

Charter Reform: An Important yet Complex Proposal on the Ballot

By: Abigail Smock, LNA SE Quad Representative

This November, Portland voters will get to choose a proposal to reform how the city's government functions. Is the charter reform proposal a progressive measure that could increase efficiency and voter participation, or is the proposal a complicated experiment for Portland?

The ballot measure to amend the city's charter is made up of three core components:

- Ranked Choice Voting - Voters rank candidates in order of preference including an "instant runoff" process for city wide elections, such as Mayor and Auditor, and "single transferable vote" method for multi-member district-based city council seats.
- 12 Member City Council - Create four new geographic districts with three members elected to represent each district, expanding the city council to a total of 12 members.
- Separation of Legislative and Management Functions - Replace the commission form of government and create a system where the City Council focuses on setting policy and a city administrator is hired to run the city's day-to-day operations with the mayor.

If passed this November, the Mayor, City Administrator, and 12 member City Council would enter the new form of government in January 2025. If this measure fails, Commissioner Mingus Mapps has pledged to have a city charter reform on the 2023 Spring ballot.

During the LNA hosted forum on the proposed City Charter reform, we heard from two members of the 20-member City Charter Commission: Debbie Kitchin and David Knowles. Debbie is a seasoned small business leader who served as a regional economist for 18 years, mostly at the Northwest Power Planning Council. David worked in politics, public policy, and law for over 40 years, including as Portland's Director of the Bureau of Planning for several years.

Article continued on page 3

General Meeting Focus Topics

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 8, 6:30-8:00 PM
Laurelhurst Club/ 3721 SE Ankeny St.

We have invited representatives from three housing projects being developed near the Laurelhurst Neighborhood to speak. The developments are called: The Anna Mann House, Barbie's Village, and Hollywood Hub. This is an opportunity to hear more about these projects and to ask the representatives questions you have about these projects.

In addition, Jonathan Cruz, an Air Quality Program Specialist at the Multnomah County Health Department, will be joining us. He will share information about the county's wood smoke curtailment program.

Seeking a Communications Officer

The Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association Communications Officer is a board-appointed position.

Working together with the Communications Committee, the goals for this position are:

- Optimize communication to, from, and among LNA members, including coordinating print and social media tools.
- Recommend additional/different tools to meet growing and changing communication needs of the LNA.
- Advise and support Board on external communications, for example with news organization reporters and nonprofit partners.
- In monthly board meetings, bring the communications perspective to the Board's deliberations.

Email Laurelhurst.president@gmail.com to apply or with questions.

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Upcoming Events Calendar

-  **All Saints Holiday Bazaar**
Nov 5 9 AM - 5 PM at All Saints, 3847 NE Glisan
-  **LNA General Membership & Board Meeting**
Nov 8 6:30 PM at The Laurelhurst Club, 3721 Se Ankeny St
-  **Diversity Equity and Inclusion Group Meeting**
Nov 15 6:30 PM, Email dei.laurelhurst@gmail.com for details
-  **Student Artist Fundraiser**
Dec 3 Da Vinci Arts Middle School, 2508 NE Everett
-  **Laurelhurst School Bazaar**
Dec 4 9 AM to 4 PM, Laurelhurst School, 840 NE 41st
-  **Chanukah Fair at the EJC**
Dec 4 10:30 AM - 3 pm, Eastside Jewish Commons
2420 NE Sandy Blvd
-  **Breakfast with Santa**
Dec 4 10 AM - Noon
The Laurelhurst Club, 3721 Se Ankeny St
-  **LNA Board of Directors Meeting**
Dec 13 6:30 PM at The Laurelhurst Club, 3721 Se Ankeny St
-  **Diversity Equity and Inclusion Group Meeting**
Dec 20 6:30 PM, Email dei.laurelhurst@gmail.com for details
-  **Peacock Lane**
Dec 15 Dec. 15 - Dec 31, 6 PM - 11 PM, SE Peacock Lane

Have an upcoming event you'd like to share in the newsletter? Send an email with details to laurelhurstnewsletter@gmail.com.

