



Albertina Kerr To Add Workforce and Inclusive Housing To Gresham Campus

Building Independence

By: Stacey Balenger
Facilities Manager, Kerr

Albertina Kerr is building 150 units of affordable housing targeting a mix of Kerr's lowest wage employees and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who are able to live independently.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) at Kerr enable individuals with IDD and mental health challenges to lead healthy and more self-determined lives. Kerr has raised wages nearly 50% over the last six years in an effort to stay competitive in a tight labor market, yet today 73% of employees scheduled 30+ hours per week earn less than \$35,000 annually.

We have seen in recent years more employees leaving their work as DSPs for less physically and emotionally taxing positions with better pay, now available in an improving economy. In fact, the organization's vacancy and turnover rates for DSPs have grown significantly in the last five years. These factors strain Kerr's ability to provide the stable social safety net



Albertina Kerr Wynne Watts School, 930 NE 162nd Av, Gresham

that the State of Oregon relies on to care for its' most vulnerable citizens, and high turnover combined with vacant positions decreases the likelihood that the employee caring for someone we support has a long-term connection to them and their care.

Recognizing that raising wages is not enough to ensure housing affordability for employees, nor is it enough to ensure a stable workforce, 102 units of the proposed project will target employees earning 60% or less of area median income (AMI), 15 units for people earning 80% AMI, and 3 units reserved for employees experiencing an emergency or family members of kids in our care from long distances who need a short-term stay.

See **KERR** Page 4

open to all residents who live, own property or a business, organization, church or government agency within our boundaries. To run for the Board, simply show up Monday, Nov 11, and nominate yourself! ■

Download this newsletter with active links at: wilkeeastna.org/newsletter.htm

Mark Your Calendar!
Wilkes East Neighborhood

Fall Meeting
November 11th • 7PM

Albertina Kerr Campus, Training Bldg
722 NE 162nd Ave

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Albertina Kerr Workforce Housing
- WENA Board Elections Nov 11th
- Extreme Weather In Our Region
- Nadaka Happenings & Changes
- Update: A Playground For Kirk Park

Tornado's In Portland?

By: Garret Hartung
Climate Science Undergrad,
Oregon State University
(Wilkes East resident)



On September 8th, cold air aloft combined with the sun driven heating of the surface led to the atmosphere over western Oregon and southwest Washington to become unstable. This is what creates the typical showers and thundershowers we see during the spring and fall here in the Pacific Northwest.

While set ups like this are common, every so often this set up is accompanied by wind shear, the changing of wind speed or direction as you increase in height. This instability and wind shear are what allows for funnel clouds, and sometimes tornadoes to form in the Northwest.

On September 8th thundershowers developed along the I-5 corridor from Seattle to Eugene. While these storms were not particularly strong, they had minor amounts of rotation within them. Near Cornelius Pass road in western Multnomah county, a funnel cloud was spotted, and a Tornado Warning was issued for the area.

Some damage was reported at a pumpkin patch close by which was later confirmed to be from a tornado by a storm survey team. Knowing that the potential was definitely there, I decided to head into Vancouver to observe the same storm as it was crossing into Vancouver from Portland's west hills. While in Vancouver, I watched several areas of intense rotation and eventually a couple funnel clouds getting fairly close to the ground.

See **TORNADOS** Page 3



WENA Annual Election of Officers

Join your neighborhood Board.
All positions up for election!

When: Monday, Nov 11th 7PM

Where: Albertina Kerr Campus
722 NE 162nd Ave, Training Bldg

Being a Board member is a great opportunity and experience for any neighbor, whether you've been on a board before or you're considering the idea for the first time. No experience needed. Participation is

Wilkes East Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Published three times a year. Over 1500 copies distributed throughout Wilkes East.

The Wilkes East Neighborhood Association (WENA) is a non-profit organization in Gresham, Oregon. Deadline for submission is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Submit material to info@wilkeeastna.org. WENA reserves all rights, and all copy may be edited for clarity and length. Download a PDF of this newsletter online at: www.wilkeeastna.org/newsletter.htm.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Chair **Kris Freiermuth**
chair@wilkeeastna.org
- Vice Chair **(Vacant)**
vicechair@wilkeeastna.org
- Secretary **Gail Voge**
secretary@wilkeeastna.org
- Treasurer **Billy Simmons**
treasurer@wilkeeastna.org
- Land Use **Greg Hartung**
Kris Freiermuth
landuse@wilkeeastna.org
- At-Large **Bob Lundbom**
webmaster@wilkeeastna.org
Juanita Null
member2@wilkeeastna.org

BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30PM. See wilkeeastna.org for details.

CONTACT US

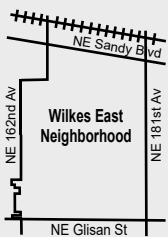
Email: info@wilkeeastna.org.
Postal Mail: 17104 NE Oregon, Portland OR 97230

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get involved. Let us know how you'd like to help. Email info@wilkeeastna.org for details.

