

## Condo Culture

### Move it or lose it...

Let's face it. Moving sucks! But imagine move day at your new condo -- the truck is packed and parked in front of your new building -- you're informed that you have to schedule your move for another day. *Schedule your move into YOUR new home... what's this nonsense?*

Welcome to your first exercise in community living. Moving -- just like anything else -- is a different endeavor at a condominium.

Each Pearl condominium has strict bylaws regulating how moves are conducted on its particular property. It's always best to contact the property manager of your new building for move guidelines.

*Why are buildings so strict on moves?* First of all, moves pose a certain security risk if not monitored. Typically, doors are blocked open somewhere in the building -- be it the front entry, side door or loading dock -- making the entry easy access for the movers and everyone else. Because new tenants do not know their neighbors, they have no idea who should or shouldn't have access to the building. You wouldn't let someone you don't know into your house and a condominium building is no different.

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*Behind the scenes as the crew from HGTV's House Hunters films on location in the Pearl District*

*photo by Ben Andrews.*

## Real Estate Run Down | Pearl stars in episode of House Hunters

Ready. Set. Tivo. Tune in to HGTV -- check for date and time on [PearlDistrict.com](http://PearlDistrict.com) -- for an episode of *House Hunters* filmed right here in the Pearl.

Last June, HGTV producers called Willamette Realty Group to assist them in locating an individual, couple or family searching for a home in the Pearl. As it turned out, a couple in their midst -- brokers Ben and Heidi Andrews -- were closing on a property in the neighborhood.

After speaking with producers at length; sending in photos of themselves and the property; and filling out a questionnaire -- Ben and Heidi were selected for the show.

But wait -- they already

bought a home -- isn't *House Hunters* about a home search? Yes and no... welcome to the reality of television.

Ben and Heidi closed and moved into their new condo, but couldn't actually unpack or make any changes until the episode was filmed. "That was really hard," remembers Heidi.

In July, the film crew spent two days with the couple. The first day was spent in their former home where producers recreated the beginning of the couple's home search. The second day was filmed on location in three Pearl buildings -- The Avenue Lofts, Streetcar Lofts and Bridgeport Condos -- as the couple

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## Condo Sales March 2007

Total active: 39  
high: \$2,390,000  
low: \$189,000  
average: \$560,256

Total pending: 21  
high: \$920,000  
low: \$289,000  
average: \$466,021

Total sold: 13  
high: \$1,150,000  
low: \$340,000  
average: \$531,596

Grand Total: 75  
high: \$2,390,000  
low: \$219,000  
average: \$519,131

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## Pearl Character | What about Bob?



*Bob Volke enjoys the coffee and camaraderie at Starbucks, 11th and Lovejoy.*

*photo courtesy of Ken Aaron  
www.kdaphoto.com*

Bob Volke has something in common with Heinrich Anton Muller, Vincent Van Gogh, and Ralph Albert Blakelock -- all are artists and all are schizophrenic.

"Schizophrenia is like the movie *A Beautiful Mind*, but without the beautiful mind," jokes Bob. Like many others with this disease, Bob has learned to successfully manage it with medication, relaxation and art therapy.

Art therapy has not only afforded Bob an avenue to deal with his tumultuous past and process his trauma, it has also created an opportunity for a new life.

"I didn't know anything about art," explains Bob and then jokes "but if you do anything long enough, you'll be good at it!"

Bob started art therapy in spring 2001 and attends a group therapy session every Friday. Nearly two years ago, Bob was talking about art therapy with one of the employees at Starbucks and he was encouraged to bring in samples of his work. "I brought it in after they reminded me about five times," recalls Bob.

The rest, as they say *is history*. Bob's fifth show opens at Starbucks this month. His initial show featured arresting portraits in acrylics -- some with blacked out eyes, reminiscent of hallucinations -- but his current show focuses on one of the defining forces in his life -- hope.