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Who to call when you need help

See an incident you need to report, but not sure who to call?
Save these numbers in your phone.

9-1-1

For reporting an active incident of violence, medical emergency or life-threatening event.

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NON-EMERGENCY LINE

For situations that are not an immediate threat to life or property. Call (503) 823-3333

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Charter Reform: An Important yet Complex Proposal on the Ballot

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Both presenters, along with most Portlanders, agree that Portland's system of government is not working, and needs a major overhaul. The population has tripled since the current form was established in 1917, and today Portland is the last remaining large city in the US to use a commission-style form of government where elected leaders serve as both legislators (pass policies) and executives (direct bureaus, agencies, and departments).

Debbie and proponents for the Charter Reform proposal, highlight that the new ranked voting system would allow Portlanders preferences to be represented through the local political system citing its presence in over 20 states nationwide reaching approximately 11 million voters.

Debbie also argues it would allow easier access for Portlanders to get involved in local politics, thereby creating greater diversity of perspectives in governance. The proposal creates 3 City Council members for each of the 4 Portland districts, possibly lowering the barrier of entry for winning a race, since running a district-wide campaign is easier and cheaper than running city-wide. And lastly, she highlights that the separation of functions between the Council and Mayor would create clearer coordination across the bureaus-- increasing efficiency by reducing overlaps and gaps in responsibilities. The goal is that this new charter reform leads to a more equitable impact for the critical issues the city currently faces.

On the other side of this discussion, David highlights the proposed ranked choice voting system includes a method called single vote transfer for city council which allows second and third ranked candidates to win a seat on the city council. This hybrid model has only been used in a parliamentary government, such as Australia, and has never been tried in the United States. "I don't think the city of Portland should be a test kitchen" David argues.

City commissioners Mingus Mapps and Dan Ryan, Mayor Ted Wheeler, City charter commission member Vadim Mozysky, and commissioner hopeful Rene Gonzalez are also a "No" to the proposal as written. David thinks the ranked choice voting is confusing and uncharted territory for the US. Although a lawyer, he has difficulty understanding how votes would be tabulated, and what candidates need to do to win a seat.

Finally, David points out that the cost of the proposal is unknown with an estimated budget between \$900k and \$8.7M. This budget does not include public campaigns funding available for candidates. Skeptics of the proposal do not see the argument for increased efficiency, and instead highlight that the devil is in the details.

As voters make decisions over the coming weeks, one thing is clear: open discussion and debate is a healthy part of the democratic process. To find out more about the Charter Reform Proposal please visit:

portland.gov/omf/charter-review-commission.

Note: Opinions expressed during the forum reflect the personal opinions of David Knowles and Debbie Kitchin, and not necessarily those of the organization they are both affiliated with.

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Portland Proposed Measure 26-228

This November, Portland voters will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed ballot measure regarding the structure of city government and process for electing city officials.

President's Letter

By Kayleen Kusterer, LNA President

Dear Laurelhurst neighbors,

I've been reflecting on why I volunteer my time and would like to share some thoughts with you. The Coronavirus pandemic, and attendant social distancing, created feelings of stress, anxiety and isolation in many of us. Against this backdrop, many people, myself included, turned to volunteering to help make a difference, even at a distance.

In a recent article, The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) states: "Naturally the dialogue surrounding activism and volunteerism centers on how others will benefit from the volunteer work you do. But years of research demonstrates that there are benefits for volunteers themselves." Volunteering can be a positive step toward improved health. It can lead to:

- 1) Reducing Stress
- 2) Increasing Happiness
- 3) Developing Confidence
- 4) Finding Purpose

The LNA depends on volunteers to function and to serve the neighborhood. As a volunteer, I have had the opportunity to work with many great neighbors who have volunteered their time and energy. I recognize that everyone is at a different place and phase in their life, and I also believe everyone has something to offer.

