



Belmont Library photo by Multnomah County Library.

## Belmont Library Renovations and Addition

BY DAVID KROGH

The Multnomah County Library system is the fourth busiest in the US, but ranks 102nd in terms of floor area square footage. There are 19 branch libraries in the system, in addition to a mobile library. In 2020, a library bond passed allowing \$387 million in general obligation bonds to be issued for work on several libraries, including Belmont.

The Belmont Library was publicly funded by community members in 1923 and constructed and opened in 1924. Federal WPA funding in 1937 provided building expansion for a children’s room and staff work areas. During the 1990s, the Belmont Library became the busiest library in the state, in terms of circulations by size. Another expansion occurred in 2000, doubling the size of the existing building. Community discussions commenced regarding design issues in 2023. There is an authorized budget of \$26,222,700 for

library improvements. Two percent had been spent as of June 30, 2023, as outlined on the Library Bond Oversight Committee report for fiscal year 2023.

Today the Belmont Library has more items on hold than any other county library branch. It averaged 2,300 holds per month in 2023. This is a major reason why the Belmont Library is going through a process to renovate existing space and add additional space.

Bora Architecture and Interiors was selected as the designer by Multnomah County and has already provided plans for discussion. The current plans propose an interior renovation of 3,000 square feet to the existing brick library building. A two-story building addition, totaling 12,000 square feet, will also be constructed on the existing lot to the immediate north of the brick building (where the current parking lot is located). The addition will include a teen lounge and an upstairs reading room, in addition to other amenities. According to Hannah Wallace with the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association (SNA), 812 people responded to a survey in August 2023 regarding Belmont Library design and three public workshops have occurred so far. The survey was illustrated at a SNA meeting on January 11, which showed three design options voted on by library patrons. The favorite option received 317 votes and reflects the current draft design according to Bora Architect staff.

The proposed site plan was recently posted on the Belmont project website ([multcolib.org/building-libraries-together/belmont](http://multcolib.org/building-libraries-together/belmont)), but library staff stress that it is still a draft design and may be subject to change. Katie O’Dell, Deputy Director of the Library Capital Building Projects, said the process is still in the early stages and although no additional public meetings are scheduled as yet, there will be more. The library has a notification list in use and has provided project information to those on the list, and also to library visitors (which is how the surveys were obtained).

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## All Stages, Wages and Ages — Housing for the Eastside

BY NANCY TANNER

Oregon’s Governor Tom McCall (1967-1975) loved our natural beauty and easy access to nature. In order to preserve this grandeur, he convinced the Oregon Legislature to sign Senate Bill 100 on May 29, 1973 that establishes what is now known as the urban growth boundary (UGB). Every city in the state has a land use planning line to control urban expansion onto farm and forest lands. Metro is responsible for managing the Portland metropolitan area’s UGB.

Oregon’s UGB is not static and over the years it has been expanded about three dozen times in order to accommodate the growing population. The UGB is one of the reasons Portland is such a desirable place to live, 20 minutes in any direction and you are out of the city and into nature.

The price for this luxury is the need to build more in a smaller space. The city’s most recent zoning change was on June 30, 2022 when the Residential Infill Project 2 (RIP2) was unanimously approved by City Council. This change expanded housing opportunities in Portland’s very low-density zones, allowing attached houses and cottage clusters across all neighborhoods.

According to statistics however, we still haven’t remedied the housing emergency we have been in since 2015. The city’s residential rental vacancy rate is among the nation’s lowest while home prices continue to rise. Just 12 percent of

Portland’s residential land is zoned for four-story mixed-income housing.

Portland: Neighbors Welcome (P:NW) has started a campaign, “Inner Eastside for All,” that promotes the mantra “four floors and corner stores.” P:NW’s vision is to allow any residential lot from 12th to 60th avenues, Fremont to Powell streets, the ability to build street-scale apartments.

The reason these lots are no longer zoned for mixed use is that the 1981 Comprehensive Plan down-zoned these areas to residential use. At this time, there was a major exodus known as the “white flight,” where median income families from the inner city moved to the subsidized suburbs, which was happening around the country.

In order to redeem this valuable real estate, city planners developed the “population strategy” approach to down-zone the area. This established who would be eligible to live there—employed, home-owning families with children. Like many cities, Portland’s discriminatory land use practices over the years have shaped our urban layout along lines of race and class. Matt Tuckerbaum, a volunteer on P:NW’s Board, spoke about why the proposal to change the zoning along this swath of land will lead to a healthier more inclusive city.

Tuckerbaum grew up in the suburbs and hadn’t experienced any other type of city living until he visited Spain before

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## Franklin Talks Will Not Be Returning This Year

BY JAKE LUBIN

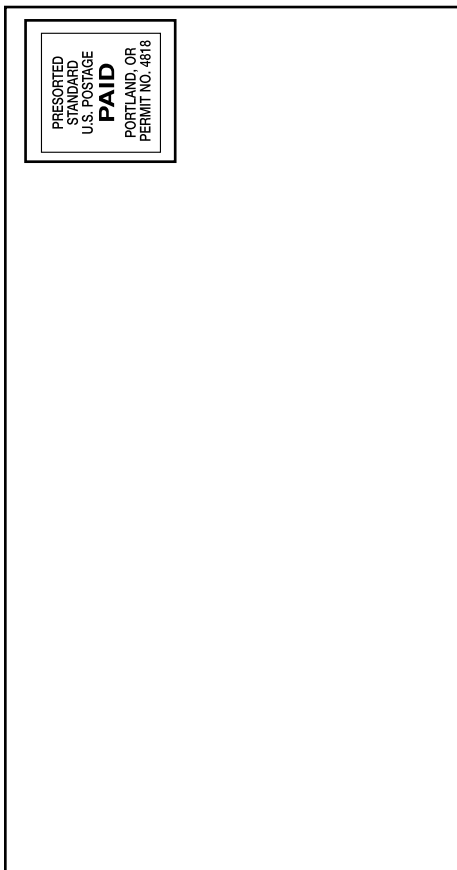
For the last two years, Franklin Talks was integrated into every Franklin student’s school year. Four times a year, Franklin took 90 minutes out of the day to have conversations about race and equity within classrooms. But as this year has brought about lots of changes from the teachers’ strike, to new lanyard rules, to changes in leadership, Franklin Talks has faced changes, as well. Due to concerns about its effectiveness and strength as a program, Franklin has switched its focus away from having Franklin Talks sessions.

Franklin Talks was first implemented in December 2021, after the Successful Schools Survey found that only 45 percent of Franklin students reported they were encouraged to think more deeply about race-related topics. This differed from the Portland Public Schools (PPS) district average response of 59 percent for students aged 12-18, according to the PPS website.

Schools all across Portland have felt the effects of this data as classrooms attempt to reflect the diversity of their students in the conversation and content discussed in class. Angela Bonilla, Portland Association of Teachers’ (PAT) president, comments on the importance of this, stating, “The earlier we can talk about how the world views our students and children, the more tools we provide them to navigate a world that may not be kind but is always changing.”

The Successful Schools Survey prompted the district’s counseling department to create lessons about race for building counselors to facilitate. At Franklin, the counseling department worked with former Climate and Equity Coach Julie Palmer to develop the Franklin Talks program. The goal was to have students learn about and appreciate cultural and racial backgrounds that differ from their own, and for them to

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# Rs Representatively Speaking

BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
ROB NOSSE

Depending on what day you are reading this, the 2024 session is either about to start or is already underway. In case you do not know, the Oregon constitution prescribes: (a) A session beginning in an odd-numbered year may not exceed 160 calendar days in duration; and (b) A session beginning in an even-numbered year may not exceed 35 calendar days in duration.

This is why sessions in odd-numbered years are called “long” sessions and sessions in even-numbered years are called “short” sessions. In theory, a session is about actively legislating—committee meetings, hearings and votes to pass bills and budgets. I feel like the meetings and research I am constantly doing in preparation for sessions are part of actively legislating. More on that for another time.

Also in theory, short sessions are for legislation that is not particularly ground breaking or for budget adjustments. However, in 2016 we increased the minimum wage. That was contentious. In 2018, Republicans started reading the bills on the floor of the House, word for word, line for line. That was contentious and tedious. In 2020, there was a walkout over climate change legislation just before the pandemic started. In 2022, the legislature passed the farm worker overtime bill. It was the most contentious bill that session. And this year is likely to be no different. Between Governor Kotek’s housing proposal and the legislature’s response to Oregon’s addiction crisis, we will be dealing with contentious issues.

Let’s start with Governor Kotek’s housing proposal. For some context, in last year’s long session, the governor’s signature bill for housing was voted on in dramatic fashion on the Senate floor. The bill amended laws that are at the heart of Oregon’s unique land use system. The environmental community came out in force against Kotek’s bill (I voted “no”). Now the governor is back with her plan to adjust zoning and land use laws, albeit in a scaled down manner. She is also asking for \$500 million to pay for improving infrastructure or expanding utilities for future housing developments.

It has been widely speculated that, had a handful of Republican senators actually returned to work from their walkout, Kotek’s bill would have passed. Maybe this time around Kotek’s housing



proposal will pass, if the governor can expand her coalition to include skeptical Democrats without turning off Republicans.

Housing will take a back seat to what the legislature is going to do about Ballot Measure 110 (BM 110). The ballot measure was approved back in 2020, when Oregonians decided a new approach was needed to tackle the state’s growing addiction crisis. The decades-long war on drugs failed to adequately prevent people from slipping into addiction. Oregonians voted to decriminalize small amounts of certain street drugs (including heroin and methamphetamine), while marshalling cannabis taxes to better fund addiction treatment. The results have not been quite what Oregonians were expecting.

We struggled to set up or expand services to those struggling with substance use disorder. We also have a workforce shortage in the behavioral health space; there simply are not enough counselors and other workers to staff new programs. Then, our country saw a nationwide influx of fentanyl and P2P methamphetamine (which produces very different effects than other methamphetamine), both of which are harder substances than we are used to seeing.

