



Beaumont-Wilshire

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association (BWNA) www.bwna.us

July-August 2015

29TH ANNUAL
Fremont Fest

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 1, 2015
NE FREMONT - 42ND-49TH
10AM TO 5PM

Kids' Parade * Music
Pub Crawl * Shopping Bargains
Food & Fun for All

BWNA-Sponsored Summer Gatherings

by John Sandie

In this issue's President's Message, I note two summer neighborhood gathering events sponsored by BWNA.

This year "Movie in the Park" takes place on Friday, July 10. BWNA co-sponsors this event with the Alameda Neighborhood Association and Portland Parks & Rec Department. The large outdoor screen and entertainment stage are set up in the outfields of ball diamonds on west side of Wilshire Park. The pre-movie entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. with music provided by Echoes of Yagurs trio of guitars, with free popcorn as well as food for purchase from cart vendors. Many neighbors use the occasion for a family picnic outing, reserving choice viewing spots with blankets. Chair seating is in designated areas to keep lines of sight open for all. The movie, "How to Train Your Dragon II", starts at dusk, and it's not uncommon for the youngest to be fast asleep by then.

Also, reserve Tuesday, August 4 for the BWNA National Night Out picnic. This is a nationwide endeavor to promote and recognize all the folks who keep our communities safe—in particular, police officers and fire department personnel. Our picnic at Wilshire Park has often included fire equipment, police officers and canine teams present. Children's games and prizes along with an adult raffle are planned again this year. The BWNA Board will provide grilled treats and beverages and all attending are asked to bring a food dish to add to the community buffet tables. Food service starts at 6:30 p.m., so plan on coming a few minutes early to set out your dish and sign up for raffle drawings. Plates and silverware are provided, but it's a good idea to label your serving dishes to be sure they are returned.

Fremont Fest 2015

by Al Ellis

The Beaumont Business Association (BBA) invites the community to attend the 29th annual Fremont Fest. The day opens with the lively Kid's Bike & Pet Parade at 10:00 a.m. led by a Portland fire truck and marching band, followed by vintage cars. Children should gather for the parade at the parking lot of Beaumont Middle School, NE 42nd & Fremont, starting at 9:30 a.m. The festival will be closed to vehicle traffic between NE 42nd and 49th to accommodate stages for live music, food, street vendors, and assorted attractions for children and adults.

Street vendors, Beaumont Village businesses, and non-profits can reserve their spots at the Fest by e-mailing BBA (fremontfest@gmail.com).

Pinball Outreach Project: A Win-Win for Kids and the Neighborhood

by Tekla Hoehn

After operating as a mobile charity for several years, the Pinball Outreach Project has opened a family-friendly arcade space at 4605 NE Fremont Street. The unique 501(c)(3) public charity is also called "POP"—a reference to the pop bumpers in a machine. Their mission: To improve children's lives by sharing the history of and excitement for the game of pinball. I spoke with Founder and Executive Director Nicole Reik about her one-of-a-kind approach to working with children and communities by using pinball for good times and good deeds.

What inspired you to launch a pinball-themed charity?

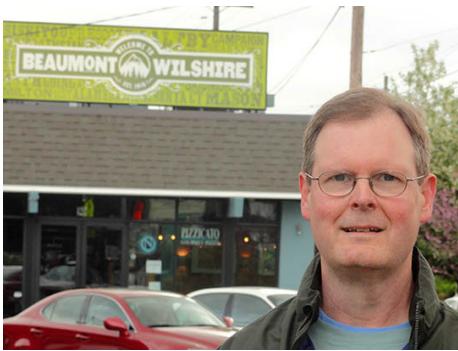
For the past four years I've been in the world of competitive pinball. I've traveled the country participating in leagues and tournaments. A few years ago I was living in the Bay Area and wanted to do something positive for kids. I decided to create a traveling program that goes to hospitals and other community or non-profit organizations. I started collecting and borrowing pinballs machines to bring them to children's hospitals on a visiting basis.

How do you get the machines to different hospitals?

