



Moose Lodge, Our Neighborhood Clubhouse

By Janet Unruh
WENA Board Member

The Moose Lodge is a fraternal order—a membership organization with formal rules, officers, and local chapters (often called lodges). Fraternal orders in the United States include the Freemasons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Columbus, the Elks, and many others. Decades ago, the Moose Lodge was a men-only club with initiation rituals, but over time it has opened membership to all genders, and the rituals have fallen away. Today the Lodge focuses on social, charitable, and mutual-aid activities.

The Wilkes East Neighborhood Association has been fortunate to partner with our neighborhood Moose Lodge, where we hold our public meetings. The room we use is ideal: a spacious, multipurpose room with long tables, plenty of chairs, and hookups for a microphone and a laptop to display presentations on big screens. The Lodge also permits us to hold our Spring Cleanup—where neighbors drop off household junk for disposal—in its parking lot.

And when I say "the Lodge," I also mean Steve Waters, the administrator. I



East Portland Moose Lodge #1891, 16411 NE Halsey Street

interviewed Steve and learned much more about the Lodge. He is personable and generous and was happy to talk about its activities; I scribbled notes as fast as I could. The Lodge keeps a full calendar: Sunday breakfasts, dinners, an art/painting club, a camping club, Boy and Girl Scouts, bingo, poker, pinocle, Monday Night Football (in season), and special events for kids. One of its biggest efforts is partnering with SnowCap. The Lodge also sponsors fundraisers for back-to-school supplies, the county animal shelter, Parkrose High School football equipment, Red Cross CPR classes, and many other causes. Although membership skews toward baby boomers—and many similar clubs have closed—our local Lodge is growing.

MOOSE (Page 2)

***Did You Know?** Gresham was first settled in 1851 by brothers Jackson and James Powell*

Reynolds AVID Students Deliver for Our Neighborhood

By Claudette Naylor, WENA Board Member

WENA is combining our printed newsletter delivery efforts with the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program at Reynolds High School.

There are several areas in Wilkes East which have not received our newsletter because we have too few delivery volunteers.

We contacted the AVID group at the high school, and the students who participate in this program need opportunities for community service activities.

AVID is a proven national program designed to support and assist all students to succeed in a college preparatory path for admission to universities and colleges. Students are easily identifiable because they are determined students who want to

succeed, but may need a little support focused on college-readiness skills such as note taking, test preparation, time management, etc. These are students who are capable, but fall short of their potential. The determination to succeed coupled with good attendance, a willingness to work and the ability to succeed with support earmarks these students.

AVID was founded in California in 1980, primarily to support underachieving and disadvantaged students to overcome social and academic challenges for future education. For more information, visit the AVID website: <https://www.avid.org/>

Se Habla Español



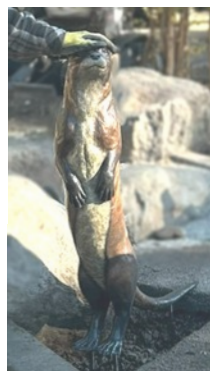
If you notice these student deliverers please welcome and thank them. Our newsletters are delivered three times a year and provide good community information. ■

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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THE OTTER RETURNS

By Janet Unruh, WENA Board Member



Good news—

Slider, the otter has returned to Nadaka Nature Park. Slider is a beautiful, life-size bronze sculpture of a standing otter, the twin of the original, that was stolen earlier this year. As luck would have it, sculptor Rip Caswell

(<https://caswellsculpture.com/>) had created two otter sculptures, almost identical in size. Judy Han, director of Gresham Outdoor Public Art, was instrumental in convincing the City of Gresham to replace the otter sculpture in Nadaka Park. There was a suggestion to place the otter in another park, but Judy prevailed. Thanks to Judy Han and the City of Gresham for restoring Slider to Nadaka Park. ■

For a complete list and downloadable map of all outdoor public art in the City of Gresham please visit

<https://www.greshamoutdoorpublicart.com/>

Mark Your Calendar!
Wilkes East Neighborhood

Fall 2025 Meeting
November 10th • 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.

