SE The SOUTHEAST EXAMINER

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Construction on 82nd Ave. Photo by PBOT.

82nd Ave. Revitalization Accelerated in 2025, With More Planned for 2026

By Madeleine Voth

For decades, those who have lived and worked along 82nd Ave. have dealt with a road in desperate need of improvement. As Portland's longest commercial strip, it functioned like a highway while lacking the basic infrastructure of a city street. Sidewalk gaps forced pedestrians into traffic crossings that were few and far between; poor lighting compounded already serious safety concerns. After years of community advocacy, 2025 marked a turning point, with visible progress now paving the way for major construction and design changes planned through 2026.

The transformation began in June 2022 when ownership of 82nd Ave. was officially transferred from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT). The road, which runs through the entire east side of Portland and into the southern suburbs, had long been the subject of debate as the neighborhoods around it grew denser and more diverse.

"[82nd Ave.] used to be the outskirts of Portland," said Hannah Schafer, spokesperson for PBOT. "But it is now very much part of the city, and in fact one of the fastest-growing and most diverse areas of Portland."

Schafer described the road as an "orphan highway" as it fell through the cracks while ODOT focused its resources on freeways like I-205. "There was a lot of work that had not been done over the years in terms of keeping the street in good condition," she said.

Advocates pushed for local control for decades, arguing that a street serving dense neighborhoods should be planned and maintained by the city rather than the state. Zachary Lauritzen, executive director of Oregon Walks and project manager for the 82nd Avenue Coalition, said the corridor had become a "highway that used to be one thing," but is now "no longer in the right home."

"You have cars that are going really far, really fast, on a wide road, through a neighborhood where there's universities, elementary schools, high schools, shops, cafes, restaurants…," Lauritzen said. "It's a mismatch, from the highway of what it used to be built for; to go far and fast, versus now, just neighborhoods are all around there, and so people were being seriously injured, people were being killed, by vehicular violence up and down 82nd Ave."

The numbers confirm this; from 2012 to 2021 there were 14 traffic deaths and 122 people seriously injured in crashes on 82nd Ave., and estimates for 2022 to 2023 include four more traffic deaths, making it one of the highest crash streets for bikers, drivers and pedestrians in Portland.

Over the past year alone, additions to 82nd Ave. include repaving approximately

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Future of SE Dairy Queen Rebuild in Limbo

By Daniel Perez-Crouse

What's standing between Mt. Tabor and SE Portland residents from Dilly Bars and Blizzards? A contested drive-through that the developer, city and neighbors are in dispute over.

If you don't know or don't remember, on the now-demolished grounds of SE Division St. and 55th Ave., there used to be a neighborhood Dairy Queen (DQ). It was unique for the area because it had a walk-up window, and it is a fond memory for those who frequented it. *The Southeast Examiner* reported back in 2019 on plans to demolish and remodel that location. The hope was to have it reopen in 2020. But six years later, it's only been demolished.

In more recent years, *Bridgetown Bites* and *Willamette Week* provided updates on its design aspirations and that the process was slowed for permit approval and other issues with the demolition. Despite this, there was a projected opening for June 2025 at the time, but construction has still not started.

The most recent hold-up that could end the DQ rebuild entirely is that the city is currently doing a Determination of Legal Nonconforming Status Review on its drive-through rights. The problem is, the current city of Portland zoning code regulations do not allow drive-through facilities in Mixed Use Commercial 2 areas. The code allows for existing facilities to rebuild, expand or relocate a drive-through, but if it has been more than three years since a facility has been discontinued, then it is prohibited.

Alex Roy with the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association (MTNA), who has been following this closely, says, "The main issue at the heart of the matter is whether or not the use of the drive-through on site was maintained, and not left abandoned for more than three years. Evidence for or against this is what the city is seeking."

A letter from the City of Portland in response to land use applications for the site didn't see a way in which this could reasonably pass zoning codes under the current circumstances and recommended that the applicants rescind and ask for a refund.

In a lengthy document from the DQ project, the applicant's attorney claims they do meet the city's criteria. It said, "The nonconforming situation to be continued is one that has been on the property since 1968. There was only a lapse in the maintenance of the drive-through window from the end of October 2019 while the drive-through window had been removed under a City demolition permit, until the time of an October 11, 2022 building permit that the City determined maintained the drive through window thereafter."

On December 1, Mt. Tabor residents were asked by the city to comment on the Land Use Review to help determine next

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Goodbye Portland, From a Longtime Fan

By Marshall Hammond

Dear Portland,

By the time you read this article, I'll be gone. I'm leaving you, the city I've called home for 24 years, to live abroad. You've treated me well. We've had some wonderful times and I'll never forget them. But the world is calling to me.

Make no mistake, I'm going to miss you. You're my favorite city. Yes, you have your problems. Rents are too high, wages are too low. Your vulnerable citizens—the young, the homeless, the sick, the elderly, ethnic minorities, gender minorities, those with disabilities, they all continue to face hardship, injustice and neglect. And despite your wholesome twee exterior, your dancing frogs and your naked cyclists, you're not immune to discrimination, corruption and greed.

Yet you retain the core qualities I fell in love with when we first met in 2002. You've still got that DIY attitude. You're a city of artists and artisans, of writers, musicians, comedians and playwrights. You have the best food, amazing coffee and delicious beers. In the summertime you're a paradise. In the winter, not so much, but you still manage to maintain a certain level of charm through the dreariness.

You're a place where people can be themselves. You're a city of fugitives and refugees, as the writer Chuck Palahniuk once said. People still come to you looking for safety, fleeing bigotry, seeking a community where they'll be welcome. You're a city where any couple in love, regardless of gender or racial identity, can walk down the street proudly holding hands without fear of harassment. That's something to be proud of.

You have a caring character, Portland. It's one of my favorite things about you. You try earnestly to do your best. Yes,

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Rs Representatively Speaking

By State Representative
Rob Nosse

Happy New Year! Hopefully 2026 is a better year in politics than 2025 has been. At least there is an election coming.

Last month I promised to write about what bills are coming for the February legislative session, but the timeline for getting all that organized for legislators and the public is not working out for a January column. I will do a reveal in my February column. And since I have been a little negative lately, I promise to use the space I get for this column to lift up policy ideas that are attempting to make things better or resist the worst of President Trump's policies.

Meanwhile I am stuck trying to mitigate HR1 the "One Big Beautiful Bill" while keeping Medicaid and health care whole.

Last month I talked about the state's revenue forecast and the "One Big Beautiful Bill" implications for our budget with regard to what we have available to spend. I am going to stick with that topic for this month's column as the state's budget and tax structure will dominate the session.

As a reminder, that bill cuts taxes for the wealthy—though there are also tax cuts for overtime and tips as part of the bill; it pays for them by gutting Medicaid and Food Stamps, what we now call SNAP which stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. One of my colleagues called it "a budgetary hand grenade" that will have major implications for the next six years for our state and these programs.

The state is estimated to lose $15 billion in federal funding for Medicaid and SNAP over the next six years. Not only will this make it harder for Oregon to care for and feed our people, but that money won't flow to our local grocery stores, hospitals or medical providers, hampering economic activity and risking business closures at a time when we can least afford it.

That lack of funding from the federal government means shifting of significant costs for Medicaid and SNAP from the federal government to the states, both in terms of administrative responsibilities and funding if we want to maintain them in some manner like we have. As a result of the changes, the state's responsibility for our current Medicaid and SNAP programs is expected to increase by $874 million in the 2027-2029 budget. In 2029-2031, our costs will increase by $1.7 billion. Finding that kind of money right now is really challenging.

The federal cuts hit Oregon in other ways as well. Because Oregon's tax laws are tied to the federal tax code, we are tied to the tax cuts that HR1 creates. In late August this meant we had $900 million less to fund public services than previously projected. In late November there was an unexpected uptick in corporate tax payments. The immediate benefit is that our expected budget deficit of $370 million has shrunk to a deficit of just $63 million. We will see what the next quarterly report in early February brings. Will things get better or look more like they did in August? We shall see.

I tend to be someone who wants to maintain funding for Medicaid, SNAP and other government programs. Here are some of the tradeoffs I am wrestling with in order to balance the budget.

Should I allow you to save money on your taxes—as in NOT tax your overtime and tips for purposes of your state income taxes—or should I limit the overtime deduction to $10,000 and phaseout the break for single filers at $100,000-$125,000 and joint filers at $125,000-$150,000?

Do I limit your ability to itemize deductions by five percent, as in only allow 95 percent? (Itemized deductions are more common among wealthier filers.) Should I do away with the mortgage interest deduction on second homes?

Some businesses really want to have the full deduction for their depreciation all at once. Depreciation is when those deductions are taken over multiple years. Expensing is when they are fully deducted in the year incurred. Expensing is identical to 100 percent bonus depreciation. The changes made in HR1 do not change total deductions allowed but it did change when they may be claimed, by front-loading them. Do I take the budget hit all at once or spread it out for purposes of state income taxes?

If I allow that, I do not have enough money to cover the cost of food stamps that the state is now required to help cover and let me be clear the state will be covering the cost of food stamps it is now expected to bear.

So do I cut school days? Should I reduce the wage rates of low wage workers who take care of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities? Should we not fund scholarships for medical education and reduce our eventual pool of physicians? Or do I close a prison and let people who have done bad things out of jail a lot sooner? These are the choices we are facing if we do not disconnect from the federal code as much as possible.

Do you see why my mood remains a C-? These choices are really hard, especially when I also read other headlines about how we need to grow our economy and create jobs and business investment. Stay tuned for February.

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Community Small Grants Recipients

By Kris McDowell

SE Uplift has announced the recipients for the 2026 Community Small Grants which will produce 16 projects serving District 3. A record 56 applications were submitted, requesting over $149,000 in funding. With only $44,000 in funding provided by the Office of Community and Civic Life, the process was highly competitive. The Grant Review Committee spent many hours of careful consideration and thoughtful discussion to select the grantees.

Active Children Portland will host a free Spring Family Fun & Resource Fair at Mt. Tabor Park. The event will bring together BIPOC and low-income families for a day of movement, play and community connection. Families can enjoy movement-based activities (relay races, yoga, soccer mini-pitches and basketball) while exploring local resources focused on health, housing and sustainability.

