



Wilkes East Neighborhood Newsletter

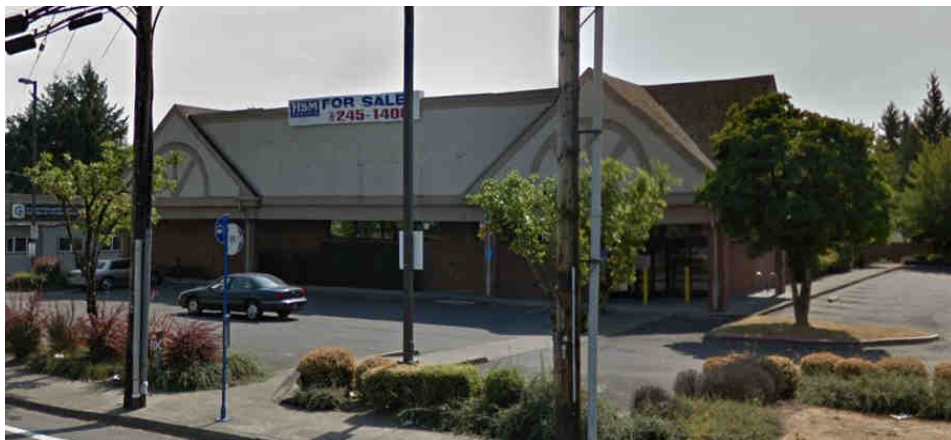
"Diversity, Harmony, Community - Together we can make a difference!"

Gresham, Oregon USA

PO Box 536 • Fairview, OR 97024

Summer 2018

Life Change Church Moving Into Former Walgreens Pharmacy At 162nd & Glisan



Life Change Church new Gresham location at 162nd & NE Glisan Street. (Formerly Walgreen's pharmacy)

Instead of pills, those who enter the old Walgreen's pharmacy at 162nd and NE Glisan will now receive prayer.

[Life Change Church](#), a north Portland-based church located on North Williams Avenue, has purchased the former Walgreen's pharmacy property at 16200 NE Glisan Street this past June. Life Change Church pastor Dr. Mark Strong worked with a variety of partners to reach a final deal, and has now begun construction to remodel the 13,000 sq foot building constructed in 1997.

Dr. Strong is thrilled with the new location. He smiles "We are here because of many miracles. We want to learn from those who are already here, find our place and walk hand-in-hand with them." He chuckles, "I already know it will be God's timing and not ours."

Both volunteers and construction companies will be used for the remodel as the funds are raised. A move-in date is still uncertain, but Dr. Strong is hopeful that enough of the remodel will be done for a Fall 2018 start. To learn more visit their website at www.LifeChangeChurch.org ■

Goodbye Wilkes Elementary



We are making a mess... and cleaning it up!

Demolition of the old Wilkes Elementary School at 169th & NE Wilkes Rd is well underway as the Reynolds School District prepares to make playgrounds and parking lots for the brand new school opening to students on September 4th!

wilkeseastna.org

The old 35,000 sq foot school built in 1938 served the district for 80 years.

SAVE THE DATE
Wilkes Elementary School
Grand Opening Celebration
Tuesday August 21st • 6-7pm

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

Mark Your Calendar!
Wilkes East Neighborhood

Summer Meeting
August 13th • 7PM

Albertina Kerr Campus, Training Bldg
722 NE 162nd Ave

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Walgreen's 162nd Has A New Purpose
- Wilkes Elementary Grand Opening 8/21
- Diaz Named New Superintendent RSD
- Happenings at Nadaka Nature Park
- First Day of School Schedules
- Old School Furniture - Where It Went

Danna Diaz, Reynolds School District's New Superintendent



Reynolds School District is pleased to announce that Dr. Danna Diaz has started as the new Superintendent beginning Monday, July 2, 2018.

Dr. Diaz was chosen as the new Superintendent after an exhaustive nationwide search earlier this spring. She holds a Doctorate in Philosophy in Education Administration from The University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree in Pre-School Education from University of Houston-Clear Lake, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Prior to joining Reynolds School District, she was Superintendent of Schools for San Juan Island School District in Friday Harbor, WA for the last three years. Before working with San Juan Island School District, she was Assistant Superintendent at El Paso Independent School District (20,000 students), Director of Student Engagement at Fort Worth Independent School District (80,000 students), Regional Superintendent at the School District of Philadelphia (130,000 students), Statewide Technical Assistance Provider at Dallas Independent School District (157,000 students) and Richard Milburn Academy, and Governor's Initiative Education Specialist at Region 13 Education Service Center (386,700 students) in Austin, TX. She also was Elementary Principal in Round Rock, TX, District Bilingual Coordinator in La Porte, TX, and bilingual elementary teacher in Houston, TX and Pasadena, TX.