CONTACT US

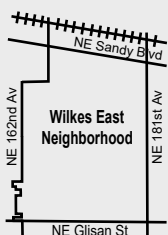
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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

SPECIAL THANKS

- The newsletter is funded in part through a generous grant from the City of Gresham.
- Printing by Hush Ink / Print Results. 971-279-4960



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Dear Neighbors • a message from your WENA President

First, thank you to Janet Unruh for her evaluation and impact of the new laws in the "One Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA), which appeared in our Summer 2025 newsletter. It was a lot of information!

Much has happened since our last general meeting. We welcome the return of the wonderful statues "Slider and Seeker" to Nadaka Park. Please know you will be so pleased when you hear our wonderful news at our upcoming meeting.

November is WENA Board elections!

Join your neighborhood Board. All positions up for election. To join the Board, simply show up to the November 10th meeting and nominate yourself! Get involved. Make a difference! Our General meetings are held the 2nd Monday of March, August, and November. Board meetings are held via Zoom the 2nd Monday of each month (excluding December). All neighbors are welcome

to attend Board meetings. Visit our website wilkeaseastna.org for the Zoom meeting link.

In order for community and neighborhood to thrive, we need participation and input from all individuals living in the Wilkes East Neighborhood. Your voices, opinions, and concerns matter.

Save the Date! Our next General meeting will be Monday, November 10th, 7:00 PM at the Moose Lodge, 16411 NE Halsey St. Please join us along with your neighbors. Our speakers will be: Jason Naumann, Rockwood Common Tool Library; and Cathy Keathly, Gresham City Councilor. Refreshments will be served, and there is plenty of parking.

I'll see you Monday night. I look forward to meeting you!

Your Neighbor & Friend,

Kristen Freiermuth



Reflections and Announcement

By Greg Hartung,

WENA Board Member, Land-use Co-Chair

Time truly flies. In 2009, I was approached by Kris Freiermuth, the WENA Chairperson, with a request to assist the Wilkes East Neighborhood Association by joining the board. I was delighted and honored to be asked, as I had never held such a position before. In November 2009, I officially became a Board Member at Large.

Over the years, I have held several positions on the board. My journey began as a Member at Large, transitioned to Secretary, then to Vice Chair, and finally I settled into the Land Use position. Throughout this time, I had the pleasure of collaborating with many talented and dedicated individuals who helped shape our neighborhood.

After careful and emotional consideration, I have decided not to seek re-election for the 2025-2026 term. I will step down from the board following this upcoming November's election.

The WENA board serves as the community's voice to the City of Gresham. My departure will leave an open position on the board. There will be a public meeting held on November 10th at the Moose Lodge. We encourage any Wilkes East resident to consider becoming a board member. This is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer your time and represent the interests of our community.

Thank you to everyone for allowing me the opportunity to serve on the WENA board. It has been a privilege to work with you all. I will always be your neighbor and your friend.

All the best, Greg Hartung ■

MOOSE (Page 1)

On the national scene, Moose International supports two residential communities:

Mooseheart is a residential childcare campus founded in 1913 by the Loyal Order of Moose. It provides a safe, structured home with K-12 education, small class sizes, vocational training, and extracurricular activities designed to prepare students for college, careers, and life. See: <https://www.mooseheart.org/>

Moosehaven is a private membership retirement community on the St. Johns River in Orange Park, Florida. Serving members age sixty-five and older, it offers a full range of programs and support services. Moosehaven has served members since 1922 and is rated among the best nursing homes in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. See: <https://www.moosehaven.org/>

Back at our neighborhood Lodge, it feels like an oasis. Members say they feel safe and welcome. Inside, the Lodge has a full bar with ten beers on tap and reasonably priced mixed drinks. There's a large dining room, an ample kitchen, the back meeting room, and plenty of parking. I noticed the outdoor patio with tables and chairs, and Steve said the Lodge plans to build an outdoor event area at the back of the property with a stage and a barbecue.

