



## The Community Benefit of Our Neighborhood Association

By: Robyn El Kay  
Neighbor, WENA Board member

### Hello, neighbors!

My name is Robyn, and my family moved into the neighborhood in Spring 2023.

In the Wilkes East Neighborhood Association, our motto is *"Diversity, Harmony, Community - Together WE Can Make a Difference!"*

One of the great things about having a neighborhood association is knowing that there is a group of people advocating for you, your home, and your local community right where you live. Our neighborhood association (WENA) is no exception. This group of dedicated individuals meets every month to discuss upcoming and pertinent matters affecting our neighborhood - you may be surprised to know some of the impact this group has had!

Since moving into the Wilkes East neighborhood, this committed group has:

- Worked to get our beloved Nadaka Park otter, "Slider" back after it was stolen in 2024.
- Ensured that we (your neighbors) are up to date on how land is being used around our area. Take for example, the new Habitat for Humanity project happening near 176th and Glisan.
- Submitted grant proposals to ensure we are able to continue supporting our community.
- Brought awareness to matters affecting our neighborhood, such as the removal of our elder Douglas Firs.

And perhaps most significantly, our WENA has hosted neighborhood clean-ups allowing all of us to dispose of our unsightly and often hidden rubbish from behind our homes and beside our garages free of charge! Be sure to mark your calendars for this year's clean-up - and get your rubbish ready!

WENA is a group of your neighbors that cares deeply about the overall wellness of our community. My family and I have seen that firsthand. Since the day we moved into the neighborhood, we have been welcomed by warmth, kindness, and generosity - even through my pregnancy, and the welcoming of our first child, August. If you see us, please say hi!

As the neighborhood continues to grow and change, this group will also continue to evolve. We want to make sure you know that WENA is here for all of us. We hope that each of you will learn more about your neighborhood association, and consider contributing your voice and expertise. It's vital that our neighborhood association continues to thrive. Come join us. Share your ideas.

Visit our website any time at [wilkeeastna.org](http://wilkeeastna.org) or reach out to us at [info@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org) - we look forward to seeing you around! ■



Wilkes East neighbors Robyn and Eric El Kay

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### Save The Date!

Spring 2026 Neighborhood Meeting  
Monday March 9, 7PM

Join your neighbors at our Spring 2026 neighborhood meeting, where the topic will be *"If ICE comes to Gresham."* We plan to have a panel discussion with local officials and community groups to discuss how to prepare for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids in Gresham.

This meeting will be Monday, March 9, 7PM, at the Moose Lodge, 16411 NE Halsey, and will begin with neighborhood association business, followed by the panel discussion.

All Wilkes East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meetings are open to the public. Mark your calendar for the following meetings: Board meetings are the second Monday of each month via Zoom (excluding December). Visit our website <https://www.wilkeeastna.org/> for the Zoom board meeting link; Public meetings are held the second Monday of March, August and November. We would very much like to see or hear from you! Please plan to attend.

There are many volunteer opportunities to make a difference in our community. Feel free to contact any board member for details.

We look forward to seeing you Monday, March 9th! ■

## Gather Your Junk! The Dumpsters Are Coming! Rain or Shine 2026 Neighborhood Cleanup Event: Sat., May 16, 9AM-1PM\* - FREE

### MOOSE LODGE, 16411 NE HALSEY

Bring us household junk, old furniture, plastics, beds, yard debris, bulky waste, small appliances, scrap wood, scrap metal (BBQs, mowers, bikes, microwaves, etc), large appliances (no appliances with Freon), dishwashers, ovens, stoves, washers, dryers, etc.

Please, do not bring clothes, computers, electronics, TV's, food garbage, chemicals,

animal waste, liquids, glass, soil, rocks, tires, concrete, paint, batteries, propane tanks, construction debris, fluorescent bulbs, or medical waste.

Suggested Donation: Car  
\$15, Van/Pickup: \$20,  
Trailer \$30.

Se Habla Español

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**  
[info@wilkeeastna.org](mailto:info@wilkeeastna.org)

\* Or until the dumpsters are full.



**Mark Your Calendar!**  
Wilkes East Neighborhood

**Spring 2026 Meeting**  
March 9th • 7PM

Moose Lodge • 16411 NE Halsey