See **REYNOLDS** Page 2

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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@wilkeaseastna.org. WENA reserves all rights, and all copy may be edited for clarity and length. Download a PDF of this newsletter online at: www.wilkeaseastna.org/newsletter.htm.

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Kris Friermuth
chair@wilkeaseastna.org
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 Juanita Null
member2@wilkeaseastna.org

BOARD MEETINGS

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

CONTACT US

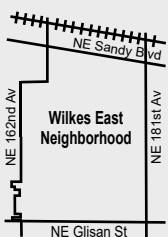
Email: info@wilkeaseastna.org
 Postal Mail: PO Box 536 • Fairview, OR 97024

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get involved. Let us know how you'd like to help. Email info@wilkeaseastna.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 hall: Albertina Kerr, 722 NE 162nd Av, Training Bldg (center north on campus)



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Dear Neighbors • a message from your WENA President

Dear Neighbors –

I hope everyone is staying cool this summer! Here's what's happening around the neighborhood.

Land-Use: Waterside Apts has begun their land preparation at 165th & NE Halsey (former Congdon farm). We hope to have an update & timeline from the project developer before our August neighborhood meeting. Rick's Custom Fence and Decking has also been working hard on their property at 180th & NE Halsey. They're hoping to move from their current location at 201st & SE Stark to the new property by this fall. Weston Group is preparing land for 2 very large warehouses in the industrial park at NE 179th south of Sandy Blvd. Woodspring Suites (north & east of US Bank Processing Center, 181st & NE Sandy Blvd) has a good start to be completed by the end of summer or early fall. Marriott Hotel at NE 180th & Sandy Blvd has begun their land preparation. My Place Hotel (179th & NE Sacramento) had their first meeting with us on May 15th. Their project is much smaller than the 2 larger hotels they will be between. Oregon-Idaho Steel Workers Training Center's parking lot at 179th & NE Sacramento is 90% completed. The new Wilkes Elementary School at 169th & NE Wilkes Road is on track to open for student on Sept 4th! And a new project for a multi-family development located at 819 & 845 NE

181st is proposed. This project will require access from 179th & NE Pacific, which is a dead-end at present.

Good news! WENA has been approved for a matching grant from the City of Gresham. Thank you City of Gresham Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement (ONCE)! These monies help us to continue the printed newsletter. Some of you receive a digital copy of the newsletter; however, many residents still prefer to receive the newsletter in printed form.

Help! Please consider becoming active for your community. Join our board. Remember if we don't have a neighborhood association we have no idea what's going on at City Hall and how their plans will impact our neighborhood.

SAVE THE DATE: Monday August 13th 7pm, WENA's Summer Public Meeting, Albertina-Kerr, 722 NE 162nd, Training Building. You can easily reach this location from NE 165th, 3 blocks north of NE Glisan. There is plenty of off-street parking. Look for our signs!

Thank you to all who donate their time and energy in making Wilkes East a better community!

See you around the neighborhood!

Your Neighbor,

Kristen Friermuth

REYNOLDS (Page 1)

"I am excited to be joining Reynolds School District to serve as your Superintendent," said Dr. Diaz. With her recent move to a home within the district, she continued, "I am proud to become a member of this thriving, diverse community and look forward to meeting with students, parents, and neighboring business partners over the summer months to work together in moving the district forward and serving all students of Reynolds School District."

We wish Dr. Diaz great success! ■

Start your Neighborhood Watch

It's a great way to know your neighbors. Reduces crime. And most important, it works! Visit: <https://greshamoregon.gov/Neighborhood-Ready/> for details. ■

GOT A STORY TO SHARE?