The machines weigh about 300 pounds each. We take off the legs, turn them onto their backs, take off the head, wheel them on a hand truck, and toss them into my car (I drive a VW SUV). Then we set it up in a playroom at the hospital. People have probably seen us driving down Fremont wondering what we're doing! We recently drove up to Children's Hospital in Seattle. I also fly down to Children's in Orange County. When I go there, I just borrow games from the local community because I know people with pinball machines.

(continued on page 10)





President's Message

by John Sandie

Talk The Walk

My wife and I recently worked on reviving our front yard. Our sanity was questioned as we did the majority of planting on one of the 90-degree days Portland experienced in early June. The point to be made is that we had a number of neighbors, most walking dogs, who stopped to talk, and we got to know them much better. So not only did we enhance the aesthetics of our yard and get some beneficial exercise with a purpose, but also engaged in the simplest of human behavior: interacting with and enjoying the company of others. While most of us find many opportunities for sharing experiences through formal membership in organizations—work, place of worship, civic service, philanthropic, hobby/interests—I'd like to focus on the more informal neighborhood encounters.

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association sponsors three “gathering” events during the year: April’s Taste of Beaumont, July’s Movie in the Park, and August’s National Night Out picnic. In addition, there are quite a few annual “block party” traditions that drive social interaction with those who live close by. However, those little “sidewalk chats” do more to influence how one feels about his/her particular neighborhood than any other social engagement I’ve mentioned. Through the simple social sharing of experiences, these talks strengthen the deeper feeling of community and security we all seek to some extent. Whether it’s discussing a new restaurant down on Fremont or 42nd, raising children, or commiserating about the demolition next door, it creates a feeling of belonging.

On a recent short bike trip to the market, I was happily impressed with the activity I witnessed as I rode by—kids making chalk drawings, 2-3 family bike groups, dogs being walked, a couple joggers, a few yard

“putterers” and more—left me smiling and feeling fortunate.

So take advantage of the summer weather, get out and “Talk the Walk.” Share, listen, and enjoy being a part of Beaumont-Wilshire and Beaumont Village.

In case you are wondering where my philosophical bent came from, blame it on Peter Thomas. Yes, that same Peter Thomas, poet laureate of Lake Superior State College, who started all his 7:30 a.m. Humanities classes with 15 minutes of classical music, much to the delight of the sleeping hockey players in the back row.

UMNAF Rummage and Yard Sale

by Helen Stewart

This summer’s rummage and yard sale at Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship (3917 NE Shaver Street) is being held on Saturday and Sunday, July 17-18. The event’s hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 17th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 18th. Beginning at 11:30 a.m. on the 17th, Indian tacos are available for purchase. Additionally, residents are encouraged to bring cans and bottles for recycling to benefit mission projects.

The building is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 503-282-6431.

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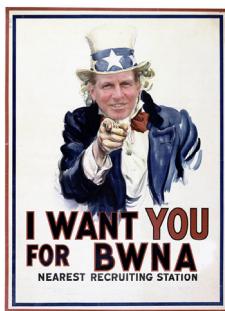
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Editor's Notes

by Al Ellis



Strolling around Beaumont-Wilshire with out-of-town guests on a beautiful summer's day, it's not uncommon to hear superlatives from the visitors, including the sylvan splendor of Wilshire Park, eclectic charm of decades-old homes, aesthetically pleasing colors and smells emanating from ubiquitous gardens, the delightful array of small businesses and cafes along Fremont Street and 42nd Avenue.

But are you sure that what you experienced was actually inside our neighborhood? Wilshire Park is obvious, but perhaps not so readily discernable are the homes, gardens, and businesses you pass by. The fact is that we all walk, jog, and ride across neighborhood boundary lines every day without giving them a second thought, especially in Beaumont-Wilshire, where a single sign—albeit a prominent one—acknowledges the existence of our neighborhood. Situated in the heart of Beaumont-Wilshire atop the Pizzicato pizza parlor just east of 42nd and Fremont, this uniquely artistic landmark was the product of a neighborhood-wide sign design contest a few years back, jointly organized by the restaurant's civic-minded owner and a grateful BWNA. (Look closely and see if you can pick out the name of your street somewhere on the sign.)