Art Heaux will present the Second Annual P-Town Short Film Festival in partnership with Depave PDX's Big Break summer block party. The free outdoor screening of short films by local filmmakers will be held at Depave's SE 7th Ave. and Sandy Blvd. site with local vendors and the filmmakers in attendance.

Care for Caregivers Campaign will advance their mission of creating meaningful change for caregivers in their health, workplaces and communities through three migrant-led community discussions, shared meals and collaborative art builds. The intent is to deepen public understanding of caregiver conditions, advocate for socioeconomic and political reforms, promote the rights of Filipino health workers and build an advocacy taskforce.

Diverge will offer two free trainings serving up to 50 participants each to build skills for engaging unhoused neighbors who are neurodivergent. The nonprofit works to increase access to health and wellness supports for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Dream Big City will host Portland's first free Filipino Cultural Festival, celebrating Filipino heritage, at Portland Dream Plaza. The event will feature live music, dance and community performances with vendors, entrepreneurs and artists in an accessible setting.

Futel will support the Sunnyside Shower Project by providing a free public telephone and service for patrons. They will supply the hardware, internet connectivity and phone services for one year, strengthening community resilience by offering reliable, low-barrier communication for neighbors experiencing housing or economic instability.

The Know Where to Go: District 3 Resources project will design, print and install easy-to-read posters showing where and when free groceries, meals and low- or no-cost bicycle repairs are available. Posters will feature simple maps, schedules and QR codes for updates and will be placed at food sites, mutual aid hubs and community locations.

Luminous Together Art Grove 2026: Whispers & Leaves will present five interactive art installations at the APANO Jade International Night Market at the PCC SE Learning Garden. The free, multigenerational art space will strengthen cross-cultural understanding and belonging through shared creative expression while uplifting Asian diaspora and BIPOC artists.

Madison South Neighborhood Association will undertake a six-month effort to expand participation, strengthen cultural understanding and build local pride designed to reflect the neighborhood's current identity and diversity. Through multilingual surveys, outreach events and mailed invitations, residents will help create a community-driven name change and rebranding.

Milagro Theatre's Community Artes program will provide free and low-cost bilingual workshops, performances and festivals celebrating Latinx arts and culture in Portland's Central Eastside. Hands-on activities including storytelling, visual art, object theatre, printmaking and music that will foster creative expression, cultural identity and cross-cultural understanding.

Nextgen Connect Center will host the Somali Heritage Time Capsule Festival, a youth-led cultural storytelling event bringing together Somali youth, families and the broader Portland community through art, performance and dialogue. By uplifting local Somali artists, vendors and performers, the festival creates economic opportunity, strengthens cultural pride and fosters cross-generational and cross-cultural connection.

Rahab's Sisters will host two community-based overdose prevention and harm-reduction trainings and conduct reflections on the impact and outcomes of these events. The project will expand access to lifesaving tools and inform future planning, strengthening community health, connection and empowerment through trauma-informed education and engagement with women, trans and gender-diverse people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Rocky Butte Farmers Market will offer weekly food education classes, focusing on lower-income shoppers using subsidies to buy local produce. A nonprofit partner and chef will lead dem-

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Business Association Notes

Foster Area Business Association
By Chris Correnti

It was HAPPY NEW YEAR! shouted across the city and through SE Portland. Then, of a sudden, calm washed over SE Foster Rd. But yet its heart still beats steady, calling Portland back to it in 2026.

The year has begun anew and here on Foster we continue to swing open the doors and light up the store front windows with community, craft, service and joy. We all may be through the holidays and working off the extra celebratory fatigue, but the sidewalks of Foster are wide and ready for you all. This is an open invitation to visit us again or for the first time and share in what it means to shop local, be invested in good community and know each other by name, face and story. Especially during the quiet months of January and February.

On SE Foster Rd. we know that you have many options of friendly neighborhoods to choose from, so we want to thank you all for when and how often you chose us in 2025. Much like the immortal words of Tom Bodett, courtesy of Motel 6, "We're Foster Area Business Association, and we'll leave the light on."

Find out more about what is going on on SE Foster Rd. at fosterarea.com or on IG @fosterareapdx.

Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association
By Jocelyn Jester

HBBA announces 2026 membership renewals and registration are available now. Annual dues are $250, with benefits such as social media recognition, website visibility and discounted booth fees at the Hawthorne Street Fair in August. Read the letter from our co-presidents highlighting our 2025 successes and goals for 2026 at bit.ly/4p2tpbo, then sign up for your membership at bit.ly/3MKgz43. Plus keep an eye out for our monthly mixers and other special events coming soon!

Bw Business Walkabout

The Turning Peel Offers Neapolitan-Style Pizza in a Welcoming Environment

By Ellen Spitaleri

Candy Yiu, owner of The Turning Peel pizzeria, shows off a freshly cooked mushroom pizza that cooks in 90 seconds in a 910 degree oven. Photo by Ellen Spitaleri.

Ask owner Candy Yiu what sets The Turning Peel, located at 4546 SE Division St., apart from other pizza places, and she will enthuse eloquently about three things: the pizza, the ambience of the restaurant and the community.

As for what is special about the pizza, that would be the dough and the high-quality ingredients that go into making the savory pie. First of all, the dough is the basis of Neapolitan pizza, the specialty of The Turning Peel, and that means that the crust is especially pillowy soft, flavorful and baked quickly in a hot oven.

"The temperature in the oven is nearly 910 degrees, and it bakes for only 90 seconds; we can cook three at a time in peak season," Yiu noted.

But the real factor that sets the crust apart is the fact that it begins with a sourdough starter, ferments for three days and is then rolled into balls and hand stretched into shape in order to push the air to the rim of the pizza. At The Turning Peel, Yiu is quick to point out, there is no machinery involved in shaping the dough; it is all done by hand and the dough is never rolled out flat.

Also, dough in most pizza places is made so that what is left over one night can be refrigerated and used the next day. But that does not hold true for sourdough pizza crust—it must all be used in one batch.

But Yiu was raised to never waste food, so she bakes the leftover dough, turns it into pizza bread and then gives it away free to customers. She estimates that she has given away 10,000 pizza breads over the two years that The Turning Peel has been open.

Yiu is proud not only of the unique crust, but also, she is adamant about using only the best and freshest ingredients for the all-important toppings.

For Yiu, the dough-making process is both "scientific and emotional." She noted that the alchemy of The Turning Peel's pizza did not come about overnight.

She tested about 1,000 pounds of flour, and, at first, did not know if others would like her pizza. "We started out selling pizzas at the People Co-op's Farmers Market," Yiu said, adding that the first batch of pizzas sold out, so the next week she doubled the dough, and then that sold out.

"We kept doubling," she said, adding that she concluded that people appreciated pizza, made with simple ingredients.

Yiu noted that she learned so much from the others at the market who told her about organic produce; this has enabled her to sell vegetarian and vegan pizzas. Customer favorite pizzas include truffle mushroom and pepperoni jalapeño hot honey, while her favorite comes topped with truffle mushrooms and sausage with jalapenos.

Yiu said she loves to take advantage of seasonal produce to make special pizzas. Last summer she harvested grapes from the arbor that covers the outside of the patio, roasted them and used them for toppings. She also roasted quince that she picked from the tree outside the front of the restaurant.

Other popular menu items include seasonal soups, housemade tiramisu and what Yiu calls "crust dips."

"We don't want people to waste the crust, so we have sauces to dip the crust in, including marinara, honey and garlic and ricotta compote," she said.

As for the ambience of the restaurant, Yiu has carefully curated every inch of the space, from the made-to-order wallpaper and decorative tiles to the light fixtures and chairs. It took her a whole month just to pick out the floral plates used to serve the pizzas, as they needed to be the perfect size to accommodate the round metal rack that the piping hot pizzas sit upon.

The Turning Peel is made up of two different spaces: the house is an art-filled, cozy area with tables and chairs, while the covered outdoor patio features a grape arbor, antique ice cream chairs, hurricane lamps and space heaters. Yiu said that she and her husband bought the house five years ago, and she was peripherally involved with a different restaurant that opened in that space. But then the pandemic happened and the restaurant closed. The space was empty until 2023, when Yiu decided to open The Turning Peel. Her husband chose the name of the restaurant, which refers to a pizza peel, a long, shovel-like spatula used to turn the pizzas in that super-hot oven to make sure they are cooked on all sides.

And finally, Yiu said that the community has been supportive, with many customers returning regularly. "The Turning Peel is so special; it is inclusive, affordable, accessible and even romantic," she said, adding that "So many people come here to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. We've had a baby shower, a marriage proposal and customers have gotten married here."

The restaurant is also ADA-accessible and dog-and-child-friendly; there is even a box with free toys that sits near the main entrance.

Yiu added, "I am so happy to share with the community. People come back every year to celebrate; we share these memories together."

The Turning Peel
4546 SE Division St.
theturningpeel.com
Open Wednesday-Monday; see website for hours

Portland Community Gardens: 50 Years of Seeds and Stories

By Portland Parks & Recreation

Leslie Pohl-Kosbau. Photo by Portland Parks & Recreation.

Leslie Pohl-Kosbau stands at the entrance of Fulton Community Gardens. She breathes in the scent of ripe tomato plants while watching a hummingbird dart around a bed of flowers. She's been coming to this grid of garden plots for 50 years. It is quiet in the way gardens are quiet. Not silent, but settled. Leslie doesn't describe what started here as something she built. She describes it as something that grew naturally, something neighbors nurtured and the land welcomed.

In 1974, Portland Parks & Recreation hired Leslie as one of its first female gardeners. About a year into the role, her supervisor asked if she could turn a loose collection of garden plots into something real. People were planting vegetables in unused corners and along empty park edges with informal permission.

Leslie got to work.

There was no budget. No staff. No irrigation in most places. Still, in 1975, the first three official Portland community gardens opened: Fulton, Sewallcrest and Johns.

Leslie tilled the soil herself those first few seasons. She borrowed irrigation parts from the maintenance yard, ran waterlines and hauled tools from site to site. Neighborhood associations spread the word. Volunteers showed up with rakes, shovels, hoses, buckets and lots of enthusiasm.