I asked about membership. The Lodge is a private club, and new members need a sponsor who is already a member. The application fee is \$20, and annual dues are \$70. I like the sense of community and the Lodge's broad charitable work, and I'm enthusiastic about expanding our partnership with them.

Our local Moose Lodge is at 16411 NE Halsey St., Portland OR 97230. Ph: 503 253 1891. Website: <https://mooselodge1891.com/>
Email: loom1891@gmail.com ■

Annual Election of Officers

Elections are held during the November General Meeting. All positions are up for election. No experience required. **Nominate yourself!** Help shape our neighborhood. **Become a board member!**

The Thousand Acres Homeless Camp Eviction

By Janet Unruh, WENA Board Member

Until recently, several dozen homeless campers were living in a forested area northeast of Troutdale on the Sandy River Delta, a.k.a. Thousand Acres Park. The park is about three miles from Gresham and five miles from the Wilkes East neighborhood. It consists of 50 acres of land owned by the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL), next to 1,500 acres owned by the U.S. Forest Service. The campers have been living on the DSL land[1]. There have been an estimated 35 camps, some of which were in existence for nearly 25 years[2]. DSL states that the land is not suitable for habitation because of wildfire risk, flooding, and environmental degradation[3].

For these reasons, the state attempted a brute-force eviction of the campers in June, but it failed because the campers and their supporters fought back. Another eviction by means of persuasion and facilitation has been underway since then, with a deadline of October 1st to leave voluntarily, after which the remaining campers were to be forced out. There are unanswered questions about where the campers have gone.

THE CAMPS

Campers said they worked to keep their sites clean and used restrooms at nearby parks[4]. They had electricity—the camps had multiple generators and electrical lines that ran from camp to camp[5]. We have meetings—we try to have standards," said Gene, one of the longtime campers. Gene's camp was visibly tidy, complete with decorations and a makeshift fence[1]. However, when the local TV station, KGW, visited the site, most of the camps they saw were not like his[4].

Many living in Thousand Acres describe their community as a family. "This community is a very rare one indeed. It's a community that's full of people that come from different walks of life, that in a normal setting would not get along. But one thing that we appreciate the most [about] Thousand Acres is it's always been a place where we could go and feel like no one is here to judge[4]. Another said, "This is more of a communal existence out here[1]."

The area has multiple memorials for community members who have passed, and gravesites for deceased pets. But in spite of their efforts, trash accumulated and the area became polluted, especially around abandoned camps.

THE INITIAL EVICTION ATTEMPT

Notices were posted in May, stating that campers had to leave by June 2[6]. Campers were to be forced out after the deadline[2]. They hadn't been offered any help, they said[7].

On June 3, teams from two contract companies hired by DSL, NorthWest HazMat, Inc., and Northwest Enforcement Inc., arrived at Thousand Acres with work crews, trucks, and an excavator. They were blocked at the site by ditches dug across the road to the camps and barriers erected to prevent eviction[1]. A crowd of campers and their supporters had gathered to resist the eviction and cleanup effort. They held up signs that said, "We do not consent" and "Stop the sweep." As the contractors began attempting to collect the belongings of the campers, a struggle ensued, and witnesses said that four people were maced by the hazmat workers[4]. Oregon Governor Tina Kotek ordered a pause on the eviction due to the repeated clashes[7]. The contractors had been on site for less than a week.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

The Department of State Lands (DSL) reassessed its approach and worked with homeless advocates to determine the best way forward. DSL hired remediation contractor Rapid Response Bio-Clean, which is experienced in trauma-informed engagement and field operations[8].

Multnomah County Homeless Services Department (HSD) contracted with The Salvation Army to conduct outreach to the campers throughout the summer and fall. The outreach team made regular visits to the camps to build trust, share information, and offer connections to shelter and services[3].