But how does this tie in with newsletter matters? Well, for starters, only those living within the neighborhood boundaries are eligible for home delivery (although access to the color version is available to anyone via www.bwna.us). So what exactly are the B-W boundaries? For your convenience, we've reintroduced a B-W boundary map (below) that was once a regular feature of each issue. Small in size and short on detail, it nonetheless provides the basics—Alberta Court to the north (think U.S. Bank on 42nd), 47th to the east (think Alameda Café on Fremont), 33rd to the west (think the busy stoplight corner of 33rd & Fremont), and to the south, a rather convoluted zigzag of a boundary that includes parts of Stanton, Knott, and Wistaria Streets.

A second reason for my focus on boundaries goes to the core purpose of this publication: generating articles and features on topics of interest and relevance to those who live here. But achievement of that goal is dependent on more than what can be generated solely by a thinly-stretched four-member reporter/writer staff (including the BWNA president and newsletter editor). We look to you, our readers, to add to the mix and more broadly reflect the pulse of our community with article submission of your own. So by all means, join in! And don't let reservations about your composition skills deter you. I team with Jennie Pietka (assistant editor) and Myrna Sheie (copy editor) to catch and correct errors, retaining as much of the original text as possible and preserving your message.

As a prime example of this kind of "grass-roots journalism" in this issue, I draw your attention to the article entitled "Longtime B-W Resident Jean Wojnowski Turns 100 Years Old." The interview-based article is the work of Helen Stewart, longtime B-W resident

BWNA Calendar

Friday, July 10th • 6:30-10:30PM

Movie in the Park, Wilshire Park

Monday, July 13th • 7:00-8:30PM

BWNA Board Meeting

Bethany Lutheran Church, Library Meeting Room

Saturday, August 1st • 9:00AM-5PM

Fremont Fest

(organized by the Beaumont Business Association)

Fremont Street

Tuesday, August 4th • 6:30-8:15PM

National Night Out Potluck Picnic in Wilshire Park

(replacing August BWNA general meeting)

Friday, August 14th

Deadline for submitting articles, letters, announcements and ads for the September/October 2015 newsletter

Monday, September 14th • 7:00-8:30PM

BWNA Board Meeting

Bethany Lutheran Church, Library Meeting Room

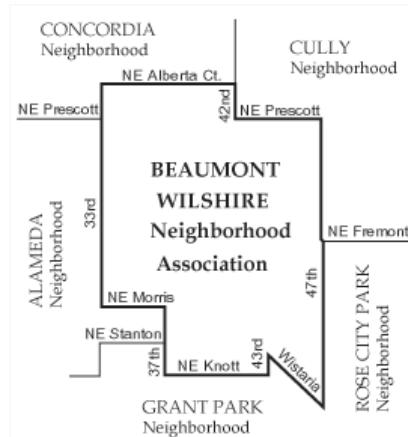
NE 37th entrance

BWNA's calendar is on the web!

Go to www.bwna.us and select BWNA Calendar

herself and avid supporter of BWNA, especially through her church, United Methodist Native American Fellowship, which is the source each year of the dozen or so long tables and scores of folding chairs used for the National Night Out Picnic in Wilshire Park. While Jean is especially dear to Helen and her neighbors, her heartwarming story moves us all and speaks to how fortunate we are to live in B-W.

Finally, a very different outside-the-staff submission comes to us as an "editorial announcement" of sorts by the BWNA Board—"Contemplating Selling Your Home?" While the issue extends beyond B-W boundaries, it resonates acutely within.



BWNA June meeting: land use remains high priority

by John Sandie

A strong turnout for the June general meeting was driven by a few land use concerns prompting neighbors to seek action from the BWNA Board. Residents voiced continuing frustration with demolition applications and zoning/land use division of corner lots in R5 zoned areas with requests made for BWNA to formally oppose these actions. After discussions, the BWNA and Board voted in favor of pursuing a demolition delay extension for the property at 3215 NE 42nd Avenue and also in opposition to the lot splitting proposal at 3315 NE 43rd Avenue. Other actions taken at the meeting involved official feedback to Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) regarding concerns within the City's Comprehensive Plan on new mixed-use zoning for Fremont Street. The BWNA position is that the Fremont Neighborhood Corridor should be given a CM1 classification which, among other things, limits new development to three stories.