The LNA has volunteer opportunities tailored to the time you have available. If you have less time to give, we are always in need of volunteers at events that only last a few hours. If you have more time to give, we'd love to have you join (or lead) one of the many committees that make up the LNA. Also, from time to time, during a term, Board seats open up. Currently, we are seeking to appoint a new Communications Officer. Please, if you have experience with communications, consider joining us. Email me at Laurelhurst.president@gmail.com.

If volunteering is not an option for you right now, please consider attending neighborhood events, LNA general membership meetings and/or monthly board meetings. Information for these events and meetings are in our newsletters and on the LNA website, laurelhurstpdx.org.

These can provide rich opportunities to meet neighbors, to learn about what's happening in the neighborhood and to share your ideas and concerns.

I also encourage you to drop by, for a cup of coffee or a glass of wine, at one of the upcoming LNA board "Meet & Greets" at the Laurelhurst Club, **Thursday, November 3 and Thursday, November 17: 9 AM - 10:30 AM & 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**
It's a great opportunity to talk with board members, meet neighbors, and share your ideas.

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity (big or small), please reach out to me. I can be reached at Laurelhurst.president@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

In closing, remember to VOTE in the upcoming November General Election on (or before) Tuesday, November 8th! As Margaret Mead said: "Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."

All the best,
Kayleen Kusterer

A correction from the September President's Letter: I am serving as the third woman LNA president, not the second. Thank you to the LNA neighbor who corrected the record.

Mark Your Calendars

General Membership Meetings

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

All meetings are held at
The Laurelhurst Club
3721 SE Ankeny St.

November 8
January 10
March 14
May 9



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Laurelhurst Arches

By Chris Brewster; Arches Committee Chair

Under the LNA Board, a team of Laurelhurst residents have been working to revitalize a much-loved feature of our neighborhood - the Laurelhurst arches. The arches are at selected entry points into the neighborhood and serve as welcome signs, beautiful pieces of Portland history, and a classic aesthetic touch that contributes to the historic character of the neighborhood. Earlier this year, the LNA Board named me, Chris Brewster, the new chair of the Board's Arches Committee. Serving with me is Bobby Key. My family and I are recent additions to Portland, having moved here from Texas in 2021. Bobby and his family moved to Portland from Alabama last year, too, and together we are excited to lend our hands in beautifying our new neighborhood.

The Laurelhurst arches were constructed in 1910 and were a component of the original Laurelhurst neighborhood design. They were built even before most homes. One mason told us last month that the sandstone used in the arches is the same stone used in many of the other historic structures from the same period throughout Portland. There are pairs of arches at four locations : SE Ceasar Chavez and SE Stark, SE 32nd and E Burnside, NE 32nd and NE Glisan, and one arch only at NE Peerless and NE Sandy. The Arches are in need of various degrees of work. Some are cracked, some have plants growing from them, many have graffiti, and all are in need of cleaning. Some of the arches have broken globes, and broken or missing metal hardware.

The Arches have been a focus of the LNA Board for many years, with LNA funding their cleaning and general maintenance at various times over the past three decades, at least.



However, that work essentially stopped in 2020 with the onset of the pandemic. Under direction from the LNA Board in early 2022, the reconstituted Arches Committee began engaging with the architectural firm that did an assessment of the state of the Arches in 2018 and has been in discussion with various masonry contractors. We have had site visits with those contractors to assess what should be done to bring the arches up to an acceptable standard. The Committee expects to present the LNA Board with proposals to refresh the arches by the end of the year.

If you are interested in joining the Arches Committee, please contact Chris at Chrisbrewster1976@gmail.com.

