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Central Eastside "Avenue of Murals." Photo by Daniel Perez-Crouse.

## Central Eastside Gets "Avenue of Murals" as Part of Artistic Rebirth

BY DANIEL PEREZ-CROUSE

The burgeoning artistic revival of the Central Eastside Industrial District just got a boost in the form of 10 newly commissioned murals under bridges and a rebranding of the Eastbank Esplanade to SE Second Ave. on Madison St. as the "Avenue of Murals."

The Central Eastside has seen a lot of artistic transformation in recent years—largely due to initiatives made by the Portland Street Art Alliance (PSAA). As described on their website, since 2018, they have been working to make the Central Eastside a "Mural District." Tiffany Conklin, Executive Director of PSAA, says the Central Eastside is unique in that there is a lot of site-specific art, meaning interventions in a specific locale, where artists

create work that is integrated with the surroundings and that explores the mural's relationship to the topography of its locale. With the support of local organizations and grants, they've made dozens of murals possible, like the "Support Working Artists" mural on SE Clay St. and MLK Blvd. or the Jason Brown Remembrance mural on 66 SE Morrison St.

The Avenue of Murals was made possible through a partnership between the Central Eastside Industrial Council (CEIC), Central Eastside Together (CET) and PSAA. Carolyne Holcomb, Executive Director of CEIC, said that PSAA already commissioned columns in the area. "And so I was on a walkabout with them, and I saw their work, and I thought, 'wow, we could support this.'" Holcomb and her team quickly got to work applying for grants and secured \$90,000 to work on a multi-mural project.

"Our district represents 22 percent of the central city acreage, so we felt it was important to use murals as a welcome mat into our district. You can enter from so many different places, and you never know that you are now entering the Central Eastside. So we wanted to help create some markers so people knew that they were in the Central Eastside," said Holcomb.

Holcomb says CEIC wants to create a safe community through an active and engaged community. And one way of supporting that vision is by creating more public art for people to enjoy. "There is a lot of data that shows the impact of public art in a community. People come out to see public art. They're gonna take a photo, get coffee and shop at local stores. It's a big boost for the economy, and so we view this not only as a way to improve safety, but as a direct line to supporting our business community as well."

CEIC conducted its own research

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## How Do We House Everyone? Local Experts Weigh In

BY MARSHALL HAMMOND

The average rent for a studio apartment in Portland is \$1,238 per month. The wage required to rent such an apartment without being rent burdened (spending more than 30 percent of household income on rent and utilities) is \$28.85 an hour. Portland's minimum wage is \$15.95 an hour. How can someone afford housing in this city on a minimum wage job?

This was one of many problems discussed by a panel of housing experts participating in an online "Policy Talk" hosted by the non-profit Portland For All on Monday, June 24. The panelists were Dr. Lisa Bates, Portland State University; Mercedes Elizalde, the Latino Network; and Michael Andersen, Sightline Institute. The discussion was titled, "Making Enough Housing for Everyone."

The first question put to the panel was, "What do you see as the key problems facing Portland when it comes to the housing crisis?"

"Ultimately I think the commodification of housing is what drives this," said Elizalde. "We're not really thinking about our housing as critical to all the other systems that we have in front of us. We're continuing to think about housing as one of the 'widgets' in our economic system that's building other people's wealth instead of thinking about it as a critical safety net that we should be investing in all of the time and making as abundant as possible."

Andersen cited the lack of and unaffordability of housing for low-income groups as the two key drivers of the crisis, with a direct correlation between high rents and homelessness. "The number one predictor of the homelessness rate of a city is the price of market rate housing in that metro area," said Andersen. "And that's because 90 percent of poor people live in market rate housing."

"Most people are evicted because they don't have enough money," said Elizalde. "And if we're going to have a minimum wage that is not a housing wage, we're already committed to not paying people enough to always be able to afford housing."

When it came to solutions to the housing crisis, the group proposed dozens of suggestions, ranging from simple policy changes to overhauling our whole approach to housing.

"I'll share what's kind of my dream policy," said Elizalde, "which is to eliminate some of the commodification of housing by actually repeating some of the things we've done with food. Food in our country is subsidized twice. It's subsidized in production, and as an entitlement program it's also subsidized on the consumer side with the SNAP cards. In housing, we actually talk about that like it's a bad thing."

The panelists agreed that some of Portland's recent housing policies are

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## County Partners With Out-Of-State Provider for Deflection Center

BY JAKE LUBIN

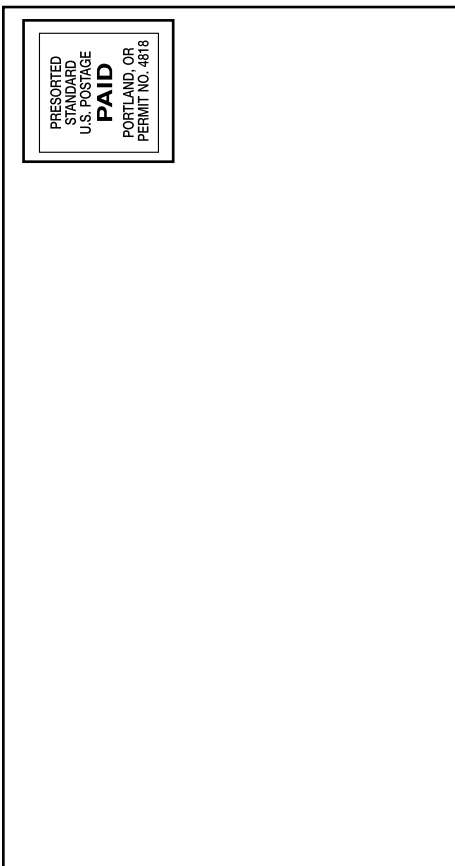
With the rise of Fentanyl and other highly lethal drugs, the drug addiction crisis has become increasingly dangerous. For decades, and at every level of government, policy makers have struggled to match the unique challenges posed by the overflow of drugs within communities. This year however, Oregon is shifting its focus to expediting the recovery process, starting with opening a deflection center.

Set to open on September 1 at 900 SE Sandy Blvd., a one of a kind addiction deflection center will be open for law enforcement to use to deflect citizens struggling with drug addiction toward recovery. The new center will operate as a mediator between law enforcement, citizens struggling with drug addiction and the path to recovery. The center won't house individuals struggling with drug addiction; rather, it will act as an intermediary designed to connect them with professionals ready to begin the recovery process.

Multnomah County is partnering with Tuerk House, a private drug and alcohol addiction rehabilitation center with multiple locations throughout the Baltimore, MD area. The company is going to help the county run the center. Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson believes in the nearly 50 years of experience that the Tuerk House brings, despite them being located across the country. "Tuerk House knows how to do this and will bring decades of experience to this effort," she said in a press release on July 23.

The opening of the deflection center signifies a greater shift in how Oregon as a whole, and specifically Portland, is changing the way it approaches drugs and drug addiction. Passed earlier in 2024, and starting on September 1, House Bill 4002 will recriminalize small amounts of illicit drugs like opioids, but with many provisions unseen in drug laws before. The consequences of carrying these drugs are supposed to

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# Rs Representatively Speaking

BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
 ROB NOSSE

The recent US Supreme Court ruling upholding Grants Pass' ban on outdoor sleeping by homeless individuals has garnered significant attention across our state. Because of the ruling, I am hearing from quite a few people who want the Oregon Legislature to amend HB 3115, a bill I supported back in 2021. At this time, I don't think a change in the laws that HB 3115 enacted is needed.

The court's decision allows cities to regulate and even penalize outdoor sleeping, and places the responsibility back on states and local governments for dealing with that kind of regulation city by city, absent some state standard.

This case originated out of Grants Pass in Southern Oregon. In September 2022, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in *Blake v. City of Grants Pass* that it is unconstitutional for cities to enforce anti-camping ordinances against homeless individuals who have no alternative shelter. This decision extended the precedent set by the landmark *Martin v. City of Boise* case, also out of the Ninth Circuit, which held that criminalizing sleeping outdoors when no alternative shelter is available violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. Grants Pass appealed and the US Supreme Court upheld their ban on homeless residents sleeping in public space with a six to three ruling.

The ruling has most definitely created a path for stricter regulations.