The meeting also highlighted recent progress and the status of BWNA's year-long efforts (via United Neighborhoods for Reform) to change the regulations around single house demolitions and zoning code language. Support for Senate Bill 705 and ongoing

dialog with Bureau of Development Services-facilitated HazMat Task Force are keeping focus on the need for more responsible demolition oversight and procedures for protecting the public's health. Additionally, the city budget sets aside funding to support the Single Dwelling Zone Work Group, whose primary goal is rewriting code language to better reflect neighborhood compatibility for new house construction.

The recent neighborhood survey results show that land use issues remain the highest priority concern among Beaumont Wilshire residents. Overall survey results are posted on BWNA's Web site (www.bwna.us).

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Looking for help?

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Beaumont-Wilshire: The Real Dirt on Lacebugs

by Barb Strunk

Our rhododendrons and azaleas have been looking sick lately. What is going on? In the last few years we have seen the damage by the azalea lace bug on the ericaceous plant family (e.g., rhododendrons, blueberries, azaleas). This tiny, almost transparent insect sucks fluid from the underside of the leaves, resulting in pale, sickly looking leaves and a brown fecal residue on the underside of the leaves. Over time this can kill a susceptible plant.

Entomologists from the Oregon Department of Agriculture are concerned. Severe damage was first seen in this area in 2009, but scientists are not sure why areas like Portland and Salem have been hit especially hard by the lace bug. Right now entomologists have more questions than answers. Their research is ongoing to find some answers.

What should we do now?

- Don't plant azaleas and rhododendrons in full sun. Walking around the neighborhood, I have seen the most damaged plants are in full sun.
- Situate, water, and fertilize your plants appropriately so they grow as strong as they can.
- Consider planting rhododendrons that have lots of fuzz on the underside of the leaves. This may act as a physical barrier to the lace bug.

- Use horticultural soaps and oils as soon as you see lace bugs on the leaves. (This is a lot of work because the soap/oil must cover the undersides of the leaves.)
- Do not use neonicotinoid insecticides (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neonicotinoid>). The ongoing effects can last more than one growing season and may kill bees and many other insects that feed on lace bugs.
- Plant a diverse flower garden that encourages lots of different kinds of bugs to live there. Most bugs are helpful, especially in a garden with lots of different types of plants.

The best actions to take at present: plant rhododendrons and azaleas that seem less susceptible to lace bug and use good growing techniques to support strong healthy plants.

Additional information including pictures:

http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/azalea_lace_bug.htm

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC/sites/default/files/em9066.pdf>

<http://portlandnursery.com/service/brochures/solutions/azaleabug.shtml>



White spots appear on the leaf of this infected rhododendron.

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Family Fun in the Sun and Energy Conservation at Home

by Dahlia Grossman-Heinze, Clean Energy Works

As temperatures climb, Portlanders head outside—typically sporting a big grin—because the best season of the year is here. It's finally summer in Portland!

This year, Clean Energy Works is sponsoring Portland Parks & Recreation's Summer Free For All: Movies in the Park, a beloved Portland tradition, bringing fun, free movies to the whole family. When it comes to Wilshire Park on July 10th, stop by the Clean Energy Works table to say hi and learn how our nonprofit can help keep your home cool and your utility bills down this summer.

We'll see you at the movies in the park!

Longtime B-W Resident Jean Wojnowski Turns 100 Years Old

by Helen Stewart

Jean enjoys life living in Beaumont-Wilshire with her daughter Wanda and son-in-law David. She and her two cats share an apartment in their home. Her cats follow her every command (unusual for cats) and keep her company.

Jean was born in Renrock, Ohio on May 14, 1915, as the first child of John Murray and Hazel Dye Allison. Since her father was a Congregational minister, the family moved periodically—including Leadville, Colorado and Avery, Wisconsin. Jean graduated high school in Berea, Ohio, then went on to receive a B.A. degree from Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio and a Master of Nursing from what is now Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1941, with the war already started in Europe and the South

Pacific, Jean and a couple of friends from school joined the Cleveland Hospital Unit of the Army. Thinking they would be sent to a winter in Europe, the recruits had warm clothing in their suitcases when they boarded the modified passenger ship. Instead, they headed southward and approached the Panama Canal. The troop ship then joined a convoy sailing southeast that was required to maintain a zigzag course for protection from attacking enemy ships and planes. The precarious journey culminated 37 days later with their arrival in Melbourne, Australia.