"We do anticipate that this current effort will be ongoing for the next several weeks," said DSL spokesperson Alyssa Rash. "Our priority at this time remains voluntary compliance with the people experiencing homelessness or camping overnight at the Delta to relocate. However, we have partnered with law enforcement agencies, and when we have

exhausted every avenue toward voluntary compliance, we do have enforcement as a legal backstop option[9]."

The campers responded by submitting a proposal, the "Cooperative Stewardship Proposal for the Sandy River Delta," which would allow them to continue to live on site and help maintain the space[4]. "This proposal presents a community-driven approach to managing the Sandy River Delta. It emphasizes environmental restoration, responsible habitation, and proactive land management—all aimed at preserving human dignity while safeguarding ecological balance. By integrating sustainable housing solutions with organized land cleanup and long-term cooperative governance, this model stands as a robust alternative to short-term, temporary fixes that have failed many in our community[10]."

The proposal offered solutions for abandoned camps, waste management, hazardous waste, fire safety, enforcement of community rules, unauthorized vehicles, and land restoration. The proposal included a description of the supporting legal and financial framework. The proposal requested modular tiny homes and sustainable infrastructure, with estimated costs of approximately \$11,357 – \$14,957 per unit. No estimate was given for the number of units. The proposed timeline for phase one called for cleanup and restoration to be completed by August 25. Remaining activities were listed, but without dates.

In conclusion, the proposal offered "a permanent, sustainable solution for the Sandy River Delta. By addressing immediate cleanup needs and combining cost-effective, modular housing with robust community governance, we move beyond the short-term fixes that have repeatedly failed our community. This unified model not only ensures dignified, long-term shelter but also fosters a resilient system of environmental and community stewardship[10]."

The proposal was apparently ignored by DSL. Perhaps the biggest reason would be the risk of flooding. If we ever have another flood like the one in 1996, it would wipe out their village.

THE OCTOBER EVICTION

Some campers had moved out of Thousand Acres by September. On September 15, DSL announced a new, accelerated phase in the eviction and cleanup process. Legal notices were posted at the remaining occupied camps on September 26 informing residents that the area would be closed on October 1st—five days later—and they had to vacate immediately[3].

HSD's contract with The Salvation Army expires at the end of October, and the outreach team will continue to work with the remaining campers until then. DSL's contractor, Rapid Response Bio-Clean, will remove personal property and debris from the site, and a (unnamed) security contractor will monitor the area to prevent campers from returning. The area will remain closed for restoration until January 2026[3].

THE OUTCOME FOR CAMPERS

Did East Multnomah County (or the metro area generally) have the capacity to house several dozen homeless people by the October 1st deadline? How many were placed in housing, and how many were forced out to the streets or parts unknown?

I interviewed Salvation Army Program Manager Phillip Emery about their effort to help the campers transition to shelter. He assured me that they all had access to resources, including the Salvation Army's own shelters, but he explained that it was out of scope to ensure that everyone was placed. At the end of October, HSD would take that over[11].

The HSD's data dashboard is a monthly view of data about homelessness in Multnomah County. The most recent demographics as of July, 2025, show 8,278 chronically homeless people in Multnomah County, with 4,467 unsheltered[12].

"I'm on a six-month waiting list for housing, and I don't know what I'm going to do," a 20-year Thousand Acres resident known as Grizzly said in the group's press release. "There's gotta be some kind of a solution that's not forcing us out and putting us in jail. That would help nothing[4]."

"There's 40 of us that aren't willing to separate. So as a family, we are going to find a neighborhood somewhere where we can exist at. That may be in somebody's backyard. It may be on their front (expletive) porch," Thousand Acres resident, Countryman said. "I'm not real happy about any of this, but we have to be somewhere[2]."

For ENDNOTES visit: <https://www.wilkeseastna.org/node/3755> ■

Fall/Winter Weather Outlook

By Garret Hartung,
Wilkes East Neighbor, Meteorologist

After yet another warmer-than-average summer, the transition to cooler, wetter, and more active weather is well underway across the Pacific Northwest with some of the highest peaks already seeing their first snowfalls of the season.