Meanwhile, HB 3115 ensures that local regulations on public camping must be "objectively reasonable." I know. I know. It's a little vague. This basically means any rules we implement must consider the needs and circumstances of those without shelter.

In essence, we can't penalize individuals for being in public spaces sleeping and/or camping if there is no reasonable alternative for housing and shelter—as long as a few guidelines are followed. It's a necessary safeguard to prevent policies that could further marginalize some of our most vulnerable citizens, while at the same time allowing for regulation of spaces we all use, as well for



purposes of sanitation and safety.

Homelessness is a complex issue that cannot be solved through criminalization—a point that in my opinion seems to be missed by this Supreme Court decision. Overly criminalizing homelessness by imposing fines or jail time does not address the root causes and can lead to a destabilizing cascade of other injuries to houseless people—like a criminal record that makes it harder to get a job or rent an apartment. We should not be criminalizing people because they don't have anywhere to sleep at night, provided they are not engaging in behaviors that bother others.

Not bothering others is the key. I do not support people being allowed to put a tent or RV wherever they want for lots of reasons. I do not support people being allowed to openly do hard drugs or drink to the point of intoxication in public, either.

I also don't think we are going to have enough housing anytime soon. That is why I've been a strong advocate for initiatives that address homelessness through supportive and humane measures like the Safe Rest Villages and the Temporary Alternative Shelter Sites (TASS) here in SE Portland. These sites provide safe and structured environments for unhoused individuals, offering a temporary solution while longer-term housing options are developed.

I also think there's an opportunity to utilize more of the funds from the Metro Supportive Housing Services Tax to create more sanctioned campsites and shelters. Efforts like this would aim to provide practical alternatives to unsanctioned camping, reducing the reliance on punitive measures and supporting homeless individuals with the resources they need.

At the start of May, Portland City Council unanimously approved a revised public camping ordinance that Mayor Ted Wheeler introduced. The ordinance is reasonable: "If a person has access to reasonable alternative shelter, they cannot camp on public property or the public right-of-way."

If someone cannot access reasonable alternative shelter the city goes on to set a few restrictions on where and how people can camp. Here are a few examples of restrictions included in the city's ordinance: people can't camp in places that would obstruct sidewalks or businesses, maintain fires of any kind or store belongings more than two feet outside of their tent.

The bottom line is the US Supreme Court gave it back to the states and local jurisdictions to deal with the challenges of homelessness. HB 3115 maintains a balance between saying we have to treat homeless people and their situation as humanely as possible while allowing for the regulating of time, place and manner for camping in light of a lack of shelter so that we can have safety and use of our public spaces. If we were to move as a state to amend (or even go as far as to repeal) HB 3115, there will be little to no protections for homeless people who often have no other options.

Let's work together to make Oregon a place where everyone has the opportunity for safe and stable housing. Changes to HB 3115 may be contemplated in 2025 in the legislature. Stay tuned, as I like to say, but I am not convinced they are needed. We just need to do a better job of deploying the resources/money that we have.

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# Portland Shifts to Ranked-Choice Voting, What Voters Should Know

BY BEATRICE LIEBRECHT

As voters across the country gear up for another round of elections, Portland is making a significant stride in its electoral process. This November, Portland will debut ranked-choice voting, a departure from traditional single-candidate selection methods. With the mayor, auditor and city council positions up for grabs, Portlanders are about to embark on a new era of democratic engagement, where every vote contributes to a fairer outcome.

The voting process is carried out in stages to identify the winner. Each stage sees either the election of a victorious candidate or the removal of the least popular candidate, whose supporters then have their votes transferred to their next preference. This approach to ranked-choice voting ensures a single general election, thus eliminating a need for a runoff election.

While ranking your vote may initially seem complex, the City of Portland has been diligently working to inform and educate voters about this change since 2023. With the introduction of ranked-choice voting, portland.gov has organized various mock elections to help Portlanders grasp the new system.

Francisca Garfia, a member of the transition team and a partner of the City of Portland Elections Office on voter education work, highlighted the importance of participating in a mock election. She stated, "It's an opportunity to understand what the ballot will look like and to practice ranking six options." Garfia added, "We've heard from community members after they've taken a mock election that it's not as hard as they expected and

that ranked-choice voting makes much more sense! With the tool we're using, there's also a helpful explanation of what each round looks like, and it's easy to track how votes shift as each candidate is eliminated."

Despite this change coming in just a few months, the city has been working tirelessly to prepare the ballots for over a year. They've worked with community-based organizations, Multnomah County and city staff. The Government Transition Advisory Committee has already given over 150 presentations on transition and ranked-choice voting. Garfia also stated, "We encourage all Portlanders to try a mock election by going to portland.gov/vote and clicking on the box titled What is Ranked-Choice Voting."

When it comes to the redistribution of votes, in a multi-winner election, winners must accumulate over 25 percent of the overall ballots cast; upon exceeding this benchmark, the excess votes are reallocated. When this happens, the system looks at who voters put in their next choice and shifts those extra votes to that option. This part of the process can also be described like this, as Garfia said, "Your favorite candidate won already, so your vote gets to go a little further and help your backups."

The City of Portland is fully aware of the common misconceptions and misinformation surrounding this type of voting. Garfia reassured voters, saying, "As the election nears, we are monitoring mainstream media and social media and working quickly to correct any misinformation that we see. Keep an eye out for voter information with the official seal of the City, and always dou-

ble check any information about the election."

Some voters may be concerned about the ballot counting process or the timeline for knowing the results. However, ranked-choice voting will maintain the same timeline for certifying election results in the City of Portland. "In the November 2022 General Election, results were certified in early-mid December, and the same will be true this year," Garfia continued.

The most significant challenge for voters is understanding that the results that come out on election night will look much different from what they are used to, and again, participating in these mock elections can help immensely. The more people participate in a mock election, the more they are used to seeing how multi-round results are displayed. The city's commitment to correcting misinformation is aimed at reassuring voters and instilling confidence in the new voting process.

The commitment extends to education efforts in every neighborhood and in every way possible. They will give presentations on ranked-choice voting at large and small community events, host in-person and virtual town halls in September and October, and set up information tables across the city to ensure as many Portlanders as possible participate in a mock election. This commitment to community engagement aims to make every voter feel included and valued in the new democratic process.

Find upcoming events, voter education and candidate learning sessions at portland.gov/transition/events and portland.gov/vote/events.

## Central Eastside Gets "Avenue of Murals" as Part of Artistic Rebirth

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and community engagement on what people would want to see in these aqueduct murals and included a variety of artistic odes to the neighborhood's culture and history. One of Holcomb's favorites is the freight train. "Yeah, people probably love to hate that column, but it tells a part of what everyone experiences in the district, whether you work there every day or you're visiting for the first time."

Holcomb says that when CEIC identifies prime locations for murals, they initiate a conversation with the property owner to get permission. Since CEIC is the commissioner and enhancer of the district, it is committed to murals and their maintenance and doesn't put that responsibility on businesses. "We'll work with the property or business owner or whoever wants to step in as the

lead there to make sure the art represents something they want to see. So we want it to tell the district story, but we also recognize that it's on someone's private property," she said.

And when it's time for the artists to create the murals, PSAA steps in. "They know the process really well, so it has been a real dream to work with them on this," said Holcomb.

Conklin says artists are selected from their roster of over 250 regional muralists. "Artists painting the columns must not only excel artistically, having done large scale work in the past, but also have a lot of experience operating heavy machinery boom lifts on rough and uneven terrain." Conklin says it is not an easy job and requires a lot of public-private partnerships and logistics coordination with the City of

Portland, RACC and Multnomah County Bridges. "Once an artist is identified, we present them with a full Scope of Work that lists the specific mural content they will need to produce if they take on the job."

Holcomb says they hope this can be a pilot for future projects to continue to meet CEIC's vision for a more prosperous district. She also hints at some not-so-distant and ambitious mural projects that will be made soon.

For a more involved introduction to the new murals, there will be a celebration ride Friday, August 2. Cyclists and art enthusiasts will gather to explore the murals and end at Central Eastside's newest community space, the Bear Blocks, at the south end of the Blumenauer Bridge. The ride begins at 5 pm at the Factor Building, 226 SE Madison St.