The result? An explosion of people using very hard substances and not enough treatment in place to deal with the new challenges around drugs. The ongoing houselessness and unsan-

ctioned camping problems have not helped either. By the way, this is not the fault of the proponents of BM 110. A group of wealthy individuals led by Max Williams (the former head of Oregon’s corrections department and a former lawmaker) has promised to bring a ballot measure to November’s ballot repealing most parts of BM 110 around drug decriminalization and some of the measure’s operations should the legislature fail to do something.

The pressure is definitely on. The legislature has to find a way to address the workforce shortage, expand services and treatment, and give law enforcement some tools to handle public use because many people are upset about what they are seeing all around our city. I suspect my thoughts about this will continue to make the news and I will end up writing about where we ultimately land in my March column.

Closing out, as chair of the Behavioral Health and Health Care committee, one of the two bills I am introducing seeks to tackle the administrative burden faced by behavioral health providers. Literally seeing if we can remove some of the bureaucratic “stuff” that gets in the way of providing more care. The bill also calls for a study of what it takes to fund and operate our county-based community mental health programs, in light of all the things we require and the funding we provide. My hope is that more clarity on the services we say we want with analysis of the funding gap to deliver them will help me and the rest of the legislature make better decisions about funding going forward.

There will be other bills in the committee that could have big impacts, including a bill to manage pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) practices, a bill overhauling EMS services and a bill addressing the corporatization of hospitals. With so much going on in this short session, stay tuned. I always seem to say that don’t I?

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# New Laws for 2024 Promote Safety on Oregon's Roads

By KRIS McDOWELL

The Oregon Legislature passed hundreds of bills in the last session, revising some existing transportation laws and creating new ones. Many changes went into effect on January 1, 2024. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) issued a news release summarizing the changes.

"We are encouraged that our legislators passed bills that prioritize safety for people who use our transportation system," said Kris Strickler, director of ODOT. "The updates in speed enforcement and impaired driving laws, especially, allow our partners in law enforcement to better deter behaviors that have proven to be dangerous."

HB 2095 gives all cities in Oregon the authority to use mobile photo radar for traffic enforcement—as long as they pay their own operational costs—and removes limits on the number of hours it can be used. The bill also allows cities to lower the speed limit on certain streets at up to 10 miles below the statutory speed (but not less than 20 mph).

HB 2316 changes definitions and potential penalties for driving under the influence of

intoxicants. An "intoxicant" now includes any substance, or combination of substances, that can cause mental and physical impairment. Previously, the definition included only alcohol, cannabis, psilocybin and controlled substances. Some fines are reduced for people convicted of DUI while riding a bicycle. The bill also expands eligibility to participate in a diversion program when the defendant previously participated in treatment as a juvenile or as a parent or guardian pursuant to a juvenile court order.

HB 2099 makes a variety of changes to transportation laws but notably updates ODOT's Safe Routes to School program. The bill increases the eligibility radius for Safe Routes to School projects from one mile to two miles, ensures projects serving high schools are equally considered with elementary and middle schools, and allows greater flexibility in determining the grant match requirement for individual projects. Additional bill details can be found at [bit.ly/3NPvNCn](http://bit.ly/3NPvNCn).

SB 895 allows drivers to pass in a no passing zone if the driver encounters an obstruction,

including a bicycle or other vehicle traveling at a speed of less than half the posted speed limit. The driver must ensure there are no oncoming vehicles and stay at least five mph under the posted speed limit while passing.

HB 2100 increases the fees for some DMV services to help recover costs and temporarily avoid service reductions. DMV previously announced the changes, which include fee increases for driver's license or ID cards, vehicle registration, driver's tests and other services. It also provides that the registration period for new mopeds and motorcycles will now be two years instead of four years.

In addition to the new laws, a two-cent increase in the state fuel tax went into effect on January 1. This is the fourth and final fuel tax increase resulting from HB 2017 (Keep Oregon Moving). The state fuel tax now stands at \$0.40 per gallon. Oregon's fuel taxes are used for the creation, preservation and maintenance of Oregon's transportation infrastructure. Learn more about ODOT's revenue and budget [bit.ly/3H8on9I](http://bit.ly/3H8on9I).

# Franklin Talks Will Not Be Returning This Year

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explore topics such as implicit bias, racism and anti-racism. In an article about implementing Franklin Talks, Palmer told *The Franklin Post* in January of 2022, "We want to cultivate young people who can leave Franklin ... and have the ability to appreciate lived experiences that are different from [their own]."

The first Franklin Talks took place on Wednesday, December 8, 2021. During the set-aside time, Franklin staff set up the space to have conversations surrounding race with a curriculum made by the Franklin Equity Team. Franklin Talks continued into the 2022-23 school year as Instructional Coach, Yoshio Drescher, took over the job of heading the Franklin Equity Team and overseeing Franklin Talks. Drescher and the Equity Team would provide classroom teachers with the developed lessons and these teachers were then expected to teach that curriculum during Franklin Talks.

This is where concerns began to be voiced. Not all teachers were equally equipped to hold difficult conversations in their classrooms. Drescher describes the range of teachers leading Franklin Talks, saying, "Some of them were teachers who [were] very experienced when having conversations about race and equity and some weren't." Drescher expands, "As a result, students

[were] having a wide variety of experiences, some positive, some negative."

Along with how the curriculum was delivered, a second concern was the effectiveness and structure of the curriculum itself. After a Franklin Talks session on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 718 people answered an exit survey. In the survey, students were asked to rank how effective the Franklin Talks session was, and the score averaged at 2.35 out of 4.

One of the main concerns students represented in the survey was the lack of time spent on race and equity topics. Drescher also recognized this as a concern about the effectiveness of Franklin Talks. "We've had these conversations, but they're too infrequent to really shift anything or create positive outcomes," Drescher explains. "They're spread out by two or three months and you aren't able to do anything substantial."

Along with Franklin, other schools at PPS have been struggling to implement race and equity curricula as well. *Grant Magazine* reported in December of 2022 that Grant High School's program similar to Franklin Talks, called "Race Forward," was suspended before the 2022-23 school year by Principal James McGee. They reported that this happened after students of color voiced concerns that Race For-

ward wasn't working to promote racial education.

Back at Franklin, Drescher believes that, for right now, Franklin Talks will not be making a return. Instead, he is shifting focus to try to integrate race and equity into regular classroom lessons. Drescher hopes to work one-on-one with teachers who need support in making their classrooms a space for learning about race and equity. Beyond holding these one-on-one conversations, Drescher explains, "[The Franklin Equity team is] going to teachers who need materials, curriculum and support."

This way of teaching race and equity is obviously a big change from having the structured sessions that were Franklin Talks. Ultimately, these decisions were made to fix the problems that Franklin Talks couldn't fix, like having teachers unequipped to dive into the complex conversations of racism, and the inability to take enough time out of classroom instruction to sufficiently cover race and equity.

Across the district, schools are grappling with how to teach racial equity. Racial education programs and their curricula are in their infancy at PPS and have yet to be perfected. At Franklin, race and equity education is ever evolving, meaning, for now, Franklin Talks is a thing of the past.



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# The Anti Racist Heart

BY DAVID KROGH

Portland has been identified by *The Atlantic* as “the whitest large city in the US.” US Census population information from 2020 places Portland’s white population at close to three quarters of the total, with a shrinking Black population (at about 5.9 percent) and a slightly higher Asian population (8.4 percent). There has also been a history of racism in Portland in terms of unequal treatment, gentrification, denial of property ownership, etc., some of which still exists today.

Co-authors of *The Anti Racist Heart (A Self-Compassion and Activism Handbook)*, Dr. Roxy Manning and Sarah Peyton, are both trainers in nonviolent communication and wish to improve communication and understanding among all people. They wrote this book largely in support of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s concepts. The authors said, “Our audience is made up of people who are interested in a new take on racism and are looking for new tools to support antiracist work while illustrating how to have self-compassion in the process.”

This book, and a companion work by Dr. Manning (*How to Have Anti Racist Conversations*), introduce Dr. King’s concept of Beloved Community and a new term, “Global Majority.” Dr. Manning said, “To me, the

Beloved Community is a compass in addressing racism and white supremacy. Drawing from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s vision, it’s not a utopian dream but an understanding of the world as a family interconnected by shared destinies. It’s a call for genuine dialogue and empathy, realizing our collective liberation is tied to every individual’s freedom.”

Global Majority, on the other hand, is a collective term that refers to people who are Black, Asian, Arab, Brown, multi-heritage, indigenous or otherwise racialized as ethnic minorities. The authors estimate that roughly 85 percent of the world’s population are part of the Global Majority, even though in Portland whites are a majority. Peyton said, “It’s so true that Portland, and Oregon as a whole, have a present day predominance of white folks, and a history of repression, sometimes even of violence against people of the Global Majority. But we are moving into a world that is becoming more and more diverse. The Global Majority population has more than doubled in Portland in the last 20 years. As we plan for the future, we need every voice to contribute.”

Dr. Manning indicated one reason she wanted to write this book was because, although many people are committed to the theo-

ries and principles of antiracism, they struggle with implementing them. Peyton added that she had watched and was concerned with “how many people I knew who were getting tired in the effort to take a stand against racism, and I thought that we all desperately needed self-compassion to be able to engage in antiracism in ways that were nourishing and connected people to their deepest values.”

This book, which is written by both a Black author and a white author, was crafted by the authors to respond to Global Majority members who are tired of the racism embedded in our institutions, “and to support white folks who are bewildered about how to help make the world a better place. Without this type of book and this type of thinking, the status quo will just be replicated, no matter how much migration and immigration happen.” In essence, the authors want to encourage something beyond integration and accommodation in line with Dr. King’s teachings.

Dr. King’s approach, according to Dr. Manning, “challenges binary concepts such as good vs. evil or right vs. wrong which are rooted in white supremacy culture. Instead, it moves us toward understanding our collective interdependence and shared



Authors Sarah Peyton and Dr. Roxy Manning.

human values.” The ultimate goal is to fulfill universal human needs. And Dr. King’s simple insight “enables us to articulate the harm we endure without vilifying others.”

