit with water, food, and basic supplies in case you need to stay put or walk home. **Warmth, comfort and safety.**

Comprehensive list available [PublicAlerts.org/supplies](https://www.portland.gov/publicalerts/org/supplies).

In some situations, the only safe option may be to shelter in place at your home. Store canned goods and water in a **cool, dry location**, and rotate them every six to twelve months so they stay fresh. Creative storage spots include **behind books on a bookshelf, under a bed**, or in a **closet**. A **garage** can also be a good option, especially for larger water containers, as long as items are protected from extreme heat and secured so they won't fall during

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**



**MAKE A PLAN**



**BUILD A KIT**



**BE INFORMED**

shaking. And absolutely remember your pets' needs, **food, water, leashes, and carriers**.

A little preparation spread across multiple locations can make a huge difference in safety and peace of mind when the ground beneath you starts to shake.

Interested in learning more about the Grant Park NET? Go to <https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams>

## Grant Park Church is Celebrating 100 Years in the Neighborhood!

By Ari Grubner, Pastor at Grant Park Church and Grant Park Neighborhood Association Board Secretary



The original two-story home on 34th and Knott. Converted to a church hall with “Grant Park Baptist Church” above the door. Photo taken approx. 1930.

Perhaps your home is one of those homes that help characterize our beautiful neighborhood: well built, sturdy, and constructed in the 1920s or 1930s. Much like the city itself, it was in the 1920s and 1930s that the Grant Park neighborhood saw a substantial increase in development. In 1926, the year that the Hollywood Theatre, Providence Park, and the Burnside Bridge were all developed, it was in one of those 1920s homes that the people of Grant Park Church began meeting.

There were a couple dozen regular attendees in those early days. They mostly lived on the east side of the Willamette River, identifying a need for a centralized community in NE Portland. This was a group of American Baptists, a Christian denomination who had split with the Southern Baptists around 1845 over the issue of slavery. Establishing their community around freedom, 1926 marked the year that the Grant Park Church community became part of the neighborhood.



Grant Park Church, sanctuary without the steeple. Photo taken early 1949.

Early on, the church constructed its initial church building. There was a sanctuary, but no steeple. After the conclusion of World War II and alongside wider construction efforts in the neighborhood and the city, the church building grew substantially with the addition of an education facility in 1949. The church was a reflection of many churches at that time and through the 1970s: growing communities with growing church buildings. It was also beginning to resemble the building as it stands in the neighborhood today.

Through the 1980s and 1990s, projects expanding the building decreased and projects maintaining the building increased. This was also a reflection of many neighborhood churches at the time, transforming themselves from “growing churches” into “grown churches.” While the community of people was smaller than before, the building remained the same size. Well established in the neighborhood by now, this generation of folks at Grant Park Church were tasked with diligently supporting a community that was actively changing.

### What about Nowadays?

It is in the most recent generations at Grant Park Church that things have changed – or perhaps matured – most clearly.

- In the 2010s, support for local community education grew as new partnerships with alternative education programs and preschools came to fruition in the education facilities of the building.
- In 2017, the church became a member of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (AWAB), implementing policy changes that clarified and established equal opportunities for LGBTQ+ folks in leadership positions across the church.
- In 2020 and in the height of a global pandemic, the small-but-mighty congregation of the church began the process of remodeling a large downstairs space into a temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness. In 2022 and in partnership with Family Promise of Metro East, the church hosted its first group of families with children.
- In 2024, the church unanimously voted to call their first openly gay pastor.
- In 2025, after re-evaluating our historic relationship with local American Baptist leadership, the church community voted to change associations favoring non-local American Baptist leadership whose support and structure better align with the church’s goals of inclusion, equity, and service.



Steeple added to the sanctuary, the community would soon break ground on the construction of the education facilities. Photo taken late 1949.

In the most recent generations at Grant Park Church, much is the same as it was in 1926. We are still American Baptist and still work to align ourselves with freedom better today than we did yesterday. We are still nestled in the Grant Park neighborhood, just north of the park. We are still a couple of dozen folks choosing to spend Sunday mornings together.

Since I became pastor in 2024, the church has welcomed over a dozen new groups of musicians and artists, support groups and service groups, community organizers and activists, and even neighborhood pickleball players to take up residence in the building we call our home in the neighborhood. Expanding our definition of community to be wider and deeper has been a joy! We plan to continue opening our doors with generosity towards the space we have, existing as a place where our neighbors are tangibly served, and earning any trust in the wider community that we hope to have.

**Come Help Us Celebrate!**

On Sunday, March 15, 2026, we are set to celebrate our 100th year anniversary. As our neighbors, we feel honored to invite you and your families to celebrate with us! We are incredibly thankful to be part of this wonderful neighborhood. You are welcome to join for any part or all of what we have planned. There will be a special church service at 10am, a free catered lunch at 11:30am, the official celebration service at 1pm, and a social hour plus church tours at 2pm.