The fall and winter often feature our most impactful weather events here in western Oregon. October through December is our typical southerly windstorm season, where strengthening low pressure systems moving in from the Pacific can bring heavy rainfall and breezy southerly winds to the region. While rare, if these systems take the proper path and are strengthening on their closet pass to Portland, stronger damaging winds could develop in the Willamette Valley with wind gusts exceeding 60 mph in the strongest of storms. If one of these storms happens to come into the forecast sometime this season, it's a good idea to prepare by securing outdoor items, preparing an emergency kit with flashlights and batteries, and keeping devices charged. During strong winds it's best to remain in an interior room of your home and away from windows.

As we head deeper into the winter, the effects of another weak La Nina will be felt across the Pacific northwest. La Nina is characterized by cooler than average sea surface temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific. This typically favors a blocking ridge of high pressure in the Gulf of Alaska, which tends to bring cooler northwesterly flow into the region. While variability is highest with weak La Ninas, on average it favors wetter-than-normal conditions and slightly cooler temperatures for the Pacific Northwest. This is usually great for the snowpacks around the region so long as we maintain an active pattern through the early spring.

While there isn't a strong signal for the intensity of potential cold snaps, it is likely that we will have one or two encounters with colder Arctic air coming through the Columbia River Gorge, most likely in January and February. This usually brings strong east winds that can be accompanied by snowfall and/or freezing rain. So once again it's always a good idea to be prepared for potential power outages or travel impacts if a colder winter storm starts to be forecasted later this winter. ■



Looking for Weekly Grocery Deals?

Checkout Stumptown Savings for weekly produce, protein, and pantry specials from Albertsons, Safeway, Fred Meyers, Grocery Outlet, New Seasons, Whole Foods, Winco, and more. It's free! Visit <https://stumptownsavings.com/t/Deals> ■

Easy 5-Ingredient Apple Crisp

This simple apple crisp uses pantry staples for a comforting dessert with a crunchy, sweet oat topping.

Ingredients:

6 apples, peeled, cored, and sliced
1/2 cup butter, softened
1 cup old-fashioned oats
1 cup brown sugar, packed
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350°F and grease an 8-inch square baking dish. Spread sliced apples in the pan. Combine brown sugar, oats, and cinnamon in a bowl. Cut softened butter into the oat mixture to form pea-sized clumps. Sprinkle the topping over the apples and bake for 35-45 minutes until golden brown and apples are tender.

Let's Get Ready For Winter!

The cold weather will soon be upon us. Here are some handy tips to help you get prepared and stay warm and cozy!

Indoor: Check fire extinguishers and smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. Set ceiling fans to spin clockwise. Change your furnace filter.

Outdoor: Charge all security camera batteries. Remove batteries from all cordless yard tools. Store outdoor furniture and unused yard equipment. Remove outside garden hoses, install faucet covers. Inspect exterior lighting. Rake leaves off lawn and garden beds. Fertilize trees, and shrubs. Bring in plants that won't survive the cold. Seal and inspect windows and doors. Clean your fireplace and chimney. Clean dryer vent. Make or update your emergency plan and kit. ■



Wilkes East Neighborhood Association Election of Board Officers

Monday November 10th 7pm

Moose Lodge • 16411 NE Halsey

To join the Board, simply show up and **Nominate Yourself!**



Freeze the Grease, Save a Bundle

Pour leftover gravy,
pan drippings
and sauces
into a can, freeze it,
and toss the can
into the trash.

Peace, Joy & Happiness

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving,
Joyous Holidays, and
a New Year filled with success.

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

Save the Date!

**Wilkes East Neighborhood
Fall 2025 Meeting
Monday, November 10th, 7PM
Moose Lodge • 16411 NE Halsey**

- Election of WENA Board Officers
- Jason Naumann
Rockwood Common Tool Library
- Cathy Keathly
Gresham City Councilor
- Neighborhood news and more!

See you there!

Are you signed up?
Nextdoor.com is the social networking service for neighbors to connect with each other. Sign-up today!