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# 7-Eleven Mural Shines a Light on Vibrant SE Neighborhood

BY ELLEN SPITALERI

A huge elm tree dominates the scene, roses are in bloom, neighbors are walking their pets or bicycling by, and the sun is always shining on the eye-catching mural on the 7-Eleven on SE Hawthorne Blvd. on the edge of Ladd's Addition.

Allison McClay, the main artist and designer of the mural, said she walked around the neighborhood in order to get the feel for the surroundings. "It was kind of unique to plan out compositionally, since it's a corner and there's not just one main way it is viewed," she said.

"I had to think about how it would look from different angles and sides of the street. The architectural insets provided a nice framing element, so I knew I wanted to use that in some way," McClay added.

The mural came about when the Portland Street Art Al-

liance (PSAA) received a grant from the City of Portland's Public Environmental Management Office (PEMO) to commission the mural. The grant covered all the production expenses, including paying the artist.

Once franchise owner, Karim Fanir, received permission from 7-Eleven Corporate for the piece to be painted, the PSAA gave him a choice of artists on their roster, and he chose McClay.

As a painter, McClay said she loves a blank, rectangular canvas, which gives her the ability to paint whatever she wants on it. "But with murals, there's a problem-solving aspect that makes each job so unique and singular; it can be really satisfying to have to figure out all the different pieces," she said.

"Working on such a busy corner, and at street level, made it so that I had an almost constant



Allison McClay, left, and Gina Sparks add details to the houses depicted on the mural on the 7-Eleven store at the corner of SE Hawthorne Blvd. and SE Elliott Ave. in the Ladd's Addition neighborhood. Photo by Ellen Spitaleri.



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stream of people stopping to talk and share stories about the neighborhood," she said. McClay added that she appreciated hearing all the anecdotes about the history of the area and insights into what life has been like in the neighborhood and on that corner over the years. "It was nice to meet so many different people, and it felt nice to feel like I was contributing something positive to the neighborhood."

However, one downside of the location was that it is a "corner with a lot going on," said McClay, "and it can be hard to get work done with near constant distractions."

Due to the size of the mural, McClay reached out to family friend and fellow artist Gina Parks to help her with the painting. "It's just so rewarding to see an idea come to life on such a big scale. It was also fun hearing

the positive feedback from folks walking by," Parks said.

"Mural art is appreciated by the community because it brings beauty to public spaces and also helps bring a sense of community to a place. This mural in particular is really honoring the neighborhood, both in its depiction of the architecture and green spaces of Ladd's Addition, but also included the people as well," Parks added.

An example of this is that the 7-Eleven mural features several neighborhood pets that passed away recently and Fanir, the franchisee, is depicted in the piece riding his bicycle.

Although Fanir is currently in Morocco, his nephew, Kareem Walton, a cashier at the 7-Eleven, said that his uncle is happy with the mural and noted that customers love it and say it represents the area well.

Neighbor Linda Nettekoven expanded on that thought, noting that the mural "adds a bright spot or focal point" for this particular neighborhood, including "the lovely mix of ages and backgrounds represented in the faces of the people depicted in the mural."

In addition, the tree canopy and rose gardens included in the mural represent the efforts of organizations like Friends of Trees and Save Our Elms, with the additional help of community volunteers Nettekoven said.

The 7-Eleven mural is one of the "micro-murals" that the PSAA and PEMO have been working on for the past year and a half, noted Tiffany Conklin, PSAA's executive director. For her organization, "investing in artists and providing opportunities for them to create, promotes dialogue and interaction with people across the city," she said.

"The community identified that the wall at 7-Eleven would be a good location for a mural, due to its prominence and visibility on busy Hawthorne Boulevard," Conklin said. "Public art is part of the foundation of what makes a city livable. Artists and their work are a crucial piece of a livable city. More than illustrating a background to our lives, art engages us and ties us to places throughout our city."

Since the end of pandemic restrictions, people have been talking about how to "bring back Portland," Conklin said, adding that "artists like Allison are already doing this. They are on the street every day, working to bring inspiration to the rest of us. PSAA wants to support these working artists as they strive to enliven the places that mean so much to all of us."

"PEMO supports murals because they not only beautify the urban environment, but they also support local businesses, communities and artists," said John Roble, a communications writer in the mayor's office who acts as a communications liaison to the PEMO. He added that murals like the one at 7-Eleven can "become gathering spaces, fostering a sense of belonging and ownership among residents. They also encourage a strengthening of community ties."

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## Should OPRD Regulate E-Bikes More?

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has created a short survey to provide park users the opportunity to give their input on e-bike and e-mobility recreation in Oregon State Parks. The survey looks at electric-assisted bicycle use, recreation habits and attitudes toward sharing trails with e-bikes. OPRD is also interested in learning more about recreation opportunities with e-micromobility devices, such as hoverboards, onewheels, electric scooters, electric skateboards and Segways.

The survey is part of OPRD's process of a potential re-examination of e-bike regulations in Oregon State Parks and Beaches. Currently, e-bikes are allowed in all OPRD trails more than eight feet wide. This year, Oregon adopted a three-class e-bike classification system similar to many

other states. E-bikes have a maximum motorized speed of either 20 miles per hour or 28 miles per hour, and provide powered pedaling assistance to allow riders to ride further and longer than conventional bicycles. Only class 2 e-bikes have a throttle that allows propulsion without pedaling.

OPRD's current e-bike rules do not account for the differences between the three e-bike classes, so now is an ideal time to revisit current regulations and assess whether changes are appropriate. They want to hear from you about how OPRD can better tailor e-bike rules to ensure the best recreation experience for all park users.

More information about the three classes of e-bikes and the survey can be found at [oregon.gov/oprd/PRP/Pages/PRP-Ebike-Engagement.aspx](http://oregon.gov/oprd/PRP/Pages/PRP-Ebike-Engagement.aspx).

## Central Eastside Access and Circulation Project

If you regularly drive on SE Sandy Blvd. as it curves south of E Burnside St. you've noticed the construction and changes to the intersection at SE Ankeny St./11th Ave. recently. That construction, as well as the work at SE Grand at Salmon St. and SE MLK at Salmon St., is part of the Central Eastside Access and Circulation project. The project will improve freight access and circulation and reduce multimodal conflicts in the Central Eastside by adding traffic signals, consistent with the adopted SE Quadrant Plan, Central City 2035 plan and Central City in Motion.

At each of these three intersections, traffic signals and accessible curb ramps will be installed along high visibility pedestrian crossings and bicycle connections to existing bike routes. Striping and signal changes will also be implemented at SE Stark St. at MLK and Grand.

The new traffic signals on SE Salmon St. at MLK/Grand and SE Sandy Blvd. at SE 11th



Contractors working for PBOT pour a new ADA ramp corner at SE Salmon St. and Grand Ave. Photo by PBOT.

Ave./Ankeny St. will result in circulation changes. Vehicular access will be maintained, but access with change as some approaches to these intersections will be made one-way only.

Intersection improvements

that were originally planned at SE Grand and Washington St. and NE 16th Ave. and Irving St. as part of this project have been postponed as a result of dramatic cost increases for construction and materials.

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## Street Plaza Survey

The Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) street plaza program is ever-evolving and they are offering the community an opportunity to share their thoughts about it. Each year the Street Plaza Team releases a summer survey to understand how people use the plazas and gather feedback to help them plan for the future.

The 2024 survey is live, available in both English and Spanish, at [survey.monkey.com/r/PBOTPlazas](http://survey.monkey.com/r/PBOTPlazas). The 15-question survey asks questions about 17 street plazas throughout the city regarding how often people visit them, how they get to the plazas, the amenities the plazas offer and an opportunity to suggest improvements to or concerns about the plazas.

The community's input is highly valued and will help



SE Ankeny St.'s Rainbow Road. Photo by PBOT.

PBOT enhance and improve the public street plazas to better serve everyone. Rather than just a place

to pass through, these plazas are intended to be vibrant community hubs where all are welcome.

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## Water Bureau Offers Hydration Tips

During the warm days of summer and fall, it's particularly important to stay hydrated. A partnership between the Portland Water Bureau and Multnomah County's REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) Program offers tips to contribute to living a vibrant, healthy life, starting with getting enough to drink.

Portland's primary water source is the beautiful Bull Run Watershed high up in the hills around Mt. Hood. Straight from the mountain to taps across the city, some of the best drinking water on Earth can be found right here. It's better, cheaper and easier than bottled water, and it's just one more thing that makes our region so special. When it comes to water, there's no place like home.

