



Neighborhood Cleanup Collects 9 Tons of Waste and Brings Neighbors Together!

By Greg Hartung, WENA Board Member

Wilkes East Neighborhood Cleanup event was held on May 10, 2025 at the [Moose Lodge](#). The day marked the much-anticipated neighborhood cleanup—an event that, thanks to the collective effort of residents, local organizations, and Metro officials — would become a resounding success, leaving a lasting impact on our community's environment and spirit.

Every great accomplishment is rooted in thoughtful preparation, and this year's cleanup was no exception. Planning began months in advance. Flyers were hand-delivered to residents, newsletters detailed the event's objectives: to provide a place to bring bulky waste that normally would not have been able to place in a garbage can. The event was free to all, to help all residents clear their yards, homes, and garages of no longer-needed items. Donations were collected to help offset the expenses.

The planning committee — comprised of residents, young and old, representatives from the neighborhood association, Moose Lodge, [Metro](#), and [Waste Management](#). Metro provided grant money for the dumpsters. The Moose Lodge provided the location and refreshments.

More than 5 tons of bulky waste were collected. Additionally, another 4 tons of scrap metal were diverted to local recyclers.

One of the defining features of the cleanup was the diverse collaboration it fostered. Residents who had rarely exchanged more than a passing wave now worked side by side, sharing stories and laughter as they



Free Neighborhood Clean Up Event held May 10, 2025

tackled shared tasks. Yet the true impact of the cleanup reached beyond the day's visible results. Neighbors, once strangers, now felt a sense of camaraderie forged through shared effort. Throughout the day, conversations among participants revealed a deepened appreciation for both the neighborhood and those who call it home. One resident, originally hesitant to join, was inspired by the sight of so many coming together.

Plans are already underway for next year's cleanup, with organizers eager to build on this year's momentum. Suggestions have poured in. If you would like to donate your time and energy for next year's plans, you can drop us a line at info@wilkeseastna.org. We welcome ideas and volunteers.

The legacy of this year's cleanup will live on, not just in the tidy streets and blooming gardens, but in the friendships, goodwill, and renewed sense of belonging it inspired.

For cleanup photos and more visit: <https://www.wilkeseastna.org/node/3750> ■

Did You Know? Avocados are actually fruits, not vegetables

Boosting Support for New Parents

By Alma Landon, Wilkes East Neighbor

Great news for families in our community! Senate Bill 692, which focuses on expanding access to maternal health services, has been enrolled. This bill aims to make it easier for new and expecting parents to get the support they need, including services like doula care and lactation consultations, with a special focus on making sure these services are culturally specific and competent.

As a mother / doula with native roots, I understand how challenging it can be to find culturally specific services. That's why I'm

passionate about supporting our community with knowledge and education, and I'm excited to share this important update with you all!

For more information please visit: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Masures/Analysis/SB692> ■

Se Habla
Español



Did You Know? 11% of people are left-handed

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill" Analysis and Impact on Gresham
- Wilkes East Neighborhood CleanUp
- Boosting Support for New Parents



Wilkes East Land-Use Update

By Greg Hartung,
WENA Board Member, Land-use Co-Chair

Hello, members of our Wilkes East Neighborhood Association.

The Wilkes East Neighborhood Association board regularly receives land use plans from the City of Gresham to notify us of land use projects within or near to the Wilkes East neighborhood boundaries.

PRE-25-00061 Location: [17905 NE Glisan St.](#)

This is a pre-application for proposed development of a food cart pod for 18 carts, 40 x 80 indoor seating area, while retaining the existing house. Narrative: "The lot contains approximately 0.63 acres and is relatively flat, with an elevation of approximately 251 feet near the south line adjacent to NE Glisan Street. The owner wants to develop the site with 18 food carts and a 3,200-square-foot covered dining area in the center, as shown on the Preliminary Site Plan included. The project also includes 9 parking spaces, the required utilities, including stormwater management will be part of the project. A 20-foot-wide driveway provides access to the property from NE Glisan Street.

DR-24-00679 Location: [Pape Properties, 17217 NE Sandy Blvd.](#) Ditch Witch Outdoor Storage and lot line adjustment. The proposal adds 49,000 square feet of outside graveled storage yard to be used by Ditch Witch for outdoor equipment storage and designates a separate lot to the east for future development. ■

Mark Your Calendar!

