



## Speeding on NE 172nd Ave Raises Concerns About Pedestrian Safety Near Middle School

By Sheena Raab  
Wilkes East Resident

Neighbors have been increasingly aware of the on-going high speed traffic on NE 172nd Avenue, as well as cars cutting through cross streets such as Wasco, Pacific, and Oregon. In the past, efforts have been made by past WENA councils to address the issues with the City of Gresham. Traffic measures have been put into place such as the speed advisory signs that flash during school hours. The fact remains that many of us, including myself, are concerned for pedestrian safety in our neighborhood, especially after a sedan crashed into the school yard of H.B. Lee Middle School this past fall.

On January 10, 2021, Chris Strong, Transportation Manager of the City of Gresham and Stacy Talus, Vice Principal of H.B. Lee Middle School joined the WENA board meeting to discuss concerns and options. Mr. Strong advised those present that more information would need to be gathered and a discussion would need to be



Radar speed sign at NE 172nd Avenue & NE Clackamas Street

opened with the Fire Department and City Emergency Services which use NE 172nd as an emergency route for call outs. He stated he would have his team collect traffic data to determine the average speed on the street to see if the current situation would meet the criteria for consideration to install any additional traffic calming measures, such as speed humps.

We are hopeful that Mr. Strong will be able to provide an updated report on his team's findings and advise us of the next steps our community can take.

**SPEEDING** (Page 4)



### Meet Nina Vetter, Gresham's City Manager

What is a City Manager? The City Manager is appointed by the City Council to manage the day-to-day operations of the city and implement Council policy direction.

Nina Vetter  
Gresham City Manager

City Manager Nina Vetter joined Gresham on June 28, 2021, bringing more than a decade of progressively responsible government service experience, including expertise in budget and finance.

Nina has served as the chief administrative officer/district manager of the

Pueblo West Metropolitan District, Colorado, since 2019. She has worked in local and federal government since 2009. In 2013, she was hired by the City of Colorado Springs as a senior budget management analyst, and she quickly progressed to the role of strategy, performance and contract compliance manager. She received her Master of Public Administration degree from Northern Illinois University and her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from George Washington University. She is pleased to have joined the community and looks forward to carrying out Council's vision for Gresham.. ■

**Did you know?** Downtown Gresham has over 150 shops, restaurants, and service businesses.

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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.

The Wilkes East Neighborhood Association (WENA) board regularly receives land use plans from the City of Gresham to notify us of land use projects within or proximity to the Wilkes East neighborhood boundaries. Here are some recent notifications WENA has received.

• **Plan case PRE-21-00680**

Applied date 12/01/2021

Harsch Investment Properties intends to develop the vacant land at the intersection of NE Sandy & NE 185th Dr. by building two large shell buildings (One 65,520 square foot and one 123,760 square foot) with the intent to lease to one or several tenants for the use of warehousing, manufacturing or distribution with a small amount of office space. It is currently under design review.

• **Plan Case PRE-21-00688**

Applied date 12/09/2021

Habitat for Humanity development of the 1.41-acre site, comprising two lots, located on the south side of NE Glisan Street, approximately 100 feet east of NE 176th Avenue (17616-17636 NE Glisan) directly south of Nadaka Nature Park.

**LAND-USE** (Page 2)

**Mark Your Calendar!**  
Wilkes East Neighborhood

**Spring Meeting**  
March 14th • 7PM

Online meeting via Zoom

Visit [www.wilkeseastna.org](http://www.wilkeseastna.org)

**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](http://wilkeeastna.org/newsletter.htm).

**BOARD MEMBERS**

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**BOARD MEETINGS**

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30PM. See [wilkeeastna.org](http://wilkeeastna.org) for details.

**CONTACT US**

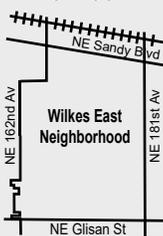
Email: [info@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org),  
Postal Mail: 17104 NE Oregon, Portland OR 97230

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Get involved. Let us know how you'd like to help. Email [info@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org) for details.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

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



*Dear Neighbors • a message from your WENA President*

Hi all! I hope this column finds you all well & enjoying the recent sunshine!