If you've got an interesting story you'd like to share email it to: info@wilkeaseastna.org ■

My Place Hotel Coming to West Gresham



At the intersection of NE 178th and NE Sacramento, a 63 unit My Place Hotel is slated to begin development and hopes to be under construction by year end. This will be the 6th location in the Pacific Northwest (Anchorage, Ketchikan, Bend, Spokane, Pasco) with plans for many more. This affordable hotel offers travelers a comfortable, modern room at a fair price. Pet friendly and furnished for the extended stay guest, this hotel will be a great addition to the visitors whose travels bring them to the Greater Portland area. ■

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Happening's At Nadaka Nature Park & Gardens

By Monica McAllister, Nadaka Park Coordinator



Summer is in full swing at Nadaka Nature Park! The garden is bursting with fresh veggies, tasty berries, and beautiful flowers. The forest offers a shady oasis to wildlife and people to relax while the play area and shelter are bustling with children and families enjoy. The past few months 'Friends of Nadaka' (FON) has been hard at work providing environmental education activities, community events, and stewardship opportunities for our neighbors, schools, and partnering organizations.

One new program we are thrilled to have at Nadaka is the [Summer Kids In The Park](#) (SKIP) program with the City of Gresham in partnership with the [Boys & Girls Club](#). The program offers free fun activities and sack lunches for kids ages 18 and younger; no registration required. Nadaka Nature Park, Main City Park, and Red Sunset Park are the three sites for this year's programming that began June 18th and will run through summer until August 17th (<https://greshamoregon.gov/Summer-Kids-in-the-Park/>). At Nadaka Nature Park, programming times are Monday through Friday 12 PM to 2 PM and on Wednesdays and Thursdays, the Nadaka Park Coordinator and Nadaka interns host environmental or garden activities for families learn and explore. This is a wonderful program for the whole family and we hope to see you there soon!

Looking later into the summer, we are excited to host the **Eighth Annual Nadaka Nature Park Festival** that will take place **August 18th from 12-3pm**. This family friendly event will include a visit from the [Audubon Society of Portland's Education Birds](#), free hot dogs and drinks, crafts, games, face painting, dance and music performances. Various partnering organizations will have information booths and fun hands on activities for the whole family. We would love to have volunteers from the Wilkes East neighborhood to help with the event. If you are interested please contact Monica, the Nadaka Coordinator.

Another great way to get involved at Nadaka is to help restore a healthy habitat at Nadaka Nature Park with [SOLVE for the Beach and Riverside Cleanup](#) event on **September 29th 9-12pm!** We will be removing invasive species such as English ivy & Himalayan blackberry from the forest. Other activities include: native shrub and ground cover planting, litter cleanup, and working in the community garden. Tools, gloves, training and light refreshments will be provided. Dress to work in natural areas: long pants, brimmed hat, and closed-toe sturdy shoes. Please bring a water bottle and a friend! Businesses, schools and community groups are welcome. This event is a great way to give back to the community and meet others in the neighborhood with similar interests. To register for the event, visit www.friendsofnadaka.org.

For those bird watchers out there, we will be having a **Fall Migration Bird Walk** with the [Audubon Society of Portland](#) **Saturday, September 22nd at 9 AM-10 AM**. Meet us at the picnic

wilkeseastna.org

shelter to borrow binoculars, bird guides, and enjoy light refreshments. We will have translators for Spanish speakers and bi-lingual birding cards to use! Since the start of March, we have been hosting free hands on gardening workshops once a month in the garden with Outgrowing Hunger as a follow-up to our **Free Seed to Supper Workshops** with [Oregon Food Bank](#) and OSU Extension Service this past winter. The **last three workshops will be held Thursday evenings 5:30 -7:00 PM on July 19th, August 23rd and September, 20th**. Workshop topics are ["Garden Trouble Shooting"](#), ["Harvesting Your Bounty"](#) & ["Shutting Down the Garden"](#) respectively. To save your spot, contact Adam Kohl at 971-231-4191 or adam@outgrowinghunger.org.

This past spring season has been full of wonderful community events with various partner organizations! Audubon Society of Portland to host the annual "Welcome Back Vulture Day" with Friends of Nadaka at [St. Aidan's Episcopal Church](#). Backyard Habitat Certification Program hosted a Native Plant Swap in the Nadaka/St. Aidan's parking lot, and we hosted the City of Gresham's Great Business Green Coffee Hour at Nadaka which you can read more about in the Gresham Outlook article here: <https://portlandtribune.com/go/42-news/397302-291252-sustainability-thrives-at-nadaka-nature-park>.