Bob enjoys visits to The Lawrence Gallery -- his favorite gallery in Portland -- and cannot say enough about Gary and Signe Lawrence. "They've actually bought a couple of my paintings," beams Bob. The Lawrences -- among other friendly Pearl residents -- have made Bob feel at home in the neighborhood. He returns the favor by greeting his friends and *soon-to-be-friends* from his regular seat at Starbucks.

"I would like to thank people in the Pearl that have responded positively to my art," says Bob. He especially appreciates the employees at Starbucks -- some who are also students at PNCA -- who continue to encourage and critique his art. Most of all, Bob is grateful because he has found what all of us are searching for -- a place to belong. ■

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## Live, Shop, Eat and Play | Hunt and Gather

The sign reads, "Treasures for the home and soul," and inside Hunt and Gather, you'll find Lisa DeLaere Breslau -- the true gem of the shop.

Lisa radiates happiness and contentment and that is reflected in the atmosphere of the store. Simply going into Hunt and Gather feels good, but buying furnishings there will make you feel even better.

Hunt and Gather is the only Portland dealer of Southcone, the world's largest producer of sustainable furniture.

As consumers, we have a unique opportunity to save the forests of the world by purchasing furniture made from sustainably harvested wood. Sustainable forest management allows wood to be harvested without undermining the health of the forest.

At Hunt and Gather, you'll find a large

selection of contemporary and old world furniture made from woods sustainably harvested from Peru.

Lisa is particularly fond of a line of wooden accessories called PaTs -- an acronym for Partnerships and technologies for Sustainability -- a non-profit established by Southcone that supports the Yaneshia tribe in Peru's Amazon Valley.

Hunt and Gather offers a full range of custom design services and products for every room in your home. Whether you need a custom sofa, affordable fine art, unusual frames and mirrors, candles or soft furnishings, you'll find it all in Hunt



*Owner Lisa DeLaere Breslau holds a bowl carved by the Peruvian Yaneshia tribe. Hunt and Gather has proudly sold Southcone sustainable furnishings for many years.*

and Gather's beautiful showroom. ■

1320 N.W. Hoyt, 503.227.3400, [huntgather.com](http://huntgather.com)  
m - sat, 11 - 6 and sun, 12 - 5

## Real Estate Run Down

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searched for their new home. You'll have to tune in to find out which building they chose!

Filming began at 8 a.m. and wrapped at 6 p.m. with a half hour break for lunch. "It was exhausting," recalls Heidi, "we were both drained after filming."

The couple offers several surprising elements about being on the show. "Suzanne Whang didn't film here in Portland, she only films on location for *House Hunters International*," explains Heidi and then giggles, "do you know she's really a comedienne?" Another *House Hunters* factoid revealed!

Ben and Heidi were also asked to wear clothes that were "seasonless" and were told to avoid black and white. "They suggested pastels... ugh... and said that coral was a great color for t.v.," shudders Heidi.

The final surprise was that the show did indeed visit the new home several months later to document any changes to the property. That required the couple to jump right into an extensive remodel with a very tight timeframe.



*Heidi picks out the granite for the remodel of her new home.  
photo by Ben Andrews*

After the initial filming in July, the crew left Ben and Heidi to get their loft ready for the *end-of-show* reveal. Ben fondly remembers that time as his favorite, "The best part of the experience was watching what Heidi was able to do with our

place. As a husband, I was especially proud to witness what amazing talents and gifts my wife had. I had no idea! She has made our place more beautiful than I had ever imagined!" Of course, Heidi remembers that time a little differently saying, "It was a LOT to do in a short period of time."

Fortunately, the loft was ready when the film crew came back in December. The holiday decorations had to be taken down and the tree temporarily moved to a neighbor's condo to avoid revealing the true timeline of the story. After a final day of filming, Ben and Heidi were finished with their part of the program.

"I truly enjoyed the experience with *House Hunters*," exclaims Ben, but Heidi grins and says, "I wouldn't do it again... unless it's for *Designer's Challenge* and it includes a new kitchen." ■

## Condo Culture

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Secondly, unmonitored moves can cause damage to the property. Dolly wheels and boxes can scratch unprotected floors; bed frames and couches can scratch or damage the elevator, walls or doorframes; and even bracing an open door with a box can cause misalignment and require an expensive adjustment.