SPECIAL THANKS

- The Wilkes East Neighborhood newsletter is funded, in part, through a generous grant from the [City of Gresham](#).
- Printing by [Print Results Inc.](#) 503-287-9566
- Meeting: [Albertina Kerr](#), 722 NE 162nd Av, Training Bldg (center north on campus)



Dear Neighbors • a message from your WENA President

It doesn't seem possible, but here it is the first of October. Our usual rain, sunshine & the changing of the colors of trees is always pleasant; however it means we must say goodbye to our summer days.

Greg Hartung Co-Chair of Land-Use has written an in depth article in this issue regarding Land-Use projects presently on the table, so please check it out. We again remind you when attending any Planning Meetings regarding code changes or Plan Presentations to go with photos and/or petitions supporting your concerns.

For those of you unable to attend our August Public Meeting at Columbia View Park we can report a moderately good attendance with many suggestions & ideas discussed. Tina Osterink, and the representatives from the Gresham Park Division did a great job in preparing for the meeting! At present the City of Gresham Parks Division does not have monies available for any major projects; however we are hoping to apply for a grant to provide a walking/running path particularly to address those using strollers, wheelchairs/walkers, etc. The path would not infringe into the center of the park property, but would be along the perimeter. We need a plan first, approval from the Park Division, and then we can apply for a grant. If you work for a company who matches grants for projects for children, seniors, wellness or parks, please let us know so we may apply for a grant from them.

Kevin Dalgren the Community Health Services Advisor for the City also brought us up to date regarding the "25 Hr. Program for Assisting the Homelessness." It was a great

presentation as well as a fantastic program, which is working! Kevin hit the ground running and is as good as his word. Upon returning home, I received a call and an urgent e-mail from a young woman needing assistance. I referred her to Kevin and he was right on it the same evening. BIG THANKS from the young woman and our community!

November is election month! Without an active board & support members to represent our community Wilkes East will not have any say in what goes on in our neighborhood. IS THAT SOMETHING WE WANT - NO! Consider running for office or serving on a committee, such as Land-Use. Know what is going on & make a difference.

Again & always, we continue to ask for articles to include in the WENA newsletter. All it takes is 400-500 words or even less. Send your material "print ready" to: rglundbom@aol.com. The newsletter is published the end of February, July & October so they are delivered prior to our public meetings in March, August & November. The deadline for articles is the 10th of February, July & October.

DATES for your Calendar:

- Monday Nov 11th WENA's Public Meeting 7PM Albertina-Kerr Campus Bldg. "H".
- Thank You to all who donate their time & energy in making Wilkes East a better community.

Hope to see you on the 11th of November!

Your Neighbor,

Kristen Freiermuth

LAND-USE ACTIVITY

By Greg Hartung

Our Wilkes East Neighborhood has been very busy with new land use items. Here are some of recent items our WENA board members have been presented with:

- **Project 2190345.00** named MAJ 181st Phase 2, construction of 2400 sf speculative drive through and 4600 SF multi-tenant retail buildings. Property location along NE 181st, abuts north side of UP rail line and I-84 in Gresham.
- **Pre-app 19-2600326** EastRose Fellowship Church, property address 1120 NE 179th Ave Portland Or, 97230. Residential building used as community services and church, returning to the special use review to all said property, a residence, to be considered community service land use under City of Gresham code.
- **Pre-app 19-2600269** Fairman LLC, Property at 17090 NE San Rafael St Portland Or,

97230. Proposal to build 45000 Sq. Ft Warehouse with truck parking, 6 loading docks and 25 additional car parking spaces. Proposal plans on keeping existing buildings.

- **Pre-app 19-2600238** Albertina Kerr Centers Property Addresses: 930 NE 162nd and 722-876 NE 162nd Ave Portland. Proposal to build 150-unit affordable apartment building (30 units @ 30% AMI, 102 units @ 60% AMI and 15 units 80% AMI. Proposed: 4 story, 45-foot-tall double loaded corridor building with a mix of unit sizes, total 92428 sq. ft. This project will include the removal of the Wynne Wyatt School Building.
- Notice of public hearing, file number **HLA 19-2600290** Type III Review for proposed alteration of the Zimmerman House Historic Landmark by removing the Buttery Building. The date for the public hearing was Oct 3rd ,2019 at 09:30 am at Gresham City Council Chambers.

