



Muralist Tyler Shrake works on the graveyard scene mural. Photo by Sara Sjol and Tiffany Conklin for PSAA.

New Murals, Event Space and Urban Garden Renews Vacant Property

BY DANIEL PEREZ-CROUSE

The Portland Street Art Alliance (PSAA) recently teamed up with JAM Makery LLC (partner of Open Urban Practice and Bridge Rats Artist Studios in the Central Eastside) and PDX Farm to revitalize 831 SE MLK Jr. Blvd. in the Central Eastside, right by City Liquidators. The new project sees PSAA muralists creating spooky visuals on the building and PDX Farm installing edible gardens with native species and seasonal interactions. It also includes extensive building renovations and a major dig-up to create an event space.

For those unaware, PSAA has been working since 2019 with various partners and funders to turn Portland’s Central Eastside into an artistic destination and celebration for street art with a bevy of murals now

spread throughout the area—and this is one of the latest unveilings in that journey.

The aim is to create a centerpiece for the Central Eastside’s Mural District. “Our dream is to seed a greater civic venture that celebrates the geography, heritage and dynamic future for the Central Eastside. A future that is in dialogue with the socio-economic significance of this part of the city, the natural ecology as foundational to urban prosperity, the people who have shaped the creative, nuanced and diverse voices of the district’s cultural production, and new possibilities for how we imagine our city’s future vibrancy,” said Alexis Sanal, AIA, partner of JAM Makery.

PSAA Executive Director, Tiffany Conklin, said PSAA has wanted to do a Halloween and harvest theme mural for a long time and that this property owner was open to creative freedom through their Community Art Program. “It seemed like a great match since PDX Farm is installing the gardens, and our mural work would play off those natural surroundings.”

However, Conklin says the plan is to rotate the artwork at this site periodically in association with other Community Art Projects, but to always keep the theme focused on plants, growing food and changing seasons.

As for the in-progress urban farm itself, Dan Campbell of PDX Farm said, “Our crew plans to cultivate a beautiful, creative and bioactive growing space that will inspire and encourage those visiting to care for the land and nourish their community. This transformation comes to us on a patch of land long neglected and forgotten.”

This series of murals (supported by a grant from Metro Regional Refresh Fund) and space has an explicit horror and Halloween-inspired vibe—with the unveiling happening near the end of October. Jack-

County Opens Center to Deflect Drug Offenders from Jail Into Treatment

BY MARSHALL HAMMOND

Monday, October 14, Multnomah County opened a new facility in SE Portland designed to “deflect” individuals arrested for low-level drug offenses into treatment services instead of jail. The Coordinated Care Pathway Center, located at 980 SE Pine St., near SE Sandy Blvd., is a drop-off point for people who have been arrested for possessing small amounts of drugs, are not facing other criminal charges, have no outstanding warrants and have agreed to seek treatment rather than face criminal penalties.

When an individual meeting the criteria agrees to enter the deflection program, law enforcement officers call a special Deflection Dispatch, who then contacts a partner such as The Coordinated Care Pathway Center to confirm that a peer support team is available to receive the individual at a determined time.

People who enter the facility are screened by staff to determine what services they need, including drug treatment, health services or help with housing, and are then connected with the organizations providing those services. A person is considered to have successfully completed the deflection if they take advantage of the offered services within 30 days and commit no other crimes during that period. If they choose not to seek services, or fail to do

so within 30 days, they are ineligible for deflection if they are arrested again in the future.

Oregon’s deflections program was initiated as a provision in HB 4002, passed earlier this year, which reintroduced criminal penalties for possession of small amounts of illegal substances, but also allows counties to direct drug offenders to treatment, which is typically more effective than incarceration at reducing drug dependence.

The program coincides with a national deflection effort supported by the Centers for Disease Control, the National Council for Mental Well Being and the National Governors Association, to seek avenues outside the criminal justice system to address wide-spread drug abuse as a health crisis rather than a criminal problem.

The Coordinated Pathway Center was originally scheduled to open September 1, the same day HB 4002 went into effect, but renovation and staffing delays pushed back the opening. The County also faced a lawsuit from the nearby Escuela Viva Community School, which alleged that the County and the Center did not properly finalize a good neighbor agreement before opening the center. A Multnomah County judge rejected the lawsuit on the grounds that the school had “failed to demonstrate a likeli-

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Colorful SE Festival Receives Scale Up Grant

BY KRIS MCDOWELL

HOLI - Portland Color Festival is one of two recipients of a Prosper Portland 2025 Scale Up Grant in the most recent grant cycle. The grant program is a partnership between the Portland Events and Film Office at Prosper Portland and Travel Portland that provides funding and technical assistance for local Portland events that are positioned to grow and attract attendance beyond the Portland metro region.

HOLI will take place March 22 and 23, 2025, celebrating the coming of Spring. It is one of India’s biggest festivals and takes place under different names within the South Asian diaspora across the globe. In Portland, the festival is produced by Bollywood Dreams Entertainment, a SE Portland company, and produced by Prashant Kakad.

Kakad has been producing HOLI in Portland since 2011. He came to the US from Mumbai for graduate school and says, “After a brutal first winter in Ithaca

[NY], one spring day I discovered Holi being played at the courtyard of the law school. That afternoon for the first time I felt like I had teleported to India! I also noticed how everyone, South Asian or not, were thoroughly enjoying the festivities. I started HOLI in Portland with a mission to hold space for others to experience those feelings well.”

Attendees dress in white and cover each other in colorful powder during the multi-day festival, connecting and experiencing the culture of the South Asia community in a joyful and inclusive way. As with previous years’ festivals, expect a variety of vendors and performers showcasing local goods and talents with a strong focus on South Asian culture sharing. Kakad hasn’t nailed down the location of the festival just yet, but a strong possibility is Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Scale Up Grant award packages are comprehensive programs consisting of up

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Rs Representatively Speaking

BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROB NOSSE

I don't use this space to communicate as a partisan Democrat very often, but in light of November's election results I felt like that's the only way I could accurately capture the mood of the results. It definitely feels like the classic Charles Dickens line from *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

Let's start with the best of times. I feel pretty positive about ranked choice voting and multi-member city council districts here in Portland. Yes, the ballot measure to enact ranked choice voting at the state level failed to pass, but here in Portland the system delivered a city council that's diverse in ideology, race, gender and experience. Our new leaders are entering a tough budget environment while navigating a brand new form of local government. I am confident all the people we elected are capable of competently running the government. They all seem to have our city's best interest at heart.

I also feel pretty positive about incoming mayor, Keith Wilson. Most of you know he was not my first choice. I thought Carmen Rubio was the frontrunner and I enthusiastically backed her campaign. It turns out the revelation of Rubio's parking tickets, coupled with anti-incumbent attitudes, put political outsider Wilson over the top. Wilson is clearly smart, earnest and has run a successful freight company. He is very focused on solving the problem of homelessness. I look forward to working with him in my capacity as a state representative to help him and the city council obtain the resources they need to achieve his goals.

I also think the "Don't Rank Rene" campaign took hold. Yes, there was enough information out there about Rene Gonzalez's politics and temperament, but that campaign helped put that information out there. They also had a good slogan.

I am also glad that the



"stunt" (and I chose that word deliberately) of three city council members attempting to "divorce" itself from the County's Joint Office of Housing and Homelessness was dropped. The city cannot solve the housing and homelessness crisis alone, especially when most of the programs and financial resources are county administered.

Speaking of Multnomah County, Shannon Singleton won her race to replace Susheela Jayapal against Sam Adams, who yet again attempted to make a comeback. Meghan Moyer, in our neck of the woods, beat Vadim Mozysky. Both of these women are "classic progressives" in the Portland political tradition who ran in a tough election environment with voter dissatisfaction with the County and its handling of the issues we are most concerned about—housing, homelessness and addiction. Independent expenditures on Adams and Mozysky were to no avail. Some compassion toward the homeless and those in the throes of addiction is going to be needed and voters agreed. That's why I am glad Singleton and Moyer won.

With the election of Single-

ton and Moyer, I believe County Chair, Jessica Vega Pederson got incredibly lucky. She will have two people that she can work with as opposed to presiding over a county commission that would have been more obstructionist. She will have four members who all want to be constructive and pragmatic problem solvers who will try to work with her not just oppose her. Still, that doesn't mean our County Chair is out of the woods yet. If she has difficulties working with the new county board or the city to make meaningful and visible progress on housing and homelessness, then she will have a lot more than her reelection in 2026 to worry about.

At the state level, Oregon Democrats swept EVERY statewide office, and will have a super majority in the Oregon State Senate, and likely in the Oregon State House where I serve. Stay tuned on that one, as the results in one race in Woodburn are still a little too close to call. That supermajority means that Democrats will not be held hostage by Republicans to pass needed tax increases. We can go it alone if we need to, provided we can muster all of us to vote the same way. Yes, I realize that is a bit partisan (remember, I warned you). In addition, the Republicans no longer can just walk off the job either. In 2022 the voters passed BM 113 which put it in our state constitution a provision that says lawmakers who walk out for more than 10 days are barred from running for reelection. Our State Supreme Court unanimously upheld the measure after a legal challenge to it in February of this year. All of this combined will make Republican obstruction tactics harder to pull off.