The authors were also asked how this country could finally see equity among races/cultures. “We will need awareness, commitment, skills for clarity and self-compassion. We will need to be able to see the harm that is being done, and to inspire hope for positive change. Thank you for interviewing us, as this type of thoughtful questioning and education is of huge importance in awakening our world.”

Peyton is a Portland resident, a neuroscience educator

and certified Nonviolent Communication trainer (sarahpeyton.com). Dr. Manning is a clinical psychologist and certified trainer and assessor for the Center for Nonviolent Communication (roxannemanning.com). She regularly leads workshops centered on nonviolent communication and social change.

*The Antiracist Heart (A Self-Compassion and Activism Handbook)* is published by Berrett-Koehler Publishers (antiracistconversations.com). The book, and others by these authors, are available to order online and at selected bookstores. The authors also plan on doing readings in Portland; visit [bit.ly/Roxy-BookTalkFeb19](https://bit.ly/Roxy-BookTalkFeb19) for information.

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## 11 Ways to Reduce Waste

BY METRO

As the hustle of the holiday season comes to an end, the new year offers a chance to think about new beginnings. It is a fresh start for our habits and offers an opportunity to set a vision for the year ahead.

There are many actions you can take to conserve resources, minimize the impacts of products and reduce waste in your daily life. Check out these New Year’s resolutions and pick the one that works best for you.

### Use reusable bags for groceries

Opting for reusable bags saves resources, reduces plastic pollution and protects workers that remove plastic bags that get tangled in sorting machines. Using reusable bags twice a week for a year would keep 104 single-use bags out of the trash.

### Bring your own reusable water bottle

People in the US purchase about 50 billion bottles of water per year and 75 percent go into the trash. Switching to refillable water bottles reduces one of the biggest contributors to plastic waste.

### Use eco-friendly cleaning products

People use an average of 40 pounds of cleaners each year, and many common cleaning products contain harmful ingredients. You can switch to less toxic store-

bought products or make your own healthy cleaners at home.

### Ditch the paper towels

Paper towels contribute 7.5 billion pounds of waste per year. Instead, you can swap to Swedish dishcloths, cotton kitchen towels or repurpose old clothing into rags.

### Stop before you buy

The phrase “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” lists them in that order for a reason; manufacturing new products takes more resources than reusing or recycling them. Buying fewer things, choosing things that will last longer and giving gifts of experiences all lessen the impacts of manufacturing.

### Repair instead of discarding

Repairing broken things can reduce waste and save money. Look for local experts or learn a new skill yourself. Check out local repair cafes (repairpx.org) to meet volunteers who give their time and repair expertise.

### Cut down on food waste

Food that ends up in the trash emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Use a “first in, first out” method to go through groceries and look for meal planning calculators like [savethefood.com/guestimator](https://savethefood.com/guestimator) to see how much food you need to make.

### Make use of bulk food and refill stores

Buying from the bulk food aisle and zero waste stores helps people avoid using bulky containers and packaging. Some stores carry free reusable jars you can fill and return.

### Donate your unwanted things

When you donate things you can’t use anymore, you give someone else a chance to make use of them, and adding to the circular economy reduces the need to make new products!

### Recycle your old electronics

Many old electronics contain harmful materials like lead and mercury that we want to keep out of our environment. The Oregon E-cycles program has over 200 collection locations throughout the state. Find a location by visiting the Oregon E-cycles website, [ecycleoregon.org](https://ecycleoregon.org).

### Go pesticide free in your garden

Garden chemicals can also be harmful to humans, pets, wildlife and waterways. Switching out your practices and products can make your garden as safe as it is beautiful. Got a question on how to start? Try the metro area Master Gardener hotline at 503.821.1115.

*This article was originally posted on the Metro website, [oregonmetro.gov](https://oregonmetro.gov).*

## Tabletop Gaming Brewery That's a Family-Friendly Space for All

BY DANIEL PEREZ-CROUSE

Housed in the homey, former Tabor Bread space on SE Hawthorne Blvd., TPK Brewing Co. is a new family-friendly craft brewery and public house with a “geeky twist.” It touts itself as a local tavern with a full-time staff of professional Game Masters running various tabletop role-playing games for their patrons, whether they are seasoned veterans or new players.

TPK was founded by Jess Hardie (Head Brewer), Elliott Kaplan (CEO) and Dana Ebert (Creative Director). Kaplan and Hardie met while working in the video game industry and Kaplan got Hardie hooked on tabletop gaming. They both developed a passion for home brewing and went to Siebel Institute of Technology in Chicago in 2018 to hone their skills. Hardie, specifically, brewed beers inspired by her group's roleplaying games; she also learned a lot from working at companies like Von Ebert. This, as stated on their website, is what “planted the seeds for what would eventually become TPK Brewing Co.” Ebert joined up

as their Creative Director in the summer of 2021 while they were researching buildings.

The main area of the tavern has subtle touches that allude to fantasy and gaming, but not so much where it feels like an overtly themed space. Kaplan said the intention was for most people to feel welcomed and not think, “Oh, I'm in a dungeon with dragons everywhere.” However, there's a separate area primarily for gaming where it leans more heavily on the fantasy imagery and vibe. “We really agonized over every decision. We liked our architect a lot—who understood the vision,” said Kaplan.

That vision was a brewery with a dedicated focus on tabletop gaming and fostering that community, while still being an accessible bar and restaurant for anyone. As their website states, “For the non-gamers out there, the best way to think about it is as a place where the weekly events are focused on tabletop roleplaying instead of karaoke or trivia. We'd love for you to be part of the adventure, but you will have a

great time even if that's not your thing!”

Kaplan loves gaming in all forms and has an extensive history of playing games online and working with companies based around multiplayer games (where large amounts of people play online). “As I've gotten older, and through the pandemic, it has solidified that the thing I'm most passionate about is bringing those communities together in person.” Kaplan has seen and met people who'd primarily played D&D (Dungeons and Dragons) online and got to enjoy the connection of doing it with others and forming new friendships at TPK. “That's been rewarding.”

Kaplan noted that the games he'd worked on touched millions of customers, but he could only name around 10 of them over 10 years of working on those games—which is why getting to have one-on-one interactions with people is so important to him at TPK. Moreover, the companies referenced would make games for “most people” and have concessions to gain broad appeal. The



Co-owners Elliott Kaplan, Jess Hardie and Dana Ebert.  
Photo by Lindsey Shea.

joy for him in something like tabletop gaming at TPK is that the role-playing campaigns can help develop more personal and unique stories. “It's pretty freeing,” he said.

The tap list features a series of year-round beers like their stout called “The Ashbringer” (Kaplan's favorite) and an American wheat called “Improvised Weapon,” in addition to rotating, seasonal brews. Naturally, they also have cider, wine and cocktails (with plenty of zero-proof options). They also collaborate with En Vida PDX who has an in-house kitchen for food.

In addition to tabletop gam-

ing sessions, there are a variety of events throughout the month that can feature a social hour for game masters to network, miniatures painting and opportunities for people to learn how to tabletop role-play.

“We are super thankful to the community. The response from everybody and the neighborhood has been great,” said Kaplan.

TPK Brewing is located at 5051 SE Hawthorne Blvd. and is open Wednesday-Monday, 11 am-11 pm. For more information on booking games, their events and more, head over to [tpkbrewing.com](http://tpkbrewing.com).



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## Volunteers Needed for College Essay Exchange

The Literary Arts College Essay Exchange (CEE) pairs high school juniors and seniors with volunteer mentors to work on their college application essays. A majority of the students served are first-generation applicants to college. Volunteer mentors come from all walks of life and share a dedication to positively impacting the lives of young people. Literary Arts provides training and guiding documents to prepare mentors to work effectively with students from diverse backgrounds.

Literary Arts' Youth Programs co-created CEE with Susan Bartley, an award-winning teacher at Franklin High School, in 2010. In the program's first year, Literary Arts trained 34 volunteers to work at an after-school session at Franklin. The session was a powerful, positive experience for everyone involved. In 2019, local companies The Standard and Wieden+Kennedy hosted sessions where students received mentorship, learned about their job fields and toured their

offices. The program has steadily expanded and now serves around 250 students annually.

Mentors travel to high schools to participate in one-on-one mentoring sessions with students who bring essays in a variety of stages. Some bring completed essays that just need polishing while it is more common for students to be in the brainstorming or first draft stage of writing. Grammar and punctuation are not the focus; instead, mentors are asked to be thoughtful, active listeners and encourage each student to present their best selves on the page since the most important part of a college essay is illustrating the student's unique story.

Volunteer mentors are paired with a student (or two, depending on turnout of both mentors and mentees) and can expect to spend approximately 50-90 minutes per session, depending on the length of the class period. New mentors are required to attend a training, lasting approximately 30 minutes. Mentoring

sessions are held at high schools so volunteers need to take travel time into account.

The first step to become a mentor is to register with Literary Arts' volunteer management system cohort of volunteers. Literary Arts coordinates with teachers at the beginning of each semester to confirm dates and times of sessions, then reaches out to potential and returning volunteers with the list of mentoring sessions. Most spring sessions take place in late April and May.

New volunteers are required to fill out a registration form, attend a training and undergo a volunteer background check with Portland Public Schools. The background check is done at no charge to the volunteer and lasts for three years. Mentors from a wide range of cultural and professional backgrounds are needed. About half of the students the program works with are first-generation applicants to college.

Find a link to apply at [literary-arts.org](http://literary-arts.org) under the Programs tab.

## MCL Everybody Reads Book Available



Last fall Multnomah County Library (MCL) announced that *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin had been selected as the 2024 Everybody Reads title. It is currently available to check out or pick up from library locations (while supplies last).

The richly imagined novel follows three friends over many years. Sam and Sadie meet at a hospital as kids and bond over video games. As college students, a chance encounter brings them back together. Sadie, Sam and his college roommate, Marx, go on to design a video game that brings them fame and fortune in their mid-twenties, changing the course of their lives.