"People wanted this," she said. "They were already there. We just listened."

Through the late 1970s and into the 80s, demand grew. More gardens took shape in parks, vacant lots and even on land cleared for the freeway that was never built. Portland was changing.

At Johns Community Garden in North Portland's Cathedral Park, families settled into the rhythm of growing their own food. Hmong refugees from Laos arrived in the city, many with years of farming experience. Leslie connected them with plots at Johns. Some of those first gardeners' children and grandchildren still plant seeds in those same rows.

In the early years, sites closed each fall and reopened in spring. But gardeners eventually asked to continue through winter. They wanted to tend perennials, restore the soil and stay connected to their plots and community. Gardens shifted to year-round access. Most sites still operate that way today.

Portland Community Gardens was never guaranteed to last. More than once, the program appeared on budget cut lists. Each time, Leslie told city leaders the same thing: Communities were invested. The gardens were part of daily life in neighborhoods across the city.

What she remembers most are the people. A prickly Italian volunteer garden manager at Sewallcrest who had farming in his bones. African families at Fulton planting crops they knew from home. Russian gardeners growing dill and cabbage in straight, careful rows. Laotian herbs climbing handmade trellises in summer heat. Peter, a teacher from China, more observer than gardener, showing how raised beds lift plants out of rain-soaked ground. Each site grew into its own mix of languages, laughter and late afternoons.

Not every garden started on Parks property. Churches offered space. A restaurant owner in the Eliot neighborhood shared land for nearly 30 years. Madison High School, Leslie's alma mater, hosted a garden on school grounds until the space was needed for expansion. The school is now McDaniel High School.

As the program reached more neighborhoods, shared leadership followed. Volunteer garden managers helped organize work parties and welcome new growers. Leslie taught pruning, composting and soil care. But she learned as much as she led.

When Leslie retired in 2011, Portland Community Gardens had grown to around 35 sites. The program had lasted almost four decades of seasons and city change. What started as three sites, each divided into individual plots, became a community of gardens people could count on to learn from each other and care for shared ground.

"It's healthy to be able to touch earth. To be able to grow our own food. To have space to do that is incredibly important."

These days, Leslie serves as co-chair of Friends of Portland Community Gardens, an advocacy group she helped create. The all-volunteer organization raises money each year for garden managers to buy supplies for volunteer work parties.

She sees the program stretching across the city with 61 community gardens and more being planned. A lot has changed over the years. But a lot has not.

Her hope is still the same. A community garden within walking distance of every person in Portland, no matter where they live.

When asked what it means to see so many gardens and gardeners thriving after all these years, Leslie smiles. "It was never my program," she says. "It's always belonged to the people."

This article was originally published at portland.gov/hello/updates.

Goodbye Portland, From a Longtime Fan

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"7 Pillars" mural by Askew One SW 4th Ave. and SW Washington St. Photo by Marshall Hammond.

you often fail, but you are always driven to improve, to make life better for everyone. You want your vulnerable citizens taken care of, you want everyone to be included and have their needs met. You want to help your people when they're down and struggling, not send them away or lock them up.

This desire, this caring nature that you have, is the glue that holds civilization together. It's the antithesis to the dark forces that want us to turn on or away from each other. It's spelled out in a new mural downtown, and echoed on the signs and symbols adorning your windows, your lawns and the stickers on your cars and bicycles. It's embodied in kindhearted people taking small, everyday actions to help others.

In my time writing about you, I've learned that you are full of such kindhearted people. I've been fortunate to speak to some of them.

It gives me hope, Portland, to know that a person like Jan Macmanus, the Executive Director of We Shine, is among you. Macmanus and her organization create and maintain "microvillages," a model of free housing that makes space for struggling people to be sheltered and supported within their communities, not shunted aside.

Then there's Cheryl Bickle, the Principal of Community Transitional School, where homeless children are allowed to mingle with other kids and be supervised and cared for while learning skills that will help them through life.

And there's people like Romeo Sosa of the Portland Immigrants Rights Coalition, who organizes support for immigrants and the families of immigrants who have been targeted, detained and deported by ICE.

There are so many more. And all of these people work with the help and support of countless others—volunteers, donors, city officials, churches, charities, businesses. None of them go it alone, they all represent whole communities banding together to do good.

When I'm feeling a little low I remember, Portland, that you are full of people like these—people doing their part to hold it together come what may. It's who they are, it's who you are. So, whenever you are feeling a lack of hope or inspiration, do as Mr. Rogers said, "look for the helpers." Support them, join them, become them. Donate. Volunteer. Take action.

Portland, you have greatness inside of you. There's never been a better time than now to bring that greatness out into the light. Find those things worth fighting for and fight for them. Big or small. You don't have to save the world. Just try to help the person next to you, and that will be enough.

Adios Portland—city that I love. See you down the trail.

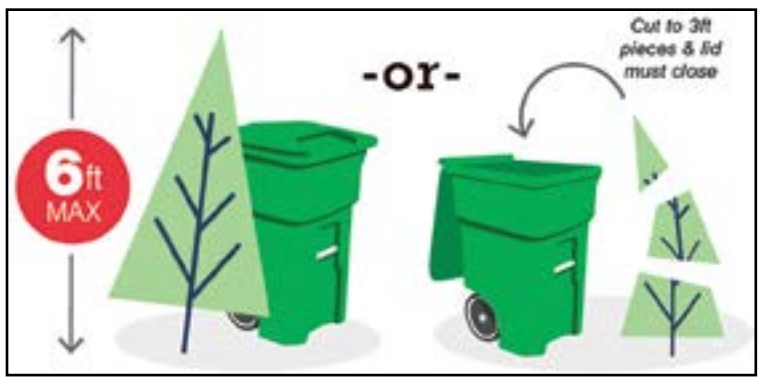
Community News

Holiday Garbage and Recycling Tips

With the holidays over, it's time to start the clean up. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) has tips on how to recycle common holiday waste, what to do with your tree after the holidays and pick up delays due to the holidays and winter weather.

Most holiday waste will go in the garbage. This includes envelopes with plastic padding (even if the outside is paper); foil or glitter-covered wrapping paper and gift bags; bubble wrap, plastic "air pillows" and packing peanuts; plastic gift cards and any plastic not shaped like a bottle or tub; and string lights, ribbon, yarn and cords. This last category is called "tanglers" because they get tangled in the machines that sort recyclables and cause the whole process to shut down.

Wrapping paper and gift bags can go in the recycling bin only if they are made of paper and contain no foil or glitter. Cardboard boxes can also go in the recycling and it's ok to leave tape and labels on them. Flatten boxes and cut up large boxes so they fit



inside the bin.

Batteries and things with batteries can be placed in a one-quart, zip-sealed bag, placed on top of residential glass recycling bins. They should never be put in the garbage or recycling bins due to the risk of sparking fires.

All food goes in the compost bin, including scraps from plates, potato peels, apple cores, chicken bones and spoiled or moldy food. Holiday trees, wreaths and greenery (as long as all decorations, lights and wire have been removed) go in the compost bin. Trees should be cut into pieces three feet or shorter. If you can't cut your tree, it can be placed in its entirety next to your compost bin for an additional $5.45 charge. Fake or "flocked" trees go in the garbage.

Both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Thursdays this year, which means that customers with Thursday and Friday collection days will be delayed by one day. Friday customers will have their collection day on Saturday.

Additional information at portland.gov/bps/garbage-recycling/news/2025/12/9/holiday-garbage-and-recycling-tips. Questions can be directed to the Garbage and Recycling Hotline at 503.823.7202 or by emailing wasteinfo@portlandoregon.gov.

Everybody Reads 2026 Selection

Multnomah County Library (MCL) has selected Justice Ketanji Brown Jack's *Lovely One: A Memoir* for Everybody Reads 2026, the library's signature community reading project that has been operating for 24 years. Justice Jackson will visit Portland in the spring for an author talk Thursday, March 12 that concludes months of engaging library programs and events surrounding the book and its themes.

Lovely One is Justice Jackson's intimate reflection of her family's heritage through segregation and her own path as the first Black woman to be confirmed to the Supreme Court of the US. The book explores key themes of identity, ambition and resilience, highlighting the importance of mentorship and perseverance through professional and personal challenges.

Library patrons can pick up a free copy of *Lovely One* from the library starting in January. MCL will distribute 8,000 copies of *Lovely One* through libraries and high schools across Multnomah County as part of the project.

"*Lovely One* offers us a powerful story of identity and resilience, a shared foundation for listening and reflection," said Director of Libraries Annie Lewis. "Justice Jackson's moving account of her accomplished life and her family's legacy provides a rich backdrop for conversations about justice and injustice; what we gain from and give to one another; and persistence in pursuit of a dream."

Tickets ($35-$85) for the March 12 event are currently on sale through Literary Arts, literary-arts.org. The event takes place at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 7:30-9 pm.

Winter Garden Preparations

Portland Nursery wants your gardens to remain healthy and happy during the cold season and they have some tips to keep in mind for the inevitable winter weather events that will come our way before spring returns.

Zone 8 potted plants should be moved to a cool location, like a garage, for the duration of the storm. Containers can also be moved close to your home, protecting them from cold winds. If containers can't be moved, frost blankets are a great option. Drape the frost fabric over stakes or hoops and secure it to the ground with landscape pins or stones or by tucking it under the pots.

Frost blankets can also be used for borderline hardy plants like Hebe, Camelia and Star Jasmine—or recently installed, unestablished hardy plants like evergreen shrubs. The soil's radiant heat will be caught underneath, adding about six degrees to the air around the plant—but only when properly installed. The frost blanket needs to go all the way to the ground. Leaving the base of the plant exposed—something called lollipoping—won't cut it when it comes to keeping the frigid temps at bay. When temps rise again, frost blankets should be removed.

Mulch—a thick layer of wood chips, fir/hemlock bark or compost—can protect shallow roots from being damaged by freezing temps. Remember to keep the mulch away from the base of the plant.

In the event of ice and snow, staking recently planted trees can help them bear the weight of ice and snow. Accumulation can also bend or splay branches on some conifers like Arborvitae and Junipers. Spiraling twine (like a candy cane) around the length of the plant can help prevent this. Twine should be removed when danger of harsh weather passes.