Laurelhurst Park Update

By TJ Browning, LNA Safety Committee Chair

Of late, there have been quite a few media stories regarding the LNA, the park and the homeless. These have prompted considerable questions from the neighborhood. With a desire for transparency, this is an attempt to provide some pertinent information

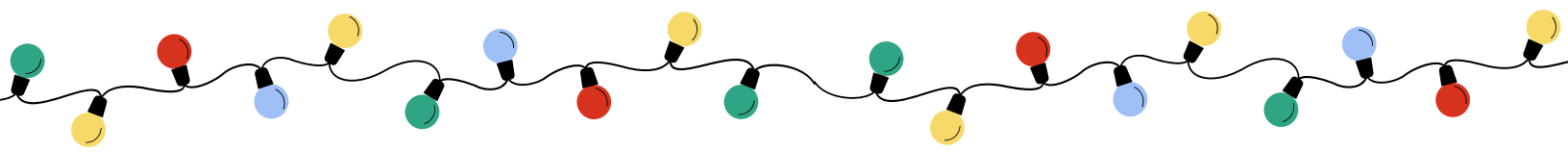
At the city's request, the LNA has been meeting weekly with city representatives to talk about park problems and possible solutions. These meeting have been occurring regularly for many weeks. In separate meetings, there are other agencies and affected groups also involved. During our weekly meetings we are kept well informed of ever-changing proposals, problems and contingencies. This is a dynamic, involved process attempting to address many park, neighborhood and city concerns and needs.

The Safety Committee, represented by Kayleen Kusterer and me, feels confident we understand neighbors' concerns. You have been diligent in reporting problems, concerns and suggestions for solutions. We understand we represent you and keep your interest in forefront of our discussion. Like you, you have a strong love of this city and desire for a better Portland for all.

Bottom line, the LNA has a presence, and you have a voice in this ongoing lengthy quest for a safer park for all. At this time, it is difficult to share many details as nothing is yet finalized. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, plans have been finalized, successfully implemented, and embraced.

Laurelhurst Hats
Purchase a Laurelhurst hat on our web shop and support the LNA. \$25 per hat
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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

By Johnyne Wascavage



The holiday season is just around the corner, are you ready? Here are some upcoming happenings to get you in the holiday spirit.

ALL SAINTS HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, November 5th from 9 am - 5 pm

All Saints (3847 NE Glisan) will hold its holiday bazaar fundraiser in the Parish Hall. Over thirty artisans will display unique holiday gifts. There will also be a treasure table with donated and consigned items such as antiques, vintage linens, costume jewelry and china/glassware as well as a children's room with gifts that kids can purchase for their family and friends. A bakery with homemade treats and a cafe will also be available.

STUDENT ARTIST FUNDRAISER

Saturday, December 3rd

Da Vinci Arts Middle School (2508 NE Everett) will reintroduce a smaller scale Art Show this year with 60+ student artists work, music and snacks. Please visit pps.net/domain/112 for more information on this event.



LAURELHURST SCHOOL BAZAAR

Sunday, December 4th from 9 am - 4 pm

Ninety local professional vendors in addition to student vendors will have handmade artisanal goods for sale at the Laurelhurst School (840 NE 41st). A traditional silent auction for donated themed wreaths will also take place. There will also be a section for homemade baked goods.

CHANUKAH FAIR AT THE EASTSIDE JEWISH COMMONS

Sunday, December 4th from 10:30 am - 3 pm

The Eastside Jewish Commons (2420 NE Sandy Blvd) along with Congregation Shir Tikvah and ORA NW Jewish Artists will present its annual Chanukah Fair with arts and crafts, music, food and movement for the whole family.



PEACOCK LANE

Thursday, December 15th - Saturday, December 31st from 6 pm - 11 pm

Peacock Lane will have its holiday lights on display. As of the date of this newsletter, pedestrian-only nights have yet to be determined. Check their website peacocklane.org for the most updated information.



*You're
Invited!*

Breakfast WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 4th from 10 am - Noon

Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa is coming to The Laurelhurst Club
(3721 SE Ankeny St)!

Attention kids and kids-at-heart, please join us for breakfast with Santa. Your \$20 per person ticket gets you a pancake breakfast and time with Santa. Parents, don't forget your phones so you can take some photos of the special occasion! To spread even more cheer this season, The Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association is participating in a toy drive. If you'd like to donate, please bring a new, unwrapped gift with you when you come.