Unfortunately, it is also the worst of times. I cannot believe Donald Trump won a second term and will have an entire Congress controlled by his party. It is the exact opposite at the national level to what we have here in Oregon at the state and local levels. I am sure some of you saw it coming, but I sure did not. I am pretty concerned, but more on this soon enough. Watch for me to talk more about that in January or give a preview of my priorities for the legislative session.



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Winter is Coming: How to Support Our Unhoused Neighbors

BY JONATHAN SOMMER,
FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL'S *THE FRANKLIN POST*

In recent years, Portland has seen freezing ice storms which caused mass power outages, shut down roads and led to numerous fatalities. With rising rates of homelessness and poverty in the city, many Portlanders find themselves ill-prepared for winter, especially those who live outside. As the cold closes in, people who face housing insecurity are in need of support—but how do we support them?

Gus Kroll, a social service worker, may provide an answer. Kroll works at Transition Projects, a local organization focused on moving Portland's homeless off the streets and into affordable housing. For those who face housing or financial insecurity, Kroll recommends connecting with direct service organizations, which provide resources and help face-to-face rather than connecting people to third parties. "Often they are going to be offering blankets, sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets...the kind of things people need to stay warm," explains Kroll. He points to the People's Store and PDX Saints Love as examples of these organizations. The People's Store is a mobile mutual aid organization, while PDX Saints Love offers showers, haircuts and community meals. He recommends these groups due to their reliability, though he admits there is sometimes a lengthy process to get involved with the shelters.

Kroll believes in working to build a culture that supports its most disadvantaged members: "It's wanting our society to be a place where if you or I were to end up in a situation [where we] need that help, [we could get it]." He emphasizes that with inflation and the ever-increasing wage gap, "we're all three bad months from being homeless; none of us are three good months from being a billionaire. Look at the folks in Asheville, NC—a couple of months ago, they were fine. There were...local business owners who would have never imagined themselves now potentially living in a tent;...any one of our houses could collapse, [and] suddenly, we look a lot more like the folks living in tents along Powell than we do Jeff Bezos."

Jeanne, who requested to go by first name only, volunteers with Feed The Streets and says the best way to keep folks warm this winter is "more shelters, shelters that accept animals, shelters that don't place restrictions on people." Despite their benefits, both Jeanne and Kroll mention the limitations of shelters; they aren't a quick fix. Many shelters have their own requirements such as mandatory sobriety, and some shelters are single-sex or animal-free. "Sometimes a poor fit is no fit at all," states Kroll.

Jeanne encourages people who want to help to speak up: "Insist—demand—that our leaders provide adequate, warm, dry shelter throughout the rainy, cold months, [and] STOP THE SWEEPS! People's belongings



Socks and gloves from Dollar Tree, which are cheap to buy and good to donate. Socks are one of the best things to donate this winter, as they frequently are destroyed by the wet and muddy conditions outside.
Photo by Jonathan Sommer.

are getting thrown away and they are losing shelter and clothing and blankets and all the things that keep them warm-ish in the first place."

People often shy away from interacting with their unhoused neighbors. Homeless people are stigmatized and pushed to the corners of our urban world. "Treat them like a human. Don't look away," Jeanne says. "Give them food. Give them money if you don't have food." Kroll aims to break down the assumptions around housing insecurity and poverty. He remarks, "Of course, there are people who are living outside who are willing to turn to anything to make life feel a little less rough...even if it's that brief high that comes with heroin [or] fentanyl." However, he continues, "I'm not trying to romanticize people living outside with addictions; some of them are jerks. But good thing I don't know anyone who lives inside who's a jerk."

Jeanne suggests donation as an easy way to support the cause: "Any organization that provides on-the-ground supplies and outreach could use money to feed and supply unhoused people." Kroll highlights that organizations that work in this field are always low on resources. He advises donating "anything that you can imagine needing on a camping trip gone terribly wrong." Kroll also offers his hands-on approach of donation: "I often [have] in my car a goodie bundle...I keep them in my [car's] console. I usually put in them a pair of socks and a couple other useful items."

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Hungry Dumpling House Offers Dumplings and More in a Neighborhood Setting

BY ELLEN SPITALERI

When Hungry Dumpling House, a new Chinese restaurant, opened on August 1 at SE 41st Ave. and Hawthorne Blvd., it marked the coming together of three best friends and cousins, each bringing something unique to the table.

Co-owner Ting Chen chose the décor, with the goal of giving the place an authentic yet modern Chinese feel. Then she and co-owner Emily Chen carefully chose only dishes that they loved for the menu, ones that they knew chef Chengcheng Zhen would be passionate about cooking.

Ting, who has previous restaurant experience, noted that many Chinese restaurants have multiple-page menus, but she and her partners chose a smaller menu, with dishes that “people like best, and everything is good.”

As for the name Hungry Dumpling, she noted that when people get hungry for dumplings, they will know where to come, since the restaurant specializes in dumplings of all kinds.

Ting also said that she and

her partners chose the space on Hawthorne Blvd. because there are diverse kinds of businesses that people can walk to in the area.

The menu features four distinctive styles of dumplings, including steamed, pan seared or boiled, sauced and dumplings XLB. Prices range from \$7.50 for shu mai and har gow, to \$16.50 for crab and pork XLB. XLB dumplings “are a more traditional and juicy steamed dumpling, with a little bit of soup inside,” Ting noted.

For the vegetarian, there are veggie and mushroom steamed dumplings and mushroom pan-seared or boiled dumplings, along with stir-fried dishes like garlic bok choy, sauteed string beans and eggplant in hot garlic sauce.

Other menu items abound with appetizers, noodles, fried rice, chow mein, soups, ramen, stir-fried dishes and ala carte options, including sweet and sour chicken and General Tso’s chicken.

Ting noted that customers’

favorite dishes include wonton in chili oil and chicken dumplings. One specialty item that is Ting’s favorite is salted egg yolk wings, which is cooked in a wok.

She added that salt and spice levels can be adjusted up or down for customers by request.

Desserts include deep-fried sesame balls, steamed red bean buns, sesame buns and egg-yolk buns. Drinks range from tea and soft drinks to an array of beer and wine.

There are always challenges when opening a new business, and Ting said that they had to remodel the entire space. But that turned out to be a good thing, as neighbors walked by all the time to check on their progress, and people were so happy when the place finally opened, she said.

For her, the most fun part of co-owning Hungry Dumpling is when the place is packed with people from the neighborhood who all say the food is good.

Ting also said that she wanted the space to look like a welcoming family and neighborhood-oriented restaurant, like one might find in modern-day China.



Newly opened Hungry Dumpling House serves up a varied selection of dumplings and other Chinese dishes in a space with plenty of natural light and a contemporary ambiance. Photo by Dick Trtek.

She especially likes all the natural wood tables and chairs, and the big windows, which allow plenty of light to greet customers coming in for lunch.

Emily runs the house, taking orders and making suggestions for first-time diners. “Some people don’t know what a dumpling is, and we have some that are not traditional that other places do not have,” she said.

In addition to the dumplings, customer favorites include curry katsu chicken and ramen with veggies, pork, chicken or shrimp.

This is Emily’s first busi-

ness, so she commented on the challenges involved in hiring responsible people. She runs the house by herself weekdays, and brings in help on the weekends, while Zhen has two or three assistants in the kitchen.

Her favorite moments include when “customers and neighbors come in and say they love our food and then come back again.”

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PARKING BEHIND BUILDING

County Opens Center to Deflect Drug Offenders from Jail Into Treatment

from page 1

hood of success on the merits of their claims” on October 11, and the center was allowed to open three days later.

The pace of the deflections was slow at first but has been steadily increasing. In the first week, the Coordinated Care Pathway Center received only six individuals, with four agreeing to enter treatment. After another week, the total was 19 drop offs with 13 agreeing to enter treatment. Of those drop-offs, 17 were initiated by Portland Police.

Not all deflections are routed through the Center. Mobile outreach teams provided by the County Health Department also coordinate with law enforcement to direct offenders to deflection services.

Since the deflection program started on September 1, Portland Police have attempted to deflect 192 individuals into treatment services, with 91 of them agreeing to pursue treatment, according to the last bi-weekly report on the deflection program that was released by the county, covering the period of September 1-October 31. These numbers were 20 percent higher than the

county expected, signaling that the program is off to a strong start.

Recovery experts who have been interviewed about the program see the deflection program as a positive development that is also in need of fine tuning. Because of an overall shortage of available drug treatment programs, some people routed through deflection might find that the treatment they need is not immediately available.

There is also a question of exactly how many people who complete the deflection process, meaning they have sought services that were referred to them by the peer support staff, are actually getting the addiction recovery care they may need. If they are referred to and enter into supportive housing, for example, they have successfully completed the deflection process but haven’t actually entered into addiction treatment.

There are also high barriers for entry, as most people who are arrested for drug offenses are disqualified because they have outstanding warrants or are facing non-drug offenses that are nev-

ertheless common amongst drug users, such as theft or trespassing.

However, the program is still in its infancy, and more funding and addiction recovery resources will be rolled out in the coming months related to the passage and implementation of HB 4002, making it easier for those entering the deflection program to get the help they need.

The Coordinated Care Pathway Center is managed and operated by Tuerk House, a non-profit drug treatment provider based out of Baltimore, MD with over 50 years of operation. Some of the partners supporting the deflection program include Recovery Works NW, 4-D Recovery, Volunteers of America and Multnomah County’s PATH (Promoting Access to Hope) Program.