Sometimes it can seem like hard work to stay hydrated. If you're struggling to drink enough water, try to drink a cup when you wake up, then another whenever



you eat a meal or snack. By the end of the day, you'll be on track to have enough water for your body to thrive.

We all want to do right by Mother Earth, and one place to start is by reducing waste. Every single-use water bottle ends up in a landfill or the ocean. Do your part and keep a good reusable bottle by your side.

Need a boost? Water gives you energy without the crash or calories. Before you reach for an

energy drink or coffee, drink a glass of water and give your body (and mind) what it needs.

Water doesn't have to be boring. There are lots of ways to make it more interesting, tailoring the flavors to your personal preference. Squeeze in some fresh lemon or lime juice. Infuse it with cucumber. Add a sprinkle of salt. Making water even better is not only simple and delicious, it helps your body retain valuable electrolytes.

## Upgraded Signals Coming to SE Powell Blvd.

This summer Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) plans to install, test and evaluate "rest in red" traffic signals along SE Powell Blvd. from 21st to 33rd avenues near Powell Park, Cleveland High School and the Cleveland High School track and sports field. The street is one of Portland's highest crash streets with a history of speed-related crashes. In coordination with the Oregon Department of Transportation, PBOT is responsible for the road (also known as US-26).

"Rest in red" is a traffic signal timing operation with enhanced technology that PBOT uses to manage travel speeds and make signals more responsive to people walking, biking and rolling. PBOT is using "rest in red" technology to help target and interrupt dangerous driving behavior, such as excessive speeding on wide, open corridors during late

night and early morning hours, which contributes to deadly crashes.

Traffic signals with "rest in red" technology can display red lights in all directions during late night and early morning hours when traffic volume is light rather than cycling through green, yellow and red the way they normally do during the day. When a person driving a vehicle approaches a "rest in red" intersection, the traffic signal may stay red until it detects that the driver has reached the intersection. Assuming no cross-traffic is approaching, the traffic signal will turn green to benefit people that are driving within the speed limit.

Installing "rest in red" traffic safety technology is a way to encourage safer travel speeds, which is a top contributing factor to traffic safety. Speed was reported to play a role in at least

42 percent of deadly crashes between 2017 and 2021. This includes people driving over the speed limit and driving too fast for road conditions. As people travel faster, the risk of death or serious injury rises dramatically. For example, a pedestrian struck at 40 mph is eight times more likely to die than a pedestrian struck at 20 mph.

"Rest in red" traffic signals are already in place at the northern end of the Congressman Earl Blumenaur Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge to allow for efficient traffic flow. PBOT plans to upgrade existing signals and install new ones along 82nd Ave. in 2025 to implement "rest in red" traffic safety technology without needing to identify additional funding. It is likely PBOT will add more locations over time as traffic signals are upgraded as part of larger capital improvement projects.

## Metro Big Backyard Fall Photo Contest Open

We live in a region filled with natural wonder. Metro would like you to show them the wonders you've seen by entering their Our Big Backyard fall 2024 photo contest.

Photos can be taken in your backyard, in your local park, on a trail. They could even be taken from inside as you watch birds coming to a feeder. Nature comes to us in many ways and many forms.

Submit a photo taken anywhere in greater Portland, which includes Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas counties. To enter, email your photo by Thursday, August 15 to ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov. Include a description of your experience

in a 50-word caption. Where were you? What were you doing? What captured your attention? Please also include your full name and town where you live.

The winner has the choice of an annual parking pass, a tennis court session or a round of golf for four people, including cart, at Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center. Additionally, the winner will appear in the fall 2024 issue of Our Big Backyard, Metro's quarterly parks and nature magazine.

No digitally altered photos, please. By submitting a photo, you consent to Metro's future use and publication of your photo. One entry per person per contest. Metro employees are not eligible to enter.

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## AUGUST EVENTS

**OPEN GARDEN EVENT** – The Multnomah Master Gardener Demonstration Garden is hosting a free, drop-in event Saturday, August 3, 10 am-2 pm. Visit the children's activity table, get gardening questions answered by Master Gardeners, take home free seed packets and Mason bee Houses (while quantities last) and more. Enter on SE 57th Ave. near SE Duke St. and follow the path through the orchard. Email [demogarden@multnomahmastergardeners.org](mailto:demogarden@multnomahmastergardeners.org) with questions.

**COME THRU MARKETS** – The Black- and Indigenous-centered farmers market is held at The Redd on Salmon Street the first and third Monday, August 5 and 19, 3-7 pm, at 831 SE Salmon St. Visit [comethrupdx.org](http://comethrupdx.org) for a list of participating vendors.

**OREGON FUCHSIA SHOW** – The Oregon Fuchsia Society holds their annual show at Portland Nursery, 5050 SE Stark St., Friday, August 16-Sunday, August 18. Visit [oregonfuchsiasociety.com](http://oregonfuchsiasociety.com) or Facebook for more information. The show starts at 1 pm Friday.

**KERNS FUNDRAISER AT MIGRATION** – Join your neighbors for a fundraiser benefiting the Kerns Neighborhood Association Wednesday, August 21, 5-9 pm at Migration Brewing, 2828 NE Glisan. There will be live music and bingo. Visit [kernspdx.org](http://kernspdx.org) for more.

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# The Tigers of Lents

By DAVID KROGH

When fiction looks like reality and reality becomes fiction is one way to describe *The Tigers of Lents* by Portland author Mark Pomeroy. The story occurs over a two-year period starting in 2010 and takes place in the Lents neighborhood at the time when Marshall High School still functioned as a high school and a Fred Meyer store was still operating at the corner of SE 82nd Ave. and Foster Rd. Lents back then was a mixture of people and classes, many of whom were either in poverty or close to it. And many others were just having a rough time with life in general.

The story focuses on a splintered family called the Garrisons. Each has a unique role, challenges and important interactions with each other and the real world. The principle character is a girl named Sara who is an avid soccer player and a member of Marshall's girls soccer team. She is subsequently recruited by a University of Portland (UP) coach to play on UP's women's soccer team. This situation figures greatly into the name of the book according to the author. "There's a scene where the UP coach shows the players some video clips of the likes of Christine Sinclair and Megan Rapinoe. He tells them he wants to show them the difference between playing like a house cat and playing like a tiger. The tiger image also connects with the inner character of each of the Garrisons. They're survivors."

But could the Garrisons be considered dysfunctional? Pomeroy suggests, "I wouldn't call the Garrisons dysfunctional, though they're certainly challenged. They face many challenges, some of which are self-inflicted of course." And the many challenges are what help to make this an interesting story.

The book developed in the spring of 2011, when Pomeroy was the last writer in residence at Marshall High School. "Over the course of nearly 30 years, I've taught in every high school in PPS. I've worked with thousands of kids, many of whom live in the other Portland not found on the pages of hip magazines," explained Pomeroy, who himself lived for a time close to poverty. During his time teaching at Marshall, he was able to observe poverty up close and how it affected the students he taught. Poverty is



Author Mark Pomeroy. Photo by John Davenport.

"a fluid state that many people don't fully understand. As a writer, as someone who tries to pay close attention, and as someone who has experienced a crash of worlds often, I'm always aware of class distinctions."

Pomeroy's students were a contributing factor to the story form for his book. "As for initial seed ideas for *The Tigers of Lents*, I had a student in one of my classes at Marshall who had a strong personality and played soccer. She also lived on poverty's edge and wrote about that state of being, as did many other students. Each of those character elements connected with parts of my own life and family experiences. The other seed ideas came from my own life, from my years of playing soccer to the years of teaching and coaching at schools and community centers all around Portland, and of course my imagination."

*The Tigers of Lents* is easy to read and the action is interesting and well connected between the various persons portrayed. At first, it may seem like a challenge to keep all the names of the Garrisons straight and what their specific involvements are. But by the middle of the book one can see just how well the interactions are meshing.

Of especial interest is the

factual use of geographic references. For example, Marshall High School, the Foster Rd. Fred Meyer and the former New Copper Penny, are all accurately referenced, allowing readers familiar with the area at the time to clearly visualize where the characters and their activities are located. The Garrison's grandparents live in Brightwood, near Mt. Hood, and interestingly enough, the author has spent considerable time in Brightwood at his own grandparents' home there.