Register early, space is limited. Visit the LNA website or visit [eventbrite.com/e/432946353197](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/432946353197) to get tickets. Tickets go on sale October 29! Doors open at 9:45 am. Each person (child and adult) must have a ticket to attend. Parental supervision is required.



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Volunteers Needed

We are never really happy until we try to brighten the lives of others.” -Helen Keller

Seeking an LNA Newsletter Editor

By Kayleen Kusterer, LNA President

Are you interested in volunteering in your neighborhood? Would you like to meet more of your neighbors? Make a positive impact in your community? The LNA is seeking a newsletter editor.

The LNA seeks a volunteer editor for our beloved neighborhood newsletter, which is published five times per year. The editor is a member of the newsletter production team, which includes a graphic designer; an ads manager; and a proofreader. This team is led by the Communications Officer of the Board. (When vacant, team is led by LNA President)

Previous experience as an editor is not required. Our ideal applicant will be a strong writer who enjoys supporting Board members and neighbors in writing informative columns and good stories.

The editor is responsible for:

Recruiting updates from LNA Board and Committees for regular columns in the newsletter;

Cultivating articles from neighbors about issues of interest to the community--topics have included Laurelhurst history; the installation of a Healthy Block Street Mural; food gleaning; recycling; the Laurelhurst School playground upgrades;

Copy editing articles for clarity and to fit space requirements;

Coordinating with the printer, graphic designer and proofreader; and

Ensuring that the papers are distributed to each of the four quad representatives in time for their volunteers to distribute them to doorsteps prior to each of our five general meetings.

The Editor must be a strong writer and possess strong “people skills;” enjoy supporting neighbors in good storytelling; have experience with managing multiple sets of contacts; and be good at meeting deadlines.

Please contact Kayleen for more information or to apply for the position of editor. I can be reached at: Laurelhurst.president@gmail.com.

Newsletter Distributors Needed

By Ru Budhi, At-Large Representative“



Five times per year, the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association (LNA) newsletter brightens the lives of residents lucky enough to live in our early 20th century district. Each January, March, May, September, and November, our longtime publication allows neighbors to catch up with past events, as well as discover upcoming ones. Unlike many Portland neighborhoods that have long since resorted to emailing newsletters, Laurelhurst continues its laborious tradition of hand-delivering recycled paper newsletters to every household. And as in the past, even our busiest and most prominent citizens happily lace up comfortable shoes and partake in our all-volunteer delivery program. Do not be surprised if a household of cardiologists in the SW quadrant dropped off your copy. Perhaps it is because they know that volunteering can be good for your health!

Beyond health-related benefits, a volunteer may also enjoy the satisfaction of being part of an unbroken newsletter delivery tradition that even a 55+ year NW quadrant denizen from southeastern Europe, and a 70+ year SE quadrant native Portlander both remember as always having. Another longtime resident in the SW quadrant recalls a mimeograph version before the current format was adopted in 1991. It is no surprise that real estate brokers who sell homes in our historic neighborhood will often show prospective buyers our publication printed on heavyweight paper, perhaps to communicate the livability of the Laurelhurst neighborhood.

Please reach out to me at laurelhurst.atlargerep@gmail.com to join our growing list of neighbors who are passionate about keeping our newsletter delivery tradition going by delivering five times per year. If you are unable to commit to all the deliveries, you are welcome to join our back-up list.

Elaine Healy
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HalfMoonStudioCards@gmail.com

Century Plaques

By Johnyne Wascavage

Over 100 century home plaques were ordered this fall, the largest number ever submitted to the foundry. We accept orders year-round but only submit the orders twice a year in June (for summer delivery) and October for delivery in December. You can order on the LNA webpage: laurelhurstpdx.org. (Look for "Store & Donation" by hovering your cursor on the "Home" menu option.)