The Center is open 7 am-11 pm weekdays and 7 am-3 pm weekends, with security officers patrolling the facility 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Find out more about the Coordinated Care Pathway Center and read Multnomah County’s biweekly reports on the progress of the deflection program at bit.ly/3CF6al8.

Field Guide: Lone Fir Cemetery

BY METRO

Nestled in SE Portland, Lone Fir Cemetery is more than just a cemetery. It's one of Oregon's most treasured historic places, a repository of stories spanning from the 19th century to the present day. It's also Portland's second-largest arboretum.

In 1854, J.B. Stephens sold his farm to Colburn Barrell. Stephens' father, Emmor, had died in 1846 and was the first person buried on the property. Barrell was a partner in a passenger steamship line between Portland and Oregon City. The steamship *Gazelle* exploded in April 1854, killing several people, including Barrell's business partner, Crawford Dobbins. Barrell set aside 10 acres of his property as a cemetery and buried the victims near Emmor Stephens. He named the cemetery Mount Crawford in honor of his friend.

By 1866, 20 more acres were added. Burial plots sold for \$10. Because of marshy ground, the city closed graveyards in what is now downtown. Many bodies were then re-interred at Mount Crawford. Barrell's wife, Aurelia, changed the name to Lone Fir Cemetery for the solitary tree standing on the site. The cemetery was eventually sold to Portland investors in 1866.

Today, Lone Fir is a wooded, landscaped arboretum in the heart of Portland with more than 700 trees representing 67 species.

Most of the trees were planted as memorials to loved ones as long as 150 years ago. It is home to the last pioneer rose garden in Portland.

More than 30,000 people are buried at Lone Fir. Wander around and look for the graves of the founders with street names—Hoyt, Hawthorne, Lovejoy, Davis, Couch, as well as six Portland mayors and four governors. The lovely grounds, filled with trees that belie the cemetery's name, sustain the memory of military veterans, firefighters and mental hospital patients. It is the final resting place for people of diverse ethnicities and nationalities. Look for the graves of renowned activist Hattie Redmond and of Gus Waterford, Portland's first Black firefighter; his grave is now marked, thanks to efforts by McDaniel High School students.

The southwest corner of the cemetery, labeled "Block 14" on cemetery maps, held the Chinese section of the cemetery during the late 1800s and early 1900s. In the 1950s, that portion of the cemetery was paved over to build a Multnomah County maintenance facility. Now, with input from community members, Metro is working to design and build a memorial at this site.

Season-by-season highlights

Winter: There is something striking about a walk through a

historic cemetery on a clear, cold winter day. The cemetery is open year round, so be sure to stop in and enjoy the serene surroundings. And if we are lucky enough to have snow, you might find someone cross-country skiing.

Spring: It's the busiest time of the year. Not only are the flowers blooming and the birds singing, but Portlanders are also returning to the outdoors after winter. Spring is the time of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Qing Ming ("Tomb-Sweeping Day"), so the cemetery is full of fresh-cut flowers and lots of visitors. Each Memorial Day, the cemetery hosts an event with the local fire department to honor those who gave their lives in service to the country.

Summer: Longer days allow for events in the cemetery, from concerts to Shakespeare plays. Most performances take place near the Soldier's Monument.

Fall: Some say the most beautiful time of the year at Lone Fir is when the leaves have changed and a chill is in the air. Look for three heritage trees: the bigleaf maple, incense cedar and Douglas fir, the cemetery's namesake. Every year in late October, Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery host a history tour or other event at the cemetery. Tickets often sell out quickly.

Year round: The nonprofit



Lone Fir Cemetery on a snowy, foggy day.
Photo by Kris McDowell.

organization, Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery, offers monthly tours of the cemetery, focusing on different topics like history and art.

Getting there

Lone Fir is located between SE Stark and Morrison streets and SE 20th and 25th avenues. Free parking along cemetery roads. TriMet bus 15 goes down SE Belmont and Morrison streets.

Know when you go

Open daily 7 am to sunset. No pets. Please respect any services that might be taking place at

the cemetery and families visiting graves of loved ones.

Cemetery details

Benches; free flower vases provided at Soldier's Monument, with five water spigots along the main roadway. Lone Fir is open to new sales. If you are interested in purchasing a burial or cremation space: 503.797.1709 or oregon-metro.gov/cemeteries.

This article was originally published in Metro's Our Big Backyard Fall 2024.



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Summer Free For All Applications Open



Portland Parks & Recreation is excited to announce that applications for Summer Free For All Cultural Events (SFFA) will open Monday, December 2. Applications will only be open for six weeks this year, closing Monday, January 13, so early application submission is recommended.

SFFA is one of Portland's most beloved and anticipated summertime traditions. Each summer SFFA partners with community groups, artists, nonprofits, culturally-specific groups and more to produce free outdoor concerts, movies, festivals and cultural events throughout the city of Portland.

SFFA produces three types of events. Traditionally known as "Concerts in the Park," the concert/performance events feature a local band, artist or performer, starting at 6:30 pm and ending at 8:30 pm. Movie events, known as "Movies in the Park," feature a screening of a movie. They start at 7:30 pm, with the movie beginning at dusk and/or when it

is dark enough to see the movie screen. The final event type is "special events" and may be a little more involved or robust than a standard concert or movie. These type of events can include dance, theater, comedy, spoken word, mini-festivals and community gatherings.

Those interested in applying should read the Community Partner Handbook, make sure that they have two designated representatives who are able to work directly with a SFFA Event Producer and complete the 2025 Event Application.

Available dates for the 2025 season are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays July 10-August 30. All SFFA events are held at city parks and applicants need to specify their top three park locations and dates. The events are traditionally held in the evening; ideas for events that take place earlier will be considered and can be shared on the application.

For concert/performance events, groups will provide their

top three music genres and/or performance types. For movie events, groups will provide their top three movie choices. For special events, a detailed proposal of the event is required in the application.

All programming requests are reviewed by and subject to final approval by the SFFA Cultural Events team. This is to ensure that partners' programming requests are available, logistically feasible, meet safety guidelines and are in compliance with City rules and regulations.

The Community Contribution for all groups hosting SFFA events begins at \$1,000 and is due by June 6. Information on the Community Contribution and fundraising can be found in the Community Partner Handbook.

The handbook, link to application and more information can be found at portland.gov/parks/arts-culture/summer-free-all/cultural-events. Additional questions can be directed to sffa@portland-oregon.gov.

SEPTL Holiday Closures and Request For Volunteers

The Southeast Portland Tool Library (SEPTL) is a small, community-run organization, available to anyone regardless of their financial status. They are almost exclusively supported by the generous spirit of those who volunteer their time. Their hours are dependent on enough people filling the minimum two volunteer spots during their open hours.

SEPTL is located at 1137 SE 20th Ave. (SE 20th and Salmon St.) and generally open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-7 pm and Saturdays, 9 am-Noon. Due to the holiday season, they will be closed Tuesday, December 24-Tuesday, December 31, resuming their normal schedule Thursday, January 2.

Eligible borrowers live

within the SE Uplift boundaries, which includes 19 neighborhoods, and are at least 18 years of age. Tools are for non-commercial use only and may only be used by members. The loan period is seven days; late returns will result in a fine.

A wide variety of tools are available to rent, ranging from gardening tools to automotive, plumbing, bicycle, carpentry and much more. A full list of tools and additional information at sites.google.com/septl.org/website.

If you enjoy using SEPTL, consider giving something back to the library by offering some of your time to help. Email volunteers@septl.org to begin the conversation and explore available volunteer opportunities.

Community Small Grants Available

SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition invites organizations and community groups to apply for a Community Small Grant. The program is designed to help grassroots groups working in District 3 support the community's needs, develop collaborative projects and bring their ideas to fruition.

Through this program, SE Uplift provides seed funding and grant application support to help applicants shape the places where they live, work and play for current and future generations. The program is funded by the City of Portland's Office of Community & Civic Life and is approved by Portland City Council. Community Small Grants are available for small-scale projects (up to \$500), as well as grants for larger projects (up to \$3,000).

Project ideas do not have to be extraordinary to receive funding, but they do need to be well-thought out, practical and achievable. Some examples of past projects that have received funding include engaging neighbors in creating a street painting to slow down traffic in a residential neighborhood; workshops, forums and trainings that create stronger skills among community leaders; and civic engagement efforts such as a voter registration drive led by high school students.

SE Uplift will be accepting applications Monday, December 16-Sunday, January 26. Applications can be submitted online (preferred), by email, mail or by dropping them off at SE Uplift. Submission details, the application and a grants handbook can all be found at seuplift.org/grants.

Whooping Cough Vaccination Urged

Oregon is expected to surpass its record of 910 pertussis (commonly known as whooping cough) cases by the end of the year, prompting health officials to sharpen their warnings about the disease's serious risks—especially for young babies—and their emphasis on the importance of vaccination. As of November 13, Oregon has seen a total of 827 cases of whooping cough, according to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) data. At least one person, an older adult, has died. To put the case count in perspective, in 2012, 910 whooping cough cases were reported, the highest annual count since 1953.

"I'm worried, given the time of year, because people are attending indoor holiday gatherings, and those gatherings often include newborns who are too young to be vaccinated," said Paul Cieslak, M.D., medical director for communicable diseases and immunizations at OHA's Public Health Division.

Lane County has the highest number of pertussis cases this

year with 249. The other high case count counties are Multnomah (180), Clackamas (109), Washington (67) and Deschutes (59). The median age of cases is 11, with the range between five weeks and 89 years.