Full of references to video gaming and 90s pop culture, gamers will enjoy the many Easter eggs hidden in the book. More than that, it is an expansive exploration of the creative impulse, the

evolving nature of deep friendship and how we tell the story of our own lives.

Zevin is a best-selling author and has published books for adults and teens. She writes both realistic fiction and fantasy. All of her stories explore themes of identity, connection and love.

Everybody Reads is a community-wide reading project that brings together people across Multnomah County. In partnership with Literary Arts and The Library Foundation, Everybody Reads is an opportunity to connect, discuss and reflect on the same book at once. Explore the themes of the book by attending writing workshops, book discussions, gaming events and more.

Find a list of events linked to the book's themes at [multcolib.org/everybody-reads](http://multcolib.org/everybody-reads). Tickets for the final event, "An Evening with Gabrielle Zevin," Thursday, April 4, 7:30 pm at [literary-arts.org](http://literary-arts.org).

## Northwest Radon Poster Contest

The 2024 Northwest Radon Poster Contest is currently accepting submissions from students ages 9-14 that are enrolled in a public, private, territorial, tribal, Department of Defense or home schools. The contest gives students a creative outlet to learn about and raise awareness of radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can build up in any home, often reaching the highest levels during the winter season.

Posters should include one of the following topics: what radon is, where it comes from, how it gets into homes, testing for radon, mitigating radon and radon being a cause of lung cancer. Artwork must be original and only one submission is allowed per

student.

Poster sizes of 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17" are preferred but all submission sizes will be accepted. Posters should be created on white paper and can be done with crayons, markers, paints, collage, pencil or computer graphics.

Submissions will be judged on a number of criteria including a clear title, clear message, accuracy of information, visual communication and originality/creativity. First, second and third place winners in Oregon will receive cash prizes in the form of a gift card (\$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third place). A regional grand prize winner will receive a \$300 gift card. First place winners from each state will

be entered in the 2025 National Radon Poster Contest, and their posters may be used for educational outreach on websites, social media and billboards.

The Northwest Radon Poster Contest is sponsored by Oregon Health Authority's Radon Awareness Program, Washington State Department of Health, Nez Perce Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Indians and the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, in collaboration with the National Radon Program, Conference of Radiation Control Program and US Environmental Protection Agency.

Full contest requirements, release waiver and link to entry at [bit.ly/48ET160](http://bit.ly/48ET160). Entries are due by 11:59 pm February 28.

## New Campsite Reporting Website Eliminates Log In Requirement

Portlanders now have a new and improved online system for reporting campsites that eliminates the need for people to log in. The new form improves accessibility for all community members, ensures the necessary information is collected that city staff and contractors need to respond and efficiently notifies the various city departments who play a role in assessing and addressing campsite-related issues.

The new form features improved location reporting, user-friendly questions and an optional email confirmation. Soon, the new form will also allow community members to report campsite-related vehicles as well. Currently the reporting of campsite-related vehicles requires completing a separate abandoned vehicle report.

While the reporting form is and will continue to be available through [PDXReporter.org](http://PDXReporter.org), com-

munity members are encouraged to use the new form found at [portland.gov/report/campsite](http://portland.gov/report/campsite) instead as it eliminates the need to log in. The new form, launched in December, was developed by the Homelessness & Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program (IRP), PDX 311 and Bureau of Technology Services staff. It has already proven to be a more effective and comprehensive way to report campsite-related issues to city staff in the short time that it has been in use.

The IRP team thanks the public for their continued reports about campsites on public property. IRP works with partners to help minimize the impacts of unsanctioned camping, removing campsites that pose the highest risk and uses the information they receive from the public to deploy resources and outreach in places where people are living unsheltered.

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

**CSA FAIR SHARE** – The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Share Fair Event offers an opportunity to find out what's happening at the local level to develop a sustainable food system and learn the many benefits of CSAs. Taking place Saturday, March 3, 10 am-1 pm at The Redd on Salmon, the event includes CSA subscription sign ups, local chefs demonstrating seasonal cooking and samples. For more on this is a free, family-friendly event, visit [pnwcsa.org/csasharefair](http://pnwcsa.org/csasharefair).

**GAP YEAR FAIR** – USA Gap Year holds a fair at Cleveland High School, 3400 SE 26th Ave., Tuesday, February 13, 6 pm. Learn about options for travel, cultural immersion, service, work experience and mentorship and connect with program providers. Trip leaders, advisors and gap year alumni will also be on hand until 8:30 pm. Admission is free and pre-registration (recommended, but not required) can be submitted at [portlandgyf2024.eventbrite.com](http://portlandgyf2024.eventbrite.com).

**DISTRICT COALITION INFO SESSION** – Civic Life hosts a hybrid information session on the coming transition to the District Coalition Office model that will be implemented in July. Learn more about the move from seven to four service areas Thursday, February 15, 6-8 pm. Register for either Zoom or in person (3534 SE Main St.) attendance at [bit.ly/3S3Doie](http://bit.ly/3S3Doie).

## Detecting and Preventing Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is odorless, tasteless and invisible and comes up from the ground through cracks and gaps. Long-term exposure to high levels can harm health and radon buildup can happen in any home. Radon levels often reach their highest levels during the winter months when doors and windows are closed and people are spending more time inside. That combination puts many parts of Oregon at risk of exposure and is the reason why Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Radon Awareness Program encourages people to test their homes this time of year.

"Testing your home is the only way to know if you have high radon levels. Testing every two to five years gives you the knowledge to plan ahead, and if necessary, hire a professional to reduce your radon levels," said Brett Sherry, the program manager for OHA's Healthy Homes & Schools Unit. "Radon test kits are simple to use and inexpensive, with many of them available online or at your local hardware and home improvement store."

Many home radon test kits cost between \$20 and \$30, though people may qualify for free kits if they live in ZIP codes that have fewer than 20 radon test results recorded. Free test kits are available while supplies last. More information, including application details, available at bit.ly/3vIVFj4.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the US after cigarette smoking and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the US.

The Oregon Radon Awareness Program collects radon test data from test kit manufacturers to understand which areas of the state have the potential for high radon levels and to identify opportunities for education outreach. Some regions with notably high risk of elevated radon include Boring, Columbia City and parts of northern, northeastern and southern Portland, according to data published in 2023.

If testing results show a significant buildup of radon in any given home, the EPA recommends finding a qualified radon mitigation contractor to lower those levels. The cost of mitigation may be similar to that of common home repairs such as painting or installing a new water heater.

For more information on areas that have been identified as having moderate-to-high-risk elevated radon levels in Oregon, ordering and using radon test kits, and radon mitigation, visit OHA's Radon Awareness Program website, [healthoregon.org/radon](http://healthoregon.org/radon), or the EPA's radon website, [epa.gov/radon](http://epa.gov/radon).

## Repairing Property Damage Due to Weather

The ice storm that hit Portland in January is one example of weather events that may cause property damage. The Bureau of Development Service (BDS) has information and resources for people who need to fix damage done by storms and other natural disasters.

The cause of the damage is the first thing to identify. If it was caused by a falling tree, the City of Portland's Urban Forestry Division has instructions entitled "Tree Emergencies on Private Property." For damage caused by a downed power line, Portland General Electric customers can call 800.542.8818 or use their mobile app; Pacific Power customers with downed power lines can report them at 888.221.7070. If the storm has caused a ruptured pipe, the first step is to locate the water shutoff valve and turn it off. After that the Portland Water Bureau has additional information. For damage caused by other means, people should report the incident to their insurance provider and follow instructions for filing a claim.

For all types of damage, those who have insurance should contact their insurance company to file a claim before beginning repair work. Those lacking insurance will likely need to pay for the repairs themselves, although the Portland Housing Bureau offers information for homeowners who need help fixing and keeping ownership of their houses.

When contacting a contractor to make repairs, it is important to make sure that they are licensed. Information on finding a licensed contractor can be found on the Oregon Construction Contractor Board's website, by call-



ing 503.378.4621 or emailing [ccb.info@ccb.oregon.gov](mailto:ccb.info@ccb.oregon.gov).

Some residential repairs will require work permits. Those that do not include some emergency plumbing repairs, replacing or repairing siding that is not required to be fire resistant, replacing or repairing a roof and more. Even those that do require a permit can be done in an emergency by notifying Matthew Rozzell, the Building Official, within 72 hours and submitting a permit application within five business days.

Renters sustaining damage must notify their landlord so that they can have their insurance company assess and repair the damage. Renters who have renter's insurance (covering damage to personal possessions), should contact their insurance company to discuss the options, including filing a claim.

If the housing unit was damaged to the extent that it is not livable, renters should discuss alternative living arrangements with their landlord, reach out to friends/family or seek a hotel or shelter.

Whether you are a renter or homeowner, if there are not friends/family to stay with and the cost of a hotel room is out of reach, the Red Cross may be able to help. They help support sheltering and services provided by county emergency managers and other partners. Those displaced due to damage can call the Red Cross Duty Officer line at 888.680.1455 or visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

Scams are everywhere, including when people are recovering from a natural disaster. The Oregon Attorney General says common signs of a scam include people being contacted out of the blue (knocking on the door, phone call or unexpected mail); a scammer claiming that emergency action is required; a scammer asking for personal or financial information; by being told that the transaction needs to be kept a secret; and anything that sounds too good to be true.

Links to instructions mentioned above and more detailed information can be found at [portland.gov/bds/repairing-storm-damage](http://portland.gov/bds/repairing-storm-damage).

## Alternative Shelter Operations Programs SRV and TASS Merge

Two alternative shelter operations programs, the Safe Rest Village (SRV) program and the Temporary Alternative Shelter Sites (TASS) program, are merging into the City Shelter Services Team. While there are some slight differences between the programs, they both strive to serve the same goals—providing shelters with services for those experiencing homelessness.

Uniting all of the city's alternative shelter operations into one program will streamline day-to-day operations, enhance services and simplify communication channels with the public. Brandy Westerman has been appointed to lead the City Shelter Services Team.