The nurses were stationed at the Royal Melbourne Hospital to treat wounded military personnel brought in from around the South Pacific. Two years later Jean was transferred to New Guinea. There Jean reconnected with Arthur Wojnowski, Provost Marshall of the South Pacific troops, whom she married after the war.



With only a few aches and pains, she still goes to the mall, actively participates in church activities (including playing piano), and joins her daughter in thrift store treasure hunting. She actively gardens and shares the produce grown. A life very well lived indeed!



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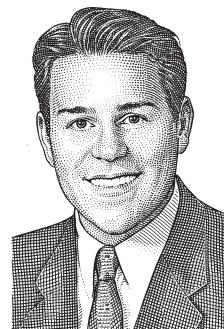
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Meticulous Plumbing Takes Pride in Serving N.E. Neighborhoods

by Tekla Hoehn

Leo Borton and Meg Willison are the husband-and-wife team behind those dark blue box trucks that you've likely seen in the neighborhood. The trucks are clean (they're washed by their technicians at least once a week) and feature just enough information to advertise their services. That's because when they started their plumbing business just six years ago, Willison and Borton knew they wanted to do things differently.

Borton insisted that he didn't want to have "shoddy plumbing or anything that came with it." So Willison and Borton set out to change the stigma of contractors and plumbers—from dirty and unreliable to clean, educated, respectful, and non-invasive. Thus, the name (Meticulous) and the carefully designed logo and trucks. "Our neighbor helped design the logo," said Willison. "They're intentionally clean and balanced. We get compliments on them all the time!"

A second-generation plumber with over 30 years experience, Borton has been plumbing since childhood. "He loves it," said Willison. "All our guys love being plumbers." Borton had wanted to have his own company for a long time. When Borton was laid off during an economic slump, Willison says they finally decided it was time to go for it. Willison has a strong business and customer service background with the airlines, so they combined skills to form Meticulous Plumbing.

Borton and Willison started the business out of their home in Roseway, just on the cusp of Beaumont-Wilshire. After two and a half years, they'd outgrown the space and moved to the Parkrose Business Center by Airport Way. Today they've added seven employees.

The majority of Meticulous Plumbing's work is residential, mostly here in NE Portland. The rest is light commercial, such as Bikes & Coffee on 57th. Willison says nearly 80% of their business is repeat or referral. Meticulous Plumbing also works in other parts of the city, including SW near Beaverton, SE and Oregon City, and North Portland.

"We have a strong team. We're proud we have a lot of long-term employees," said Willison. She describes the team as a "family atmosphere" where everyone has their niche and their place. "We look for people who really care and who take a lot of pride [in what

Do you know
a neighbor
who could
use a helping
hand?

The Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Volunteer Group stands ready to pitch in.

Cleaning chores: yard work, window washing, garage/storage organization, simple painting.

Contact John Sandie
219-508-4162 or sandiefam@gmail.com

they do]." Willison believes that Meticulous Plumbing's client services are among the most important aspects of their success. "They're friendly, but also they're respectful." The same applies to the plumbers: friendly and respectful. "We have found people who want to do a good job and have a good life, people with families. We wouldn't be sitting here without them."

Meticulous Plumbing handles everything from leaks to remodels to water heater repair. They'll take on larger projects too, such as replacing the water line that connects your house to the street without tearing up your lawn. They do this with a boring crew.

Starting at the curb, the boring crew runs a drill underground to your home's foundation. Then they run their pipes through the hole and voila!—rusty water pipe replaced, garden intact. "It's really fun to watch!" said Willison. If required, Meticulous Plumbing handles all permitting through the City of Portland.

Meticulous Plumbing gives a two-hour window for arrival time, then calls about 30 minutes before arrival, "so you're not staring out the window waiting for someone to show up," said Willison. The techs use shoe covers, clean tarps, and floor covers to leave the home as clean as (or cleaner than) when they arrived. At the end of the day, they wash their tarps and rags in the washing machine back at the shop.