*How does the property management company prepare the property for a move?* The property manager addresses security concerns by providing a staff member or hiring a security officer to monitor the move and access into the building. He also assigns staff to pad the elevator and put protective rugs on the floor to prevent damage.

Information is the key to a successful move into a condominium. Make the right move and contact your property manager. ■

## April Events

**Fences by August Wilson**  
**April 10 - May 6, 2007**  
**Gerding Theater - Main Stage**  
**128 N.W. 11th Avenue**  
**www.pcs.org**

Fences depicts the painful relationship between a down-on-his-luck former professional baseball player, now reduced to earning a meager living as a garbage man, and his son, an award-winning athlete who has been offered a college football scholarship. Each man's struggle to make his way in the world reflects the hardship faced by

one generation and the hope of another. —Clive Barnes, New York Post.

**Polish the Pearl**  
**Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**Blitz Bar, 110 N.W. 10th Avenue**

Join your neighbors for the spring neighborhood clean up called "Polish the Pearl". The event begins at Blitz Bar -- breakfast, instructions and tools -- and ends at SoLo Bar for a volunteer luncheon.

You'll never look at cigarette butts the same way again! ■

**check out our complete event listings at [pearldistrict.com/news.html](http://pearldistrict.com/news.html)**

## Featured listings at PearlDistrict.com



### Lexis Condominiums Unit 514

1203 sq. ft. Junior Penthouse with view of Tanner Springs Park. Two bedroom/two baths with two parking spaces. \$474,000. Contact: Ben & Heidi Andrews 503.290.4191.



### Lexis Condominiums Unit 519

533 sq. ft. Studio with views of the city and Willamette River! Perfect for the first time home buyer or a second home in the city. \$260,000. Contact: Ben & Heidi Andrews 503.290.4191.



### Lexis Condominiums Unit 524

791 sq. ft. Private balcony and skylights in this penthouse level. Wonderful views of Tanner Springs Park. One bedroom + den, one bath, parking and storage. \$349,000. Contact: Ben & Heidi Andrews 503.290.4191.



### Streetcar Lofts Unit 518

Two level, one bedroom/two bath, two balconies plus storage. Gas fireplace, kitchen island and great view to the north. \$474,000. Contact: Ben & Heidi Andrews 503.290.4191.



### Eliot Tower Unit 1410

1410 sq. ft. Two bedroom, 2 bath with a large balcony overlooking the city and west hills. High end finishes with wine cooler. \$624,000. Contact: Ben & Heidi Andrews 503.290.4191.



### Tanner Place Unit 306

920 sq. ft. Wonderful One Bedroom + Den in the desirable Tanner Place. Brazilian Cherry H/W, plantation shutters, Pella windows, Bose speakers, gas fireplace, parking & storage. \$437,500. Contact: Ben & Heidi Andrews 503.290.4191.

## About Us

Our office is located at 12th & Hoyt, in the heart of the Pearl District. We are here to help guide you through the Pearl District whether you are looking for a condo or looking for a place to eat.

Since 1998, Willamette Realty Group has provided exceptional real estate services to the Portland-Metro region. Today, Willamette Realty Group is one of the fastest growing independently owned and operated real estate firms in Oregon with two offices in Portland and a new Southern Oregon office in Medford.

Because we Live, Shop, Eat & Play in the Pearl, we offer a specialized knowledge and expertise of the Pearl District. We welcome the opportunity to represent you in the sale or purchase of your home in the neighborhood!

-Ben, Heidi Jeff, Chrissy & Laurie

## Pearl Pup of the month



Meet Sadie, an 8-year-old Australian Shepherd. She lives with her parents, Jeff and Chrissy Hamlin, in the McCormick Pier Condos. ■

Send your pics to [ben@pearldistrict.com](mailto:ben@pearldistrict.com)