In summation, *The Tigers of Lents* is an interesting tale of fiction intermixed with reality and locations which are easy for locals to relate to. It is hard to put such a book down.

*The Tigers of Lents* was published by and is available from the University of Iowa Press at [uipress.uiowa.edu/books/tigers-lents](http://uipress.uiowa.edu/books/tigers-lents). This is the second novel Pomeroy has written; his first was *The Brightwood Stillness*, published in 2014 by Oregon State University Press. Both books are available locally at Powell's Books and via the author's website, [mpomeroy.com](http://mpomeroy.com).

The author will be doing a reading at the University of Portland Wednesday, October 3, from 5-6 pm, in the Brian Doyle Auditorium. For additional information on the author, see his website.



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# They Walk Among Us: Portland's Coyotes are Permanent Residents

BY FRANCESCA "FRANKIE" SILVERSTEIN

Portlanders have some unusual neighbors—neighbors that tend to come out at night. Their eerie calls echo as the sun sets and their impact is seen in the telephone poles covered in tattered lost pets posters. Coyotes have moved in, and Portlanders are left to deal with the fallout.

However, the appearance of these canines isn't sudden; coyote sightings in Portland go back to at least the 1980s. According to the Portland Urban Coyote Project (PUCP), a community science group that tracks sightings, the past decade has seen over 17,000 community-reported sightings, submitted through their website, portlandcoyote.com. Project Director Zuriel van Belle explains, "If you live in SE Portland, you live near coyotes," adding that this rings true for all Portlanders. While PUCP can only guess about the number of coyotes, they estimate there are around 75-190 in Portland proper and about 3,340-8,690 in the metro area.

The survival of such a large population is partially due to coyotes' adaptability. They can den in a variety of natural settings and their diet ranges from rodents to fruits to pet food—and in some cases, pets. They also possess strong self-preservation instincts; coyotes are skittish and rarely attack humans. In fact, there are only two confirmed fatal coyote

attacks in the US.

On the other hand, coyote-pet relations have proven to be a little trickier to navigate. For many Portlanders, it's a story they know all too well: a cat or dog is put outside only to never return. This is a fate co-owner of local photography business Mirifoto, Darka Dusty's dog narrowly escaped. On Monday, May 20, Dusty and her husband let their dogs out after coming home from a gig. Suddenly, they noticed Kenny Doggins was missing. She recalls, "It's 1:30 in the morning, and I'm yelling, Kenny, Kenny!" Miraculously, a neighbor had picked him up, but not before he was attacked by three coyotes. X-rays showed he had a cracked spine, a hernia and over 100 puncture wounds.

Kenny made a complete recovery and Dusty remains positive, stating, "I just really was grateful...and I never got upset with the coyotes." She's no stranger to coyotes as a result of living near Mt. Scott's forests and explains, "You have to live in harmony with these wild, beautiful creatures." Now she's a self-proclaimed "safety mom" to her dogs and makes loud noises to scare off coyotes, which is one of the most effective methods of deterring them. Acting big and keeping pets on leashes are other ways to prevent attacks.

Although the actual threat coyotes pose is limited, and efforts can be taken to keep pets safe, habituation or bold behavior in coyotes is generally associated with conflict; 26 percent of the people who reported a coyote sighting to PUCP felt negatively about the experience. PUCP aims to combat this through education.

Their most recent effort to do so was hosting the first annual Coyote-palooza, Saturday, June 1, with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bird Conservation Oregon, Institute for Natural Resources, Willamette Riverkeeper and the Humane Society of the United States as co-hosts. Van Belle explains, "We all got together and thought it would be a great idea to have a street fair-style education event, so that people from all over Portland, ideally, could come and learn about coyotes." Booths offering information on coyote identification, biology and safety were set up on the North Parks Blocks next to the Portland State University Farmers Market.

The event was a roaring success with around 1,000 attendees. People were especially interested in PUCP's research and van Belle remarks, "It was great to see people dig a little deeper into what we found and what their neighborhood looks like according to our data." This research is



*A coyote lounges in a backyard next to a child's play structure. Once viewed as a hallmark of urban life, the presence of coyotes has shifted backyards into an extension of the wild. Photo by Mark Wyckoff.*

available online through PUCP's virtual sightings map.

One of the most popular booths was a DIY hazing can station. "Hazing" refers to scaring coyotes to re-train them into being afraid of humans. A hazing or rattle can is one method, but you can also shout, wave your arms or blow a whistle. Here's a how-to for a rattle can from PUCP:

Find a coffee can, oatmeal can or other metal container with a lid. Fill the can with rocks, coins or anything else that will make a loud clanging noise when it hits the sides of the can. Use duct tape to secure the top of the can. Shake the can vigorously when a coyote is too close to you or your home.

While hazing is an effective method of keeping coyotes wary, it's not going to get rid of them

completely. A common misconception is that coyotes are just passing through; in reality, cities are now one of their main habitats. Van Belle states, "They are in pretty much every continental US city that I'm aware of."

It seems that coyotes are the one neighbor local homeowners associations can't shake, so Portlanders—and city-goers nationwide—must learn to coexist with them. As van Belle puts it, "They're going to be our neighbor either way, but they can be a really cool neighbor that we can celebrate as long as we follow the basics." The most welcoming thing you can do for this set of neighbors is to not be welcoming at all. Keeping coyotes wild will benefit both coyotes and humans in the long run.

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## Leikam Brewing Celebrates 10 Years

E Burnside's Leikam Brewing is celebrating its 10-year anniversary Friday, August 9 and Saturday, August 10. Founded by husband-and-wife team Sonia Marie Leikam and Theo Leikam, the brewery has grown from a small, home-based operation in the backyard of their SE Portland home into a beloved brewery known for its quality beers and community events.

Events begin on Friday with a community Shabbat gathering at 7 pm and continue all day Saturday with a 5k run, special beer releases, live music, family-friendly activities and a free 21+ comedy night. Details on the festivities and advance registration for the 5k run can be found at [leikambrewing.com](http://leikambrewing.com).

The certified kosher brewery moved into its current location at 5812 E Burnside St. in late 2021. Sonia Marie said, "We are incredibly grateful to our loyal customers, partners and the entire Portland community for their unwavering support over the past decade. This anniversary is a celebration of everyone who has been part of our journey. We look forward to many more years of brewing great beer and bringing people together."

## Bernardo Cubría Satire



The Hispanic/Latino/Latina/LatinX/Latine Vote is a national new play network rolling world premiere running Friday, September 6-Sunday, September 22 with a preview night Thursday, September 5 at Milagro Theatre, 525 SE Stark St. The hilarious satire from award-winning playwright Bernardo Cubría explores the absurdity of our current political climate in thought-provoking and side-splitting fashion.

Tricia Castañeda-Guevara plays university professor Paola Aguilar, who desperately needs money. So when the political party offers her a substantial paycheck to help them, she begrudgingly takes the job. Will she help the political party or herself more on the journey?

Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows at 7:30 pm; Sunday shows at 2 pm. Opening night will be catered by Chilango, serving up their all-vegan, Mexico City street food. For tickets (\$20 students, \$26 seniors, \$30 adults), visit [milagro.org](http://milagro.org).

In addition to the performances, there will also be several free community events. A playwriting workshop with Cubría takes place Saturday, September 7, 1-3 pm, where attendees can learn from the playwright himself. Seating is limited and online RSVP is required.

Following the Sunday, September 8 performance is an opportunity to engage directly with Cubría and the talented cast of the show as they delve into the play's themes and creative process. The playwright and actor talkback is open to all attending the day's performance.

Finally, there will be a panel discussion with community leaders Sunday, September 15, 4-5 pm. Delve deeper into the issues raised by the play with insights from local community leaders such as PSU Associate Professor of Sociology José Padín and members of the Voter Education and Outreach Office of Multnomah County, including County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson. Seating is limited; reserve spots online.

## Cabaret, Music and More

August at Alberta Rose Theatre offers a wide variety of shows, including these highlights: Thursday, August 8-Sunday, August 11, Pink Puma presents AfterDark: Provocative and Daring Cabaret. Step into the alluring world of intrigue with a cabaret experience that ignites the senses when the sun sets.