If you prefer to order by mail, send a check to the LNA Treasurer at 3721 SE Ankeny St., Portland, OR 97214. Add a note with your check saying that you are ordering a century plaque and include your name, address, email, and phone number as well as the year your home was built. The cost of the plaque is \$100, and checks can be made out to the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association.



These heavy cast iron and polished bronze plaques are 2 1/2 inches tall and 10 inches wide and are customized to show the year your home was built. They are available for homes built in 1923 and earlier. They are suitable for mounting on siding, doors, gates, fireplace mantles, or other locations inside or outside your home. Email lnacenturyplaque@gmail.com if you have questions.

Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association IDEA Committee

By Jan McManus: IDEA Committee member

Help us welcome and support school-age children who will transition into our neighborhood schools in 2023 when their families move into Mann House apartments. LNA's IDEA Committee meets the third Tuesday of the month from 6:30 pm - 8:00 p.m. We plan to meet in person at the Laurelhurst Club each month if Oregon health protocols allow (alternatively, we will post on the LNA website a virtual meeting link if the State advises against attending meetings in person.) Our next few meetings will focus on identifying specific ways we can collaborate with Innovative Housing staff, Mann House families, PTA, and school personnel to support Mann House resident children in our schools, in before and after school or summer programs, and in extra-curricular activities. Please join us at our meetings if you are interested.

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Sunday, December 4th
10 am to noon
tickets available at www.thelaurelhurstclub.com

3721 SE Ankeny Street
(503) 200 - 9545
manager@thelaurelhurstclub.com

IDEA Committee

Inclusion, diversity, equity, access, and social justice in Laurelhurst



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, November 15, 6:30 PM

To be added to our meeting list, please email DEILaurelhurst@gmail.com.

The Laurelhurst Neighborhood

Walking Tour

Take a walking tour of Laurelhurst, created by resident Amelia Shields and narrated by Katy Pozarycki. Audio and print versions available at: laurelhurstpdx.org/walkingtour



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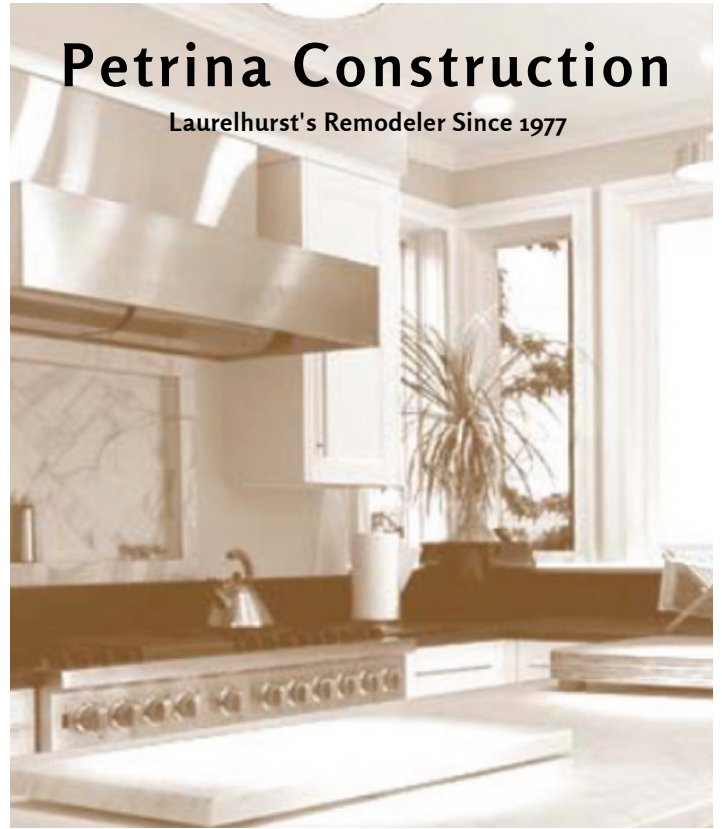
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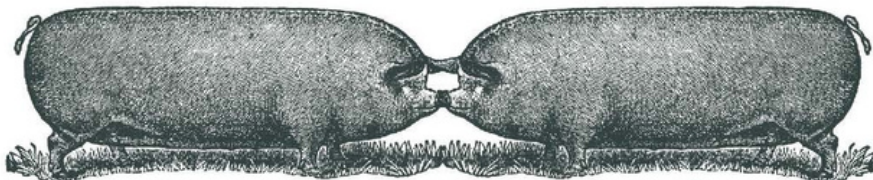
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"Free?" or Litter?