Babies too young to be fully vaccinated suffer the most from pertussis, with the highest reported incidence rate and highest likelihood of hospitalization and death. This is because babies don't start building protection against infection until they are vaccinated at two months old. With the exception of 2024, Oregon pertussis deaths have been limited to infants; five have occurred since 2003.

Vaccination against pertussis is routinely recommended for infants, children, adolescents and adults. The combination vaccine, Tdap, protects against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. Children should receive the vaccine at two, four, six and 15-18 months, and again at age four-kindergarten age. All persons 10 and older, including those 65 and older, who

have not had the single-dose Tdap vaccine should get it now.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic—when restrictions that included masking requirements and school closures were in effect—annual case tallies routinely reached triple digits, but dropped to three in 2021. But this year's to-date 827 cases, which represents a nearly 2,500 percent increase from the 32 cases reported by the same period in 2023, has surprised state and local public health officials.

Jennifer Gibbons, N.D., a naturopathic physician in Portland, says 80 percent of her family medicine practice is pediatrics, and she can cite many examples of a pertussis infection's devastating effects on children. "I've had multiple families say, 'If I had known how bad this was going to be, I would have vaccinated.' I use that to tell other families," Gibbons says. She also reminds families that "kids tolerate this vaccine very well. I find it to be a really useful, safe and effective vaccine."

Provide Feedback on Climate Action Plan

Greater Portland's natural beauty and quality of life makes it special, and Metro wants to preserve it for future generations. But climate change is threatening people's health, our communities and our natural areas. Metro is working with governments, businesses and residents in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area to chart a wise course for the future. That means protecting the things we love about this place, including combating climate change. You can help.

The region's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan will identify actions that can combat climate change, such as making it easier to get around without driving, reducing the amount of

energy used by our homes and buildings and making it easier to repair and reuse products. These actions not only fight climate change, they can also create new jobs, save people money, clean the air and improve quality of life for everyone, including the region's most vulnerable community members, who are disproportionately harmed by pollution and high energy costs.

Learn more about the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan at the online open house (available at form.jotform.com/jlainvolve/metro-cprg-oo). Most importantly, tell Metro which proposed climate actions are most important to you. Feedback accepted through Monday, January 6.

Automatic Towing For Missing Plates/VIN

Following recent changes to city code, Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) parking enforcement will now order an automatic tow for any vehicle that does not have a visible vehicle identification number (VIN) and does not display at least one license plate. The change went into effect mid-November.

A vehicle's VIN is typically visible on the driver's side of the dashboard, where it meets the windshield and can most easily be read from the outside looking in through the windshield. In Oregon, vehicles are required to show two license plates, front and back, with the exception for some types of vehicles like mopeds and motorcycles which only require one plate on the back.

Allowing for an automatic tow will help parking enforcement officers more quickly clear vehicles in violation of city code

from the public right-of-way, including abandoned vehicles.

Illegally parked vehicles in the public right-of-way can be reported seven days a week to the Parking Enforcement Division by calling 503.823.5195 Monday-Friday, 6:15 am-11:15 pm; Saturday, 8:15 am-11:15 pm; and Sunday, 8:45 am-11:15 pm. All other times, contact Police Non-Emergency at 503.823.3333.

If you believe your vehicle was towed, contact Portland Police Auto Records at 503.823.0044 to locate your vehicle and learn how to get it back. Additional information about vehicle towing is available at portland.gov/transportation/regulatory/towing-faq. A towing hardship fund managed by PBOT is available for victims of auto theft and others living on low income needing to retrieve towed and impounded vehicles.

New Mt. Tabor Tree Guide

The Friends of Mt. Tabor Park has a new version, really two, of Notable Trees of Mt. Tabor Park. There is a PDF version that can be used online or printed on 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17" paper, as well as an interactive ArcGIS version that is perfect when strolling in the park with a smartphone in hand. Both are available at taborfriends.org/tree-guide.

The new guide represents over 400 hours of work by a team of dedicated volunteers over two and a half years. For its creation, the team conducted an exhaustive search of the park and located all but one of the trees from the Portland Plant list and many trees native to other parts of the State of Oregon. Visitors can use these examples to assess the suitability of trees they may be interested in adding to their landscape.

While focusing on native trees, the guide still celebrates some truly spectacular examples of exotic trees. Mt. Tabor is home to two City of Portland Heritage Trees: the giant sequoia (#30) and a bigleaf linden (#24). Visitors to the newly accessible southern end of the park will see an enormous Himalayan spruce (#43) and a strawberry tree (#39), which is a close relative of our Pacific mardrone (#42).

Not exactly a tree, #49 is a living stump. These oddities are above-ground evidence of the



#14 Bigleaf Maple. Photo by Friends of Mt. Tabor Park.

underground connections formed between trees. The roots of neighboring trees may graft together. If the crown of one breaks off in a storm or is felled with a saw, the adjacent tree can provide the damaged tree with enough resources to grow bark over the top of its stump in exchange for continuing

access to the toppled tree's roots.

If you are in the park enjoying the trees and notice that much work remains to clear the park of invasive plants, consider joining a Friends of Mt. Tabor Weed Warrior work party (see December Events below for the last one of the year).

Standard Library Hours For All Locations

Beginning Sunday, December 1, all Multnomah County Library (MCL) locations will have the same open hours, making it easier for library patrons to plan their visit and reduce service disruptions. The new schedule will also apply to the library's contact center, where patrons can get help by phone, email or chat. The hours will be Monday 10 am-6 pm; Tuesday and Wednesday, 12-8 pm; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am-6 pm; and Sunday 12-6 pm.

This is the first significant update to MCL's operating hours since 2013. The change will help patrons more easily understand when and how to use the library, as well as help streamline employee scheduling practices to reduce unplanned closures or other service interruptions. In total, libraries will be open about

the same amount of time to the public each week. Up-to-date information can be found on MCL's Hours and Locations page, multcolib.org/hours-and-locations, including any changes that occur due to inclement weather or unforeseen conditions.

"People in Multnomah County love their libraries and use them in different ways," says Director of Libraries Annie Lewis. "The library is trying to balance the needs and wishes of families, working people and others by offering morning and evening hours on different days across Multnomah County."

With this change, the library will not be making any budget reductions, reducing staff or cutting employees' hours or pay. Library signage and public information will be updated beginning December 1 to reflect the change.

TriMet Seeks Input on Supporting Community Language Needs

TriMet works to make their transit service better and more welcoming for all. To help them best support and communicate with riders who speak languages other than English, they invite feedback through a new survey.

Data from TriMet and the 2020 US Census shows that nearly 119,000 people or roughly eight percent of residents over

the age of five in the tri-county service area have limited ability to read, write and speak English. TriMet and their community partners connect with people in multiple languages about how to use the transit service through outreach and at local events. This survey will build on that, allowing them to improve access to services and make it easier to ride

for people who may have difficulty understanding English.

The survey is available in 14 languages and may take up to 10 minutes to complete. At the end of the survey, you can enter to win a \$100 gift card or \$50 Hop card. The survey will be open through Tuesday, December 31 and can be found at trimet.org/survey.



DECEMBER EVENTS

FAIR TRADE POP-UP – Portland Mennonite Church hosts Just Cause, a fair trade pop-up, Saturday, December 7-Sunday, December 15 (weekend hours 9 am-4 pm, weekday hours 1-4 pm). Add extra meaning to your home and gift giving this holiday season by supporting artisans earning a fair income for their products. Portland Mennonite Church is located at 1323 SE 35th Ave.

WINTER MARKET AND WREATH SALE – Visit Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave., to select a botanically or traditionally-themed wreath, enjoy the winter garden, support local artisans and businesses and warm up in the Manor House Saturday, December 7, 10 am-3 pm. Mulled wine and hot apple cider will be for sale. Free admission.

PORTLAND TABLE TENNIS CLUB OPEN HOUSE – The Portland Table Tennis Club hosts an open house Saturday, December 14, 1-3 pm. The non-profit club welcomes players of every level and has been in its SE Portland location for just over a year at 1720 SE Haig St. Come meet the leaders and coaches of the club, enjoy some ping pong and learn more about a great club focused on a growing sport! For more information please see portlandtabletennis.com.

PEACOCK LANE LIGHTS – The residents of Peacock Lane will be displaying their lights Sunday, December 15-Tuesday, December 31, 6-11 pm each night. Pedestrian-only nights are December 15 and December 16. There's also a free hot cocoa and cider booth December 15-December 24, 6 pm (donations appreciated, bring your own cup). Tips and additional information at peacocklane.org.

Have a Festive and Financially Sustainable Holiday Season

By GINA HAEFNER, VP/AREA
MANAGER, ONPOINT
COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

The nation's "Big 4" accounting firms, Deloitte, PwC, KPMG and EY, all agree: people are planning to spend more this holiday season than they did last year. The uptick in spending is good news for retailers, but financial experts are urging consumers to be mindful with their spending this holiday season.

American credit card debt surged by six percent to \$1.14 trillion from this time last year, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's latest report. And 28 percent of Americans still haven't paid off their balances, according to NerdWallet's 2024 Holiday Spending Report.

The holidays are a time for gratitude and togetherness, but if you're not careful, they can also become a financial burden with lasting effects into the New Year. The team at OnPoint have compiled seven essential tips for a festive and financially sustainable holiday season filled with more joy and less stress.

Make a plan and stick to it.

