



Downtown Rockwood: Innovation Hub Complete; Market Hall Construction Begins

A New And Vibrant Neighborhood Center

By Dimitrios Zourkos
Gresham Redevelopment
Advisory Committee Member,
WENA Board Member



It is likely that many of you have driven or walked by the Downtown Rockwood Project and noticed progress.

Well - you are right! Progress has been achieved! The [Downtown Rockwood](#) Project, formerly known as the Rockwood Rising project, has been on many of our long-term resident's minds for many years. It is a project that has been discussed for over a decade, and although took many steps to initiate the project, some setbacks, and some good old fashion patience, the fruit of many years of labor is now visible.



First, the new 50,000 square foot Innovation Hub has been built and opens this spring. It's called the Innovation Hub because so much of it involves the creation and adaptation of new skills and ideas.

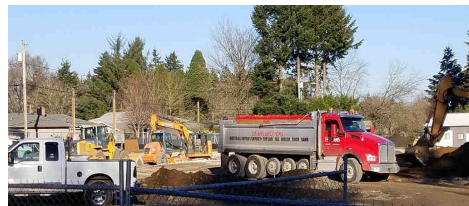
Second, the long-anticipated Market Hall is currently being built and scheduled to open this fall. Soon, community members will be able to showcase their delicious multicultural foods and crafts to share with the entire community.

And this fall construction begins on the final mixed-use building featuring retail and commercial storefronts, mixed-income apartments and more.

If you have a free moment I encourage you to take a stroll and see the current progress.

The buildings look amazing and contemporary. ■

Albertina Kerr Housing Update



By Jeff Carr
CEO, Albertina Kerr

The Albertina Kerr Workforce & Inclusive Housing project continues to move forward.

Demolition of the old Wynne Watts school began on January 4th and initial site work was completed on January 21st. After a brief pause for a week while we closed financing, construction began in earnest on January 29th, and we expect to complete construction of the 150 unit four-story workforce apartment building on May 22, 2022 and will begin leasing and moving in tenants following.

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me at

Jeff.Carr@albertinakerr.org.

(Jeff will be a guest speaker March 8. Ed) ■

No Camping In Neighborhood Parks

If you see someone camping please contact Kevin at 971-978-8112 or report it to My Gresham at <https://greshamoregon.gov/mygresham> ■



Mark Your Calendar!
Wilkes East Neighborhood

Spring Meeting
March 8th • 7PM

Online meeting via Zoom

Visit www.wilkeseastna.org

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Wilkes East Land-Use Update

By Greg Hartung,
Board Member, Land-use Chair

Hello members of our Wilkes East Neighborhood Association. We are following several projects around our neighborhood. Here's an update on what's been happening since our last newsletter.

UPDATE: Albertina Kerr Workforce Housing, 930 NE 162nd Ave., Gresham, 97230: As you drive by NE 162nd near NE Holladay Street, you'll see that the Wynne Wyatt School building has been completely razed and the project is in full swing with excavation of the Albertina Kerr property. A temporary fence surrounds the project with careful attention to preserving standing fir tree at the northwest corner of the property. Construction vehicles are using a temporary access road from NE Holladay. Please use caution when using NE Holladay Street. This is development of a four-story workforce apartment building (100,548 gross square feet) with a total of 150 units, 146 dedicated residential vehicular parking spaces areas, children's play area and other associated site improvements. Construction should be completed by August of 2021.

UPDATE: Taco Bell, 2301 NE 181st Ave, Gresham, 97230: Proposed project is set at the off ramp of the interchange of I-84 and NE 181st Avenue is new construction of a 2049 SF Taco Bell Restaurant with drive thru. The overall size of the site is 30,330 SF that adjoins the Burger King restaurant and is adjacent to the Bridge-way Inn and Suites and the new "My Place" hotel being built.