Winter veggies like kale, chard, onions, garlic and shallots are fine if left uncovered. Broccoli and cabbages should be protected with row covers, frost blankets or cold frames. If temps dip into the teens for a prolonged period, lettuce should be harvested.

Watering helps roots remain durable while also protecting against desiccation. Be sure to check potted plants as well as the ones in the ground prior to a winter weather event.

Finally, if triage is needed, it's best to address recent plantings before tending to your established garden friends.

Community Pruning Pilot Launch

Thanks to generous multi-year funding from the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Portland Fruit Tree Project is thrilled to announce the start of something they've wanted to do since they started providing tree care—free fruit tree, vine and shrub pruning for households in low canopy areas, which aren't able to have their pruning done under the normal fee structure. Trained staff and skilled pruning volunteers will provide thoughtful, seasonal care tailored to each tree's needs. Whether it's improving structure, encouraging better fruit production or restoring an overgrown tree, the focus is on long-term health and sustainability.

Fruit tree/vine/shrub owners interested in committing to three years of care for their plant(s), can check out the map at bit.ly/490HVKE. The Portland Fruit Tree Project is restricted in what geography they can offer the service but, if you are in an area shaded on the map, fill out the interest form at jotform.com/form/253237137330147. There is also additional information about how the program will work, prioritization and eligibility on the form.

If you don't have plants, but you have a passion for pruning, this project will also be a good place for the Portland Fruit Tree Project to train and encourage volunteers who want to help. For those new to pruning, there is space for helping cut and load debris and other lower-skill tasks as you learn the finer points from the amazing team. Email Owen at owen@portlandfruit.org with the subject line, "Pruning."

OHA Urges Pertussis Vaccination

Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is on the rise and cases in Oregon have reached an all-time high. In response, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is urging people to make sure they and their families are up to date on vaccinations—especially those who are pregnant or spend time with babies.

Pertussis can cause severe disease in people of all ages, but babies are most at risk of serious illness, hospitalization and death from infection. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends every pregnant person receive a single dose of the Tdap vaccine during their third trimester to protect their newborn. Additionally, spouses, partners, grandparents and any adult routinely in the baby's life should consider receiving the Tdap vaccination at least two weeks before the baby is born.

Pertussis vaccination is important for people of all ages as it is the best way to prevent severe disease and hospitalization. "I worry people may not fully appreciate the risk pertussis poses as case counts are rising, especially for babies and older adults," said Howard Chiou, M.D., Ph.D., medical director for communicable diseases and immunizations at OHA's Public Health Division. The long-term protection from the pertussis vaccine wanes over time, however, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that people receive a booster every 10 years to maintain protection.

Pertussis can be tricky to diagnose because not everyone with the illness will have the trademark "whooping" sound when coughing. This means that pertussis often goes undiagnosed. Additionally, while pertussis can be severe and result in a trip to the hospital, others may experience only mild symptoms and may not necessarily seek medical care, though they can still spread the disease.

Jennifer Gibbons, N.D., is a naturopathic pediatrician in Portland whose practice attracts many parents who are vaccine hesitant. "When parents of my little patients also happen to be pregnant, they often tell me their own OBGYN has recommended the Tdap vaccine, and they will ask me, 'But do you think it's right for me?' The answer is always yes," she said. "I can say, 'I've seen whooping cough, and it's truly awful for infants.' Then I'll explain how the vaccine merely adds to the suite of protective antibodies that the mother is already providing the baby through the placenta. I'm always exploring ways to change my language with patients to see if I can get them to look at it differently."

Pertussis vaccinations are available from your doctor, medical clinics and many neighborhood pharmacies. Those needing help can contact 211 by emailing help@211info.org or dialing 211.

Community News

Use Extra Caution in Winter Driving Conditions

Multnomah County Transportation reminds drivers to use extra caution during the colder months as road conditions can be more treacherous with fog, rain, snow and ice this time of year. "The first proactive step you can take to prepare is making sure your vehicle is outfitted for winter driving conditions," said Multnomah County Road Maintenance Manager Ken Bossen. "Take yourself through a checklist to ensure you have everything you need, in case of an emergency in a winter storm."

A new instructional video from Multnomah County Communications, found at youtube.com/watch?v=l-5gBQl8r4U, goes through a basic checklist with proactive steps you can take to prepare your vehicle for winter weather. These include checking tire pressures and treads, being sure to carry some type of traction device, checking windshield wipers and washer fluid levels, verifying that you have an emergency kit and, finally, checking headlights, taillights and blinkers.

Safety tips for drivers include slowing down and increasing your following distance between cars. Brake and accelerate gently and avoid sudden steering movements in slick conditions. Avoid using cruise control in rainy and slick conditions. Use caution on bridges and overpasses, which freeze sooner than roads. Four-wheel drive and all-wheel drive do not help you stop faster; these driving settings help with steering and acceleration only.

For bicyclists and pedestrians, there will be more travel time when it's dark out. Make sure bikes are outfitted with reflectors and lights and that you wear more vibrant colors. Pedestrians should make sure to cross at crosswalks and use lighted sidewalks. Both should be extra cautious and not assume that someone is slowing down or stopping for you. Make sure they have come to a complete stop and make eye contact if possible before crossing.

"In the colder months, it gets darker sooner which creates more hazards for everyone traveling on the roads," Bossen said. "Cyclists and pedestrians are especially at risk due to visibility issues." Drivers are advised to use extra caution near intersections and other pedestrian crossings, and give more space when passing cyclists in bike lanes.

Snowplow Naming Contest Open

Portlanders who chose winning snowplow names had the chance to see their snowplow in person in October. Photo by PBOT.

The Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) and Portland City Elections invites the public to submit creative names for five more snowplows in the city's second annual snowplow naming contest. Last year, for the first ever contest, PBOT received name submissions from over 4,000 people. Then, 16,000 Portlanders voted on their top five favorite names (out of 20) using ranked-choice voting.

PBOT has 56 snowplows. After welcoming Beverly Clearly, Salt & Thaw, Brrrnside, Plowy McPlowface and The Big Snowploski, there are 51 left to name. This year, with the help of the public, PBOT will name five more.

Everyone is invited to dream up their punniest, most creative, Portland-y, Pacific Northwest-proud names they can think of. Provide your name, contact information and suggestion for a snowplow name at bit.ly/45hNa7D. Have more than one idea? Feel free to submit multiple entries.

When submitting a name, you agree to the City of Portland using your entry in a public and official capacity. Names with inappropriate language, swear words or slurs will not be accepted. More guidelines can be found on the submission form.

Submissions will be accepted through Monday, January 5, 5 pm. After submitting your snowplow name(s), come back Monday, January 12-Wednesday, January 21, 5 pm to vote on the top 20 names (selected by PBOT staff) using ranked-choice voting. The top five snowplow names will be chosen as winners and announced to the public the week of February 2.

2026 Wedding Reservations Open

International Rose Test Garden (Shakespeare Garden). Photo by Crystal Genes Photography.

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) is the proud steward of more than 200 parks, gardens and other natural settings which can be reserved for weddings and/or receptions. The PP&R Customer Service Center will begin granting reservations for weddings scheduled for the 2026 calendar year Monday, January 5. In-person reservations will be prioritized that day, while requests received by phone, mail and online will be processed beginning Tuesday, January 6.

In keeping with past years, PP&R staff expects future brides- and grooms-to-be to line up outside the Customer Service Center (at the Portland Building, 1120 SW 5th Ave., ground floor) in the wee hours of the morning of January 5. At 8 am, people waiting in line will be invited inside for light morning refreshments while workers begin processing wedding requests. For the second year, PP&R will be hosting local vendors offering services in support of weddings at the Portland Building, 8 am-12 pm.

While weddings may be scheduled at a picnic site, receptions cannot be scheduled in a wedding garden (only the ceremony portion). Weddings are not permitted at the Japanese Garden, Pittock Mansion and surrounding acres or Portland International Raceway. The 2026 PP&R wedding brochure (portland.gov/parks/documents/wedding-brochure-2026/download) provides a list of locations, fees, policies, insurance and more reservation information.

Towing of Illegally Parked Lived-In Vehicles

In late November the City of Portland renewed enforcement of the City Code related to towing and disposal fees for illegally parked lived-in vehicles. Towing of these vehicles is under the authority of City Code 16.30.520 and ORS Chapter 819.

Standard tow fees will apply for anyone wanting to retrieve a lived-in vehicle towed by the City. Proof of ownership along with proof of insurance and proof of a valid driver's license is required if the vehicle will be driven from the tow lot.

The tow fee for small and medium RVs, boats, tiny homes and passenger vehicles is $250. The fee for large RVs is $353.

If a vehicle is not claimed, the vehicle owner is liable to the City for all costs and expenses incurred in the towing, storage, administration and demolition of a hazardous or abandoned vehicle and its contents. Vehicles not retrieved by owners within 30 days that require disposal will also incur additional costs. These costs vary widely but could be significant—in the range of $2,000-$3,000 or more—depending on the vehicle's size and materials. The last known registered owner of lived-in RVs and other vehicles can expect to receive invoices in the mail for all relevant tow and disposal fees.

JANUARY EVENTS

FINANCIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP – The African American Alliance for Ownership holds a budgeting workshop via Zoom Tuesday, January 13, 12-1 pm. If you're not sure where all your money goes, a budget can help. Learn different approaches for putting together your personal spending plan. Register for the free workshop at bit.ly/4iO3Id2.

TEEN INTRO TO HOME SEWING MACHINES – The in-person workshop is designed for youth, ages 13-17, who have never touched a sewing machine before, in a welcoming space to learn and explore. Presented by and at SCRAP Creative Reuse, 619 SE 6th Ave., the workshop takes place Wednesday, January 14, 12:30-4 pm. Register by January 7 ($40) at portland.scrapcreativereuse.org/Events. Scholarships are available.

COMMUNITY HAPPY HOUR – City Club's New Leaders Council hosts their monthly happy hour Thursday, January 22, 5:30-6:30 pm at Kickstand Comedy, 1006 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Free and open to all, this month's program features a city and state government policy-making conversation with City Councilors Angelita Morillo and Sameer Kanal with Cassie Wilson, Legislative Manager, 1000 Friends of Oregon. Register at bit.ly/493Q414 to help them plan for the group size.