The key to a financially sustainable holiday is creating a spending plan before the festivities begin. Decide on a comfortable total spending amount, factoring in gifts, travel and gatherings. List everyone you plan to buy for and prioritize purchases that matter most. By sticking to this plan, you'll be less likely to overspend on impulse buys or get caught off-guard by hidden costs.

Adopt the "Want, Need, Wear, Read" strategy.

48 percent of parents with young children feel pressured to spend more money on gifts for their kids than they're comfortable with, according to a new NerdWallet survey. The "Want, Need, Wear, Read" strategy can

help. Each child gets four gifts—something they want, something they need, something to wear and something to read. Not only does this cut back on excess, but it also encourages more thoughtful gift-giving. This simple approach can help you stay grounded in your plan as the season ramps up.

Declutter your gift list.

Three in 10 parents plan to buy gifts for fewer people this year compared to previous holidays, according to NerdWallet's 2024 Holiday Spending Report. Consider focusing your own list on those closest to you.

Be cautious with Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL).

BNPL services continue to rise in popularity, with Gen Z and Millennial consumers being two to four times more likely to use "buy now, pay later" or layaway programs. While BNPL can make large purchases more manageable, it's critical to have a clear plan for paying off these balances. Avoid falling into a cycle of debt by treating BNPL purchases as short-term obligations, not long-term credit.

Start new traditions.

Rather than focusing on material gifts, why not create new, cost-conscious traditions? Secret Santa or white elephant exchanges are fun alternatives that help reduce the number of gifts you need to buy. These approaches emphasize thoughtfulness without overwhelming your budget.

Reuse, trade or make holiday decorations.

Holiday decorations can add up quickly, but they don't have to break the bank. Reuse or swap décor with friends and fam-

ily; better yet, make your own. Crafting homemade decorations can turn into a fun family activity while saving money.

Host smaller gatherings or pot-lucks.

Big holiday dinners don't need to come with a big price tag. Hosting smaller, more intimate gatherings can be just as enjoyable. Alternatively, organizing a potluck spreads the cost among guests, making the event easier on your wallet while still being festive and fun.

Go digital with greeting cards.

Printed holiday cards can be expensive when you add up printing and postage costs. Consider sending digital holiday cards this year. Many platforms offer customizable templates where you can add a photo or two of your family to make it even more meaningful.

Give the gift of time or skills.

Sometimes the most meaningful gifts don't come with a price tag. Offer your time or skills as presents, such as babysitting, helping with home projects or cooking a meal. Gifts of time are often more memorable and less costly than traditional presents. It's a great way to show loved ones you care without adding to your expenses.

Heading into the season with these strategies in mind can help keep stress at bay and allow people to focus on what truly matters—enjoying the holiday season with friends and family. OnPoint is committed to helping its community navigate financial challenges with personalized support. Visit any of OnPoint's branch locations for tailored advice on budgeting and debt management.

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The Wildes: Captivity

BY KRIS MCDOWELL

New York Times bestselling author, Roland Smith, recently released the third, action-packed installment of The Wildes Series. *The Wildes: Captivity* follows Ring and Asia Wilde on their adventure in the little Texas town of Glen Rose where they've moved the vaquitas (a species of porpoise) to their family's enormous animal park. The vaquitas' move has caused quite a controversy and raised a national debate about how to save severely endangered species. Discover how a modern animal park operates and the dramas the brilliant adventurous kids, Ring and Asia, face.

For readers that haven't read the first two books in the series, Smith said that it is possible to jump into this book as a stand-alone read. However, he said, "When I read a series (and I love reading series) I always start with the first book and read them in order so I don't miss anything."

For those who have read the first two books and were anticipating the continuation of the Ring and Asia adventures, the good news is there is more to come." Smith is currently working on the fourth book and says, "At this point there will be at least three more Wildes books. We'll have to see how the books are doing before the decision is made. I hope there will be more. I have a lot to say about animals and wild-life conservation."

Born and raised in Portland, Smith received an old manual

typewriter from his parents when he was five years old. It may have weighed more than he did, but it was his favorite possession, and regardless of the fact that at the time he "didn't know how to spell" and "barely knew how to read." Between his fascination with the old machine and the books his parents had on the shelves, Smith knew from an early age that he wanted to become a writer.

Fast forward to college and while attending Portland State University, majoring in English and intending to become a writer, Smith was looking for part-time work. A zookeeper opening at the Oregon Zoo caught his eye, he interviewed for and got the position. By the time he left he had progressed to the Senior Feline Keeper in charge of lions, leopards and tigers.

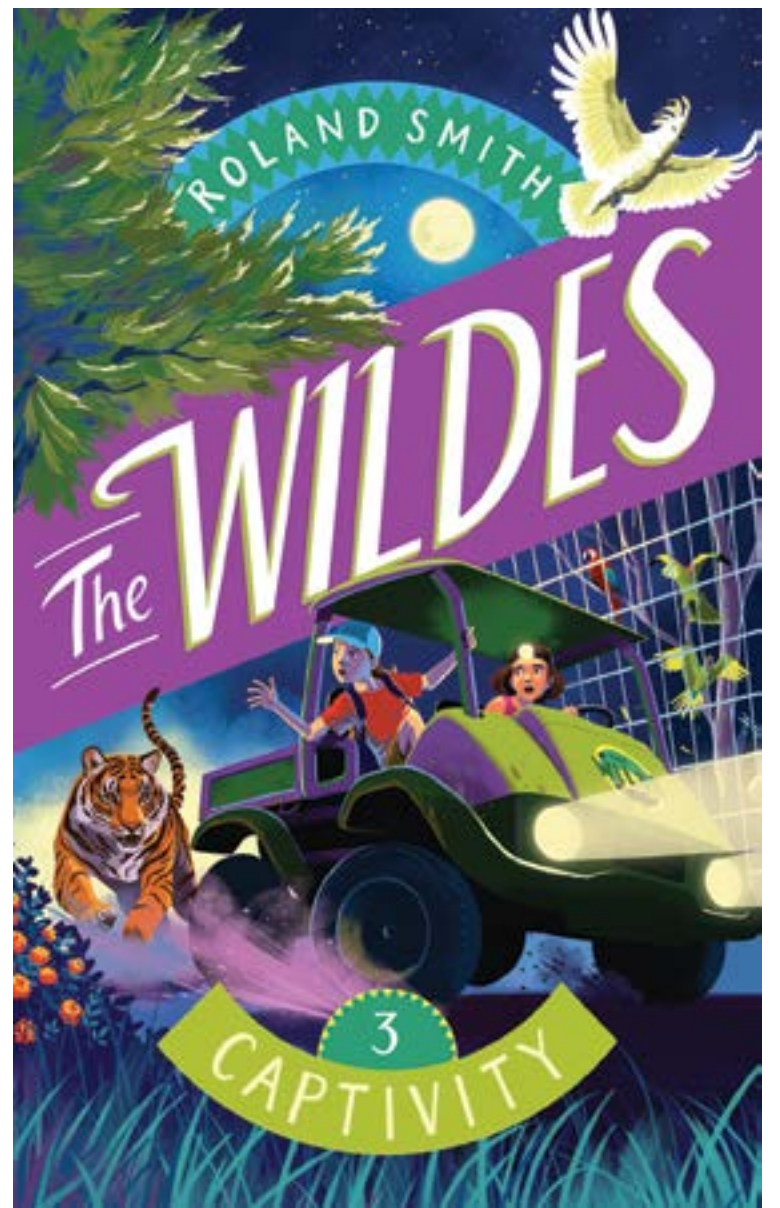
Leaving the Oregon Zoo, he went to work at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium in Tacoma, WA where he held several positions—Curator of Mammals and Birds, General Curator, Assistant Director and Senior Research Biologist helping to release endangered red wolves and gray wolves back into the wild. What started out as a job during college led to a career working with animals for over 20 years. Those years working with animals also turned out to be good material for writing books.

Initially, Smith wrote several books that didn't get published

and he admits it was "because they weren't very good to be honest." It was when he started reading young adult novels and found he loved them, that he finally felt he had found his niche. He says, "I've written over 30 novels for young people, and I hear that adults like them as well, for which I'm very grateful."

Smith's favorite part of writing is the research. He says, "I don't start writing a book until I finish the research. I love learning new things. For instance, as I mentioned, I'm working on the fourth Wildes book, *The Galapagos*, which are a group of islands 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, home to dozens of endangered animals that are only found on these unique islands. My other favorite part of writing is writing the first draft. After I've completed my research I sit down and write the first draft as quickly as I can, which usually takes about three months. This means working on the draft every day for several hours. When the draft is completed I revise it over and over and over again, which can take six months to a year. Revision is the hard part of writing, but probably the most important part."

Smith attributes his ability to be able to become a writer due to being an avid reader. "I have read two or three books a week for over 60 years. Anyone can become a writer. All you have to do is become an avid reader and to write everyday. Like everything



in life, if you want to become good at something you have to practice everyday and never give up," he said.

Smith and his wife, Marie, live on a small farm south of Portland. When he isn't in his basement office writing stories that usually include animals, he's traveling (doing research and tak-

ing photos for upcoming books) or visiting schools.

The Wildes: Captivity is published by Sleeping Bear Press, an imprint of Cherry Lake Publishing Group. Visit their website, sleepingbearpress.com, or pay your favorite, local retailer a visit to purchase this book or the whole series.