Westerman joined the city in September 2023 in the brand new role as Emergency Humanitarian Operations Director. She has spent more than two decades leading humanitarian response teams across the globe and brings her expertise to oversee all of the

alternative shelter operations, including budget, procurement, construction, communications and project evaluations. Westerman said, "Everyone deserves a safe and comfortable place to sleep tonight and every night. I see shelter as a necessary part of the service ecosystem, while recognizing that secure housing with adequate and tailored services for every individual and family experiencing homelessness is our goal."

The SRV and TASS teams have started working together, with websites and other more visible changes coming in the near future. There is a new, shared email that can be used to reach everyone involved with the city's shelter services programs: [shelterservices@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:shelterservices@portlandoregon.gov). Emails sent to the previous address ([safestrestvillages@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:safestrestvillages@portlandoregon.gov)) are being forwarded to the new inbox. The phone number remains the same, 503.823.1340.

## Mason Bee Fundraiser

The Friends of Portland Community Gardens is selling Mason Bee houses and cocoons as a fundraiser for the organization and to fund its ongoing program of donating Mason Bee houses and bee cocoons to every City of Portland community garden. At present, there are 60 community gardens with more to be developed in the future.

Mason Bee houses with reusable stacking cocoon trays and 70 cocoons, along with seminars on caring for bees and harvesting the cocoons and ongoing assistance sell for \$75 while supplies last. The organization is also offering the option to purchase just the bee houses for \$60. In March they'll know if they have extra cocoons to sell individually (at \$50 each).

Mason bees are native to the Pacific Northwest and are solitary bees. Unlike honey bees, they don't produce honey, build a hive



or have a queen bee. Only female Mason Bees have a stinger and it's rare for them to sting a person. Adult bees hatch from their cocoons in the spring, generally April. They pollinate flowers much more efficiently than honey or stumble bees and, with a focus on spring activity, are especially important for spring flowering plants and fruit and nut trees.

The Friends of Portland Community Gardens is a local nonprofit whose mission is to support and expand community gardening opportunities for all Portlanders to grow healthy food

and build community around gardening. Becoming a member not only supports the organization's work but those who become members (individual, family and lifetime options available) will receive 20 percent off a Mason Bee purchase and discount coupons for the Portland Nursery and Concentrates nursery/farm store in addition to other member benefits.

Email Allen at [awfportland@gmail.com](mailto:awfportland@gmail.com) to order Mason Bees and for more about the organization, visit [portlandcommunitygardens.org](http://portlandcommunitygardens.org).



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# Combating Cybercrime

BY ONPOINT COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) received more than 2.4 million fraud reports from consumers in 2022. Consumers nearly lost \$8.8 billion from fraud, an increase of 30 percent from the \$6.1 billion lost the previous year. This increase in fraud losses is a stark reminder of why consumers need to continue to be vigilant when it comes to their personal online security, says Damian Laviolette, Chief Information Security Officer for OnPoint Community Credit Union.

OnPoint has released “The OnPoint Guide to Personal Cybersecurity” eBook to help consumers protect themselves in an ever-evolving cybercrime landscape. OnPoint updates the free eBook every October in observance of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month to keep the community informed of the latest online threats. “Protecting yourself from fraud is crucial in today’s digital age,” Laviolette said. “As cybercriminals refine their attack methods, we remain committed to sharing best practices and resources to help the community stay ahead of emerging trends and safeguard their identities and financial assets.” The latest trends in online fraud include the following.

### Smishing

In 2022, fraudsters sent a record-breaking 225.7 billion smishing texts. Smishing attacks often involve misleading messages designed to deceive recipients into clicking malicious links, downloading malware or revealing sensitive information. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced new rules to mitigate spam texting, which will require mobile service providers to block text messages from suspicious sources.

### AI-driven cybercrime

Cybercriminals are increasingly exploiting artificial intelligence tools. They leverage Natural Language Processing (NLP)

models like ChatGPT to create convincing messages that mimic human communication. AI can be employed to create and adapt malware to evade detection, with the ability to analyze target environments and deliver the most effective attacks. AI-driven tools can also automate cyber attacks by using bots to continuously scan the internet for vulnerable systems to target.

### Phishing-as-a-service

Phishing remains one of the most common forms of cybercrime, with an estimated 3.4 billion spam emails sent every day. Now, cybercriminals are using phishing-as-a-service platforms that offer ready-made kits with all the code, graphics, email templates, landing pages and other relevant information necessary to execute a phishing scam. These kits are readily available on dark web forums and make it easy for anyone to use.

To combat cybercrime and increase your cyber security, OnPoint has four tips.

### Strengthen your passwords or consider using passphrases

It’s common to use the same username and password across sites. But if one account is breached, the rest could follow. Use a password manager to keep track of different passwords. Passphrases can be an even stronger way to protect your accounts. Passphrases are longer than a password, can contain spaces between words and should be easy to remember. Consider song lyrics, a quotation or anything memorable to you like “My 1st pet dog was F!d0,” mixing in symbols and numbers in place of some letters.

### Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA)

Activate MFA wherever possible, especially for your email, financial and social media accounts. MFA adds an extra

layer of security by requiring you to enter a one-time code or use a biometric method to access your account. This additional security helps protect your accounts from unauthorized access.

### Never trust, always verify

Imposter scams topped the list of fraud cases in 2022. These scams come in the form of emails, texts or phone calls, claiming to be a legitimate company or institution. They either want you to hand over personal information or click on a link containing hidden malware. If it’s email, always double-check the sender’s address and domain name and never rely on the display name. You can hover over a link to see if the URL looks legitimate or has common tricks like a zero in place of the letter “o” or an “s” added to the end of a word like onpoints.com. Watch out for any offer or notification that is unsolicited or is full of grammatical errors and typos. And if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

### Stay proactive and vigilant

Regularly review your bank and credit card statements for unauthorized transactions. Report any discrepancies immediately to your financial institution. You can also set up text or email alerts on your accounts to receive immediate notifications of abnormal activity. Consider using a credit monitoring service, which tracks internet traffic for personal information being shopped on the dark web. These services can’t prevent fraud once it’s happened, but they can alert you to take action.

Remember that fraudsters continually evolve their tactics, so it’s essential to stay vigilant and adapt to new threats. To explore additional ways to protect yourself and your family, download The OnPoint Guide to Cybersecurity eBook at onpointcu.com/security or consult with a staff member at your nearest OnPoint branch.

# All Stages, Wages and Ages — Housing for the Eastside

from page 1

college. He lived with a family in their large, fourth floor apartment. “It was in a quiet neighborhood and at street level, the small shops met most people’s daily needs.” This experience inspired him to study sustainable development and urban design while in college.

Tuckerbaum and all the other sustainable housing advocates see the Inner Eastside for All zoning change as a new/old way to solve the housing crisis we are faced with in the inner city.

Because of zoning and density mandates, apartments built over the past 10+ years are mainly on busy corridors and are generally studios and one bedrooms.

What P:NW and other affordable housing developers would like to see is more three-story, single stairway, multifamily apartments.

Tuckerbaum cited Seattle-based architect Michael Eliason, whose vision for this type of “middle housing” is beginning to happen. (Seattle approved single stairs in buildings up to six stories.) Eliason is the founder of Larch Lab, a small group of architects and developers designing multifamily buildings with only one stairway.

According to Eliason, in order for developers to comply with the mandate for any new build over three floors to have two stairways, every residence has to

have access to both staircases (not just fire escapes like in the past). The units in this type of apartment are usually built around one long, dark, double-loaded corridor. This ruling makes it harder and more expensive to build small-footprint, mid-rise, multifamily rental buildings. Developers then charge more per unit as compensation for the unsalable interior space consumed by these long corridors.

Along with the campaign to bring back multifamily, walk-up apartments, the Inner Eastside for All wants to zone for services to support these urban dwellers.

continued on page 15

# Who Pays the Most Taxes?

BY KRIS MCDOWELL

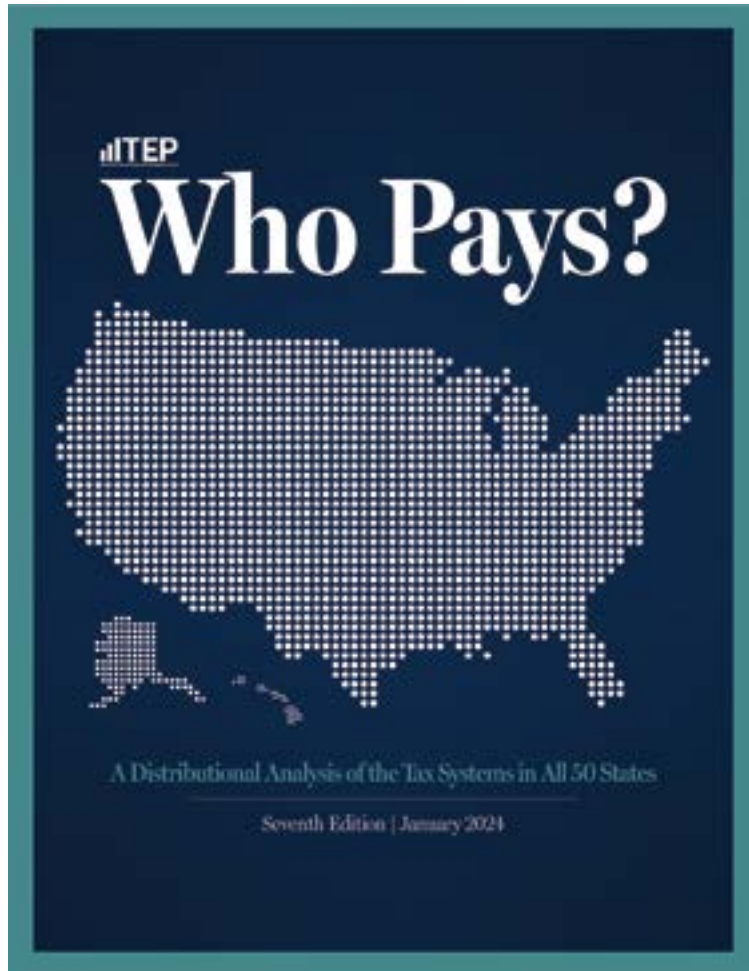
According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), Oregon's poorest families pay more in taxes as a share of income than any other group in the state. The ITEP report, which the Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCPP) helped to release, shows that the state's tax system remains inequitable, with middle-income families and the rich paying a smaller share of income in taxes than the poorest families.