By TJ Browning: LNA Safety Chair

The amount of "Free" stuff continues to grow throughout the city and in Laurelhurst. The couch with the free sign sits for days and degrades in front of our eyes. Sometimes the cushions disappear, sometimes graffiti appears on it and other times it is rain soaked and becomes unusable. Frequently this "free stuff" isn't even placed in front of the donor's house! Someone just decided the corner of a busy street, like SE Ankeny and CC Blvd. is a great place to rid yourself of something. Let's be honest. This is not free, it is litter. It is a growing problem that frequently fuels the local homeless camps.

Here's what happens when abandoned stuff doesn't disappear and is reported. Eventually, Multnomah County sends a crew out to assess. If it deemed "abandoned", it is tagged with a removal notice. If it is still there after the posted notice for removal expires, then the county must come out again and pick up the stuff. What a waste of an over worked and much demanded county service.

If it is reusable, then put it to good use! There are many reputable nonprofits that will take, rehab and then resale your "Free" stuff. The proceeds will then go to help many worthy causes. One of my favorites, The Community Warehouse, 3969 NE MLK (503 235- 8786) will take your donation to help homeless who finally get permanent housing furnish their new homes.

If you want to first try placing something in front of your house with a free sign on it, then please monitor the item(s). I recognize that sometimes this works. However, when the free stuff hasn't been adopted by the end of the day, or the weekend, then be a good neighbor and remove them. Donate them. This is a good step towards a cleaner and more livable Portland.



Update from Friends of Laurelhurst Park

By Peggy Glascock

It has been a great year for Friends of Laurelhurst Park. We have had 6 work parties this year, and the park needed it! By the time this newsletter is out we we'll have had one more on October 13, where we did a lot a pruning and weeding.

We have been working closely with Johannes Venghaus, Horticulturist, and Tara Lampson, Park Technician, to reclaim or upgrade certain areas in the park.

- The SE 37th entrance off Oak is looking great!
- The beds by the famous statue is much healthier.
- The areas around the stairs in the north part of the park have been planted and mulched.
- Lots of mulch has been applied in various areas.
- Pruning by the pond and along Ankeny St make the park look better.

We have sponsored over 250 hours of volunteering through the Friends of Laurelhurst Park this year. And we are planning to meet back up in April 2023 for more of same.



Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association

Keep In Touch With Us!



laurelhurstpdx.org



facebook.com/LaurelhurstPDX



laurelhurstboard@gmail.com

Perspectives

By Marilyn McManus

Laurelhurst Pride

What a difference 40 years makes! I don't have words to describe how wonderful it is today to walk around Laurelhurst and routinely see signs that note "Love is Love" as well as rainbow and other LGBTQ+ flags hanging on porches. I feel affirmed, supported and seen. It wasn't always this way.

Over the years there were neighborhood weddings to which neighbors – except for us – were invited. There were the neighbors who were both mystified and offended when we declined their proposal to host two male sailors during the Rose Festival and have us join them for a dinner date. And there was the teenage caregiver for the neighbor nearing the end of his life who had become a grandfather figure in our lives. She tried to block our access to visit him and yelled at me, "I know who you two are. You're worse than murderers."

And then there was the husband and wife who were horrified when they discovered that they had purchased a home next to a lesbian family. Over time – and to their credit – they managed to make neighborly small talk with us and later attended a holiday neighborhood party in our home. Their clear dismay that we were raising a child slowly seemed to turn to respect. And, finally, shortly before they sold their home, the woman knocked on our door and said, "I just wanted to say how much I like our neighbors."