Looters & Leeches

By David Krogh

Author S.L. Stoner. Photo by Stoner.

What do you get when you use a real place, a real time in recent history, a mix of historical and made up characters and a story filled with mystery, crime, corruption and drama? The answer is you get a Sage Adair Historical Mystery written by local Portland author S.L. Stoner.

Stoner is a retired labor relations attorney with considerable experience in union-supporting roles. She also is a history buff, specifically local history. These backgrounds formed the nexus for her mystery writing. "I strive to make the books very true to Portland's history," Stoner said. "Every incident of corruption in *Looters* was taken directly from newspaper articles of the time, archived letters, other material and from the writings of historians like Kimbark MacColl and Leon Speroff."

For *Looters & Leeches,* the story is set in 1905 Portland just before the opening of the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition in NW Portland. Many existing streets and buildings are mentioned as are many real persons from that time. In addition, a section in the back of the book entitled Historical Notes provides significant insight into names, places and happenings to help keep the reader straight as to what is fact and what is fiction. And for those not very familiar with Portland's history, Portland and its political history has been rife with corruption, including bribery and price skimming, thus the name of this book.

The protagonist in this book is Sage Adair. Adair struck it rich in the Klondike gold rush and moved to Portland where he and his mother Mae own an upscale restaurant. He also is a labor activist and investigator under the alias of John Miner. Stoner clarifies that, "because of Sage's significant wealth, and his ability to play the role of urbane restaurant owner, he and Mae opened Mozart's Table. As the owner of that exclusive eatery, he is accepted into the town's highest social circles. That frequently makes him privy to many of the elites' secret dealings." That said, it is easy to surmise that Adair's activities are in support of workers and unions in the face of corruption by government officials and corporate crime. And that is true for the activities occurring within all 11 of the Sage Adair Historical Mystery series. According to the author, "The 11 books in the series can be read out of sequence and as stand alones. The primary characters remain constant. The first few books do a more thorough job of telling their back stories. But each story also focuses on a different topic not linked to prior books."

Stoner clarified that the books do follow a chronological order. "Yes. The stories begin in 1902 and *Looters & Leeches* ends in June 1905. I'm now working on a story that begins in November 1905."

Asked how she got interested in writing these stories, Stoner said, "The union members I answered to are hard working people doing a very difficult job. I had long dabbled in local history and knew how impactful unions were in Portland and the Pacific Northwest. I wanted to share that history with the union folks—I wanted them to know that, like Newton's scientific successors, they too stand on the 'shoulders of giants.' But, I also knew it unlikely they'd read non-fiction. So, I decided to craft an adventure mystery—a fast-paced easy read—that would painlessly provide the reader with empowering historical facts."

The first five books came out starting in 2010, when Stoner was still a practicing attorney. But getting the books published was a challenge which forced Stoner and her husband to do it themselves. "Yamhill Press is our company. My husband, George Slanina is the publisher. By the time the first book was ready to be published, the publishing industry was in a tailspin, mostly because of Amazon. As a consequence, publishers were cutting costs and being very restrictive in what they published. We do minimal marketing. The series really depends on word of mouth. The audience is growing, albeit slowly."

Regarding story ideas and research, Stoner states, "I go wherever the topic takes me. For, example, I've researched in San Francisco's Maritime Museum and rare book public library department. I spent considerable time researching in the Library of Congress in DC and at the Federal archives in Seattle. Locally, the OHS records, the Portland Archives, the OHSU library, Multco Library and the Cedar Hills library have been invaluable. Librarians are my heroes!"

One facet of her stories that really sticks out is the similarities that exist in economic events then versus now. "Because of current events, I am more aware of how progressives in the early 1900s fought and reduced the concentration of wealth and power that existed during the so-called Gilded Age of the late 1800s, early 1900s. At that time, 10 percent of the population owned over 73 percent of the country's wealth. This untenable situation was created by the unrestrained greed of the robber barons of yesteryear. Popular legislation, pushed by progressives, started restraining that greed, moving the US in a more equitable direction. There are so many parallels between the huge wealth gap of that era and the growing greed-driven gap that exists today. Still, I am hopeful that a similar paradigm shift in societal values is underway today, driven by that same progressive spirit. The impactful rise of progressivism in response to the robber barons' greed is one aspect of history that does need to be repeated."

Looters & Leeches is a pleasant and action packed read, especially if you are interested in early Portland history. Published by the Yamhill Press (yamhillpress.com), it is available online from different outlets and from local booksellers such as Powell's Books on SE Hawthorne Blvd.

82nd Ave. Revitalization Accelerated in 2025, With More Planned for 2026

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1.4 miles of the corridor, including segments between SE Mill St. and SE Brooklyn St., improving ride quality and reducing standing water; construction of nearly a mile of new sidewalks along SE 82nd Ave., seven new pedestrian crossings at SE Clinton, Ash, Schiller and Knapp streets; and a full traffic signal at SE Schiller St., a crossing residents had long flagged as unsafe.

"By adding new marked crossings, there are more safe opportunities for people to cross the street in a controlled environment, creating a level of certainty for both pedestrians and drivers," Schafer said.

"These are all investments that when we make them, we're not just thinking about the next five years, we're thinking about the next 20, 30, 50 years; how that neighborhood is going to look, and wanting to get the most of our money by making long-term investments that will grow with the community over time," Schafer emphasized.

Community input has played a central role throughout the process. PBOT has worked closely with organizations including the 82nd Avenue Coalition, FUBON, Portland Community College and local businesses, conducting door-to-door outreach during construction to address access, detours and operational needs.

"A good project is not a good project without community input," Schafer said. "The people who live, work and play along this street know what's missing. Our job is to listen and translate that into infrastructure."

Lauritzen said these current upgrades reflect decades of organizing by residents and advocacy groups. He emphasized that the scale of public investment, including PBOT's $185 million commitment, additional funding from the state, federal government, Metro, the Portland Clean Energy Fund and transit investments led by TriMet, all make community oversight especially important.

"We think the public should have a strong voice in how this money is invested," Lauritzen said. "We try to hear and listen to people who live up and down the corridor, and then try to channel those visions."

The changes now visible are only the beginning, according to Schafer. "We will see construction within this decade that fundamentally transforms 82nd," she said. "The goal is that when people think about this street 20 or 30 years from now, they see it as a place, not just a road."

Looking ahead, SE Portland will remain a major focus as the project continues. By the end of 2026, PBOT plans to widen sidewalks near SE Foster Rd. and SE Raymond St., upgrade additional traffic signals using newer technology that allows signals to coordinate with one another and construct new pedestrian crossings at SE Tibbetts, Lafayette, Ramona and Tolman streets, with

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Stories That Bind: Write Around Portland at Whitewood Gardens

By Isa Halle, Franklin High School's *The Franklin Post*

A Write Around Portland workshop underway at Whitewood Gardens. Photo by Chris Nelson.

"I'm really big about creating a sense of community," says Chris Nelson, the Life Enrichment Director at Whitewood Gardens, a residential care facility in SE Portland. "You have to be around your neighbors in order to get that sense of community. For the past decade, one of the most meaningful ways the residents have been able to connect with one another is through a writing workshop hosted by Write Around Portland.

Founded in 1999, Write Around Portland partners with various agencies—including hospitals, schools and prisons—to conduct writing groups that last between six and 10 weeks. "[It's] all about building community through writing," says Lilly Do, program manager for Write Around Portland. At Whitewood Gardens, the workshops last eight to 10 weeks, with 90-minute sessions once a week.

"[Write Around Portland] is not an organization that's going to teach you about character or teach you about plot. It really is about bringing people together in community," says Pamela Fiehn, a volunteer writing facilitator for Write Around Portland, who has been involved with the organization for over a decade, serving as a board member and facilitator for the past two years. Fiehn volunteered at Whitewood Gardens and shares, "These are folks who've lived really long lives, and they have so many rich experiences and fascinating memories to share."

The workshops are supported by volunteer facilitators and scribes. The scribes play a crucial role for residents for whom the manual task of writing is challenging. Nelson comments, "A lot of our residents are able to reminisce and be creative, but they don't have the manual capacity to do so." He continues, "They're amazed that someone would be interested in their thoughts or their memories."

For the residents of Whitewood Gardens, the impact of the workshop is both immediate and lasting. "People get to know one another at a level that just doesn't happen when you're just sitting at a table having breakfast," observes Nelson. Larry, a Whitewood Gardens resident, said, "The writing workshop has given me the opportunity to get to know my fellow residents much better, seeing a different side of them, which is really fantastic."

The workshop aims to address some of the deeper challenges seniors often face. "Helping folks leave a legacy and helping their words get out [are goals of the workshop]," says Do. "Especially with seniors, there is this sense of loneliness, and also a lot of grappling with mortality." The creative experience of writing, especially alongside peers, can help process emotions. As Fiehn puts it, "Writing is a form of expression, a form of empowerment."

Over the course of the sessions, participants select pieces of their work to edit into a final draft. When the workshop draws to a close, participants have the opportunity to read their piece aloud as part of a closing celebration, which the facilitators and scribes return to watch. The writings are compiled into an anthology, and each participant receives a copy. The anthologies can even be purchased at Powell's Books, making each participant a published writer. "It was an excellent experience filled with imagination, fun and expertise from the facilitator," says Esther, a workshop participant at Whitewood Gardens. "I can't wait to do it again!"

While the workshops eventually come to an end, their impact remains. "The time we spend together is amazing," Nelson reflects. "It has a ripple effect, a resonant effect. It's the gift that keeps on giving. People have relationships at a deeper level after these workshops are completed."

For Do, this kind of lasting connection is the heart of Write Around Portland. "I see just humanity in people, and the connections that are being built through writing," she says. Write Around Portland can be found online at writearound.org.

Future of SE Dairy Queen Rebuild in Limbo

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The current site of the demolished DQ on SE Division St. Photo by Daniel Perez-Crouse.

steps. Despite many expressing a desire for the DQ to return, residents of the area have concerns about the drive-through. Back in August, on behalf of the MTNA, Break-Pike Salas opposed building a drive-through due to issues around traffic congestion and safety on that street. One of their specific objections states, "The drive-through would create new conflicts between turning vehicles, pedestrians and buses, degrading FX2 reliability and increasing risk for the students of Atkinson Elementary."