New Murals, Event Space and Urban Garden Renews Vacant Property

from page 1

o'-Lanterns, imagery from Beetlejuice, tombstones and more make this clear. Tyler Shrake, one of the muralists, said that, "Halloween is an invitation to embrace not only spooky thrills and darker days, but also death itself and all of the regeneration that comes with that part of the cycle of life. In this autumnal mural, I chose to create a blood moon graveyard scene with a tombstone that has inscribed in Latin, nihil est creatrix quam mors, which is a quote from Alan Watts that means nothing is more creative than death."

Conklin says the timing and rapid progress of the Mural District in Portland aligns with broader social trends across the country and world. "Mural festivals started popping up all over the world, following the Pow Wow model in Hawaii. Over the past decade or two, public art has become an even more powerful medium for storytelling, social commentary and community engagement. We have always used walls to express ourselves as human, so this is just the new iteration of that," she said.

She also says there has been a strong collaboration between



Completed murals visible from MLK Jr. Blvd.
Photo by Sara Sjol and Tiffany Conklin for PSAA.

property owners, artists and organizations like PSAA over the past decade. "We thank Adam Tyler at Killian Pacific for introducing us to several key property owners early on who were open to murals. It snowballed from there once we could prove to old-time large property owners the impact murals can have. Property owners have been increasingly open to partnering with nonprofits like PSAA, independent working artists, seeing murals not just as decorative but as transformative,

attracting visitors and fostering a sense of pride among our community."

While the murals are clear and visible from the street, the event space and urban garden are still being built and are currently gated off. A final date hasn't been announced or firmed up for its completion and when events will be held, but is projected for Spring 2025. Stay up to date on progress by following PDX Farm, @pdx.farm, on social media outlets for updates.

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AE Arts & Entertainment

The Big Lebowski on the Big Screen

The annual tradition of watching *The Big Lebowski* (1998) returns to The Clinton Street Theater Saturday, December 21-Saturday, December 28. Directed by the Coen Brothers and starring Jeff Bridges as “The Dude,” this comedy classic has shown at the theater every holiday season for years. Multiple show times, both evenings and matinee shows, are scheduled, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In addition to the show, don’t miss out on the theater’s signature cocktail, a take on The Dude’s favorite drink, made with coconut milk and sake instead of vodka.

Screenings often sell out so don’t wait to get tickets (\$10, with \$1 from every ticket donated to the non-profit organization Bark). Visit cstpdx.com/the-big-lebowski to get yours today.

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16	CANDLELIGHT The Best of Bridgerton on Strings
18-19	LET IT GO a burlesque tribute to Frozen
20	BOYEURISM: WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA
21	3 Leg Torso presents THE ELVES OF FROSTLAND in <i>GOING HOME</i>
22 1PM	FLY THROUGH TIME with LEAPIN' LOUIE LICHTENSTEIN a cowboy circus
22 7PM	STUMPTOWN SOUL HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR
23	two nights - four shows! WE CALL IT BALLET Sleeping Beauty in a dazzling light show
28	QUEER EYE FOR THE MAGI a Holigay Cabaret
30	BROKE GRAVY PENULTIMATE NIGHT Comedy Show
31	Alberta Rose Theatre's All in the Family New Year's Eve Live Music & Burlesque with The NowHere Band + The Cat's Meow! 2025 SNEAK PEEK
1.8	TIM MATHESON
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1.17-1.18	DARK SIDE a piece for assorted lunatics

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Montavilla Winterfest



Celebrate the holiday, winter, solstice or just being in Montavilla this month. All month long, participating businesses will be collecting items for Rahab’s Sisters, a community for women, trans and nonbinary folks experiencing poverty, homelessness and isolation. A list of participating businesses and requested items can be found on the Winterfest website, metba.org/montavilla-events/winterfest.

Shop Local Montavilla runs through Saturday, December 21. When you eat, drink, shop and play in Montavilla you can earn stickers for every qualifying purchase of \$5 or more at participating businesses. Six stickers fill up a passport (available at participating businesses) and you can complete as many passports as you want. Drop off completed passports at Redwood or Arbor Hall by close of business December 21.

Saturday, December 7, 4-6 pm is the Tree Lighting in the Plaza. Enjoy an evening of friends, fun, light and cheer as the Christmas tree in Montavilla Plaza is lit. There will be music and hot cocoa (while supplies last).

Santa comes to town Saturday, December 14, 11 am-1 pm. Grab your kids and camera for the free event at Board Bard Games. In addition to Santa’s attentive ears waiting to hear your Christmas wishes, there will be hot cocoa and treats.

The Shop Local Montavilla event wraps up Saturday, December 21 with the Merry Montavilla Soirée. Gather your friends and celebrate the season while earning two stickers per \$5 purchase for passports during the business crawl. Many businesses will have extended hours and specials; check the website for details.

Art Walk Call to Artists



The 18th annual Mt. Tabor Art Walk will be held May 17-18, 2025 and the application window for artists interested in participating is open Sunday, December 1-Friday, January 10 (midnight). Early bird/discounted applications (\$60) must be received by Tuesday, December 31 (midnight). Application after that will be \$75.

The Art Walk is a juried event showcasing artists living in the Mt. Tabor neighborhood (as well as a limited number of guest artists) and promotes high-quality visual art in a variety of media. The all-volunteer, participatory event requires accepted artists to attend the April Kick-Off meeting, contribute a minimum of six hours for map distribution and/or other tasks.

Artists are directed to submit three images of their strongest work that they intend to show at the Art Walk. Submitted work will be reviewed by a judging panel. Art must be original, visual (no performance) and of high quality. Reproductions of the artist’s own designs are allowed. All items displayed and for sale must be made by the artist.

At least 75 percent of the selected artists must be in-neighborhood, regardless of jury scores. A limited number of artists, residing outside of the neighborhood but residing within the Portland Metro area (Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington and Clark counties), may apply. Participation is dependent on available hosts.

Artists are encouraged to host other juried artists at their sites. This enables clustering of sites, resulting in higher attendance, benefiting both the artists and the public.

Visit mttaborartwalk.com for full details and the online application. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by email Friday, January 31.

Mary Flower and the BBQ Boys

Strum Guitars welcomes Mary Flower and the BBQ Boys Sunday, December 8, 3 pm. Internationally known and award-winning picker, singer/songwriter and teacher Mary Flower and the four-piece jazz, blues and jug band the BBQ boys team up for another performance. They’ve been playing together since 2013, creating new masterpieces of old standbys and originals, adding rich harmonies and searing solos.

Originally called the Barbecue Orchestra, the band was started by famed washtub bass and jug blower Fritz Richmond (of the original Jim Kweskin Jug Band) and Turtle VanDemarr (guitar player with Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks). In 2008, Richmond passed on to jug band heaven and VanDemarr began playing music in his daughter’s band. The remaining members—Stew, Spud and Doc—added a sousaphone player par excellence, Mark.

Strum Guitars is located at 1415 SE Stark St. Admission for the concert is \$20.

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Having toured everywhere from Los Angeles to Chicago, New York City to Iowa City, Imago's crowd-pleasing *ZooZoo* is back in Portland, the city where it was born. The enchanting show has been tickling the minds and expanding the imaginations of all ages. A truly magical revue, it features persnickety penguins, hippos, polar bears, an acrobatic grub and the newest addition: baby birds!

The show runs Friday, December 13-Wednesday, January 1 at Imago Theatre, 17 SE 8th Ave. 1:30 pm, 5 pm and 7 pm shows available, depending on date selected.

Tickets (\$19.50 kids 16 and under; \$29.50 youth ages 17-26 and senior 65+; \$37.50 adults) available at imagotheatretickets.com or by calling 503.231.9581. *ZooZoo* is recommended for ages four and up.

Acoustic Guitar Summit

The Portland FolkMusic Society is proud to present the Acoustic Guitar Summit, made up of three of the country's best acoustic fingerstyle guitarists. They bring their distinctive styles in concert Saturday, December 14, 7:30 pm at Reedwood Friends Church, 2901 SE Steele St.

Together the Acoustic Guitar Summit, composed of Mark Hanson, Terry Robb and Doug Smith, performs a wide range of music blending blues, jazz, ragtime, classical, pop and more. A blistering original may lead into a tightly interwoven arrangement of a classic ballad like "What a Wonderful World" or "You Make Me Feel Brand New."

Find tickets in advance (free-\$24) for this annual Christmas program at portlandfolkmusic.org under the Eastside Concerts 2024-2025 tab. Tickets will also be available at the door (free-\$27). Doors open at 7 pm.

Family Music Making

Music Together of Portland invites you to experience the joy and magic of family music-making with their Seasonal Sing-Along classes in December and Winter Session that starts in January. Seasonal Sing-Along classes are individual class experiences Monday, December 2-Monday, December 16. They are a great opportunity to keep the musical fun going between sessions.

The 10-week Winter Session runs Monday, January 6-Saturday, March 15 with classes meeting once per week (with the exception of MLK Day in January). Create memories and connect with the community as you sing, dance and jam along.

Classes are available for babies and children up to eight years old. Babies classes are for infants up to eight months and their most beloved grown-ups. Mixed-age classes are for babies to five-year-olds and their grown-ups. Rhythm Kids classes are for four to eight-year-olds. Visit musicitogether-pdx.com for a full class listing and to register.

SE classes will be held at Waverly UCC (3300 SE Woodward St.) and Moreland Presbyterian (1814 SE Bybee Blvd.). There are also NE and SW locations available. Classes are \$20 for the first child, \$5 for siblings.