Produced by the mastermind behind world famous Vertical.Show, AfterDark tantalizes audiences with an electrifying fusion of temptation and charisma, showcasing the limits of human capability in a sensual and stylish production. From breathtaking tricks to naughty little stunts and live music, the show features nine mesmerizing talents from New York, San Francisco, Las Vegas and around the globe, promising an unforgettable journey into the depths of the night.

Doors open at 7 pm for the 8 pm, 18+ show. People ages 18-20 must be accompanied by a guardian. Tickets \$35 advance general admission, \$45 general admission at the door, \$55 preferred seating, \$75 VIP.

Thursday, August 15 Alberta Rose welcomes Lila Forde, a soulful singer-songwriter whose music weaves poignant lyrics, distinctive melodies and infectious grooves into a musical experience that's all her own. Forde's music evokes timeless artists such as Joni Mitchell and Bonnie Raitt, as well as the modern sounds of Emily King and Kacey Musgraves.

Doors open for the 8 pm show at 7 pm and minors are allowed when accompanied by a guardian. Tickets: \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door.

The Voice of Ultravox, Midge Ure, Band-in-a-Box Tour hits the stage Sunday, August 25 for an 8 pm show. Having celebrated his 70th birthday with a sold out show at the historic Royal Albert Hall in October 2023, Ure is keen to continue the celebration of his life in music by announcing a new North American tour for August and September 2024.

The tour will give Ure the opportunity to showcase the musical breadth and versatility of his extensive song catalog written during the past 50 years, giving old and new fans alike a truly remarkable night of hits and rarely heard gems.

Ure says, "I performed live long before I was ever allowed anywhere near a recording studio and as much as I love spending time writing and recording, live music remains my first love. This 'Band in a Box' tour will allow me to not only play a wide selection of hits from my past, but perform some of the most requested favorites."

Doors open at 7 pm and minors are allowed when accompanied by a guardian. Tickets: \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door.

Tickets for these shows and the full August lineup available at [albertarosetheatre.com](http://albertarosetheatre.com).

# AE Arts & Entertainment

## Montavilla Jazz Festival

With more than twice the number of performances than the previous year, the 2024 Montavilla Jazz Festival will run Friday, August 30-Sunday, September 1 with concerts across the city. The festival lineup celebrates the rising stars and creative, forward-thinking artists connected to Portland with locally-raised and internationally-lauded saxophonist Nicole Glover bringing her trio to her hometown for the first time. Sunday, September 1 Glover's group will perform selections from her latest release, *Plays*. Saturday, August 31 violinist, vocalist and storyteller Joe Kye journeys through lineage and emotion in collaboration with Seattle's Civic Poet, Shin Yu Pai. The festival's geographic footprint continues to expand with the number of concerts, and this year features a nexus of activity in the heart of Montavilla.

The 29 East Portland neighborhood events include free concerts and conversations in the plaza in collaboration with Sound-TruckNW, a co-presentation with the Driveway Jazz series, performances at Portland Metro Arts and Beer Brats & Beats, DJ sets at multiple establishments, three student stages and a return to Mt. Tabor Park's Caldera Amphitheater for two free concerts Friday, August 30. Outside the neighborhood, listeners can venture to Alberta Rose Theatre to see the festival headliners, to The 1905 for three of Portland's top pianists and to Strum for adventurous guitar-centered performances.

Montavilla Jazz Festival is the only Portland festival focused on the original music of the city's jazz artists, and this year's lineup is the first crafted by an artist-driven curation process. Montavilla Jazz Executive Director Neil Mattson shares, "We asked the artists to tell us what they would love to present, but might not have been able to without support, and they dreamed big. Every year, we are astounded by the way these musicians take risks and innovate. This year, we're excited to invest in even more artist-centered programming that represents a wide breadth of jazz's creative spirit. It's a great way to usher in Montavilla Jazz's second decade."

Visit [montavillajazz.org](http://montavillajazz.org) for full festival details and to purchase tickets. Live concerts are \$5-\$45, with discounts for advance purchases, students and Arts for All available for some concerts.

## Kelli Welli Summertime Singles



From dog-loving Kelli Welli, comes a catchy tune for the season of adventure written from two perspectives: the point of view of road-trip loving canines and road-trip loving homo sapiens. Welli's fur baby, Piper Peach (Black Labrador Retriever) contributed both to inspiration and vocalization in making the dog version, along with her best buds, Loki Newman (Golden Retriever/Border Collie mix) and Mia Swanson (Australian Cattle Dog/German Shepherd/Siberian Husky mix). Loki contributed his special trill to the "mouth-horn" section of the dog version, his enthusiasm and heart not to be outdone by anyone of any species.

"I've had a dream for a while to make an album for dogs and the people who love them. ROAD TRIP – DOG VERSION is the first single release for this forthcoming album (coming 2025) and I decided, why not go ahead and make a version for humans too?!" says Welli. "We have an absolute blast playing ROAD TRIP live, especially when the audience joins in on the mouth-horn part. Spit may be flying, but it's some serious fun...And I was so excited to be joined in recording these songs by my great friends, The Newman Family Singers and their dog, Loki, who make these songs even more special."

Visit [kelliwelli.com](http://kelliwelli.com) for both versions of ROAD TRIP.

## Montavilla Plaza Free Movies

Montavilla Movie Nights return this month with three Thursday night showings on the Plaza at SE Stark St. and 79th Ave. Bring your own chair, blanket, etc. starting at 8 pm (screenings will begin when it is dark enough). First up on August 8 is the 2024 film "Ghostbusters Frozen Empire," followed by "Rock 'n Roll High School," a 1979 musical comedy, and finally, on August 22, "Cloak & Dagger," a 1984 American spy adventure.

People are encouraged to visit local businesses for drinks and snacks before the movie. Concessions are available at the Academy Theater and beer can be purchased from Threshold Brewing & Blending while watching. Additionally, receipts from Montavilla businesses from the week leading up to each movie can be submitted for chances to win Academy Theater gift cards.

The movie series is presented by the Montavilla East Tabor Business Association (METBA) and sponsored by Mr. Plywood and Adventist Health. Visit [metba.org](http://metba.org) for more information.



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2 CANDLELIGHT 6:30PM - TRIBUTE TO ABBA 9PM - BEST OF HANS ZIMMER	22 MOMS UNHINGED STAND-UP COMEDY FEATURING LISA LANE - JOEY CARROLL CARA ROSELINI - MEAGHAN ELWOOD
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5 X1 Entertainment DAZ GAMES LIVE	25 THE VOICE OF ULTRAVOX MIDGE URE BAND-IN-A-BOX TOUR
7 ALTAN	29 Kimo Camat presents Kiki's Delivery Service of Sexy, Sweaty Summer Love
8 PINK PUMA presents 9 Afterdark 10 PROVOCATIVE, 11 INTRIGUING, DARING CABARET	23 BOYEURISM
15 LILA FORDE	30 CANDLELIGHT 6:30PM - TRIBUTE TO ADELE 9PM - TRIBUTE TO COLDPLAY
16 COME TOGETHER a burlesque tribute to THE BEATLES	31 11th Annual Montavilla Jazz Festival JOE KYE'S THE WELL SESSIONS feat. SHIN YU PAI
17 RENEE TERRILL WITH A SONG IN MY HEART	

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# Ww 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.

## Help for Parents Seeking Mental Health Support for Their Neurodivergent Children

The last few years have seen great strides in the understanding of neurodiversity, along with increased availability of support and resources for neurodiverse people. Of particular concern are neurodivergent children who are at such a pivotal point in their development. Parents and educators alike want to ensure that they give children every opportunity to thrive and succeed.

In general, neurodiversity refers to the neurological differences in the way a person processes information and interprets the world around them. This diversity implies that one size does not fit all, especially when it comes to how we approach educating children, as well as supporting their mental health.

Approximately one in five to six children have variations in brain development, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism and dyslexia. These children often face unique challenges that can impact their mental health. For instance, 78 percent of kids with autism spectrum disorder have a mental

health diagnosis, and around two-thirds of individuals with ADHD have one or more co-occurring mental health conditions.

With all this in mind, how can a parent advocate for their child to ensure that they get the support and care they need? If your child is neurodivergent and could benefit from mental health therapy, consider the following points to ensure you get the right support for your child.