The report, entitled "Who Pays?," is an analysis of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It assesses how progressive and regressive various state's tax systems are, providing a detailed analysis of features of each state tax code and profiles that provide baseline data to help lawmakers the public understand how current tax policies affect taxpayers at all income levels.

Regressive taxes are "upside-down," meaning that low- and middle-income families pay a greater share of their income than wealthy families do. According to the ITEP, "On average, the lowest-income 20 percent of taxpayers face a state and local tax rate nearly 60 percent higher than the top one percent of households."

Oregon is one of the 10 jurisdictions with the least regressive state and local tax systems. Seven of them have state and local tax systems that do not worsen income inequality overall (and actually lessen it for some groups) and the other three, including Oregon, have tax codes that tilt slightly regressive overall. While Oregon's tax structure looks better than many states in a national context, taxes take up approximately 12 percent of the income of Oregon's lowest-earning tax filers while the middle fifth pays 9.7 percent and the richest one percent pays 10.4 of their income toward taxes.

Daniel Hauser, Deputy Director of the OCPP, said, "Oregon's lowest-income residents are struggling to afford rent and put food on the table. Asking these Oregonians to pay a larger share of their income in taxes than the highest-income Oregonians is a disgrace." To reverse this situation he advocates increasing taxes on the rich, adding a tax bracket



for those with more than \$1 million in annual income and ramping up the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The state EITC is a refundable tax credit that mirrors a federal tax credit with the same name and helps low-income working families.

The ITEP has identified several important factors of states that have more equitable tax systems. These include highly progressive income tax brackets and rates; the use of targeted, refundable low-income credits; broad-based income taxes; and a higher reliance on income taxes and lower reliance on regressive consumption taxes. In Oregon, progressive tax features include an absence of a statewide sales tax; a graduated personal income tax structure; a refundable dependent care tax credit; a refundable Child Tax Credit (CTC) for young children; and a refundable EITC. Oregon also levies a state estate tax and requires combined reporting for the corporate income tax with some foreign tax haven income subject to Global Intangible Low Taxed Income inclusion.

On the other side of the coin, Oregon's EITC is compara-

tively low and there is no property tax "circuit breaker" credit for low-income homeowners or non-senior renters to help them pay their property tax bills. Two other regressive tax features in Oregon are lower personal income tax rates for pass-through business income (advantageous to high-income and disproportionately white taxpayers) and a partial income tax deduction for federal income taxes paid, allowing taxpayers to reduce their state taxable income by the amount of federal income tax they pay (which is progressive and heavily favors upper-income families).

Hauser said, "Oregon's tax system remains inequitable. Our tax system should reduce Oregon's record-high levels of income inequality, but instead it makes it worse." He called on the Oregon legislature to take steps to reverse this situation by "working on both ends of the income ladder." Those steps would include adding "Millionaire's Tax" (an additional tax bracket for people who have more than \$1 million in annual income) and ramping up Oregon's EITC to lower the taxes of those who earn the least.

The advertisement features a vibrant background with illustrations of various fruits and vegetables like carrots, apples, and leafy greens. At the top, it says 'HAVE AN EBT CARD?' in green. Below that, in large green letters, is 'BUY \$1, GET \$1 TO SPEND ON FRESH FRUITS & VEGGIES!'. The Double Up Food Bucks Oregon logo is on the left, and the People's Food Co-op logo is in the center. A small image of a covered wagon is labeled 'Oregon Trail'. At the bottom, contact information is provided: '(503) 232-9051', 'peoples.coop/double-up-food-bucks', and '3029 SE 21st Ave'.

The advertisement is set against a purple and yellow background with a decorative border at the top. It features two play listings. The first is 'VERÓNICA PRINCESA' by Alicia Dogliotti and Federico Roca, running from Feb 16 to Mar 2, 2024. The description says Verónica is a pre-adolescent who questions the roles of different "princesses" as she learns to put herself in the shoes of others. The second is 'BORDERLINE' by Andrew Sianez-De La O, running from May 3 to May 18, 2024. The description says it is set in the old cotton fields of Socorro, Texas, where four Latino teens, threatened by a mysterious creature, will have to rely on each other to escape the desert alive. The 'MILAGRO' logo is at the bottom, with the tagline 'AUTHENTIC • VIBRANT • PROVOCATIVE'. Contact information for tickets is 'milagro.org | 503.236.7253'.

# AE Arts & Entertainment

## Walk The Garden at Pushdot

Sam Muller's exhibit, "Walk The Garden," is the featured show at Pushdot Studio Gallery, located in the Ford Building (2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite 104), Friday, February 2-Sunday, March 29. The show kicks off with an opening reception/artist talk on the 2nd, 6-8 pm.

At the turn of 2022, Muller decided to leave the Vedanta Ashram, where he had been living for over nine years. Committed to meditation and study practice, he was the manager (abott) caring for the grounds and facilities. Upon leaving, he followed his heart, which led him to the Portland Japanese Garden, where his meditation and study practices were renewed in a refreshing and profound way.

His inspiration to "Walk The Garden" 21 times last year was the aesthetic experience of seeing and feeling the spirit of the architecture and the love and care of an envisioned environment—a microcosm—of harmony and beauty that regards nature as sacred. "Walk The Garden" is composed of 11 exposures in black and white prints and 10 in color.

Pushdot is open Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5 pm; free admission.

## AHC February Events



In 2024, the Architectural Heritage Center (AHC) is planning more than 90 walking tours, three new exhibits and relaunching their talks and lecture series. The lecture series starts with a talk on the history of skyscrapers and their lasting legacy for the future and an exploration of some of the Native American artworks and artists in the Portland area.

"Portland's Tall Buildings and the Pursuit of the Transcendental" is an examination of the meanings of tall buildings through time, both in Portland and beyond. Saturday, February 3, 10 am Bob Hermanson will go into the history and design of what we know about skyscrapers today and how these skyscrapers have developed into an iconic feature of city life. From the Wells Fargo building, to the tower of Babel, all the way to the KOIN tower; how do these skyscrapers fit in our life today and will they prove fruitful for the future?

Up next is Price Shaffer and Dr. Tracy Prince with "Native American Public Art," Saturday, February 10, 10 am. They will look at some of the Native American artists and works of public art that can be found in and around Portland. Among the artists featured in the presentation are Lillian Pitt (Warm Springs), Greg Robinson (Chinook), Travis Stewart (Grand Ronde) and Amy Red Star (Crow).

Visit [visitaahc.org](http://visitaahc.org) to register for the lectures (\$15 members, \$25 general public). Lectures take place at AHC, 701 SE Grand Ave.

## Milagro's Verónica Princesa



Milagro Theatre presents *Verónica Princesa* Friday, February 16-Saturday, March 2. Written by Alicia Dogliotti, the performance is presented in Spanish with English subtitles, with Friday and Saturday shows at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. There will also be a preview show Thursday, February 15, 7:30 pm.

Verónica is a pre-adolescent who, faced with traditional tales, questions the roles of different "princesses" as she learns to put herself in the shoes of others and especially those of her mother. After Verónica and her mom have a huge argument about household responsibilities, she awakens into a magical world of fairy tales. With the help of a shoemaker, she learns that a princess life is not as fun as she thought it would be. Living in their shoes, she learns a valuable lesson: beyond the glamor lay a reality filled with hidden challenges. Verónica learns to appreciate the genuine, hardworking life her mom has built for her over the make-believe world of fairy tale princesses.

Tickets (\$30 adults/\$26 seniors/\$22 students) available at [milagro.org](http://milagro.org). Milagro Theatre is located at 525 SE Stark St.

## Jazz Moms Performance

Thursday, February 22, 8-10 pm Jazz Moms Kerry Politzer (piano) and Courtney Freed (vocals) play selections from the Great American Songbook at Corkscrew Wine Bar. Politzer is a Portland-based jazz pianist, composer and educator who is on the music faculty of Portland State University. She is an alumna of the 2003 and 2005 Banff Jazz Workshops and was one of six finalists in the American Pianists Association's 3rd Biennial Jazz Piano Competition.

Strong, passionate, vivacious and daring, Freed is a dynamic vocalist in a class all her own. The Portland-based singer, songwriter, creatrix and educator has been called a "whirlwind of excitement" as well as "effervescent" and "breathtaking." Whether she is belting out a Queen classic or a sultry standard, she is sure to captivate many a listener.

Corkscrew Wine Bar is located at 1665 SE Bybee Blvd. There is no cover for the show.

## Wine Gets Wild

The Wild Bunch returns for a third year Saturday, March 2, 11 am-4 pm at The Factor Building (226 SE Madison St.) to celebrate natural wine with over 65 wine makers and importers pouring 400+ wines from around the world. The event will also have food available for purchase from Sebastiano's and Lupine, coffee from Lionheart ft. Junior's Roasted Coffee, beer from Duality Brewing and a full rotation of music from The Numberz.FM produced by DJ Ambush. Plus, the retail shop is back, bigger and better this year.

Each year The Wild Bunch chooses a community partner to highlight and share the proceeds with. This year, they're honored to be working with AHIVOY, a Willamette Valley organization that provides education for Latinx vineyard management ownership, professional vineyard and cellar work and continuing education. Those who would like to make direct donations to AHIVOY can do so at the time of ticket purchase or at the event.

Tickets (\$48 + fees) for the 21+ event include entry and all the wine tasting you can handle. They are expected to sell out in advance of the event, so grab yours now at [thewildbunchpdx.com](http://thewildbunchpdx.com).