My wife Janet and I have been together for 35 years. We married 19 years ago in British Columbia when same-sex marriage was first legally recognized there. Our Canadian marriage was not recognized in the United States. Eventually, domestic partnerships were established by the Oregon legislature. Retired Oregon Supreme Court Justice Betty Roberts presided over our "partnering" in a neighborhood celebration at The Laurelhurst Club. I told Judge Roberts, "Now Janet and I have rights that extend all the way to the Columbia River!"

Today, my marriage and my family are recognized in law, in practice and in my day-to-day neighborhood life.

I look around and am so glad that I can say, "It gets better." One neighbor told me that she keeps pride flags and signage in her yard because she grew up in Wyoming. Her family experienced the community trauma of 21-year-old Matthew Shepard's death. Matt had been brutally attacked, tied to a fence in a field and left to die because he was gay. That crime lit her commitment to fight hate and to support LGBTQ+ youth and adults. Another neighborhood family honors their adolescent child with the trans flag.

Thank you, Laurelhurst neighbors. I appreciate you and appreciate being seen today for who I am.



For information specific to supporting young people, I encourage you to visit:

-PFLAG: pflag.org

-The Trevor Project: thetrevorproject.org

-It Gets Better Foundation: itgetsbetter.org



Letters to the Editor



Got something on your mind? We want to hear from you. Send an email to laurelhurstnewsletter@gmail.com to share your thoughts.

You can also submit an article for consideration for the LNA newsletter. Preference is given to submissions with local interest to the neighborhood and the editor reserves the right to decline submissions that don't meet editorial standards.

Local businesses are invited to place ads. Email ads.laurelhurst@gmail.com for pricing.

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Portland Fruit Tree Project

Fall is here. Our LNA Newsletter team's thoughts are turning to trees.

Perhaps you are considering planting some fruit trees. Maybe you are ready to prune ones that you have? The Portland Fruit Tree Project offers consultations that may interest you.

The Portland Fruit Tree Project began as a nonprofit gleaning organization that would harvest fruit for homeowners who were unable to do so themselves or had more than they could use. Gleaned fruit would be donated to organizations able to distribute it to food-insecure individuals.

Recently, they have branched out. In addition to gleaning unharvested fruit, the Project consults with homeowners about best practices in fruit growing, fruit collection, and orchard and tree management. Their expertise extends to tree care, backyard harvest assistance, and tree care services (pruning, disease management, and garden coaching). Adding healthy trees to our ecosystem is part of their broader mission. Their consulting fees allow staff to support renters in areas with few trees in creating mobile orchards and gardens. If renters need to move, they can take their gardens with them.

Why does this matter? One in seven Oregonians faces food insecurity. Of the approximately 552,900 Oregonians who are food insecure, over 35% are children. And even more, people struggle to afford fresh produce, which is critical to healthful eating and prevention of diet-related disease. Portland Fruit Tree Project provides fresh fruit to those most in need. Community-based agriculture makes a lot of sense. If you'd like to volunteer to help pick fruit, go to portlandfruit.org/volunteer-1 or visit their website to learn more: portlandfruit.org.



Secretary's Report

Key Items from the September 13, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting:

By Jim Edelson

1. Board discussed and planned actions around the resignation of the Communications Officer.
2. The President, Safety Chair and Land Use Chair reported they have begun to meet for LNA coordination on Laurelhurst Park and park safety issues.
3. Draft LNA Communication Guidelines were presented and discussed by the Board. Action was tabled pending further revisions.
4. Member-at-large Ru Budhi assumed responsibility to organize and manage distribution and distributors of LNA Newsletter.
5. Kayleen reported that the management contract for the Club is under negotiation for next year and Club will be enhancing its security system.

Know of Nonprofits whose work and mission you'd like to share?

You can submit an article for consideration for the LNA newsletter.

Preference is given to submissions with a local interest to the neighborhood.

Email submissions to:
laurelhurstnewsletter@gmail.com

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