See **LAND-USE** (Page 4)

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www.rideconnection.org

Happening's At Nadaka Nature Park & Garden

By Grace Graham,

Interim Nadaka Park Coordinator



After a summer full of gardening, activities, and family fun at [Nadaka Nature Park](#), the hustle and bustle has settled just long enough for us to reflect on summer's challenges and triumphs, and gear up for the start of our fall and winter seasons. In the coming months, [Friends of Nadaka](#) is excited to engage our community in a variety of habitat restoration events, plantings, educational opportunities, and service-learning programs. We invite all of our friends and neighbors to participate in our upcoming events, and hope to continue fostering an active, safe, and positive space at Nadaka Nature Park.



One of our greatest achievements of the summer was co-hosting the wildly successful "[I ♥ ROCKWOOD](#)" Festival at Nadaka Nature Park on August 17th, 2019. Over 2,500 community members, organizations, and businesses from all over East Multnomah County gathered at Nadaka for a day of celebration and service to the

Rockwood community. Nearly 60 community organizations hosted activities and informational booths, where festival attendees discovered resources available in their community, engaged in fun games and crafts, and received free services like medical screenings, clothing, books, and more. With the support of several generous sponsors and a hard-working team of volunteers, we were also able to distribute 900 bags of school supplies and backpack vouchers, and serve 1,000 free meals to folks in attendance. Children and families enjoyed nature activities, carnival games, and multicultural performances by local artists including youth from [Friends of Noise](#), [Ballet Folklórico](#), Ukrainian folk singer Natalia Baranov, and [Portland Opera a la Carte](#). A busy afternoon transformed into an evening of celebration when a second wave gathered to enjoy a free dinner provided by [La Tapatia Supermercado](#) and a high-energy concert by Portland's premier dance band, [My Happy Pill](#). We extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, all of the community partners who hosted booths and activities, and our generous sponsors and donors.

The summer's successes would not have been possible without the hard work of the East Side Nature Crew, a team of youth from [Rosemary Anderson High School](#) who came to Nadaka twice each week to help lead park maintenance projects and host field trips for younger children. They watered our newest trees, kept the weeds at bay, and engaged hundreds of kids from [Rockwood Boys & Girls Club](#) and [HB Lee Middle School](#) in games and environmental education activities. We also wish to thank our Nadaka Ambassadors, who work year-round to positively engage park users, keep children and families safe, and ensure that the picnic shelter, bathroom, and play area are kept clean for folks to enjoy. We deeply value the time and energy that all of these individuals have spent in cultivating positive experiences for Nadaka's visitors, and admire their dedication to supporting the health of this park and our community.

We recently kicked off our fall season with the Nadaka [SOLVE Clean-Up](#) on September 21st, where 30 volunteers gathered to clean out 140 pounds of garbage from Nadaka's forest, and remove 1,200 square feet of invasive plants. What an accomplishment! Our stewardship season will continue with the annual [No Ivy Day](#) event on October 26th, followed by a [Friends of Trees](#) Nadaka Planting event on November 23rd. If you are interested in connecting with your community, getting involved with our habitat restoration work, or simply looking for opportunities to fulfill community service hours, please join us for one of these upcoming volunteer events! For those more interested in our educational opportunities, we invite you to attend our Fall Bird Walk with the [Audubon Society of Portland](#) on October 12th, and our Native Plants Workshop hosted in partnership with [East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District](#) on November 9th. More details and registration information can be found online at www.friendsofnadaka.org/events.

The start of fall also means the start of our service learning programs with groups from HB Lee Middle School and [Centennial Park School](#). Every week, students from these schools help us progress towards our habitat restoration goals by planting native shrubs and removing invasive plants, while also learning about stewardship, natural resource conservation, and wildlife through fun, hands-on activities. If you see us working outside during your next visit to Nadaka, be sure to thank these students for their hard work and dedication in keeping the park healthy, safe, and beautiful.

To learn more about the events and programs going on at Nadaka Nature Park, please sign up to receive our monthly electronic newsletter through our website, or by using the following link: <http://eepurl.com/gb1A2r>. You can also stay up-to-date by "liking" our page on [Facebook @NadakaNaturePark](#), following our Instagram account [@nadakanaturepark](#), or visiting our website at www.friendsofnadaka.org. If you have questions about any Friends of Nadaka events, news, or programs, please email info@friendsofnadaka.org. Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you at Nadaka soon! ■

TORNADOS (Page 1)

After reporting those to the National Weather Service, a tornado warning was issued for the area. It appears the funnel clouds in Clark County did not cause any damage, so officially a tornado did not occur.

While the weather can be fascinating, it can also be dangerous. My intentions when watching storms are mainly to report any dangerous weather to the National Weather Service and just observe and capture the true power of the atmosphere.

It's important to stay weather aware. Whether its tornadoes, windstorms, or a pesky snow event, always have a way to receive safety information from local agencies. This can be done by having a weather radio, following agencies on social media, watching or listening to TV or radio, or having emergency alerts turned on within your smartphone settings. If you are interested in reporting weather, the [National Weather Service](#) offers free [Skywarn](#) spotter classes in the fall and spring. Information on those classes can be found at: (weather.gov/pqr/Skywarn). For forecasts I recommend viewing forecast information from the [National Weather Service in Portland](#) and local TV news, as these are curated by meteorologists with lots of knowledge and experience with weather in our area.