### Look Beyond Behavioral and Cognitive Modalities

While behavioral and cognitive therapies are valuable, they shouldn't be the first line of intervention in most circumstances. It's essential to consider a holistic approach that includes emotional support, social skills development and accommodations for sensory sensitivities.

### Consider All Aspects of Wellness and Functioning

A comprehensive approach to therapy should address all aspects of wellness and functioning, including physical health, emotional well-being, social relationships, educational needs and life skills. This ensures that support is not just about managing symptoms, but also about enhancing the child's overall quality of life.

### Choose a Therapist with Spe-

### cific Experience

It's crucial to meet with a few therapists to find one with specific experience relevant to your child's neurodivergence. A therapist who understands the nuances of neurodiversity can provide more tailored and effective support.

### Don't Overlook Your Own Support

As a parent, it's vital to seek support for yourself as well. Parenting a neurodivergent child can be demanding, and having your own support system can help you stay strong and resilient.

Finding the right mental health support for a neurodivergent child can be a daunting task, but support is available and resources are becoming more accessible every day. Remember, you are not alone, and seeking the right support will ensure that your child has access to resources and professionals dedicated to supporting their growth and development.

*Nick Norman, LICSW, is a clinical social worker and the Business Relationship Manager at Mindful Therapy Group, a diverse and collaborative network of licensed, independent mental health clinicians serving Washington and Oregon.*

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## Neighborhood Notes

### Buckman Community Association By Susan Lindsay

Sunday, August 4, 4-8 pm, the Buckman Community Association brings the 12th Annual Buckman Picnic in the Park back to Colonel Summers Park, SE 17th Ave. and Taylor St.! This totally free event features good music, bouncy house, fire truck, games for kids, free snacks and sodas, a visit by the mini horses and free ice cream truck (as long as tickets last). All are welcome and encouraged to come. No alcohol, smoking or drugs allowed in the park. We do need volunteers and donations...which are fully tax deductible! To volunteer for easy tasks and shifts, contact buckmanpicnicteam@googlegroups.com. To donate, you can send a check to Southeast Uplift (3534 SE Main St., 97214) made out to "SEUL for the Buckman Picnic 2024" or directly donate via our website, buckmanpdx.org. No donation is too small. This year's sponsors include local businesses and individuals supporting this great event. Due to the picnic, there will be no regularly scheduled monthly meeting in August.

Last month we were informed that the Multnomah County Chair's Office had decided to site a police drop-off place in the Buckman neighborhood for persons detained for drug possession. The actual specifics of this planned program, called a deflection center, to be located at the former Precision Images business at SE 10th Ave. and Oak St., are still being developed at this time by the Chair's office, which intends to have it open September 1. Our website hosts a page dedicated to articles and links related to what we know at this time about the plan. To get more information, you can contact the Chair's office directly or your elected District Commissioner. The BCA co-hosted a public meeting with County staff July 17 and that meeting is available for review via our website or the County's.

We have one open Board position which we'd like to fill at our Thursday, September 12 or Thursday, October 10 meeting (7-9 pm). Contact the BCA, buckmanboard@googlegroups.com, for information.

### Montavilla Neighborhood Association By Louise Hoff

Although the Montavilla Neighborhood Association is not meeting this month, we have a couple of fun events taking place in August. First off, Friday, August 2, 6:30-9:30 pm in Montavilla's beautiful Ber-rydale Park, on the corner of SE 92nd Ave. and Taylor St., will be the site of a very special movie event sponsored by The Jade District. Before the movie starts, around 8 pm, the audience will be treated to many fun and entertaining events, both for adults and children.

A dragon dance will undoubtedly steal the show, but demonstrations of Chinese brush painting, face painting, emergency skills taught by our Neighborhood Emergency Team, interesting information about The Jade District and Montavilla Neighborhood Association will also be available. Two food carts are being sent over by Portland Parks & Recreation for those who want to buy food, drinks or popcorn.

Bring a blanket or beach chair and settle in to watch Disney's "Turning Red," an animated feature about a teen making adjustments in her school. Lots of free parking is available all around the edges of the park. Dogs are allowed in the park, but must be kept on a leash at all times.

Friday, August 30-Sunday, September 1 is Portland's Best Jazz Festival—The 11th Annual Montavilla Jazz Festival. Ensuring the viability of the jazz art form and its preservation for future generations, it is a true highlight of our city every summer, featuring world-class musicians. Montavilla Jazz also contributes generously to music in the schools.

Our next in person meeting of the Montavilla Neighborhood Association, open to every resident and business owner of our sparkling neighborhood, will be Monday, September 9, 6:30 pm at the Montavilla United Methodist Church.

### Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association By David Petrozzi

During our June meeting, MTNA unanimously approved changes to our bylaws that had been previously open for member feedback. These changes are designed to ensure our continued vitality by lowering the minimum threshold required for Board members, thereby preventing any risk of non-compliance with nonprofit regulation. Despite this procedural change, we voted to add a new member to the Board as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance community service.

This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Mt. Tabor Soapbox Derby. Migration Brewing will commemorate the occasion with a special derby-themed beer and the entire event promises a day of fun for the entire family. Protip: plan ahead by biking or taking public transport to avoid parking hassles. The event takes place on Saturday, August 17, 10 am-4 pm. Volunteers are welcome to assist with beverage service, crowd control or merchandise management. Email volunteer@soapboxracer.org if you're interested in helping out.

MTNA also discussed plans for a community forum focused on improving accessibility to Mt. Tabor Park for individuals with disabilities. Additionally, we voted to endorse a letter from our friends and partners at NTNA, reminding the city to prioritize bike infrastructure and pedestrian safety amidst ongoing community growth and development. Largely in response to member advocacy, we have secured a temporary location for book pick-up and drop-off during the summer renovation of Belmont Library. Finally, we discussed scouting utility pole locations to hang future neighborhood banners that will showcase our community pride. Join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, August 21, 7 pm, hosted both in-person at Taborspace and online via Zoom. To register, and for further details about our many neighborhood initiatives and successes, please visit mttaborpdx.org.

### Richmond Neighborhood Association By Brian Hochhalter and Allen Field

The Richmond Neighborhood Association (RNA) held its monthly meeting July 8. Meetings are the second Monday of the month, 7-9 pm, except January. They are held in-person at Central Christian Church, 1844 SE Cesar Chavez Blvd. People can also participate via Zoom; the link to pre-register for Zoom is on the agenda, which is posted to richmondpdx.org and the RNA Announce listserv. To be added to the listserv, email richmondnasecretary@gmail.com.

Following the annual Board election in June, the Board appointed Debby Hochhalter as Chair, Allen Field as Secretary and Fran Davison as Treasurer.

The RNA is presenting the movie "A Million Miles Away" Friday August 30 in Sewallcrest Park, SE 31st Ave. and Stephens St., as part of the city's Summer Free for All program of movies and concerts in parks. The HAND and Sunnyside neighborhood associations are co-sponsoring the event. The program

LE

## Letter to the Editor

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

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to your July front page story on a new private school start-up. I am a great fan of choices in education, and have been involved in public alternative schools as a teacher, founder and parent. I believe this new school has a role to play and I wish it success.

However, I feel that the piece unfairly and unquestioningly maligns public education, implying that it is often regimented, stressful and out of balance, among other charges. It further suggests that such deficits—rather than changing demographics and the pandemic—are the reasons for shrinking enrollment. Right in our neighborhood we have the exemplary public K-8 Sunnyside Environmental School which defies all of these common stereotypes. The academic cur-

riculum is creative, holistic, very active and engaging. Students enjoy educational field trips, extend their learning and play into Laurelhurst Park and the neighborhood, tend the Sunnyside gardens and write and perform their own musical school plays. Interpersonal skills are highly valued and practiced. The teachers are impressive, encouraging, effective and dedicated. After-school care and varied activities are available, contrary to what the article states. I am sure that many readers could similarly praise their own neighborhood schools.

I hope that *The Southeast Examiner* will in the future seek out examples of success and creativity in the public school sector and provide some much-needed balance to this discussion.

Thank you,  
Carol Poliak

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## Neighborhood Notes

from page 13

starts at 7:30 pm with a kids/teen martial arts demonstration by One With Heart martial arts studio. The movie starts at dusk, which will be around 8:30 pm.