Garden workshops were popular this year as we hosted an English, Spanish, and Russian "Seed to Supper" Workshop series. The Seed to Supper curriculum, was adapted to be culturally specific for the Latinx & Russian communities and led by Isabel & Lilya respectively. Lilya has been a gardener at Nadaka for at least two years and had previously attended the Seed to Supper Workshop that was in English but had a Russian translator. Both of them attended the Oregon Food Bank/OSU Extension Service's training to become one of their Ambassadors/teachers for their communities. We were also excited to host a Pollinator Workshop in Spanish with [East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District](#) and taught by Celeste Mazzacano.

The Annual "Great Thou Art Camp" with St. Aidan's Episcopal Church was held July 9th through 13th. The Nadaka Coordinator (NC) and Nadaka Interns hosted a bilingual Nature Discovery Days the park for moms and children under the age of seven with Wood Elementary "Ready, Set, Go" program. We have also been working with the [Human Solutions](#) Apartment complexes and general community to provide environmental education, stewardship opportunities, and a safe place for students to explore and play both in the classroom and at the park. Private stewardship events include working with US Bank volunteers and Portland Adventist Academy.

The community showed tremendous support for Nadaka this year by helping out with multiple cleanup and restoration events at the park. [Friends of Trees](#) staged their Rockwood Neighborhood planting event at Nadaka before heading into the community to plant new trees

(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/29140037@N03/sets/72157692588293422>). The Annual SOLVE It for Earth Day Cleanup at Nadaka was a huge success with many neighbors joining in to lend a hand to do some spring cleaning in the forest and garden (<https://pamplinmedia.com/go/42-news/393531-285761-community-helps-clean-up-nadaka-park>). This year Nadaka was lucky to host the "Stand Together" Cleanup with the Timbers, Thorns, Hands On Portland, City of Gresham, SOLVE and community members. These amazing partners and neighbors were able to clear a ton of blackberries, weeds, and mulch new plants and trees from our previous restoration events. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers, ambassadors, interns, and partners for making Nadaka a beautiful and safe space for the community!

See **NADAKA** Page 4

NADAKA (Page 3)

We wanted to give a special shout out to our wonderful Nadaka Ambassadors, two [SummerWorks](#) Interns, and 9 [STRIVE](#) Team members who have been amazing at keeping the park clean, safe, and connecting with the community about upcoming events. The Nadaka intern team has been leading environmental education, doing stewardship, gardening, and outreach activities at the park since June. This wonderful group of young professionals are making a huge difference in the neighborhood and gaining experience for future job opportunities. The work they are doing and leadership in this community is inspirational. Here is an article by Christopher Keizur from the Gresham Outlook about the ambassador program: <https://pamplinmedia.com/go/42-news/398546-292834-natural-ambassadors->. Please stop by the park and tell everyone what a wonderful job they are doing. Friends of Nadaka is able to providing the programming we do in the summer thanks to them!

You can also join us to create a positive social and environmental change in the Wilkes East and Rockwood community. For more information, volunteer opportunities, and Nadaka updates, please visit www.friendsofnadaka.org, "Friends of Nadaka" on Facebook, or wilkeseastna.org. For donations or connecting about partnerships, please contact Monica at monica@friendsofnadaka.org or call at 503-956-8558. Help us fulfill our mission to nurture nature, food, and families in West Gresham. We look forward to seeing everyone at the park this summer! ■

SAVE THE DATE

Reynolds High School
Renovation Celebration
Thursday • August 23, 2018 • 6-7pm

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Reynolds High School

8:10AM-3:13PM

Sept 4: Grade 9

Sept 5: Grade 10-12

Reynolds Learning Academy

8:40AM-3:45PM

Sept 4: New Students

Sept 5: Returning Student

H.B.Lee Middle School

7:30AM-2:15PM

Sept 4: Grade 6

Sept 5: Grade 7-8

Wilkes Elementary School

8:15AM-2:45PM

Sept 4: Grade 1-5

REYNOLDS
GIVES BACK

Furniture not reserved for use at the new schools or elsewhere within the district was donated through IRN, an organization that works with nonprofits to have surplus furnishings and equipment diverted from landfills and reused for disaster and poverty relief.

Reynolds
School District



WHERE DID IT GO?

1. San Salvador, El Salvador
2. Port au Prince, Haiti
3. N'Djamena, Chad
4. Bujumbura, Burundi

WHAT WAS DONATED?



714
desks



144
tables



203
book cases



1,370
chairs



61
filing cabinets