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

BOARD MEMBERS

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chair@wilkeeastna.org
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vicechair@wilkeeastna.org
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secretary@wilkeeastna.org
- Treasurer** **Billy Simmons**
treasurer@wilkeeastna.org
- Land Use** **Greg Hartung**
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Erica Porras
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Dimitrios Zourkos
member3@wilkeeastna.org

BOARD MEETINGS

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

CONTACT US

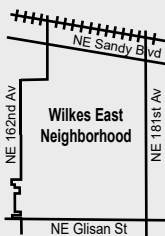
Email: info@wilkeeastna.org,
Postal Mail: 17104 NE Oregon, Portland OR 97230

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

SPECIAL THANKS

- The newsletter is funded in part through a generous grant from the [City of Gresham](http://www.cityofgresham.org).
- Printing by [Print Results Inc.](http://www.printresults.com) 503-287-9566
- Meeting: [Albertina Kerr](http://www.albertinakerr.com), 722 NE 162nd Av, Training Bldg (center north on campus)



Dear Neighbors • a message from your WENA President

After a deluge of rain a couple of weeks ago and the recent snowstorm we can say winter is here. I have seen several neighbors on my walks each day and though we are still wearing masks the smiles of “hello” could be seen in our body language.

The Board & I hope all of you & yours are doing well! I must take this opportunity to include the “little people” in my message, this first one of the year. Last night I watched a cute YouTube video “*The ABCs of Covid-19*” with Pre-K to 5th graders talking to Elmo from Sesame Street. One of the participants asked how he was doing and Elmo replied “fine but I am getting tired of washing my hands so much. Also, the wearing of masks are important even though it makes my nose itch.”

We have not been as busy with Land-use issues the last few months. Please check out Greg Hartung’s Land-use column for current updates.

Our March meeting will be via ZOOM on Monday March 8 at 7PM. Confirmed speakers include: Travis Stovall, Mayor City of Gresham; Vince Jones-Dixon, Gresham City Council

Position 3; Jessica Harper/Steve Meckel, City of Gresham Code Compliance; Jeff Carr, CEO, Albertina Kerr, Workforce Housing Update.

All meetings held by WENA are open to the public. Please mark your calendar for the following Board and Public meetings. Board meetings take place the 2nd Monday of each month, excluding December. There are three (3) Public meetings the 2nd Monday of March, August, and November. We would very much like to see or hear from you.

There are many opportunities to make a difference in your community. You can contact our moderator Sarah Jacobson for the ZOOM meeting link the week prior to our meeting at member2@wilkeeastna.org, visit our website at www.wilkeeastna.org, or find us on Facebook at [Wilkes East Neighborhood Association](https://www.facebook.com/Wilkes-East-Neighborhood-Association).

Hope to see you March 8th!

Your Neighbor,

Kristen Freiermuth

Welcome Our Newest Board Member



“Hello, my name is Erica Porras, and I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to join the Wilkes East Neighborhood Association board! Just a little bit about myself – I am a mechanical engineer in the energy efficiency field as well as an app

developer, and mother of a 5 year old. My family and I moved to our Cypress Park home in 2016 and we love the area. I enjoy taking walks around the neighborhood, and during the spring and summer you can find me gardening and taking advantage of our great access to the Columbia River Gorge for swimming and hiking. I hope to help the board however I can, and leverage my skills as best as possible towards advancing our local projects.” ■

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There will be the maximum 28 parking spots and access will be from NE Wilkes Rd with reciprocal access agreements with Burger King and the Hotel. Additionally, there will be an ADA access ramp to NE 181st Ave. The Taco Bell “Tower” will be 24 feet tall and will be on the side of the freeway. UPDATE: A hearing has been tentatively scheduled for April 7, 2021. Please send any comments or questions to John Heili, Associate Development

Planner, at John.Heili@GreshamOregon.gov. Agency comments will be accepted through February 25, 2021.

Note from the City of Gresham regarding plans and permit applications:

The City of Gresham is excited to present the new [Gresham Online Services](http://www.greshamonline.com) portal where applicants can electronically submit Plan or Permit applications quickly and easily, and where interested parties searching for public records can search for project data or access the City’s map service.

- For public records requests for files processed between July 2017 and December 31, 2020, please continue to access [ePlan](http://www.ePlan.com) or contact the Planner on Duty at POD@GreshamOregon.gov.

- For public records requests for files processed prior to July 2017, please contact the Planner on Duty at POD@GreshamOregon.gov.

If you have any questions about using Gresham Online Services, please contact PlanningTech@GreshamOregon.gov.

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

Spring Begins March 20th 8:37AM PDT



Get involved! Start your own Neighborhood Watch. For more information please visit: [greshamoregon.gov/Neighborhood-Ready](http://www.greshamoregon.gov/Neighborhood-Ready)

info@rideconnection.org



503.226.0700

Providing responsive, accessible transportation at no cost for seniors and people with disabilities www.rideconnection.org

Code Compliance: Working to Maintain Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods



By Jessica Harper
Livability Manager, City of Gresham

The City of Gresham livability team assists property owners in resolving general nuisance issues in Gresham, including: abandoned vehicles; overgrown vegetation; graffiti; debris, garbage and junk; RV parking permits and more.