Wilkes East Neighborhood

Summer 2025 Meeting

August 11th • 7PM

Moose Lodge • 16411 NE Halsey

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

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BOARD MEETINGS

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

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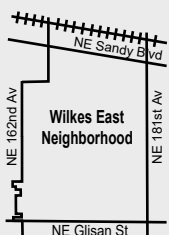
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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

SPECIAL THANKS

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- Printing by Hush Ink / Print Results. 971-279-4960



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Dear Neighbors • a message from your WENA President

My column is short to make space for Janet Unruh's evaluation of the impact of new laws in Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill" (OBBACT). I recommend having a pad, pencil and highlight marker handy before you begin reading.

Be sure to check out Greg Hartung's article on the Wilkes East Neighborhood Cleanup event held May 10, 2025 at the Moose Lodge. Please know—you really made it great! We used a portion of the monies from the event donation jar to assist the Moose Lodge with part of their insurance deductible after the July 9, 2025 early morning fire.

Our August 2025 Meeting speakers are: Jan Hann, President Gresham Outdoor Public Art;

Janet Unruh, Secretary, Wilkes East Neighborhood Association.

Thank you! to all of our neighborhood association volunteers and your over-the-top volunteerism—an incredible 850 hours! No other Gresham neighborhood association came close.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Summer 2025 Wilkes East Neighborhood meeting Monday, Aug 11, 2025, 7PM at the Moose Lodge, 16411 NE Halsey. Cold drinks and snacks will be served. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Your Neighbor & Friend,

Kristen Freiermuth

The Big, Beautiful Bill and Its Impact on Gresham

By Janet Unruh, WENA Board Member

BIG PICTURE

The One Big, Beautiful Bill Act (BBB) was signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025. It covers a wide array of changes to laws, subsidies, and taxes. This article presents facts that have a bearing on how the BBB will affect us in Oregon, Multnomah County, and Gresham. I read parts of the BBB, but relied on articles from respected sources that were written after it became law (see Endnotes). We need to get acquainted with the facts about the BBB and its implications.

In this article:

- The Poor in Oregon, Multnomah County, and Gresham
- Changes to SNAP
- Changes to Medicaid
- New 80-Hour-per-Month Work Rules
- Maximum Income to Retain Benefits
- If a Parent Misses the 80-hour Rule
- What's the Impact on Kids?
- Some Seniors May Have to Go Back to Work
- The Burden on Oregon
- Impossible to Implement
- Conclusion

The changes to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will negatively affect millions of Americans. SNAP will be cut by \$230 billion over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)—about a 20% reduction. This is the largest cut to SNAP in history. On the national level, it will affect more than 40 million people who receive basic food assistance through SNAP, including 16 million children, 8 million seniors, and 4 million non-elderly adults with disabilities[1][2]. Medicaid will be cut by over \$1 trillion over the next 10 years, and changes to federally funded health insurance programs will leave nearly 12 million people

without coverage, according to an estimate from the CBO[3][4].

What about the new tax breaks, you may ask? Tax breaks are nice, but most people won't see the benefit until sometime next year—after they do their taxes. In the meantime, things are changing for the worse. Refunds may come before the midterms—or they may not—depending on whether the IRS's work is snarled by layoffs[5].

THE POOR IN OREGON, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, AND GRESHAM

Let's look at the size of the population that will be affected by BBB cuts. It's possible to find the extent of poverty and financial hardship in Oregon, Multnomah County, and Gresham. What percent of people are living in poverty—the poor? There are recent data from 2023 and 2025. According to 2023 data for the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), 12% of Oregon households were living in poverty[6][7]. However, there are an additional 30% of households in Oregon that are not identified as living in poverty, but nonetheless struggle to pay for utilities or a car repair, and are forced to decide between food or prescriptions[8].

These households are Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed—"ALICE[9]"—households with working adults whose income is above the poverty level, but who don't earn enough to afford basic expenses in the county where they live. Between ALICE households and those living in poverty, an estimated 42% of households in Oregon were below the ALICE Threshold in 2023.

Using the ALICE website, we can focus on demographics about poverty in Gresham. Households living below the ALICE threshold in Gresham and nearby areas: 97230, 55%; 97233, 66%; 97236, 56%. 97024, 54%; 97030, 60%; and 97080, 38%[10]. Other data show the demographics of poor families in Gresham as married-couple families (34.6%); male, no wife (11.7%); and female, no husband (53.7%)[11]

BBB (Page 3)

Did You Know? The average person blinks 14 to 17 times per minute

BBB (Page 2)

There's still one more data point on poverty. In 2023, 7% of Gresham residents were living on an income below 50% of the poverty level. In 2025, 100% of the monthly federal poverty level for a three-person household is: \$2,221; for a household of four, 2,679; and for five, \$3,138[12].