Gresham City Council has a new project for us to think about called "[Imagine Gresham](#)", which you will be seeing a lot about. There was an article in the Gresham newspaper. If you missed this article, you can find it on the City of Gresham's website. Comments are welcome, so please share your ideas.

Be sure to check-out Greg Hartung's Land-Use column in this issue for the latest developments on new and ongoing land-use projects.

Our March meeting will take place via ZOOM on Monday March 14th at 7PM. Confirmed speakers include: Emily Bower, Executive Director, City of Gresham. Emily will be updating us on projects near Wilkes East; and Chris Strong, Transportation Division Manager, City of Gresham. Chris will be updating us on the NE 172nd Avenue concerns, and update us on the "[Clackamas to Columbia Project](#)". If you have a subject you'd like to discuss please let us know.

Street Sweepers begin their monthly schedule for our area starting March 14, 2022. Please clear your curbside of parked cars,

basketball hoops or other objects which would deter the sweepers from doing their job. Wilkes East Neighborhood is swept the 2nd Monday of each month, March through November. Please mark your calendars, or clip & save the sweeping schedule on the back page.

As a reminder, all meetings held by the Wilkes East Neighborhood Association are open to the public. Board meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month (excluding December). There are three (3) General Meetings held the 2nd Monday of March, August, and November. We would like very much to see or hear from you!

There are many opportunities to make a difference in your community. Contact us.

For the March 14th ZOOM meeting link contact [member2@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:member2@wilkeeastna.org) 1-week before the meeting, visit our website at [www.wilkeeastna.org](http://www.wilkeeastna.org) or find us on Facebook at Wilkes East Neighborhood Association.

See you online March 14h!

Your Neighbor,

*Kristen Freiermuth*

**LAND-USE (Page 1)**

The proposal includes 7 buildings comprising a total of 20-units and 29 parking spaces in a surface parking lot. The elevations and site plan provided show a typical two-story structure with individual ground floor entries and small rear yards. A condominium review (subdivision) and parking reduction are also being proposed.

• **Plan Case DR-21-00616**

Applied date 11/05/2021

Phase 1 of new construction of approximately 26,000 square foot pre-engineered metal building for Pape Machinery's new Ditch Witch facility located at 17217 NE Sandy Blvd. This is on the 11-acre property adjacent to the historical Zimmerman House. Due to site constraints all regulated trees are proposed to be removed. The Gresham Wetland report indicates no wetlands on this property. Phase 2 will include a second Pape Machinery facility.

These plans and other public information can be viewed on [Gresham Online Services 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](#) or

contact the Planner on Duty at [POD@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:POD@GreshamOregon.gov).

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

If you have any questions about using Gresham Online Services, please contact [PlanningTech@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto: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 the planner on duty at [pod@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:pod@GreshamOregon.gov). ■

**Attention Neighbors**

The Wilkes East Neighborhood Association would like to remind our neighborhood that all neighbors are welcome to attend board meetings, and are strongly encouraged to attend our general meetings held 3 times each year. Our next general meeting will be held online via Zoom on March 14 at 7:00pm.

In order for our community and neighborhood to thrive, we need participation and input from all individuals living in Wilkes East. Your voices,

opinions, and concerns matter. ■



**Get involved! Start a Neighborhood Watch!**  
[greshamoregon.gov/Neighborhood-Ready](http://greshamoregon.gov/Neighborhood-Ready)

[info@rideconnection.org](mailto:info@rideconnection.org)

**Ride CONNECTION**

**503.226.0700**

Providing responsive, accessible transportation at no cost for seniors and people with disabilities  
[www.rideconnection.org](http://www.rideconnection.org)

**Gresham Proposes Urban Renewal Extension**

By Emily Bower  
Executive Director  
City of Gresham



Congressman Blumenaur and Gresham Mayor Stovall tour Downtown Rockwood in 2021

In 2003, Gresham voters approved the establishment of the Rockwood-West Gresham Urban Renewal Area authorizing the investment of \$92 million into a 1,211 acre area in West Gresham. However, the urban renewal area will expire in 2023. This would leave approximately \$37 million unutilized dollars due to delays from the Great Recession in 2008 and the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Gresham proposes extending the urban renewal district to 2029. The extra six years would allow the City to invest approximately \$37 million in new projects and to continue funding projects in the Rockwood-West Gresham Renewal area. To date, urban renewal has brought in new development, businesses, schools, after-school youth programs, helped with storefront grants and apartment restoration. With a little more time, imagine the projects that could be tackled in the future – using money that is already set aside.