Report a Code Violation

Report online through [My Gresham](https://mygresham.greshamoregon.gov), the city's reporting website and phone application. Visit <https://greshamoregon.gov/mygresham> [My Gresham](https://mygresham.greshamoregon.gov) ensures the concern is routed to the correct department to address the issue quickly. My Gresham's required reporting fields ensure that the City receives all the necessary information to open a case and provides communication between the reporting party and City staff. Call 503-618-2463.

Vehicle Case Process

Upon receipt of request and complete vehicle information, a case is created, and an inspector will do a first inspection to determine if the vehicle is violating city code. If violations are confirmed, the inspector will take photos and issue an impound notice explaining the violation and providing a deadline (24-72 hours depending on the violation) to correct the issue. If vehicle has not moved and violations are not corrected by the deadline, the vehicle will be towed.

Property Case Process

Upon receipt of request, a case is created, and inspector assigned based on geographic area. Through a series of inspections and notices, the inspector works collaboratively with the property owner to explain the violations and how to correct them. If the violations are not resolved after 6 weeks, the City issues civil penalties which escalate in amount for up to 6 additional weeks. If the violations remain unresolved after the civil penalties are issued, the City can correct the violations via an abatement warrant, the cost of which becomes a lien against the property.

In 2020, the livability team successfully resolved 97% of property cases before they incurred civil penalties. It is the City's goal to help property owners come into compliance early and collaboratively.

Help a Neighbor in Need

The City's *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* program connects community volunteers with neighbors with hardships to solve common code issues such as overgrown vegetation or low-hanging tree limbs.

For example, a volunteer may help a neighbor with disabilities by mowing his lawn to resolve the problem of overgrown grass.

Sign up to volunteer at GreshamOregon.gov/Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors/. (Jessica will be a guest speaker March 8. Ed) ■

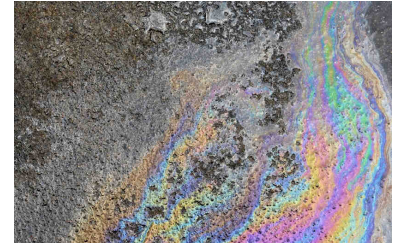
Did You Know? The area now known as Gresham was first settled in 1851 by brothers [Jackson and James Powell](#), who claimed land under the [Donation Land Claim Act of 1850](#). They were soon joined by other pioneer families, and the area came to be known as Powell's Valley.

Hazardous Spills, Who to Call?

By Greg Hartung
WENA Board Member

Recently, we had a tow truck driver bring our disabled car home to our driveway. When the tow truck driver was unloading the car from the flat bed, a high-pressure hydraulic line burst sending several gallons of hydraulic fluid onto our driveway and then into our street. The tow truck driver and we went to work picking up the spilt fluid with absorbent material. We were able to capture most of the fluid, but there was a residual amount left in the street. I pondered who to call.

After searching on the City of Gresham's web site <https://greshamoregon.gov>, I found a phone number to call. The response by the city was remarkable. Gresham's Transportation Division crew members responded to our location with 45 minutes of our call. They laid down more absorbent material to help mitigate the remaining spill to prevent it from reaching our storm drains. Link: <https://greshamoregon.gov/Report-spills-or-illegal-dumping/>



Report Spills or Illegal Dumping

Hazardous spills

- Report hazardous spills by calling 911.

Non-hazardous spills

- To report spills of non-hazardous materials, call the City's Operations Center: 503-618-2626.
- After hours, call the non-emergency line: 503-823-3333.

Illegal dumping

- Report illegal dumping on private property to Code Compliance at 503-618-2463 or through My Gresham (<https://greshamoregon.gov/mygresham>)
- Report illegal dumping on public rights-of-way to Metro's Regional Illegal Dumping Patrol at 503-234-3000.

Erosion

- Report erosion concerns to 503-618-2525 or submit a report through My Gresham (<https://greshamoregon.gov/mygresham>)

It is important to note, the city will only respond to spills or illegal dumping that are on public land or public right of ways, such as streets, paths, sidewalks.