The MTNA also notes that if approved, a precedent for property owners to maintain the right to develop a project that includes a nonconforming use that is no longer allowed under the Portland Zoning Code could be set.

As reported on the MTNA's blog, on November 14, 2025, the DQ property owner, Mohan Grewal, attended the MTNA regular monthly meeting and shared his hopes and concerns with the MTNA. "Mohan described frustrations he had with the City about the high cost and slow progress of the permit process. Mohan asserted that the drive-through was needed for the DQ to succeed at this location and that the City had not raised the issue about the three-year time limit until late in the process after Mohan had spent a significant amount of money on the project," the blog stated.

Most likely in response to this situation, and reportedly attributed to Mohan, residents of the Mt. Tabor area were leafletted with flyers asking them to support the building of the DQ and claiming the city is unfairly threatening to revoke the project. It alleges that, "The City of Portland is now asking to develop a Dairy Queen without a drive-thru after previously approving it on the Building Plans in April 2025," and that without the approval of the drive-through it "would likely no longer be fit for this location."

The current formal MTNA position opposes the inclusion of the drive-through (not the DQ project as a whole) without a formal determination by the City that it meets the requirements in the Portland Zoning Code.

The opportunity for the public to submit comments closed on December 22. The next steps from the City after taking them into consideration will be to approve the proposal, approve the proposal with conditions or deny the proposal.

AE Arts & Entertainment

Lundquist Solo Show

Portland audiences craving smart, incisive and off-kilter comedy have a new reason to rejoice: local mainstay comedian, writer and director Peter Lundquist makes his solo show debut with *Nervous Laughter*, a provocative and profoundly entertaining exploration of anxiety, resilience and the healing power of laughter. The show runs Fridays and Saturdays, January 9-24, 7:30-8:30 pm, at 21ten Theater, 2110 SE 10th Ave.

Lundquist's performances are a collision of the cerebral and the absurd, delivered with a truly "Portland" combination of unfiltered heart and anarchic energy. *Nervous Laughter* brings together everything he's known for—sharp, poetic comedy populated with unforgettable characters, clever satire, writerly precision and a raw, intimate comedic core—to create a performance as vividly human as it is hysterically funny.

Lundquist's journey is both laughable and real. Once paralyzed by panic attacks and shut in his apartment for three years, he received an unexpected prescription from his therapist: take an improv class. The experience transformed him, and now, drawing on 100+ live Portland shows, TV and radio appearances and a lifetime of sketch and character work, he turns his unlikely tale into a solo performance packed with sketches, stories and surprises.

With mental health awareness in the spotlight, Lundquist's work is as timely as it is entertaining, appealing to audiences who crave smart, fearless and deeply personal humor. This show doesn't sugarcoat panic attacks or social anxiety; it puts them on stage, messily and hilariously, proving that struggling is normal, and laughing through it is not just ok, it's necessary.

Lundquist shares, "*Nervous Laughter* is about getting to the end of your rope and discovering that comedy can pull you back and help you get through the worst moments of your life. I remember being sedated in an ER during a mental health crisis when a doctor asked, 'are you Peter Lundquist? I said, 'Yes, but please, no autographs!'"

Tickets ($24 + fees) available at nervouslaughterpdx.eventbrite.com. Minors are allowed with parent or legal guardian.

Clay Sculpture Workshop

Leikam Brewery, in collaboration with Rain Dragon Studio, is happy to present their second Clay Sculpture Workshop in Leikam Brewery's Community Room, 5812 E Burnside St. The focus of the workshop will be sculpting Heart Rattles, in anticipation of Valentine's Day.

This hands-on, skill-building workshop will take place Sunday, January 11, 3:30-6 pm. All tools and clay will be supplied to create your own Heart Rattle from stoneware clay. Instructor Teri Fahrendorf will then bring the still-wet sculptures to her studio, where she will slowly dry, fire, stain, then fire them again in her ceramic kiln.

Completed Heart Rattles will be on show to the public at the Student Artist Reception at Leikam Sunday February 8, 4-5 pm. Students will take their Heart Rattles home after the reception.

The workshop is open to participants ages 12 and up. Cost is $80 and covers everything including two beer tickets. Beverage substitutions available for minors, abstainers and others who don't drink beer. A slight upcharge may be necessary for some cocktails.

To register, visit raindragonstudio.square.site. For questions, email teri@raindragonstudio.com.

Color & Sound

During the rainy January season, Clinton Street Theater is hosting its fourth annual "Color & Sound" series, featuring bright films with big music. This year's series includes a range of titles, from modern favorites like *Scott Pilgrims vs. the World* to classics like *Singin' in the Rain*.

The series will also pay tribute to Udo Kier, who passed away in November, with a screening of the late actor's starring role in *Swan Song* Friday, January 9, 7 pm. In the film, a formerly flamboyant hairdresser (Udo Kier) takes a long walk across a small town to style a dead woman's hair.

Other films, like *Zoot Suit* and *Mississippi Masala* will benefit immigrant rights organizations. Luis Valdez's film based on his stage production of the same name is a fictionalized version of the Sleepy Lagoon murder trial, which resulted in the 1943 Zoot Suit Riots across Los Angeles. Proceeds from the Saturday, January 10, 7 pm screening benefit Pueblo Unido PDX.

Mississippi Masala, presented by Portland Panorama and benefiting Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC), screens Saturday, January 31, 7 pm. In the film, the vibrant cultures of India, Uganda and the American South are blended and simmered into a rich and fragrant fusion feast in Mira Nair's luminous look at the complexities of love in the modern melting pot.

There will also be a rare evening of 16mm film prints from the Scopitone-era, shown on loan from the Nyback Archive. One of the last iterations of movie jukeboxes, Scopitones enjoyed a brief but explosive moment in the sun in the early 60s. This is a rare opportunity to experience a magnetic soundtrack on film, which is as hi-fi as film can be. *Celluloid Jukebox: Scopitone-a-Go-Go* plays Thursday, January 29, 7 pm.

For additional details on these shows, tickets, and the full lineup of upcoming shows, visit cstpdx.com.

One Tough Mother

triangle productions! is excited to begin the new year with a new play about Portland's "One Tough Mother," Gert Boyle. You may think you know the story about Boyle and the history of Columbia Sportswear but you just wait. Lucille Lortel nominee playwright Donnie Horn, who has been instrumental in bringing many historical figures to the stage, like Walter W Cole/Darcelle, Tonya Harding and Jim Pepper, now brings the true life story of Boyle.

The late Columbia Sportswear matriarch earned a place in the hearts of countless Oregonians with her honesty, generosity, perseverance and sense of humor—all attributes we could sure use now. "It's Not All About Me" features Wendy Westerwelle as Boyle and Paula Gunness as the interviewer who helps bring the story to the forefront upon the release of her 2005 autobiography *One Tough Mother*.

Shows are 7:30 pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday January 29-February 14 as well as a 2 pm Sunday matinee February 8. Tickets ($20-$40) available at trianglepro.org.

Yiddish, Russian Music Concert

Eastside Jewish Commons, Portland's premiere Jewish Arts and Culture space, is excited to present The Stranniki (The Wanderers) in concert Friday, January 23, 7:30 pm. The Stranniki is a collaboration between Polina Shepherd (piano) and Psoy Korolenko (vocals, piano), renowned multilingual artists in the Yiddish music scene for over two decades. Together, they have toured the US and internationally, performing programs such as "Schlepping the Steppes and the Shtetl."

The Stranniki are known for their evocative blend of Russian folk, Yiddish theater tunes, Hasidic nigunim, village laments and foot-stomping dances. With vocals that soar and instrumental arrangements that carry both intimacy and fire, the ensemble creates an atmosphere that is at once nostalgic and vibrantly alive. Their performances invite audiences into a sound world shaped by migration, memory, resilience and the deep emotional current of Jewish and Slavic musical heritage.

Their work centers on the themes of the wanderer and the road as a path, blending Yiddish and Russian poetry, folklore and music from the 19th and 20th centuries with their own compositions. The project reveals a unique continuity of texts, melodies, roads and destinies—still inspiring and meaningful today, perhaps more than ever.

Tickets for the all ages show are $25 in advance at tinyurl.com/stranikki or $30 at the door.

AE Arts & Entertainment

Avery Hill Classes

Photo by Angela Holm.

Master instructor Avery Hill invites people to kick off 2026 with music. Join her for one of her classes, offered at Artichoke Music Thursday evenings beginning January 22. 'Ukulele for Beginners (5:30 pm) is an eight-week class that will cover and review all the basics for early success in 'ukulele playing—how to hold the instrument and strum, a variety of songs to build up a strong repertoire and other essential skills and good habits for a strong start to playing. Beyond Beginner 'Ukulele (6:30 pm) takes 'ukulele playing to the next level with popular and accessible songs to build a repertoire of chords, keys, strum patterns and basic ear training.

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 pm, January 22-March 12 (also at Artichoke Music), Hill presents Women in Music: From Big Mama Thornton's "Hound Dog" to Beyonce's Cowboy Carter. Music enthusiasts and players are invited to take part in this powerful new class that reframes American music history through voices too often left out. The class digs into Black women's genre-birthing, genre-bending and genre-defying contributions to the lineage of American country, blues and rock'n'roll. Learn to play, sing and appreciate music made by the foremothers from Hill and historian, author and social justice activist Lois Levenn.

January is rounded out with the workshop Change Your 'Ukulele Strings, Saturday, January 31, 10 am-12 pm. Demonstration and materials will be provided, including strings, followed by guided workshop time for participants to work on their own.

Visit averyhill.studio to register and for additional information.

Arts events, livestreams and fun news?