Thank you for being our neighbors! See you on March 15th.

**Grant Park Church**

**The neighborhood's church**

Pursuing Christ as a welcoming and affirming, action-oriented and progressive community.

**GrantParkChurch.com**

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# Be a Part of Our Community

## Attend an upcoming Grant Park Neighborhood Association meeting:

- March 10, 2026
- May 12, 2026
- September 8, 2026
- November 10, 2026
- January 12, 2027
- March 9, 2027

**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](http://grantpark-na.org).

## Come Learn about the Northeast Village PDX: Ageing in Place with Grace!



Northeast Village is a vibrant and engaging community of older adults (60+) living in 18 neighborhoods in northeast Portland. Join us to learn how you, or someone you love, can become a member. We create connections, share skills and expertise, and provide services to members such as rides, yard work, tech support, and rightsizing, along with a variety of social activities and educational programs.

**When:** Monday, March 16, 2026, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

**Where:** Rose City Park United Methodist Church, conference room, 5830 NE Alameda Street, Portland. (Glass-door entrance on NE Alameda.) Free parking in the Church lot.

**Who:** Northeast Village PDX is a program of the Northeast Community Center. For more info call 503-895-2750 or email [info@nevillagepdx.org](mailto:info@nevillagepdx.org)

## PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 2, from 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Grant Park Church Parking Lot

2728 NE 34<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland, OR

Please mark your calendars and come shop for quality flowers, hanging baskets, trees, and shrubs provided at fantastic prices by our friend Dean Fagan, the owner/manager of Vivero Nursery on Sauvie Island. 20% of all sales will benefit the Grant Park Neighborhood Association!

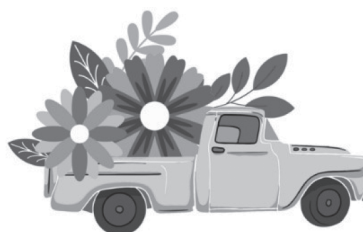


### Plants Available



- |                      |                      |                  |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| • Potentilla         | • Yucca              | • Cypress        |
| • Viburnum           | • Barberry           | • Roses          |
| • Hydrangea          | • Ilex               | • Ninebark       |
| • Ornamental Grasses | • Laurel             | • Rose of Sharon |
| • Spirea             | • Mock Orange        | • Azara          |
| • Weigela            | • Ornamental Willows | • Yew            |
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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



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New retail location now open on Sauvie Island!

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## UPDATE Beverly Cleary K-8: Century-Old Buildings Expected to Receive Seismic Retrofits in '27

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

In recent board and committee meetings, Portland Public Schools (PPS) has stated that it is moving forward with doing a full seismic retrofit for Beverly Cleary School. The School's primary building has been identified as the most dangerous in the district in the event of an earthquake and has a high likelihood of collapse. Reportedly, a local firm Arcadis has been awarded a contract to design the project. PPS has said that they expect construction to start in summer 2027 and last through Summer of 2028, with students attending school at an alternate site (not yet

announced) during the 2027-2028 school year. Seismic improvements are also planned for Rose City Park, Ainsworth, Beach, Capitol Hill, Kelly, Richmond, Vernon, and Winterhaven schools. This is a major win, but more work remains to ensure that these projects go forward and have the greatest possible impact on student and staff safety. Community members can get involved with GPNA, the BCS PTA, or seismic advocacy group Safe Structures PPS to stay informed and help ensure the success of the BCS seismic retrofit.

## NE Knott Street Traffic Calming Project Update

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

The NE Knott Street Traffic Calming project is fully funded, and construction will occur sometime between March and October of 2026.

The Portland Bureau of Transportation (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. PBOT will do

a pedestrian count at select intersections to determine where crosswalks are warranted. The pedestrian count will take place 3-6 months after construction of the speed cushions.

The GPNA Land Use Committee will continue to monitor and provide updates on this project. Please reach out if you have questions about the project: [gp.landuse@gmail.com](mailto:gp.landuse@gmail.com)

## Climate Action Night

Hosted by Grant HS's Climate Action Team (CAT)

### Who?

- Electrify PDX
- Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF)
- Guest & CAT speakers

### When?

- Wednesday, March 18th, 2026
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

This event is open to everyone, with free admission, food, and real talk from Portland's climate leaders and CAT members. Find out how to take action for our Earth. Learn what our program is doing for the environment, our four challenges, and the climate crisis.



### What?

- Tech, games, and hands-on activities
- Free food & admission
- Learn more below

### Where?

- Grant High School
- Library and Upper Commons

Learn more and RSVP at: [cateam.me/CAT-Website/](https://cateam.me/CAT-Website/)