Special appreciation goes to Chris Yamnitsky and Kary Moore, both public utility workers of Gresham's Transportation Division, along with Field Operations Supervisor Doug Holley who coordinated the quick response and cleanup efforts. ■

Wilkes East Neighborhood Spring Meeting
Monday March 8, 2021 7PM
Online meeting via Zoom

Agenda

- Travis Stovall, Mayor City of Gresham
- Vince Jones-Dixon, Gresham City Council Position 3
- Jessica Harper, City of Gresham Code Compliance
- Jeff Car, CEO Albertina Kerr, Workforce Housing Update
- Neighborhood news and more

TO JOIN THE MEETING:

Go to <https://zoom.us/join>
Meeting ID: 853 6101 0620
Passcode: 660770

Neighborhood Tree Plan Outreach: An Opportunity for WENA Residents

By Tina Osterink
Natural Resource Planner, City of Gresham

Gresham's Urban Forestry Subcommittee will be engaging Neighborhood Associations and other neighborhood groups in a year-long process to develop Neighborhood Tree Plans. There are several stages in the process culminating in a collaborative tree canopy project and action planning steps for each neighborhood.



A Neighborhood Tree Plan is intended to help preserve and expand your neighborhood trees. The Plan will be customized to address the urban forestry related issues unique to the Wilkes East neighborhood. The City and Urban Forestry Subcommittee will work with your neighborhood to:

- Define tree-related goals
- Develop tree-related actions
- Determine a tree canopy target
- Identify activities and projects

We are in the first listening stage of this outreach effort and asking neighbors to provide their association and City with input on the following questions:

- What are two things you find valuable about urban forest canopy?
- What are the neighborhood tree-related needs and/or desires? (i.e. what resources are needed?)
- What do you know about your neighborhood canopy coverage and do you have any concerns about it?
- What activities or projects do you think would benefit the neighborhood, and would you be willing to participate in these? - For example: tree planting, tree maintenance, tree pruning assistance
- Who in your neighborhood who can help champion this effort?

More information on upcoming meetings and how you can participate in this outreach effort can be found at <https://greshamoregon.gov/urban-forestry-subcommittee/> and by contacting Tina.Osterink@GreshamOregon.gov or call directly at 503.618.2392. ■



Find us on Facebook

The WENA board invites you to connect with us through a private Facebook group for Wilkes East residents and businesses. Find us under **Wilkes East Neighborhood Association**. Join to stay up to date on neighborhood happenings, meetings and most importantly- connect with neighbors! ■

Street Sweeping Resumes Now Through November

Residential streets are swept monthly March through November during daytime hours. If weather conditions or a holiday prevent sweeping a street as scheduled, it will be swept at the end of that month, if time permits.

2021 Street Sweeping Schedule - Wilkes East

NE 162nd Ave to NE 181st Ave, NE Glisan to NE I-84
2nd Monday, March - November

Mar 08, 2021	Jun 14, 2021	Sep 13, 2021
Apr 12, 2021	Jul 12, 2021	Oct 11, 2021
May 10, 2021	Aug 09, 2021	Nov 08, 2021



Street sweeping keeps roads safe by removing debris, such as paper and leaves that may be an obstacle to pedestrians and bikes. Sweeping removes debris that clog stormdrains and reduces the amount of pollutants that collects on city streets.

Help us keep streets clear

Please put these items in your driveway the 2nd Monday: Garbage cans, Recycle carts, Cars, Boats, Campers, Basketball hoops.

Overhanging tree branches must be at least 12' above the street and 8' above the sidewalk. For tree trimming tips please visit <https://greshamoregon.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=11198>. Keep vegetation from overhanging the curb

Streets and leaves don't mix

Don't blow or place leaves or yard debris in the street. This is a violation of City code. The City sweeps leaves that naturally fall or blow into the streets from nearby trees.

Arterial street sweeping

Transportation provides year-round sweeping of the City's arterial streets the third full week of each month, Monday through Friday, between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.

Contact info

For more information about the City's street sweeping program call the Operations Center at 503-618-2626. ■

Save the Date!

**Wilkes East Neighborhood
Spring 2021 Meeting
Monday, March 8th, 7-9PM**

Visit www.wilkeseastna.org
Click on the Zoom meeting link!

- Travis Stovall, Mayor of Gresham
- Vince Jones-Dixon, Council Position 3
- Jessica Harper, Code Compliance
- Jeff Car, CEO Albertina Kerr Workforce Housing Update

See you Online!

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