WoodWorker Market

Baerlic Brewing, 2235 SE 11th Ave., holds their annual WoodWorker Holiday Market Saturday, December 7, 11 am-6 pm. A few times a year, Baerlic designs and brews beers destined to lead double lives—first as a brewery fresh beer and second as a beer that will be aged in oak barrels for months or years at a time. This working of the wood, the evolution of liquid and solid, is the foundation for their ongoing WoodWorker beer series and the inspiration for the WoodWorker Holiday Market.

The WoodWorker Holiday Market is a celebration of all things inspired, made and evolving from nature's most honest material—wood. From furniture to housewares; syrups to aged cheeses; jewelry to pizza; coffee to beer, wood has inspired scores of artisan makers in and around Portland. This is a celebration of them.

Visit baerlicbrewing.com/woodworker-holiday-market for information about this year's vendors. All ages are welcome.

In Mulieribus Holiday Concert

In Mulieribus, the acclaimed Portland-based professional women's vocal ensemble, announces their traditional holiday concert, *O Radiant Dawn!* Led by Artistic Director & Conductor Anna Song, the ensemble performs Saturday, December 21, 7:30 pm at St. Philip Neri Church (2408 SE 16th Ave.).

The first half of the program will focus on the timeless chants of the great "O" Antiphons, a cherished part of the Advent season within the Western Christian liturgical tradition since the fourth century, alongside music inspired by these ancient texts, including *Veni, veni Emanuel*, works by Jacob Handl and Michael Praetorius, and *The O Antiphons* by Wolfgang Plagge. The second half will feature familiar and beloved Advent and Christmas carols from around the world.

Tickets, \$25-\$45, available at inmulieribus.org. The concert will also be performed Friday, December 20 at St. Mary's Cathedral in NW Portland.

Posada Milagro 2024



Milagro Theatre's annual Latino Christmas Celebration, Posada Milagro, returns Sunday, December 15, 1-5 pm. The festive, cultural Christmas celebration is filled with fun for the whole family, including a performance with a pastorela, ballet folklórico dance, puppets and lots of music. Outside of the performance, adults and kids can enjoy a Christmas crafting table, pinatas and delicious tamales for sale.

Performances begin at 2 and 4 pm at Milagro, 537 SE Stark St. Tickets (free) are distributed on a first come, first serve basis starting at 1 pm at Milagro the day of the event.

ADX Community Collection

ADX (Art Design Xchange) holds Community Collection: Gallery Show and Market Friday, December 6-Saturday, January 25. Celebrate creativity and community while enjoying a vibrant collection of art from ADX creatives. The First Friday kick off on December 6, 5-9 pm will also have a holiday market featuring local vendors, live music and a puppet show. It's a night to connect with artists, discover unique pieces and find one-of-a-kind gifts.

ADX will also be hosting a New Year Reopening Friday, January 3 with more art, community and open mic night. Bring your friends and family to experience the heart of ADX in close-in SE at 417 SE 11th Ave.

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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.

Coping With a Loved One With Dementia

Many families find it frustrating to communicate with a loved one who has dementia. The person with dementia may repeat questions over and over or mistake you for someone else. It is important to remember that the person with dementia cannot control behavior caused by their disease.

Dementia typically progresses slowly in three stages: early, middle and late (sometimes referred to as mild, moderate and severe in a medical context). Since dementia affects people in different ways, each person may experience dementia symptoms—or progress through the stages—differently.

Ask for help when you need it. This could mean asking family members and friends to help or reaching out to services online, such as Alzheimers.gov. Susan Tumanoff, an R.N. at Providence St. Vincent hospital who works as a patient care advocate, has some great advice.

Expect to take over higher function activities but ask their opinion as much as possible. This may take longer but you will get less pushback when they feel that they have at least some control over their life. Don't expect them to be rational when faced with new or complex situations and don't keep reminding them that they have dementia. Remember that in their controlled day-to-day setting, they believe that they are still functioning normally.

Don't focus all interactions only on what needs to be done, situations that need to be resolved and health issues. This makes you the bad guy as you are a constant reminder of everything that is unpleasant about their current lives. Ask about what fun things they are doing, what they are looking forward to and things they have found interesting. Throw in some fun activities occasionally so that you remain family, not just their caretaker.

Try not to take things personally and respond emotionally when they are frustrated and/or saying unkind things. See if you can find out what is behind their outburst and address that, if possible, or redirect the conversation if not. They usually forget what they were mad about fairly quickly. Remember that their mind is making up a lot of information to fill in the blanks; for them, truth is in the moment. Try to figure out what really happened without accusations if it is something truly important, otherwise just let it go.

Don't expect them to understand and remember new pieces of verbal information. They will say that they understood and will remember but won't be able to repeat it back to you.

Don't remind them that you have just answered that same question 10 times in the last 15 minutes. Keep providing short answers to repeated questions. They know they can't remember things and may even make a joke about it themselves. Keep emails you have sent and copies of printed information. That way you can resend the email or provide a second copy without having to regenerate it. Don't give complex, long answers when they ask a broad question. Ask what it is they want to know. It usually turns out to be something very specific and once you provide a short, simple answer, they are satisfied.

Kathy, a local 63-year-old woman who is caring for an elderly mother, has suggestions as well. Acknowledge that this is outside your knowledge base and seek information from professionals and others who have been through this. Cut yourself slack if you don't always say the right thing or just lose it occasionally; know that this is very, very difficult. Make sure you have your own support system, especially if you are the primary caregiver. Feel ok about asking people to just listen, not offer their solutions to the problem (unless that is what you are wanting). Sometimes just talking it out helps you come up with solutions that will work in your particular situation. Make sure that being a caregiver doesn't completely take over your life; you still need to take care of yourself, just like you are told to put on your oxygen mask before helping others.

Try to remember that you love the person, even if you don't like them much right now. Do things that will bring you both joy.

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Neighborhood Notes

Buckman Community Association By Susan Lindsay

Thursday evening December 12, 7-9 pm will be the Buckman Community Association's monthly meeting and our annual holiday meetup! Join us at 1137 SE 20th Ave. (enter on Salmon St.) and bring snacks to share. We will be inviting the *WINNERS* of the recent election to join us to.....local that is of course :)), as well as outgoing County Commissioner Sharon Meieran for meet and greet. We have a hybrid option too. Email buckmanboard@googlegroups.com to get the link or to request time on the agenda.

We have applied for a grant to help fund our Summer Events, the Movie in the Park and Buckman Picnic. But you can also help keep these all free, all fun, all volunteer organized and run and open to all events alive and well with a fully tax deductible end of the year donation to our fiscal sponsor, Southeast Uplift. It's easy. Just send a check made out to SEUL for any amount and mail it to 3534 SE Main St., Portland, OR 97214. Be sure to write in bold letters "FOR BUCKMAN PICNIC 2025" in the check memo. Alternatively, you can donate directly to these events from our website, buckmanpdx.org. You will get a receipt mailed out to you from SEUL.

Deflection center meetings continue weekly in an effort to craft a good neighbor agreement that will help all parties and provide safety for all. Check our website for details.

Breaking news! We have an open Board position! Board service is a two year commitment with a once monthly meeting and service on either a committee and/or project of your choice. Email us for more information. BCA meeting participants often go out after monthly meetings for networking and social fun.

HAND By Jill Riebesehl

The HAND November meeting opened with a Prosper Portland staff report for improvements and financial assistance within the Central Eastside Corridor via Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Beginning in January, the five year plan will have some funds available early on, gaining the most toward the end. Staff pointed out that Prosper Portland can provide financial help in case of emergencies; for example, a business's broken windows, if people apply. Money from TIF comes from growth in property taxes within a district. HAND and Buckman are invited to participate in the planning; HAND will discuss this in January. For more information, visit drive.google.com/file/d/10ZFRGjPegQnEFHQhj46OcCl61ET-qB8X/view.

We received a rundown from our trusty volunteers/city groups monitoring and interfacing with the Clinton Street Triangle sanctuary, and we discussed certain neighborhood trouble spots. Avalon, the small sanctuary off of SE 19th Ave., has volunteer Friday pantry stocking, and planting boxes will be in place in December. HAND will contribute to the St. Philip Neri food pantry, as the church won't be holding its annual Thanksgiving dinner.

We brainstormed how to get to know and interact with our three new city councilors, who will begin work in January. Further discussion included how best to work with other neighborhood associations so as to effectively handle mutual concerns. One example was the Powell Boulevard Neighborhood/SOLVE cleanup November 9, which was declared a success. The mayor-elect and his wife participated.

HAND meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm (except in December and August) on the St. Philip Neri campus. All are welcome. A committee, open to all, meets monthly to set the agenda, available on our website and other local social media sites.

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association By David Petrozzi

We received progress reports on several neighborhood initiatives during MTNA's year-end meeting this November. Among them, MTNA voted to support the inchoate Burnside Pedestrian Safety Project as it explores the idea of community-led walking audits to assess and improve the experience along this bustling community corridor. Working with neighborhood partners, their goal is to address crossing gaps and marshal resources to improve the experience for people and families using all modes of transportation. In a similar vein, the Tabor for All project continues its mission to increase access to the park for all members of the community and to ensure improvements to the park will enhance accessibility, particularly for people with diverse abilities that may impair movement. Partnering with the MTNA, along with the Friends of Tabor Park and other neighborhood associations, this group is launching a website to build on their recent efforts securing a new universal access parking spot near the park, and to tap the community for their own stories and personal experiences in this regard.