Email your press releases and images to goingout@seportland.news

January OMSI Events

The holidays may be in the rearview mirror but there's still plenty of entertainment to be had at OMSI, starting with Science Pub: You Are WHEN You Eat Tuesday, January 13, 7-9 pm. For decades, health and diet professionals have focused on what and how much you eat as a means to a "healthier you." However, the timing of when you eat, particularly as it relates to your sleep-wake cycle, may be just as important for health, including metabolic function, hormone regulation and heart function. In this lecture, sleep specialist Dr. Andrew McHill will uncover why the timing of your meals is important and take a look at recent trends in intermittent fasting and time-restricted eating. Advance tickets ($8 suggested donation) are recommended.

Reel Eats: Spirited Away takes place Wednesday, January 14 and Thursday, January 15, 7-9:30 pm each night. *Spirited Away* will be joining OMSI's Reel Eats series as a prelude to the annual Studio Ghibli Film Festival. A $36 ticket to Reel Eats gets you admission to the largest screen in town as well as a tray full of bites that pair with moments in the film. The immersive experience will prompt viewers to eat certain bites as they correlate with a moment on screen.

The 11th annual Studio Ghibli Film Fest runs Friday, January 16-Monday, March 2, with screenings of 21 Studio Ghibli films, including popular favorites such as *My Neighbor Totoro, Kiki's Delivery Service, Howl's Moving Castle* and *The Boy and The Heron*. The festival launches with an opening celebration of the recent 4K restoration of the iconic *Princess Mononoke*. Tickets to the opening celebration ($22 adults, $19 seniors, $16 youth) include complimentary movie snacks, beverage, door prizes and a pass for one free OMSI admission on a future date. All other tickets are $9 adults, $8 seniors, $7 youth.

Sunday, January 18, 6-9 pm offers an immunocompromised-friendly evening with access to OMSI's newest exhibition, Monsters of the Abyss: Aquatic Predators Past + Present. Masked Night is a low-capacity evening that will require all participants (including staff working the event) to wear an N95 or KN95 mask. Free masks will be available in the main lobby. Tickets are $25 ages 14+, $22 senior (63+) and $20 youth (3-13). Children under three are not allowed at this event as they are unable to mask.

Celebrate the Native community with OMSI's fourth-annual Native American Community Science Night Friday, January 23, 6-9 pm. The family-friendly event welcomes visitors of all ages for a night of museum exploring, science demos, lectures, cultural entertainment, planetarium shows and access to the featured exhibit, Monsters of the Abyss: Science Playground for those six-years-old and under. Tickets are $10 adults, $8 youth/seniors.

Wednesday, January 28, 6-10 pm the museum goes into adult-only mode with OMSI After Dark: Into the Abyss. Delve into the depths of the sea for the first OMSI After Dark of the year with a celebration of life in the oceans. The event complements the featured exhibit, Monsters of the Abyss, looking at what is known, what is yet to be learned and especially the weird stuff down deep below the surface. Tickets ($27) offer guests 21+ the opportunity to have a drink and wander the exhibits after hours, interact with hands-on science experiments and enjoy live performances, lectures and food and beverage samples.

Tickets for all events and additional information at omsi.edu.

Frida Kahlo Play

Milagro announces an addition to its current Season42: Fuerza En Familia, presenting *Autoretrato de Fridita*, a family-friendly play about Frida Kahlo as a young child struggling with polio and seeking to discover her identity. The play is a reimagining of Ajai Terrazas Tripthai's play, *Mijta Fridita*, helmed by expert puppeteer and Milagro's Education Coordinator Yosmel López Ortiz.

Set during the Mexican Revolution and told through table-top puppetry, *Autoretrato de Fridita* tells the story of young Kahlo, who becomes inspired by her father's creativity, and with his support, uses her imagination and a box of paints to help her overcome challenges. With the onset of Kahlo's polio, her parents kept her away from bullies and other harm on the streets, but she is so lonely. As she begins experimenting with photography and art, she discovers a world of her own, beyond the four walls of her room, where she can play and dance and simply be herself, setting her on her own path to become the legendary artist who continues to inspire.

A preview performance takes place Thursday, January 15, 7:30 pm with all seats priced at just $15. The formal opening night is Friday, January 16, with audience members invited to stay for the complimentary, catered post-show reception following the performance. Shows continue for two weekends through Sunday, January 25, with performances scheduled Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday matinees at 2 pm.

Tickets ($25 adults, $22 seniors/students for all shows except the preview) available at milagro.org or by calling 503.236.7253 Monday-Friday 9 am-4 pm.

There will also be a series of private student matinee performances for organized school groups. Educators may find more information about and submit requests for a performance at bit.ly/4qkfWg5.

Author Events at AHC

Photo by AHC.

January brings two author events to the Architectural Heritage Center (AHC), starting with The Builders: Northeast Portland from Doug Decker. Thousands of hands have shaped Portland's eastside homes and neighborhoods. The men and women who imagined and then built these places in the early 1900s are gone but remembering them and the work they left behind adds context to our own residency here today. With words, photos, drawings and maps, NE Portland historian Decker will share stories of the builders whose work typifies the homebuilding experience in Portland, 1912-1955, Saturday, January 10, 10-11:30 am.

The following Saturday, 10-11:30 am, Tom Hubka, PhD presents Portland's Residential and Commercial Architectural Styles. If you've ever wanted to learn what style your house or favorite Portland area building is, this is a great opportunity. Through photos and diagrams, Hubka discusses details to look for in styles including Greek Revival, Romanesque, Classical Revival, International and Post-Modernism.

Tickets ($15 members, $25 general public) available at visitahc.org. Due to limited seating, advance tickets are recommended. AHC is located at 701 SE Grand Ave.

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.

The Language of Self-Awareness: How to Speak Your Truth Without Harm

I once heard an adult say "when I was younger, I didn't have the language to express the fear, anger and despair that I felt in my family and community so I could only express it through the couple of angry explicit words that I knew." Now, as an adult who has learned more about himself and the complex emotions and body sensations that accompany being in a human body, he is able to better articulate what he is feeling and express himself more clearly and without violence.

Gaining the vocabulary to describe your pain, discomfort, anger, sadness, anxiety, suffering and learning how to communicate these feelings effectively are powerful life skills to transform your relationships. The five main skills that increase our ability to be trustworthy and effective communicators are self-awareness, pause, not taking things personally, comfort with discomfort and learning to communicate.

Self-awareness is the ability to observe something before reacting to it. In yourself, you can build self-awareness of your body sensations and your reactions with curiosity. When sensations of tension, tightness or pressure arise in the body, you can notice and attend to them before they escalate into dysregulation.

This is where the pause comes in. First you have awareness, then you pause. That pause allows you to see what is going on inside or outside of you that may have activated these body sensations so that you may make an informed and more skillful decision about your next move. From pause you move to not taking things personally.

Not taking things personally will help you see a situation more clearly. Our minds tend to make up stories about someone or something which may or may not be true based on a lot of inputs from our childhood experiences. It's important to discern what part of the challenge is your responsibility and what part is the other person's or people's responsibility.

For example, if a person had a dysregulated parent who could not be relied upon, that person may grow up to have insecure relationships and create false stories of current relationships based on their childhood experiences with unreliable caregivers.

To illustrate this, if someone is late to meet you for a date or has to cancel the date, you might create a story in your mind about how that person doesn't really like you. When people always let you down, you might create a story that they are untrustworthy or disrespectful when, in fact, the reason could be that it was difficult to find parking, they were in an important meeting that went long or they were struggling themselves with social anxiety. Not taking things personally allows you to see more clearly what is true.

Humans are typically uncomfortable with uncertainty or the "gray zone." We prefer answers or certainty when, more often than not, situations fall in the gray zone.

If you can recognize and understand this concept and the vast benefits of widening your "window of tolerance" for discomfort, you will experience less reactivity and more curiosity towards what may be happening in the world or in a given situation.

This curiosity and willingness to suspend judgment for a period to assess a situation more clearly creates a spaciousness in your body and mind. You stay more grounded, calm and avoid being carried away by ever-changing dramas.

From pause and comfort with discomfort for an extra minute or two, you can also see what may be underneath the anger, fear or anxiety. From there, you can discover words for the emotions and create the space that you need to articulate what you are feeling and, even more importantly, articulate what you need.

If you are feeling unsafe, what steps can you take to feel safer and communicate this need? If you are feeling anxious, what realistic steps can you take to reduce your anxiety and communicate this feeling and need? If you are feeling angry, can you look beneath the anger to see what other emotions might be under the surface and communicate these feelings?

Often anger can mask grief, sadness or fear. We fear being frozen or consumed by grief, sadness or fear. Anger helps us feel a sense of power when, sometimes, we are just avoiding the feelings that actually need some of our time, attention and compassion. Anger is good to mobilize us for short periods of time. But over a long period, anger can turn to bitterness, cynicism and resentment so it's important to use it sparingly and skillfully.

The takeaway: We don't see the world as it is. We see the world as we are. And when we change how we see and respond to the world, the world itself begins to change.

Stacey Royce
Subtle Body Experience
subtlebodyexperience.com
503.258.7790

Neighborhood Notes

Buckman Community Association
By Susan Lindsay

The Buckman neighborhood has been in the news lately related to Multnomah County's Coordinated Pathways Center...otherwise known as the Deflection Center and with the addition of nearly 300 overnight shelter beds opening on SE Grand Ave. The Deflection Center, located at the former Precision Images building on SE 9th Ave. and SE Oak St., where persons found in possession or using illegal drugs (fentanyl, heroin and meth) are diverted from going to jail by agreeing to being "deflected" and brought to the center. However, the process has little to no accountability and after a year has, by all accounts, severely underperformed. Various elected officials have taken note of the poor showings of completion as well as the expense of the program and are interested in making changes. As this is county-wide "drop off" program, any changes to it obviously affect the area residents and neighboring businesses too. District 1 County Commissioner Megan Moyer is proposing a list of increases in who can refer and drop off persons at the center. She will be in attendance at our January 8 meeting to inform neighbors of her ideas and proposal and to hear about any concerns.

Regarding the new shelters, these are being funded as part of Mayor Wheeler's plan to end unsanctioned camping on public property in tents, tarps and RVs. One shelter is led by City Teams on SE Grand Ave. near SE Stark St. and will hold up to 80 men a night. The other, managed by Transition Projects, will be in the former US Bank building on SE Grand Ave. and SE Alder St. This program has a 200 person capacity. Both programs are overnight shelters only and all will discharge everyone about 7 am. So far, despite requests for information, we have not heard what the plans are for those persons during the daytime, though some guarantees are being made to assure that the immediate adjacent area will monitored more closely. We've been told that both shelters are "recovery" focused, but we have not received specific information as to what that actually means. The Transition Projects shelter will be all genders and pets are welcome, and we plan to stay connected with their management team going forward.