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## Love at Alberta Rose



February at Alberta Rose Theatre offers love of all sorts. Friday, February 9 Portland's beloved BOYeurism variety spectacle takes the stage for a night of fantastic entertainment. The all-inclusive show experience invites everyone to celebrate the joy and beauty of performance art with dance, music, drag, burlesque, circus, community and love. Doors at 6:30 pm, 21+ show at 8 pm, tickets \$35-\$55.

Valentine - A Night of Circus, Music and Love runs Tuesday, February 13 and Wednesday, February 14. Rose City Circus and Trashcan Joe present a vintage-themed night of love, spotlighting a daring and romantic circus alongside live, original tunes of vintage swing, jazz, folk and blues. Treat yourself and someone you love to an unforgettable experience featuring the finest acrobats, aerialists, jugglers and movement artists in the business. Doors at 6:30 pm, show at 7:30 pm, tickets \$35-\$50 and minors are allowed when accompanied by parent/guardian.

Be a part of the creative process of Everyone Orchestra, an improvisational and audience participation performance Saturday, February 17. Whether you're a fan of rock, jazz, funk or any other style, there's something for everyone to love at an Everyone Orchestra show. Get ready for an evening of conducted improvisation and pure musical magic as talented musicians come together to create something truly unique. Doors at 7 pm for the partially seated (room to dance!) 8 pm show, tickets \$22-\$27 and minors allowed with parent/guardian.

Visit [albertarosetheatre.com](http://albertarosetheatre.com) for additional information and to purchase tickets. Alberta Rose Theatre is located at 3000 NE Alberta St.

## 2024 PDX Jazz Festival

The 2024 Biamp Portland Jazz Festival kicks off Friday, February 16, running through Saturday, March 2 across 30 venues. The artists span the full breadth of jazz and are driving the evolution of jazz figure prominently alongside NEA Jazz Masters and GRAMMY® Award-Winners.

The two-week music extravaganza features performances by Jon Batiste, Dianne Reeves, Nicholas Payton, Sudan Archives, Bob James, Lee Ritenour, Louis Cole, Shabaka, John Patitucci, Julian Lage, Kamaal Williams, Bassekou Kouyate, Vieux Farka Touré, Theo Croker, Kassa Overall, Melanie Charles, Keyon Harrold, Sullivan Fortner, Mary Halvorson, Yotam Silberstein with Billy Hart, Genevieve Artadi, Corey Harris, Cedric Watson, Carrtoons, Nicole Glover, Nicole McCabe, Hailey Niswanger, Eldon T Jones and Dan Balmer.

PDX Jazz Executive Director, Chris Doss says, "pushing the boundaries and exploring the entire realm of jazz is a key element of the Portland Jazz Festival. Towards this aim, jazz-inspired dance makes its Festival debut at the 2024 Portland Jazz Festival with the world premiere of a PDX Jazz commissioned piece, *A History of Demise*, featuring Shaun Keylock Company with music by Methods Body."

For a full listing of events, details and to purchase tickets, visit [pdxjazz.org](http://pdxjazz.org).

## Steve Drizos Album Release Show

Portland-based musician/engineer/producer Steve Drizos, a professional touring musician for more than 27 years, will play an album release show for his sophomore full-length album *i love you now leave me alone* Friday, March 1 at The Showdown with Anita Lee and the Handsome 3.

*i love you now leave me alone* follows his debut solo album, *Axiom*, which was written, recorded and released during the pandemic, where Drizos played most of the instruments himself. On his new album, he decided to demo everything and build a band around the songs, resulting in a powerful follow-up that finds the songwriter side of him growing and evolving, delivering another strong collection of eight powerful songs that find influence in 90's guitar-rock, pop and folk.

"My first record, *Axiom*, got a lot more attention and positive feedback than I ever could have imagined, so I felt really motivated to release a follow up as soon as possible," Drizos says in discussing the birth of *i love you now leave me alone*. "And where *Axiom* was very much done on my own, I wanted this project to be a band, tracking the songs live and having much more collaboration. Once I had a batch of songs that I felt good about, I assembled the players and got to work." The band includes drummer Joe Mengis (Eels), Tim Murphy (Rough-Cuts) on bass and backing vocals, Todd Wright on electric guitars and backing vocals, and Drizos' wife, Jenny Conlee, on piano and electric piano.

Doors for the March 1 show open at 7:30 pm, with the show at 8:30 pm. The Showdown is located at 1195 SE Powell Blvd. and tickets (\$12 in advance) can be purchased at [showdownpdx.com](http://showdownpdx.com).

## Mother Goose's Advices

Mother Goose's Advices to Her Young Ones is a marvelous world in between storied fables and the miraculous nature of reality, where a curious and magical character journeys through a series of dream-like encounters in which mystery, wonder and the irreverence of beauty is discovered. Told in an inventive and imaginative combination of clown, puppetry, music and animation, Mother Goose's Advices are "parables set in motion," humorous and profound—a playfully touching visionary look at cosmology, ecology and the poetic spirit of the human heart created and performed by Matthew Fielder.

The performance takes place Saturday, February 24, 8 pm. Doors open at Performance Works Northwest, 4625 SE 67th Ave., at 7:30 pm. Tickets for the show are pay-what-you-will \$10-\$20 and available at [pwnw-pdx.org](http://pwnw-pdx.org). Suitable for adults of all ages and kiddos 10 years and older.

## Folk Duo Performance

Pharis and Jason Romero, a husband and wife duo from Horsefly, British Columbia, perform folk/Americana music, connecting with audiences through their music, lifestyle and sense of joy and ease. Winners of four Juno awards and seven Canadian Folk Music Awards, they bring their well-crafted songs, effortless harmonies and intricate finger-picking on the guitar and banjo for an uplifting show Saturday, February 24.

The Portland FolkMusic concert takes place at Reedwood Friends Church, 2901 SE Steele St., 7:30 pm (doors at 7 pm). Tickets (\$12-\$27) available at the door and [portlandfolkmusic.org](http://portlandfolkmusic.org).



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## Wellness Word

Editor's note: Wellness Word is an informational column which is not meant to replace a healthcare professional's diagnosis, treatment or medication.

### Good For the Heart: the Cardiovascular Effect of Strength Training

Cardiovascular, or cardio, strength training is very important and should always be a part of your weekly routine. But did you know that there can be a significant cardiovascular component to strength training? Let's explore some of the best ways to get this benefit.

#### Circuit training

This form of exercise is very popular with folks who want to get into good shape and have better health and is a good way to train all of your skeletal muscles in a single workout. By moving from exercise to exercise with minimal rest in between, you can increase your heart rate, blood pressure and core temperature, and keep it high until the end of your workout.

#### HIIT training

High intensity interval training (HIIT) has become very popular. Its format consists of short bursts of high intensity activity followed by a short rest, repeated over and over for a specific amount of time or number of exercise sets. While there is a need to push yourself harder to

get the benefit, this format works well for people with minimal time to exercise.

#### Tabata training

This is considered a form of high intensity interval training. While the original Tabata training was only four minutes in total, many instructors have used a similar format in a longer class setting, usually alternating exercises with work and rest breaks. High intensity formats should not be overused to allow recovery of the body.

#### Lower body lifting

The large muscles of the lower body need much more oxygen to fuel them when under load, so exercises like squats, lunges step ups, deadlifts and so on will require a significant increase in heart and lung capacity. As the person becomes more trained, they can lift heavier loads for a longer period of time. You may notice that you're out of breath after that set of walking lunges!

#### Energy systems

The two main types of exercise are broken into aerobic and anaerobic. Aerobic exercise is lower intensity and longer duration and is fueled by oxygen (hence the name). Anaerobic exercise is fueled by glycogen from the muscles and is used when shorter bursts of activity are done, such as in weightlifting or other sports. Both of these types of activity are important to overall cardiovascular health.

#### Muscle fiber types

Many people don't know that there are multiple types of muscle fibers contained within each muscle group. Type 1, the aerobic muscle fibers, are for longer duration exercises like walking, swimming, running, etc. Type 2A muscle fibers are used for strength exercises such as weightlifting. Type 2B muscle fibers are used for explosive

movements, such as sprinting or jumping. Everyone has all of these types, but you may prefer a certain form of exercise (or find it easier) due to a predominance of a particular muscle type. Finding types of exercise you enjoy will make it easier to be consistent.

#### Intensity and time under tension

The intensity of an exercise can be increased by either increasing the load or increasing the length of time the exercise is performed for. Time under tension means the amount of time the particular muscle or muscles are contracting for. Therefore you can use a heavier weight and perform the set more quickly, or use a lighter weight and perform the set more slowly, gaining the same effect! This works especially well for home workouts where you may not have a lot of equipment. Simply slow down the tempo of both the lifting and lowering phases.

#### Muscular strength versus muscular endurance

Muscular strength refers to the contractile strength of a particular muscle group or of your entire body; in other words, how much weight you can lift. Muscle endurance refers to the length of time you can continue an activity; a good example is how long you can walk, run, swim or play a sport before fatigue sets in. Both types are important for a strong, healthy body and heart.

Strength training is good for the heart. As you can see, strength training is good for not only the muscles, joints, tendons and bones, but also for your heart and lungs! Remember to always ask for help if you're unfamiliar with this or any form of exercise.

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# Neighborhood Notes

## HAND By Jill Riebesehl

The Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood Association (HAND) Board met January 16 via Zoom due to severe weather. A report from the group that monitors how the Clinton Triangle (TASS) is integrating with our neighborhood reported that there are now 175 people taking refuge in the site. We discussed ways to deal with unsanctioned camping sites and there was discussion of siting a possible mural or murals.

Karen Whitman of the Landscape Conservancy made a pitch for a Keller Auditorium Rebuild as the city is looking at sites for a large new performing arts venue.

A report on the proposed Avalon tiny village indicated that the Joint Office of Homeless Services has not confirmed funding for the project.

The HAND Board is revving up efforts to research the history of swimming access to the river from the eastside with the goal of restoring access.

The city is preparing to add three new crosswalks on SE 11th and 12th avenues, the siting of which some neighbors have voiced concerns about.

We heard from Megan Moyer, the first candidate to announce for the open seat on the Multnomah County Commission in District 1. (Our neighborhood is in District 3 for City Council.)