For those wanting real-time information, several neighbors have their personal weather stations broadcasting to the internet. The one I personally upkeep on 168th can be viewed at (<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KORPORTL1206>). Please enjoy the weather, but always be mindful of it! ■

LAND-USE (Page 2)

• **Pre-app 19-26000310** PAM Chalet Homes, property at 845 NE 181st Avenue, Portland, Or 97230. Proposed construction of two three-story buildings that contains 17 apartment units in Building 1 and 12 units in Building 2. Also proposed is a 50 spaces on-site parking lot, 10 on-street parking spaces and a 2,750 sq. ft. public open space courtyard. The existing duplex on site will remain as the four existing parking spaces from the duplex. Proposed entrance to the site will be from NE 179th Ave south from NE Pacific St.

More information on these land use project can be obtained by calling 503-618-2845 to speak with a submissions coordinator or email ePlanReview@GreshamOregon.gov. ■

KERR (Page 1)

The remaining 30 units will target individuals with IDD who can live independently and are extremely low-income (0%-30% AMI.) Through our experience serving children and young adults with IDD in residential group homes, we have learned that securing independent housing is extremely difficult.

People with IDD need specialized units to promote self-sufficiency. Common needs include sound proofing, kitchen and bathroom modifications to accommodate a wheelchair, and other accessibility changes. Units with these modifications are frequently unaffordable. Units that are affordable do not have the proper modifications and cannot be made by the individual because they are cost prohibitive to someone earning 0%-30% AMI. The 30 units in this project set aside for extremely low-income people with IDD will be built with this population in mind and will include modifications to help promote housing stability. (ED: This project will remove the now closed [Wynne Watts School](#) built in 1936 to serve the students who lived at the Louise Home Residential Facility for girls.) ■

Update: A Playground For Kirk Park



News from North Gresham Neighborhood

With the help of many neighborhood, government, business and community members, Kirk Park in North Gresham is very close to the point where it will finally have a playground.

The North Gresham Neighborhood Association (NGNA) held a rally at Kirk Park on Thursday, September 19 to drum up support and pass along information about what is proposed as well as the current project status. Wood Village Fred Meyer's generously provided Gatorade, soft drinks, fruit and snacks, and the city of Gresham loaned out their party trailer with tables, sound speakers, and lawn games. About 150 adults and 50 children stopped by to visit with their neighbors and share their enthusiasm for this fun and important venture. The community really came together with the city to make a difference in our neighborhood.

Once the anticipated funding has been received the playground should be completed by the end of the year, and a day will be planned (hopefully in November) for neighbors to help assemble the structure (under supervision from the vendor and the city maintenance team). In addition to the basic equipment,

the money expected will allow the play area to include toddler swings and ADA-compliant activities as well; the playground will truly be one all kids in the neighborhood can enjoy.

Many, many people have been involved in this effort! Sue Bidwell from Pella Windows worked with her company to provide our anchor grant which got the ball rolling. Tina Osterink, Natural Resources Planner for the City of Gresham, has been invaluable; she's been the main contact with city government and has kept this project moving, in addition to actively working to secure funding. Gresham City Councilors Jerry Hinton, David Widmark and past Councilor Kirk French helped get the playground back on the city's park master plan. Joe Walsh, Senior Manager for Neighborhood Prosperity & Youth Engagement, facilitated work with Active Children Portland to manage grant funding. Michael Gonzales from the Office of Community Engagement sent the invitations to surrounding neighbors and arranged for the party trailer. And, of course, our neighbors who showed their support by coming to the association meetings, showing up at the rally, signing the petition, and passing the word. The NGNA would like to sincerely thank everyone who has participated in this years-long effort and helped make the playground at Kirk Park a reality. ■



WENA Annual Election of Officers

Join your neighborhood Board.

All positions up for election!

To join the Board, simply show up Monday Nov 11, 7pm and nominate yourself! Get involved. Make a difference!

Albertina Kerr, 722 NE 162nd Ave • Training Bldg

Our Holiday Wish To You

This holiday season take the time to give thanks for all that's good in your own life -- and to give to others who may not share the same good fortune.

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season!

A yellow sticky note pinned with a red pushpin. The text on the note reads: 'Save the Date! Wilkes East Neighborhood Fall Meeting Monday, November 11th, 7-9PM Albertina Kerr • 722 NE 162nd Av Training Bldg (center north on campus) • Albertina Kerr Workforce Housing • Preparedness, City of Gresham • WENA Board Elections See you there !'

Have You Signed Up? Nextdoor.com is the neighborhood-centric social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online. And it's free! Sign-up today!