The Southeast Community Coalition (S2C2) is a group that seeks to articulate a more unified identity for the important metro area between E Burnside St. and SE Powell Blvd., from 12th St. to Mount Tabor. This broad stretch of the East side encompasses five neighborhood regions which S2C2 seeks to bring together for better communication and efficiency in identifying issues and advocating for the core priorities of the area as a whole. We explored this idea more broadly in the conversation that followed, with the possibility of formally electing a neighborhood representative to this group as its organizational efforts continue.

MTNA does not meet in December. Join us in-person or via zoom for our next meeting, Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Register on our website, mttaborpx.org, where you can read more about our neighborhood initiatives and successes, as well as sign up for our mailing list to stay connected. We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!

Richmond Neighborhood Association By Allen Field

The Richmond Neighborhood Association (RNA) held its monthly meeting November 11. 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 participate via Zoom; the link to pre-register is on the agenda, which is posted to richmondpx.org and the RNA Announce listserv. To be added to the listserv events, email richmondnasecretary@gmail.com.

The RNA filed for and was approved as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity. The Board voted to cancel their fiscally sponsorship account with SE Uplift.

The November 9 Powell Litter Cleanup with SOLVE and five other neighborhoods was a great success. The RNA, with 22 volunteers, cleaned up the north side of Powell Blvd., from 29th to 52nd avenues. About 30 bags were collected, equaling about 200-250 lbs of material, with five sharps collected. State Representative Rob Nosse, Dist. 42, was part of the group—he gave us his insights on the recent local election.

The Board discussed creating a list of neighborhood priorities to provide to the new District 3 council members. It will distribute a poll to the neighborhood for input on the list priorities to give to the new council members.

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NN Neighborhood Notes

from page 13

The next RNA meeting is Monday, December 9. Everyone is welcome. Please join us and learn about ways to get more involved in the community.

South Tabor Neighborhood Association By Cathy Kudlick

Keep your pixels peeled for the next edition of The South Tabor Crow in the next couple of weeks. To read past issues and to sign up, visit southtabor.org. The upcoming issue will feature a neighbor profile, volunteer opportunities and more. If you want to be involved, we'd love to have you; email us at info@southtabor.org. Ideas for content, cool photos and event descriptions are especially welcome. We publish four times a year, so the next issue will be out in March.

At our November meeting STNA joined MTNA and Friends of Mt. Tabor Park to endorse Tabor for All, a grassroots community effort to make the park more accessible for people with disabilities. More details will be coming in the new year.

STNA won't meet in December, but mark your calendar for Thursday, January 16, 2025, 7 pm. Come meet neighbors and explore new ways to bring warmth, kindness, and post-holiday cheer to our tiny corner of a turbulent world. We need each other more than ever. Find us at southtabor.org.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association By Gloria Jacobs

Rob Nosse attended the November SNA General Meeting for a conversation on the 2025 legislative session. He hopes to spend much of the coming session working on one of his priority issues—strengthening Oregon's arts community. As the health committee chair, Nosse is determined to find more money to continue the much needed expansion of mental health services. Additionally, he hopes to find excellent working relationships with our new city and county leaders to move the region forward, together with a common vision for continued recovery. On transportation, Nosse hopes that new mechanisms can provide the funds needed to modernize our transportation system and provide climate resiliency.

The Sunnyside Environmental School (SES) will be holding its Winter Craft Fair Friday, December 13. Additionally, the Screen Door's E Burnside location (2337 E Burnside St.) will donate a portion of its December 3rd sales to SES.

Peacock Lane's Christmas Street celebration will be Sunday, December 15-Tuesday, December 31. Pedestrian-only nights are the 15th and 16th. Parking is very limited so consider either walking over or taking the #15 or #75 bus.

The Sunnyside Shower Project's annual Winter Clothing Drive will be Sunday, December 8, 1-5 pm. The Drive helps our less fortunate neighbors stay dry and warm through the winter. Please drop off adult-sized winter clothing and other cold-and-wet-weather gear to the Sunnyside Community Center, 3520 SE Yamhill St., Saturday, December 7, 9:30 am-1 pm in the basement. (Drop-off at the basement entrance on SE 35th St.)

Finally, if you are planning any end of year donations, please don't forget your local neighborhood association! Your donation to the SNA is fully tax-deductible and helps fund projects such as the Shower Project, the Sunnyside Piazza, the upcoming bike garden planned at 4511 SE Hawthorne Blvd. and our neighborhood newsletter. You can make your donation at <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/southeast-uptift-neighborhood-program-inc/sunnyside-neighborhood-association>.

Wishing all of our neighbors a very happy holiday season.

Winter is Coming: How to Support Our Unhoused Neighbors

from page 3

Adam Moore, homeless services director for Union Gospel Mission of Portland, encourages support and understanding towards impoverished communities. "It can be overwhelming to see so many tents in Portland...I remind people that under that tent or blanket is a human being, and every human being has a right to dignity, love and respect...and

to be helped. They're our neighbors."

So as winter arrives in the city, it's up to people to decide how to best support their neighbors. Eyes turn to mayor-elect Keith Wilson, who promised to end unsheltered homelessness in the next year. Yet it's also important to ask how regular citizens can make change this season.

Colorful SE Festival Receives Scale Up Grant

from page 1

to \$25,000 in direct financial support, plus custom technical, marketing, administrative and logistical assistance provided by Travel Portland and Prosper Portland. They are intended to advance the city's economic and cultural revitalization, with an emphasis on supporting areas of Portland that have experienced a significant impact from COVID, including high losses in a number of businesses and employment, high increase in office vacancies and significant change in visitor and employee foot traffic. Packages are customized for each recipient depending on needs requested during the application process. Awardees can also connect with

other grant recipients as part of a cohort model.

HOLI's funds will be used for two very important things, said Kakad. It will allow them to host the festival at a central location (such as Pioneer Courthouse Square) and "crucially, make it totally FREE for the community to attend the festival."

With both spring and the festival months away, event details are continuing to be determined. As March approaches, visit the organization's website, dreamspertected.com, and their Instagram page @jaiho.portland for up to date information. Then get ready to welcome spring in a colorful, festive atmosphere.

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BA Business Association Notes

82nd Avenue Business Association By Nancy Chapin

The Avenue is now the location of dozens—even hundreds—of brick and mortar and cart opportunities for delicious and multi-cultural food and drink choices. Brochures at the airport are now inviting newcomers to check out the diverse and tasty meals available whether they will live here or are visiting for awhile. Our neighbors can find the brochure at 82dishes.com/east-side-dining-guide.

See you in 2025!

Belmont Area Business Association By Blake Armstrong

BABA is excited to announce our Holiday Street Fair! Come celebrate the holidays with your family and friends with an afternoon of vendors, performers, events and holiday cheer! The fair is free and open to the public. It will take place Sunday, December 15, 1-5 pm in the Belmont District, along SE 34th Ave., between SE Belmont and SE Yamhill streets. Start the holiday festivities with us and then head over to Peacock Lane for the first night of their annual holiday light display at 6 pm. Plus, it's one of their two pedestrian-only nights.

For more details, vendor or sponsorship opportunities, please follow us on Instagram @belmontdistrict or on our website, belmontdistrict.org.

Hawthorne Blvd. Business Association By Nancy Chapin

Boulevard businesses look forward to visits from many community members during the holiday season. Lights, snowflakes and many decorated windows will greet visitors and neighbors as you appreciate Hawthorne's food, drink and opportunities to find special gifts for family, friends and yourself!

See you soon and in 2025!

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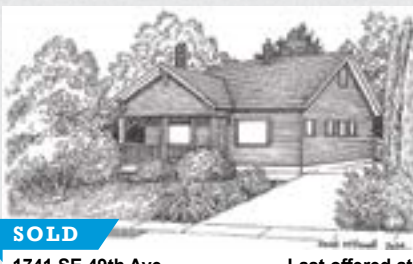
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Unit #2: 2 BD, 1 BA, 815 Sq. Ft.



701 NE 120th Ave. \$419,900
1950 Mid-Century 3 BD, 1 BA
1,354 Total Sq. Ft.



SOLD
1741 SE 49th Ave. Last offered at
1923 Bungalow \$575,000
2,064 Total Sq. Ft. 2 BD, 2 BA

Want to earn the most value for your home? We're your neighborhood listing experts. Call or email us today for a confidential market analysis. 503.232.4763 | thecaplenergroup@windermere.com

Neighborhood Happenings:

Share the Warmth Coat Drive

helpsharethewarmth.com
Ongoing through Friday, December 20

Our Portland-area Windermere offices are collecting new or gently used adult-sized coats, blankets, scarves, gloves, hand warmers and knit caps. Please see the website for participating drop locations or swing by our office at 5015 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

Peacock Lane

peacocklane.org
Sunday, December 15-Tuesday, December 31, 6-11 pm

The residents of Peacock Lane will be displaying their Christmas lights from December 15th through December 31st. Car-free nights will be December 15th and 16th so mark your calendars!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS PORTLAND!

HOW'S THE PORTLAND MARKET DOING?



Windermere
REAL ESTATE
WINDERMERE REALTY TRUST

Data is courtesy of the RMLS.

THE CAPLENER GROUP

at Windermere Realty Trust



5015 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon
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