CHANGES TO SNAP

Now, let's look at the demographics of SNAP beneficiaries in Oregon. SNAP helps approximately 27% of households afford groceries. This includes children, working families, older adults, and people with disabilities. However, even with SNAP benefits, many families struggle to meet their basic needs, especially with the rising cost of food and housing. The SNAP cutbacks could impact 700,000 Oregonians who depend on the program for food security[13]. In Multnomah County, 142,603 people will be affected[14].

An increasing number of people are turning to food banks for help in Oregon and Southwest Washington. In the past five years, the total visits to those food banks increased from about 860,000 to 2.5 million. Unfortunately, the Agriculture Department ended two programs that gave schools and food banks money to buy food from local farms and ranchers, cutting over \$1 billion in federal funding[15].

"The [BBB] cuts would make this the single largest rollback of food aid in American history and would hurt Oregonians who rely on SNAP, as well as local farmers and grocers," said Oregon Representative Andrea Salinas. "The cuts would extend beyond SNAP to threaten food assistance programs like Meals on Wheels[16]."

CHANGES TO MEDICAID

Medicaid in Oregon insures about 33% of the population[17]. In Multnomah County, 35.9% of the population were Medicaid recipients as of May 2025[18]. I didn't find information specifically about Medicaid recipients in Gresham.

Medicaid covers services for about half of all births, long-term health needs, and people with disabilities. Medicaid supports hospitals, clinics, and health care providers. Under the BBB, 100,000 Oregonians could lose Medicaid coverage (some estimates are as high as 200,000), according to Emma Sandoe, Medicaid Director of the Oregon Health Authority. The bill could lead to at least \$1 billion in Medicaid cuts to Oregon in 2027 and 2029[19].

NEW 80-HOUR-PER-MONTH WORK RULES

New rules require individuals and parents to work 80 hours per month, with few exceptions. Previously, for SNAP, parents whose children were younger than 18 were not required to work. The age has now been lowered to 7. Age 7 is when children begin first grade, so the new rule apparently assumes that parents can find work that fits the school schedule. The rules have changed for Medicaid eligibility, too. Everyone who receives Medicaid benefits must now work 80 hours per month—this is new. Both requirements begin at the end of next year, on December 31, 2026[20]. Pregnant women, people with serious medical conditions, tribal members, and parents or caregivers of a dependent child aged 13 or younger—or with a disability—are exempt from the 80-hour work rule[21].

To satisfy the work requirements, recipients must work at least 80 hours per month at a job, volunteer for an approved agency, participate in a work program, or take part in an educational program, unless they're exempt[22][23].

In Gresham, nearly 70% of the adults in poor, married-couple families work full- or part-time (not shown, whether they have children). Here's a breakdown of work status for poor families: Both adults work full-time—2%. One works full-time and the other part-time—2%. One works full-time; the other doesn't work—8.9%. Both works part-time—15.7%. One works part-time; the other doesn't work—41.3%. Neither adult works—30.1%. Cases where one or both adults are not currently working will be affected by the new work requirements. This amounts to 71.4% of poor married-couple families in Gresham with or without children. Of poor residents "not in families," 4.5% worked full-time, year-round; 27.7% worked part-time; and 67.8% didn't work[24]. This last group will have to find a minimum of 80 hours of work per month.

What is the outlook for finding a job that can reliably provide 80 hours of work? As it stands, it's a challenge. In a June 10, 2025,

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national Gallup survey of U.S. workers, 27% said they face schedule unpredictability, 28% said they may have more or fewer hours, and 41% said they have little or no control over their work schedules[25].

For some people, a gig like Uber or Lyft might work because drivers get paid for the time spent giving people a ride (plus some extras), but time spent driving without passengers or waiting doesn't count. Also, the car has to be very nice and spotless. Delivery gigs like DoorDash don't pay by the hour, so they wouldn't qualify for the 80-hour-per-month requirement.