The RNA voted to put on a Styrofoam/stretch plastic and Metro CFL (compact fluorescent lights)/small batteries/prescription meds/sharps collection event Saturday, October 12, 9 am-noon, at Central Christian Church, 1834 SE Cesar Chavez Blvd. Green Century Recycling will handle the Styrofoam and stretch plastic, and Metro will handle the CFL/batteries/meds/sharps collection. In addition, we will be collecting recyclable cans and bottles to help fund C3 Food Pantry. More details are on the RNA website and in the Summer issue of the Richmond Newsletter being distributed now.

The next RNA meeting is Monday, August 12. Everyone is welcome. Please join us and learn about ways to get more involved in your community.

### South Tabor Neighborhood Association By Cathy Kudlick

The STNA held Board elections and continued to meet with District 3 candidates who reached out to us to meet informally with neighbors. Even though Board elections are over, there are still ways to get involved. We have a couple Board positions that we will fill with interim appointees. We're also seeking volunteers to help with The South Tabor Crow.

Join us to meet your neighbors in person 7 pm, the third Thursday of each month. Anyone who considers South Tabor home is welcome! For details about meeting locations, to sign up for our mailing list and to receive our recently re-launched newsletter, visit southtabor.org.

### Sunnyside Neighborhood Association By Gloria Jacobs

Starting in September, both the Board and general meetings will be on the second Wednesday of the month. Meetings are in person at SE Uplift (3534 SE Main St.) and online via Zoom. General meetings are every other month and Board meetings are monthly. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 11. At the September general meeting we will learn about Portland's new election system and how to fill out a ballot.

The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association is working with a Sunnyside architect and the owner of the empty lot at 4511 SE Hawthorne Blvd. to activate the space until it is developed. This is an exciting opportunity to bring new life to the neighborhood on a blank canvas. The project is in its early, idea-forming stages. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the committee at [lutc@sunnysideportland.org](mailto:lutc@sunnysideportland.org).

With the Belmont Library set to close this fall for a major upgrade, the library will no longer be able to display the quilt created by Sunnysiders in 1988. Do you have a space or an idea for a new home for the quilt? If you do, please reach out to [board@sunnysideportland.org](mailto:board@sunnysideportland.org).

The SNA will be volunteering at the Belmont Street Fair Sunday, September 8. If you are interested in participating, please email [board@sunnysideportland.org](mailto:board@sunnysideportland.org).

BA

## Business Association Notes

### 82nd Avenue Business Association By Nancy Chapin

The Thursday, August 22, 10 am 82nd Ave. Round Table will feature Belinda Judelman and Brian Landoe presenting the Portland Urban Forest Plan. This plan is a guide for the way the city preserves, plants and cares for trees. There will be time for discussion with city staff about your concerns and priorities for trees and tree care in Portland. Get your invitation at 82nd Ave. Roundtable.

Due to the heat, the Album of Roses photography contest has been extended to Saturday, August 31. Go to [82ndaveba.com/roses](http://82ndaveba.com/roses) for more information.

Do you have ideas for "Placemaking" on 82nd Ave.? Share it with us at [82ndaveba@gmail.com](mailto:82ndaveba@gmail.com).

### Division Clinton Business District By Anne Marie DiStefano

Drum-roll please...introducing...the Division Clinton Business District! We have the same basic footprint as the old Division Clinton Business Association, which did not survive the pandemic. We are starting out with a new name, we have elected a new Board of Directors, and we are now recruiting members. Please email [divisionclintonpdx@gmail.com](mailto:divisionclintonpdx@gmail.com) for more info and follow us on Instagram @divisionclinton.

The Division Clinton Street Fair will be held Saturday, September 7. We still have some vendor spaces available. Sign up at [welcometorevel.com/2024-street-fairs](http://welcometorevel.com/2024-street-fairs). We will also have an info booth at the fair. Hope to see you there!

### Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association By Nancy Chapin

The 41st Annual Hawthorne Street Fair will happen Sunday, August 25. Music, hand-made treasures, great food, information about non-profit activities and more. Meet your neighbors or drop in at a brick and mortar shop you've been meaning to check out. The Toyota Main Stage and the Mudbay/Cubo Stage are the "bookends" of the fair. The "Car Free Zone" is from SE Cesar Chavez Blvd. to 30th Ave. You may park at Central Christian Church, 1844 SE Cesar Chavez Blvd. The hours are 11 am-5 pm.

We checked out Mame at 3279 SE Hawthorne Blvd. for the Hawthorne Happy Hour August 1 and a new restaurant located in Upper Hawthorne is Phaya Thai Express, 4334 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

## County Partners with Out-Of-State Provider for Deflection Center

from page 1

result in rehabilitation and recovery through the new deflection center. Instead of prison, they aim at targeting the root of addiction, not punishing the effects of it with jail time.

This is a new and unique approach to battling the addiction crisis, and will hopefully yield results. "This new 24-hour drop-off center will be a gamechanger for Multnomah County in providing pathways to treatment and services," noted District Attorney Mike Schmidt, in a press release on June 27. "At the same time, law enforcement will have the tools they need for interdicting the unlawful possession of controlled substances and offering an

alternative to jail for individuals struggling with addiction."

The county is hoping to expand such a service in the coming years. They are already in talks with Tuerk House to begin offering a sobering center in 2025, where actual treatment would be conducted, solidifying into a permanent location in 2026.

Drug addiction is a complicated issue, with many different proposed solutions. Multnomah County is now shifting its strategy for combating the addiction crisis to an emphasis on rehabilitation rather than punishment, a strategy intended to balance the use of law enforcement with professional help and rehabilitation.

## How Do We House Everyone? Local Experts Weigh In

from page 1

having a positive effect. "Tens of thousands of people are being housed by the policies that we have in place. So this kind of extreme narrative that nothing is happening is just not based in reality," said Elizade. "If you hear folks saying that kind of thing, really scrutinize where that's coming from."

The panelists also agreed that to actually solve the housing crisis and provide housing for everyone, more social changes are needed.

"One of the most important things that we need to have is more community organizing, more tenant organizing," said Bates.

"We need to address the kind of power imbalances that happen, whether that is NIMBY ("not in my back yard") homeowners on the neighborhood association coming to development hearings, whether that is corporate landlords who want to enter the market here trying to game the state legislature," Bates continued. "Whatever the scale or level that we're talking about, we need to have the organizing happening for working class people, for poor people, for people of color, for tenants who are not controlling their own housing."

When asked for a policy change that could be quickly enacted by City Council alone, Elizade argued for more funding for the Portland Housing Bureau—the government office tasked with developing citywide housing policy, increasing affordable housing, promoting stable homeownership and managing housing resources.

"The Portland Housing Bu-

reau has effectively been dark for a number of years now because they don't have any money," said Elizade. "We need a city council that is prepared to fund the Portland Housing Bureau every year. Every year, no matter what, forever."

The solutions proposed by the panel were numerous, but as the conversation began to wind down, Bates addressed an elephant in the room—the apparent lack of will from government and citizenry to actually solve this crisis. What was needed was a discussion of Portland's "values."

"Do we have a value that if you're from here, you can stay here? Do we have a value that kids today should be able to live in the neighborhood that they grew up in or another neighborhood around here?," asked Bates. "Do we believe that the people that are handing me a cup of coffee at the coffee shop should be able to live and get to work in 20 minutes? Do we really believe that every person that we see that's sleeping in a doorway, or that we maybe saw using drugs on the street, is also part of our family and our community, is one of our loved ones?"

With a Mayoral and City Council election approaching in November that will be deeply divided along issues of affordable housing and homelessness, Portlanders may soon get an opportunity to ask themselves these very questions—and answer some of them at the ballot box.

You can watch the entirety of this Policy Talk, as well as other past and future talks on Portland For All's website, [portlandforall.org](http://portlandforall.org).

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## Neighborhood Happenings:

### Hawthorne Street Fair

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Sunday, August 25, 11 am-5 pm

Come through the Hawthorne District on August 25 for the 41st Anniversary of the Hawthorne Street Fair! Explore local vendors while enjoying great food, music and more!

### Portland Soap Box Derby

soapboxracer.org  
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Saturday, August 17, 10 am-4 pm

It's time for the annual Mt. Tabor soap box derby race! Every summer, teams design and assemble their very own downhill racers to speed to the bottom of the volcano. Bring a picnic and come witness the action!

### Bridge Pedal

providence.org/lp/bridge-pedal  
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