Ms. Willison is originally from Kansas and fell in love with Portland when she traveled here to visit a childhood friend. When American Airlines was offering volunteer furloughs for people, Willison jumped at the opportunity to move here as part of her career in dispatch. She then met Mr. Borton in Portland while working for another plumbing company where Willison was a dispatcher coordinator. "We've lived in the neighborhood for 12 years and love living here."

Meticulous Plumbing also happens to be a very dog-friendly business. Both Borton and Willison volunteered with Fences for Fido, building fences for dogs on chains. Willison was also on the board for two years.

When they first started their plumbing business, Willison saw an Angie's List Super Service Award on another company's truck. "I remember thinking it would be so great to get that award!" she recalled. Only the top 5 percent of qualifying businesses receive this award for superior customer service ratings, and Meticulous Plumbing has won the Angie's List Super Service Award for the past four years in a row.

Visit <http://meticulousplumbing.com> for a full list of services, tips, testimonials, and contact information.



The owners.

Spreading the Word on Demolition/Development Reform

by Al Ellis

Remember the bad old days when one day there was a house next door and the next day it was being crunched, catching you completely by surprise? Or when demolition delays granted by the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) to neighborhood associations and preservation organizations for the purpose of seeking alternatives to destruction of viable established homes could somehow suddenly and without notice be nullified by developers? Or when demolitions were conducted with seemingly little or no attention to environmental fallout, followed by construction of replacement homes incompatible in scale and price? Well, folks, “the times they are a-changin” with respect to demolition/development in Portland, but unlike in Dylan’s revolutionary era, these changes are taking place incrementally and within the system. The reality in our neighborhood is this: although those “bad old days” are nowhere near completely behind us, significant progress has and is being made, thanks in great part to the persistence and political savvy of groups like United Neighborhoods for Reform (UNR)—the BWNA-initiated grass-roots activist group with backing from nearly half of Portland’s neighborhoods—pushing BDS, the City Council, and even the state legislature for timely enactment of needed reforms.

But enactment of reforms is only half the battle. Getting word out about the new rules of the game is equally key. To that end, here’s a simulated Q & A to assist:

Will I be notified ahead of time that the house next door is slated for demolition?

Yes. “Demolition Delay/Major Alteration and Addition Ordinance” (Title 24 of the building code) went into effect April 20, 2015 and requires BDS to mail notices of pending demolition permit applications to addresses within 150 feet of the proposed demolition site and requires owners of the property to post door hangers on surrounding properties at least five days prior to demolition activity. Additionally, “recognized organizations” (like BWNA) must be mailed notices as well. Regarding major remodels, the property owner is required to notify by e-mail and post door hangers on surrounding properties 35 days before issuance of the building permit.

Is it possible to delay demolition in order to explore ways for saving a house?

Yes. You have 35 days after a demolition permit application has been submitted to appeal to BDS for a guaranteed additional 60-day delay for exploring plausible alternatives to demolition. Also, the \$1318 fee to cover the cost of a Code Hearings Officer will be waived if the appeal is filed through your neighborhood association.

Are demolition sites inspected for hazardous materials? Is debris recycled?

Well, hopefully. Inspections for asbestos and lead-based paint are “self-certified.” UNR advocates mandatory certification by independent experts. As for “deconstruction” (recycling of post-demo materials): BDS=recommended/UNR goal=mandatory.

Anything in place to discourage demolitions and guard against incompatibility?

Not yet, but it’s one of Mayor Hales’ stated priorities for 2015, and a task force has been launched, with UNR participation, to craft a height and footprint limit ordinance.

BWNA Board Member Roger Price Extols Neighborhood He Knows Well

by Mark Mohammadpour

For this issue, we spoke with board member Roger Price. Roger grew up in the neighborhood. After high school, Roger went to UO where he earned a BA and MA. After college, Roger taught math for a year in Eugene, a year in Portland, and four years overseas before spending 30 years teaching at David Douglas High School. Now retired, Roger enjoys playing golf and traveling with his wife.

How long have you lived in the neighborhood and what’s your favorite part of living in the neighborhood?