Let's take the example of a family with two parents and several kids. We'll say that the father can meet the 80-hour-per-month requirement because he works part-time in a restaurant during the day. The mother, however, may try to find some kind of employment that allows her to work between the time she sees the kids off at the school bus stop and picks them up after school. In theory, this would give her four hours per day, five days per week, which would add up to 80 hours per month. But it won't work during school holidays or summer when kids are out of school. It also doesn't work if someone in the family is sick and needs to be taken to the doctor, or if the car has to be taken to the repair shop.

To meet the 80-hour-per-month requirement, one of the parents might have to work during the day and the other in the evening or at night. I once read a story about a single mom who worked a graveyard shift (11 PM to 7 AM) so she could pay the bills and take care of her kids. After she got off from work at 7 AM, she would come home in the morning, get the kids fed and off to school, rest for a few hours, pick them up after school, make dinner, help them with homework, put them to bed and then go back to work at 11 PM. This is obviously a brutal schedule, and it could easily fall apart.

In some families, another relative may be able to help out. But the BBB legislation raises the age limit for work requirements for SNAP benefits eligibility from 55 to 64[26]. So, for example, if Grandma is 61, she will now have to work 80 hours per month, too—unless she can get a caregiver exemption. The bigger issue is, of course, where a good portion of Oregon's 1,119,407 Medicaid recipients[27] and the 774,581 SNAP recipients[28] will find work, volunteer opportunities, or part-time courses.

MAXIMUM INCOME TO RETAIN BENEFITS

Families must also not exceed the maximum income limits to qualify for benefits. If their income rises above the ceiling, they can lose their benefits.

To be eligible for Medicaid, the family income must be less than 138% of the federal poverty level. For a family of five, the monthly income limit is \$4,329.75 or less[29].

For SNAP, the household must meet both gross and net income limits. Net income is what is left after deductions such as standard deductions, dependent care costs when needed for work, training, or education; or medical expenses for elderly or disabled members. For a family of five, the maximum gross monthly income is \$3,963, and the net amount is \$3,049[30].

One parent working at the minimum wage of \$16.30 per hour in the Portland Metro area, part-time for 80 hours per month, would earn \$1,304 per month. Two parents would earn \$2608 per month. If the family of five qualifies, they may receive \$1,158 in SNAP benefits. Part-time, minimum-wage jobs would fulfill the 80-hour requirement, and keep earners below the maximum income threshold.

If an employee's income exceeds the maximum limits for Medicaid, chances are that they won't have health insurance at all. Employers aren't required to provide health insurance to anyone working fewer than 30 hours per week or 130 hours per month[31]. Employees may be able to find health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), but they must estimate their annual income—and risk having problems if they earn more or less than they anticipated.

IF A PARENT MISSES THE 80-HOUR RULE

The new BBB rules make it more likely that Medicaid and SNAP recipients will lose their benefits. I searched all over and was only able to find this information using ChatGPT-4o, which is reputed to be 88.7% accurate[32], but it may be helpful to some degree. I asked this question: What if one parent can't get 80 hours of work one month?

BBB (Page 4)

BBB (Page 4)

If one parent misses the 80-hour requirement, he or she loses Medicaid and SNAP benefits. The other parent and the children continue to be covered by Medicaid and receive SNAP food stamps, but they have less money for groceries because one parent is cut off from SNAP benefits.

What if the parent who didn't have 80 hours one month, then meets the 80-hour requirement the next month—could they get back on Medicaid and SNAP? Yes, if they can prove they now meet the 80-hour requirement, they may requalify for Medicaid. But they must reapply, or go through a reverification process, which can take weeks or even months. They will be uninsured while waiting for approval. SNAP rules allow for assistance once the parent meets the 80-hour requirement again, or if good cause or exemption is documented. They must prove the hours, go through a reapplication process, and often wait a full month for benefits to restart.

Besides the 80-hour rule, there's a new requirement of more-frequent eligibility checks, which is a review of recipients' income and work verification. Oregon will have to conduct eligibility reviews every six months, instead of every two years as is done now. Oregon has had less-frequent reviews to reduce on-and-off eligibility, which is referred to as "churn[33][34]." Churn causes people to lose coverage because of paperwork issues rather than ineligibility[35].

WHAT'S THE IMPACT ON KIDS?

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the work requirement would cut SNAP by \$92 billion through 2034 and take food assistance away entirely from 3.2 million adults in a typical month, including 800,000 parents of school-aged children. When these adults are cut off from SNAP, their entire households receive less in food benefits. Roughly 1 million children would see their food benefits cut substantially as a result[36].