Urban renewal does not increase your property taxes.

**How it works**

- It dedicates funds to an identified neighborhood so a city's urban renewal agency can focus on improving the area.
- It is often used to provide infrastructure to help spur economic development.
- Urban renewal changes how the existing taxes paid on a property are divided out amongst different taxing districts like the City and Multnomah County.
- As public and private investment stimulates growth in the district and the value of properties improve, money becomes available to use on the projects.
- Urban renewal in Gresham can provide funding for projects sooner.



Boys and Girls Club, Rockwood ribbon cutting. Funded through Rockwood West-Gresham Renewal Plan. Photo: City of Gresham

For more information go to: <https://greshamoregon.gov/Urban-Renewal/> ■

**Thank you!**

To the many individuals that pick up litter while walking or jogging in our neighborhood. Wilkes East Neighborhood Association would like to acknowledge you and extend a very special "Thank you!"

**Did You Know?**

The area now known as Gresham was first settled in 1851 by the 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.

**Gresham Charter Review Committee Up & Running**

By Lee Dayfield  
Wilkes East Resident  
Charter Committee Observer

Finally after almost a year and a half the new Charter Review Committee (CRC) is up and running. Currently there are 12 people on the Committee and two positions need to be filled.

The first meeting of the CRC was held by zoom on January 10th and the second meeting is scheduled for February 7th at 6:00pm. To receive notices regarding the CRC you must send a request to Margaria Contreras at [Margaria.Contreras@greshamoregon.gov](mailto:Margaria.Contreras@greshamoregon.gov) or Dara Halligan at [Dara.Halligan@greshamoregon.gov](mailto:Dara.Halligan@greshamoregon.gov). The webpage for the CRC on the City's website is <https://greshamoregon.gov/City-Charter/>. There you can find Meeting documents which should contain the agenda which has a link for the meeting. At some point they will be posting recordings of the zoom meetings and possibly minutes. A link to the Charter and previous changes is also on this page.

During the January meeting Joseph Andaya was elected Chair and Jack Ardner was elected Vice Chair. They agreed to allow for public comment at the beginning of meetings but it is unclear how to register for testimony at this time. It should be posted on the webpage at some point.

City Attorney reported that the City Council, by Resolution 3478, asked the CRC to specifically consider and recommend either an at large or district system of elections. A recommendation to be delivered to Council by Jan. 31, 2023. Currently we have an at large system.

Dr. Todd Lochner and Dr. Ellen Seljan from Lewis & Clark have been hired to assist the CRC. They are experts on election systems and will give presentations to the CRC on that topic. You won't want to miss this meeting.

The [Urban Renewal](#) Dept. wants to give a presentation to the CRC. My guess based on discussions I have heard at a City Council meeting is they want to discuss changing 36A Urban Renewal, (b)(1) which states "council shall refer to the electors any ordinance adopted after November 1, 1986, approving an urban renewal plan or a substantial change in such a plan."

There is a public discussion group on [NextDoor](#) regarding Charter Review with almost 200 people which has had some interesting discussions about the Charter. ■

**Albertina Kerr Names Miki Herman Interim CEO**



Miki Herman, Interim CEO, Kerr

Miki Herman is Interim CEO of [Albertina Kerr](#), one of the largest nonprofit organizations in the state of Oregon providing life-saving care for our community's most vulnerable citizens.

A longtime Kerr volunteer, Miki has a wide breadth of knowledge and familiarity about Kerr's Children's Mental Health Services and I/DD programs. Prior to being selected as Chair of the Board of Directors in July of 2020, she was Chair of Kerr's Foundation Board of Trustees from July 2017 to June 2020, and Chair of The Old Kerr Nursery Association Volunteer Board from September 2012 to June 2020.