I grew up on Mason between 30th and 31st and spent many hours at Wilshire Park playing football and baseball. We bought our present home on 37th and Alameda in 1970, a huge home and we had no kids at the time. We raised two boys here who are now living in Eugene and Tacoma. This

has always been a great place to raise a family, and it continues to be as evidenced by the enrollment at Alameda, Beaumont, and Grant. The neighbors are friendly and helpful and always ready for a block



party or a progressive dinner. What’s not to like? We walk somewhere in the neighborhood everyday. People take pride in their homes and it certainly shows. And folks you meet are always friendly. This year I plan to bicycle past the front of every home within the boundaries of BWNA.

What’s your favorite neighborhood restaurant and why?

Alameda Brew Pub is our favorite restaurant. Their beer selection is very good, their menu wide and varied, and the food quite good. And they fill growlers for \$5 on Saturdays. What more could you ask?

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Pinball Outreach Project, continued

Why Portland?

Portland has more pinball locations than any other place in the world, meaning that there are more machines accessible to the public than anywhere else. But because they're often inside bars with an age restriction, a lot of those games aren't accessible full-time to kids. Other than a few arcades (such as Ground Kontrol), there wasn't any family-friendly, kid-focused space to play pinball in Portland. I'd been doing some work with the Portland-based Children's Cancer Association, taking pinball to their events and helping raise money for their programs. After gathering machines for two years, I wanted something to do with them in between hospital visits. So I opened POP here.

How did you choose Beaumont-Wilshire for your POP location?

I was actively looking for a space in a family-friendly neighborhood where we could become part of the community. I live in NE Portland as well and we've

had such a friendly reception from the neighborhood. We already have lots of volunteers. I feel really welcomed. Our space is truly a community space because many machines are on loan from people in this neighborhood. And it's great being next to Smallwares/Barwares, too. When the sun is out and our doors are open, people like to come back and forth between us.

Tell me more about the free pinball for kids!

When I opened the space, I wondered how I could do more outreach, make it more accessible and get the word out, so I decided to make it free for kids. We try to offer free play sessions every day during the two hours that we are open unless there is a private event. It's completely free for all kids aged 13 and younger. Another great thing about POP is that our games are all family-themed. There isn't any violence like you might see in video games. It's about making the kids feel good. We're here every Tuesday–Sunday, but check the website before you visit because hours vary: www.pinballoutreach.org.

Do you help the kids learn how to play?

Yes! We are teachers of pinball. We play with them and teach them different skills. We open up the machines—take off the glass and pull the playfields, show them the wires and computer chips and how they work. There's a lot you can learn about math and statistics, geometry, strategy, and art, not to mention sharing, teambuilding, and people skills. This summer I'm teaching a weeklong pinball camp for kids aged 5–16 with a 13-year-old who is one of the best pinball players in Oregon. The camp runs from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. from August 10–14.



How can I get started in the world of competitive pinball?

Anyone who comes to our space can enter our play-as-you-go league. You just have to play six games, write down your scores, and then you become a world-ranked pinball player! That means you get a number and your name goes on the Internet and you can see yourself move up the pinball rankings as you play. We also have a

high score wall in the space. But it's all about making the kids feel good. We're here to promote the fun of pinball—not being good at it.

The pinball community sounds very welcoming. Is that true?

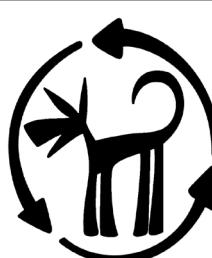
Yes, it's an inclusive community even though we're competing. Those of us in the pinball community think it's the greatest thing in the world. We eat, sleep, and breathe pinball; talk about it online; and watch it on TV. It's our lives. Everyone is always helping and swapping tips. PAPA (the Professional Amateur Pinball Association)

puts out videos that we stream at our space. The current world pinball champion is a friend of POP and visits us sometimes. (The IFPA—International Flipper Pinball Association—does the world rankings.) He donated a machine and designed our logo.

How can folks support POP?

We offer party rentals of the space on NE Fremont to raise money for the outreach (and also to pay the rent)! It's a perfect space for kids' birthdays, grown-up parties, corporate events—pinball is a really good icebreaker environment. If you book a party, you'll be helping to support the outreach and the free pinball program. It's a win-win. The website also has a wish list of items we need and volunteer opportunities too. We also accept direct cash donations.

Thanks for a supremely awesome and inspiring interview, Nicole!



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