When kids are enrolled in SNAP, they automatically qualify for free breakfast and lunch at school. And when a high number of kids is enrolled in SNAP, it's more financially viable for schools to provide free meals to all students. If families fall off the SNAP rolls, fewer kids will qualify for free school meals, schools will get a lower reimbursement from the federal government, and this will make it harder to cover the cost of providing free meals to all kids.

A study by the Urban Institute estimated that the House bill's cuts to SNAP would put at least 18 million students at risk of losing access to their school's or state's free school meal program, in part because parents will need to fill out applications. This may come as a surprise because, in the past, when universal free meal programs were available, this wasn't required[37].

The free school lunch program was also attacked in the Oregon legislature. Oregon lawmakers failed to pass legislation that would have required all 197 school districts to provide free breakfast and lunch for all students[38].

Other programs are tied to SNAP and Medicaid eligibility. The loss of those benefits often leads to the loss of related support. Besides losing school meals, one cutoff can cause a family to lose many other critical supports, such as help with utilities, housing aid, or internet subsidies, because they rely on "core program" eligibility[39].

Besides these losses due to attrition, another kind of funding cut has to do with the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) limits. The USDA created the TFP to be a food cost index that is used to determine maximum monthly benefits for SNAP. It accounts for food price inflation based on a market basket of goods (healthy, low-cost foods) for a family of four, which is recalculated each year.

Section 10001 of the BBB prevents updates to the cost of the TFP based on a reevaluation of the market basket and instead, ties it to the Consumer Price Index. Further, the reevaluation may not occur more frequently than every five years[40][41][42]. This restriction will prevent SNAP benefits from keeping up with rising food costs, eroding families' purchasing power over time and increasing hardship for recipients.

Cuts to Medicaid affect schools, too. In March, a group of education associations surveyed 1,400 school staffers and officials from across the U.S. about how they rely on Medicaid. Around 9 in 10 respondents said they used Medicaid to pay the salaries of school health staff, such as school nurses, psychologists, and speech therapists[43].

Note: These three sections of the article are online (link below):

- *SOME SENIORS MAY HAVE TO GO BACK TO WORK*
- *THE BURDEN ON OREGON*
- *IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT*

CONCLUSION

Millions of people in this country live in poverty. Stripping away their food, health care, and other survival benefits will lead to a precipitous disaster. As detailed earlier in this article, 42% of households in Oregon struggle to pay for necessities, 27% rely on SNAP to help buy groceries, and 33% of the population in Oregon is insured by Medicaid—35.9% in Multnomah County. The BBB threatens to push these people to the breaking point—if it can be implemented at all.

We need local governments to begin sorting out the facts and implications of the BBB, and to start working on solutions. We'd better not sleepwalk into this disaster. Time is short.

To read this full article, including the Endnotes cited visit:

<https://www.wilkeseastna.org/node/3749> ■

Defensible Space: Protecting Your Home From Wildfire

In Gresham, creating defensible space around your property is crucial for wildfire preparedness. Defensible space is a buffer zone around your home, typically extending 5–30 feet or more, where you manage vegetation to slow or halt the progress of fire that would otherwise engulf your property. This involves clearing flammable materials, pruning trees and shrubs, and maintaining a safe distance between plants.

Around the Home (0–5 feet): Focus on creating a non-combustible zone by removing dead leaves, needles, and other debris from roofs, gutters, and eaves. Replace mulch with gravel or bare soil near the foundation.

Within 30 feet: Prune trees, removing lower branches to prevent fire from climbing into the canopy. Ensure trees are spaced appropriately to prevent fire from spreading between them.

Regularly clear gutters, prune trees, and remove dead vegetation. Store firewood and other flammable materials at least 30 feet away from structures. Trim branches that overhang the home, porch, and deck. Prune branches of large trees up to six to ten feet from the ground. Keep areas near structures irrigated and moist, especially during dry periods.

By taking these steps, you can significantly reduce the risk of your home igniting during a wildfire ■



Save the Date!

**Wilkes East Neighborhood
Summer 2025 Meeting
Monday, August 11th, 7PM
Moose Lodge • 16411 NE Halsey**

- Jan Hann, Arts Group of Gresham
- Slider the Otter Returns to Nadaka
- Janet Unruh, Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill" and the impact on Gresham
- Neighborhood news and more!

See you there!

Are you signed up?
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