While serving on Kerr's various boards, Miki has had the opportunity to contribute her many years of executive experience in real estate development and management, finance, strategic planning, and procurement. Before becoming a community volunteer, she was a member of the senior management team that catapulted Starbucks to national market leadership and went on to executive roles at The Discovery Channel Store, Nau, Inc., and Sears. ■

**Downtown Rockwood Update**



Construction progress, Rockwood Market Hall. Photo: City of Gresham

By Emily Bower, Executive Director, City of Gresham

Following the opening of [The Lumen Building](#) in 2021, this Spring the City of Gresham and the Gresham Redevelopment Commission is excited to announce the opening of The [Downtown Rockwood Market Hall](#).

The [Market Hall](#) will be a 39,000-square-foot indoor marketplace and will feature local, fresh and ethnic food alongside handmade, artisanal goods. There will be micro-restaurants and micro-retail stores, ethnic groceries, a commissary kitchen for rent with cold storage, and office space. The Market Hall plans for a soft opening in March with an open air pop-up market hosted by The People's Market.

Diverse vendors of all cultures will be showcasing their goods during this market. Visit [peoplesmarketrockwood.org](http://peoplesmarketrockwood.org) for more information. A formal grand opening will follow in early May. The Market Hall is already 80% occupied with tenants. Space remains available for market grocers, a coffee shop and office tenants.



Oregon Tradeswomen building completed 2020. Photo: City of Gresham

Learn more about leasing opportunities at [downtownrockwood.com](http://downtownrockwood.com) or email [info@downtownrockwood.com](mailto:info@downtownrockwood.com).

**2022 Street Sweeping Schedule - Wilkes East**

NE 162nd Ave to NE 181st Ave, NE Glisan to NE Sandy Blvd  
**2nd Monday, March - November**

Please move vehicles, boats, campers, garbage cans, basketball hoops and other objects into your driveway.

- |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Mar 14, 2022 | Jun 13, 2022 | Sep 12, 2022 |
| Apr 11, 2022 | Jul 11, 2022 | Oct 10, 2022 |
| May 09, 2022 | Aug 08, 2022 | Nov 14, 2022 |



**SPEEDING (Page 1)**

Please join us for our March Neighborhood Association Meeting to continue the discussion on our shared concerns and possible solutions.

NE 172nd Ave Summary Comparison courtesy of the City of Gresham, Transportation Division:

	July 2016	January 2022
Northbound Volume	1382	1419
Northbound Average Speed	29	26
Northbound 85th Percentile Speed	34	32
Southbound Volume	1201	1330
Southbound Average Speed	28	25
Southbound 85th Percentile Speed	34	31

To review the full January 2022 NE 172nd Ave traffic study visit: [www.wilkeseastna.org/node/3638](http://www.wilkeseastna.org/node/3638)

**Garden Planting Guide**

Growing a garden is simple and fun! You don't need much space to grow delicious fresh veggies. The success of any harvest relies on putting the plants in the soil at the right time. [Portland Nursery's](#) free *Veggie Calendar* offers a great timeline for starting seeds and placing transplants in the garden, borders or patio pots. Download your copy: <https://portlandnursery.com/docs/veggies/VeggieCalendar.pdf>

**Spring Begins Sunday, March 20, 2022, 8:33AM PDT**

**Did You Know?**

Gresham was incorporated in 1905, the year of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition. Its population at the time was 365. Lewis Shattuck, son of a pioneer family, was the first mayor. The town's economy was fueled largely by farming, including berries, grapes, and vegetables. At the time, trains ran between Gresham and Portland on an hourly basis. Gresham's early settlers would go on to form the outlying communities of Boring, Sandy, Fairview, and Estacada.

**Save the Date!**  
**Wilkes East Neighborhood Spring 2022 Meeting**  
**Monday, March 14th, 7-9PM**

**Online via Zoom**  
 (Visit [www.wilkeseastna.org](http://www.wilkeseastna.org) for link)

- Emily Bower, Downtown Rockwood
- Chris Strong, Transportation Dept
- Neighborhood news and more!

**See you Online!**

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