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 7 pm in the conference room on the St. Philip Neri campus. There are interesting changes and activities coming up and we welcome everybody.

## Montavilla Neighborhood Association By Louise Hoff

Montavilla Neighborhood Association started the new year with a new Board chair, many new Board members and several returning members. We had a good turnout but we are all looking forward to resuming in person meetings by spring.

Hector Ramirez completed his beautiful mural on the corner of NE 82nd Ave. and Glisan St. We are still in the planning stages of a community celebration.

Neighborhood meetings have been initiated by the county to help residents and businesses fashion good neighbor agreements with the proposed shelters in our neighborhood.

Visit [Montavilla.org](http://Montavilla.org) for all information on future meetings and minutes.

## North Tabor Neighborhood Association By Kim Kasch

The NTNA will have their next hybrid meeting Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 pm. The in-person portion will be held at the Community of Christ Church (4837 NE Couch St.) and the online portion will be held via Zoom ([zoom.us/j/99699816373](https://zoom.us/j/99699816373)).

Our topics of discussion will include Todd Kent, a developer working on the NE 57th Ave. and Flanners St. project, discussing upcoming demolition and construction at 6:40 pm. According to Portlandmaps, "The scope includes demolishing three existing structures and building a new 28-unit apartment building. The proposed design includes a courtyard, community room and a tuck under parking lot."

At 7:10 pm we will have Nikki Mandell discussing Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub Risks and seismic risk analysis ([multco.us/sustainability/cei-hub-seismic-risk-analysis](https://multco.us/sustainability/cei-hub-seismic-risk-analysis)).

We will be having another neighborhood cleanup in April and will be partnering with the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association. Please contact us at [board@northtabor.org](mailto:board@northtabor.org) if you would be interested in volunteering for this event. We need volunteers for a variety of duties.

## Richmond Neighborhood Association By Allen Field

The Richmond Neighborhood Association (RNA) had no meeting in January. The Board usually has a retreat or social dinner instead of a meeting.

The next meeting will be February 12. Meetings are held the second Monday of the month, 7-9 pm except January.

The RNA meetings are held in person at Central Christian Church, 1844 SE Cesar E Chavez Blvd., with a hybrid option so people can participate via Zoom. The link to pre-register for Zoom is on the agenda, which is posted to [richmondpx.org](http://richmondpx.org), and the RNA Announce listserv. To be added to the listserv, email [richmondnasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:richmondnasecretary@gmail.com). All are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom.

Come and check out a meeting and learn about ways to get more involved in your community.

## South Tabor Neighborhood Association By Cathy Kudlick

The South Tabor Land Use Committee met on Zoom in January to learn about a new affordable housing project planned for PCC's SE campus. In February, they'll hear from Portland Neighbors Welcome about their Inner Eastside for All campaign and ideas for creating more housing opportunities in inner SE and South Tabor. And they continue to monitor TriMet's slow-moving Powell-Division Safety and Access to Transit Project which will bring enhanced pedestrian crossings to SE Powell and SE Division streets. Land Use Committee meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month via Zoom, two days before our in-person Neighborhood Association meetings, which are the third Thursday of every month.

Join us for our next monthly meeting Thursday, February 15, 7 pm in person at All-City Church, 2700 67th Ave. We're planning to host an informal opportunity for candidates for Zone 3 City Council and House District 46 to meet neighbors.

For the latest information, visit [southtabor.org](http://southtabor.org) where you can sign up for our mailing list. Also follow us on Facebook.

## Sunnyside Neighborhood Association By Gloria Jacobs

Typically, the SNA has held General Meetings every other month, so our next one would be in March. But Representative Rob Nosse reached out and would like to come talk to us sooner, so we have tentatively scheduled a special General Meeting for Thursday, February 8, 7 pm. The hybrid meeting will be held in person at SE Uplift (3534 SE Main St.) and the Zoom link is on our calendar. Please note that this is right in the middle of the Oregon Legislature's short session, so this meeting is subject to change based on Rep. Nosse's schedule. Keep an eye on our website ([sunnysideportland.org](http://sunnysideportland.org)) for any changes before the meeting

*continued on page 15*

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# NN Neighborhood Notes

from page 13

time.

The current plan for the Belmont Library renovation is to break ground in late 2024 and have the library reopen in late 2025. You can see the Powerpoint slides at [sunnysideportland.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/BelmontLibraryPresentation.pdf](http://sunnysideportland.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/BelmontLibraryPresentation.pdf). The renovation will more than double the available space and allow for much broader community uses, including spaces for teens, meeting rooms, larger story-times for children and of course plenty of room for books and periodicals.

# BA Business Association Notes

## 82nd Avenue Business Association By Nancy Chapin

There is a lot happening for and on the Avenue. School children, parents, elders, bus riders, bicyclists and walkers, workers, residents, business and property owners and customers are all hoping that their needs will be met in the next several years of planning and actions on and for the Avenue's transition to being an active and healthy Portland city street.

A community team is looking at whether setting up a first five-year Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Project with options for five more five-year increments would/could help meet many of the needs of the above mentioned groups. This would be in addition to the state and federal funds that have already been designated to work on the needs of several of the above constituents.

Watch for opportunities to participate in community discussions. Contact us at [82ndaveba@gmail.com](mailto:82ndaveba@gmail.com) or visit [82ndaveba.com](http://82ndaveba.com) Serving the 82nd Avenue business community for 45 years!

## Foster Area Business Association By Jeff Lynott

The Foster Area Business Association (FABA) is hosting its Annual Meeting Tuesday, February 13 at Dye Dye My Darling Salon. We will elect the 2024 Board of Directors and talk about upcoming events in the district. Planned activities include monthly historic tours of Foster (starting Saturday, February 24) and "Games in the Park" (starting Saturday, March 16) with giant Jenga, human-size Connect Four, cornhole and ladder toss in Laurelwood Park, and nearby businesses welcoming you to eat, drink and shop locally. More details to come, so follow FABA online at [Fosterarea.com/events](http://Fosterarea.com/events) or on Instagram (@fosterareapdx).

## Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association By Nancy Chapin

Thank you to all the community members who braved the weather and supported Hawthorne businesses during the snow, rain and ice event last month. You are appreciated!

The Mothers Day Team is planning a fun and entertaining celebration of mothers in an event Saturday, May 15. Watch for the details in April and early May!

The HBBA Annual Meeting will the evening of Thursday, March 14 (time TBD). There are openings on the Board for people who care about the Boulevard. Contact [administrator@hawthorneblvd.com](mailto:administrator@hawthorneblvd.com) with questions.

# Belmont Library Renovations and Addition

from page 1

Outreach staff have also visited groups asking for presentations (such as with the SNA meeting). Liz Sauer, Communications Manager for all of the library's bond-funded projects, clarified that city permits will be required but haven't been applied for as yet. These will also trigger public notifications.

The draft site and floor plans illustrated at the January 11 SNA meeting show changes to the parking lot and building access. Building access will still be on the SE Cesar Chavez Blvd. (west) frontage and will be accessible. A wider sidewalk will be provided along SE Cesar Chavez Blvd., with bike parking moved to the interior edge of the sidewalk. Ramps along the SE Taylor St. (south) side will be replaced with landscaping. The parking area to the north will be kept, but

reduced in size.

Bike advocates at the January 11 SNA meeting voiced concerns about the bike parking location along the SE Cesar Chavez Blvd. frontage and also asked why there needed to be any car parking. A Bora representative responded that a parking lot was still required for loading purposes and for handicapped parking; library staff clarified that the Walgreens parking lot across the side street is not available for library use. The bike parking will be looked at more closely in case site plan tweaking is required to ensure no impacts on pedestrians.

Bora representatives indicated the current brick building will be renovated entirely for children's library use. In addition, the new two-story building will include two elevators for second floor access for both patrons and

library staff. The current holds area will be expanded and located close inside the library entrance for convenience. The possibility of short-term parking spots will be looked at to facilitate drop off/pick up activities of short duration. The existing library will be closed during construction and activities moved to other branches in SE.

O'Dell indicated that the public may direct questions about the project to [libraryspaces@multcolib.org](mailto:libraryspaces@multcolib.org), 503.988.5123 or through the project website, [multcolib.org/building-libraries-together/belmont](http://multcolib.org/building-libraries-together/belmont).

The current library projects chart shows the Belmont Library design work to be completed by mid-2024. Permit issuance, followed by construction are expected by mid-2025 with occupancy by late 2025 to early 2026.

# LE Letter to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor should be less than 300 words and The Southeast Examiner reserves the right to edit them for length or content.

To the Editor:

I encourage all of you reading this letter, to join me in supporting Mary Lou Hennrich as our next Oregon House Representative for District 46. I have personally known Mary Lou for over 20 years as a neighbor, as a professional nurse and health expert, and as someone who is very passionate about our neighborhoods, our City, our County and our futures together.

There are many huge challenges ahead for all of us, but Mary Lou, with her years of broad health related experience and accomplishments, is some-

one who is truly in the "cat-bird" seat for advocating and/or establishing policies and programs that will certainly make a difference for all citizens. Her key words being passionate, progressive and persistent truly define her, and we need that leadership and experience in Salem as our representatives address current and future challenges, both known and unknown, that are ahead for all of us.

Please join me in supporting Mary Lou Hennrich for Oregon House District 46 in our upcoming May election.

Dave Hillman

# All Stages, Wages and Ages — Housing for the Eastside

from page 8

Tuckerbaum says they envision corner grocery stores, bakeries, coffee shops, florists and other small businesses that enable people to stay close to their neighborhood.

The campaign to educate the public about this idea is relatively new. The first step for P:NW to move forward is for the city's Housing Production Strategy (HPS) department to prepare

a formal zone change proposal for City Council. If the proposal is acceptable, City Council will send the documented zoning change to the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) for approval. If the BPS approves the proposal, it goes back to Council for a vote. This would likely happen in 2025 or 2026.

For more information, visit [PortlandNeighborsWelcome.org](http://PortlandNeighborsWelcome.org).

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