Looking ahead, we are happy to announce the BCA Board's application for a Summer 2026 Movie in the Park has been accepted by Portland Parks and we will be hosting a movie again at Colonel Summers Park! This year, we decided to combine our resources and have our picnic on the same day as movie night which will be either August 2, 8 or 9, depending on Parks' decision process. It costs the BCA a lot in terms of cash and volunteer effort to produce these positive, neighborhood enhancing activities and we can accept tax deductible donations from individuals and businesses via our fiscal sponsor, Southeast Uplift Inc. Please reach out if you are interested in donating time and/or funds to make these fun events happen!

At our last meeting we hosted State Representative Rob Nosse who said that during the upcoming "short" session as a result of the new federal tax law, Oregon budget cuts need to be made, including his area of expertise, behavioral health and he is not looking forward to this.

Buckman Community Association meetings are held every second Thursday of the month at 1137 SE 20th Ave. (enter at keypad on SE Salmon St.). For time on the agenda or inquiries, reach us directly: buckmanboard@googlegroups.com. While we encourage in person attendance, our meetings are also hybrid and the link is on our website, buckmanpdx.org.

HAND
By Chris Eykamp

The Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District did not meet in December (as is customary). We're watching a couple of issues, primarily the relocation of the People's Depot bottle redemption center to HAND, as well as flare-ups of a couple of recurring camping problems elsewhere in the neighborhood.

HAND continues to support the work of the Human Access Project, which is working to make the river more swimmable. To that end, that project has cleaned up a lot of the rubble along the stretch of river just south of the Hawthorne Bridge, creating a swimming beach where once there was only debris and brambles.

The HAND Board wishes you a happy New Year, and invites you to join us in 2026 on the second Tuesday of every month. To join our mailing list, please send an email to handannounce+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association
By David Petrozzi

Happy Holidays! Although the MTNA does not meet in December, we look forward to seeing you in the New Year, Wednesday, January 14, online via Zoom or in person at Taborspace. Check our website, mttaborpdx.org, for more details.

Richmond Neighborhood Association
By Allen Field

The Richmond Neighborhood Association (RNA) Board met December 8 via Zoom. Meetings are usually in person at Central Christian Church, 1844 SE Cesar Chavez Blvd. the second Monday of the month, 7–9 pm, except January. Everyone is welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. The Zoom registration link is at richmondpdx.org and on every agenda, which is sent to the RNA listserv. Meetings are recorded and posted on the RNA's website, richmondpdx.org. To join the listserv, email richmondnasecretary@gmail.com.

Most of the meeting was the "Know Your Rights When Dealing With ICE or Law Enforcement" presentation by Erin McKee, Oregon Justice Resource Center. A video of the training is on the RNA's website and was shared to the listserv and Nextdoor Richmond. A "Know Your Rights" webinar by OJRC is also on YouTube at youtu.be/Y6I4x5PAZl0.

Volunteers are needed to help deliver the quarterly Richmond News newsletter. If you don't receive it, no one delivers to the route you live on. Contact rnanewsletter@gmail.com to help with deliveries.

The next meeting is February 9. Join us to get more involved in your neighborhood.

South Tabor Neighborhood Association
By Cathy Kudlick

Welcome to 2026, South Tabor Neighbors and Southeast Portland!

We were pleased by the enthusiastic turnout at our December South Tabor Happy Hour at Lay Low Tavern despite the torrential rain. Neighbors debated the pros and cons of the proposed new DQ construction just outside of South Tabor on SE Division St. and SE 58th Ave. We also heard that people are eager to learn about how ICE sweeps are impacting our neighborhood. Stay tuned for related-information sessions at upcoming meetings.

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At Your Service

Neighborhood Notes

from page 13

Keep up with STNA by signing up for the low-traffic discussion list at southtabor.org And while you're there, check out the latest edition of The Crow that just flew in, this one related to history. If you have an idea for something you'd like to contribute to a future issue, email communications@southtabor.org.

Best of all, come meet your neighbors Thursday, January 15, 7 pm (and every third Thursday of the month after that).

We need each other more than ever!

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
By Gloria Jacobs

Happy New Year! In December, the SNA hosted a special General Meeting to discuss traffic safety issues on César E. Chavez Blvd. and SE 30th Ave. Representatives from PBOT's Vision Zero, a senior PBOT traffic engineer, as well as Councilmember Morillo and representatives from Council VP Tiffany Koyama Lane's office attended.

Work will soon begin on the southern end of the four-lane section of César E. Chavez Blvd. between SE Powell Blvd. and SE Holgate Blvd. Unfortunately, work on the northern section, starting at NE Sandy Blvd. is still a long way, and many budget dollars, away. But, there is some good news. PBOT will use its emergency authority to lower the speed limit on César E. Chavez Blvd. from 30 to 25 and add two radar signs.

SE 30th Ave. has seen some recent "improvements" that don't appear to help much with safety. Spurred by neighbors, the SNA Board will sign on to a letter to PBOT seeking remediations and further monitoring to ensure changes are effective. Area neighbors are raising money to purchase crossing flags. You can contribute at gofundme.com/f/keep-se-30th-and-salmon-safe-for-pedestrians.

Connor Lirot is a new Board member and the new chair of the Land Use & Transportation Committee. If you have concerns, please reach out at lutc@sunnysideportland.org.

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated to keep our print newsletter going! In the last six weeks we've received just under $1,000–about 50 percent of our goal. Donations can be made via Give Lively (tinyurl.com/395trwzw) or by check to SEUL, 3534 SE Main St., Portland, OR 97214, made out to The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association.

Share ideas/concerns and see meeting schedules/agendas at sunnysideboard@googlegroups.com and on Facebook (facebook.com/SunnysidePortland).

Letter to the Editor

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

To the Editor:

So sad to hear that another Oregon legislator has announced a cancer diagnosis, especially so soon after we lost other state leaders to that same disease. Moments like this remind us that cancer touches every family in our state.

As someone who lost my father to cancer, I am very aware that national policy is drifting in the wrong direction. The Trump administration has moved to cut federal cancer research funding at a time when scientists urgently need more resources to develop earlier detection tools, better therapies and, one day, a cure.

At the same time, the administration continues to promote a "most favored nation" (MFN) policy as an answer to treatment accessibility. MFN would tie the price and availability of many cancer drugs in the US to what other countries choose to pay. That may sound simple, but it would likely restrict access to frontline treatments and delay the introduction of new cancer therapies. Cancer patients cannot afford policies that put bureaucracy between them and the medicines their doctors recommend.

Instead of cuts and counterproductive pricing schemes, the administration should focus on solutions that can earn broad bipartisan support. Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform is one of those solutions. PBMs continue to drive up the cost of lifesaving medications and interfere with treatment decisions. Fixing that system would bring real relief to patients.

Cancer touches all of us. Our leaders should respond with policies that strengthen care, support research and protect access, not weaken it.

Chelsea Fretwell

82nd Ave. Revitalization Accelerated in 2025, With More Planned for 2026

from page 8

an improved crossing at SE Raymond St. Tree planting will also expand significantly. PBOT anticipates planting around 215 to 250 additional trees along the corridor in 2026, timed to align with the rainy season so the young trees can establish strong roots.

Entering 2026, 82nd Ave. will continue to see major improvements, and the steady build-out of sidewalks, crossings, lighting and trees signals a long-awaited shift toward a safer, more connected future for communities along the corridor. Lauritzen concluded, emphasizing his vision for 82nd Ave. "We want an 82nd of the future, not an 82nd of the past."

Community Small Grants Recipients

from page 3

onstrations on seasonal cooking, food conservation and waste reduction. The classes will strengthen food security while supporting small farms and underrepresented vendors.

The Movement Training Network will offer two monthly trainings to build skills for effective environmental and social justice organizing. The project provides accessible, community-centered learning spaces for emerging organizers and those seeking to deepen movement knowledge.

The Shadow Project will help K-8 public schools create neuroinclusive learning environments that support all students, particularly those who learn and process information differently. Educators will receive training and materials to implement research-based social-emotional learning, helping students recognize strengths, set meaningful goals and track progress, allowing them to develop confidence, motivation, social skills and self-management strategies.

This is the 19th year of the Community Small Grants program. During that time, the annual grants have helped grassroots groups working in and/or for the District 3 community with resources to identify their community's needs, develop collaborative projects and bring their ideas to fruition.

We love hearing from our readers. Email feedback or submit a Letter to the Editor to examiner@seportland.news.

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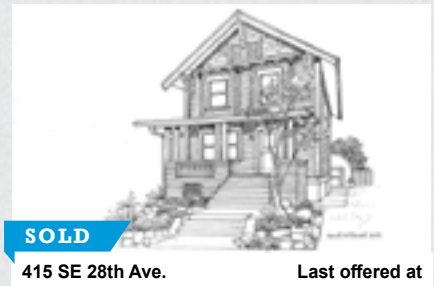
6826 SE Stark St. — Last offered at
1987 Custom 1-level — $879,900
1,887 Total Sq. Ft. — 3 BD, 2 BA

10130 SE Pardee St. — $384,000
1959 Mid-century — 3 BD, 1.1 BA
936 Total Sq. Ft.

SOLD

3107 N Rosa Parks Way — Last offered at
1922 FourSquare — $825,000
2,938 Total Sq. Ft. — 5 BD, 2 BA

13162 NW McNamee Rd. — $ 1,450,000
1986 Equestrian — 3 BD, 2.1 BA
Property w/10 acres
2,646 Total Sq. Ft.



SOLD

415 SE 28th Ave. — Last offered at
1910 Craftsman — $685,000
2,492 Total Sq. Ft. — 3 BD, 1.1 BA

SOLD

28 SE 28th Ave. #306 — Last offered at
2009 Condo — $550,000
1,142 Total Sq. Ft. — 2 BD, 1.5 BA

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Neighborhood Happenings:

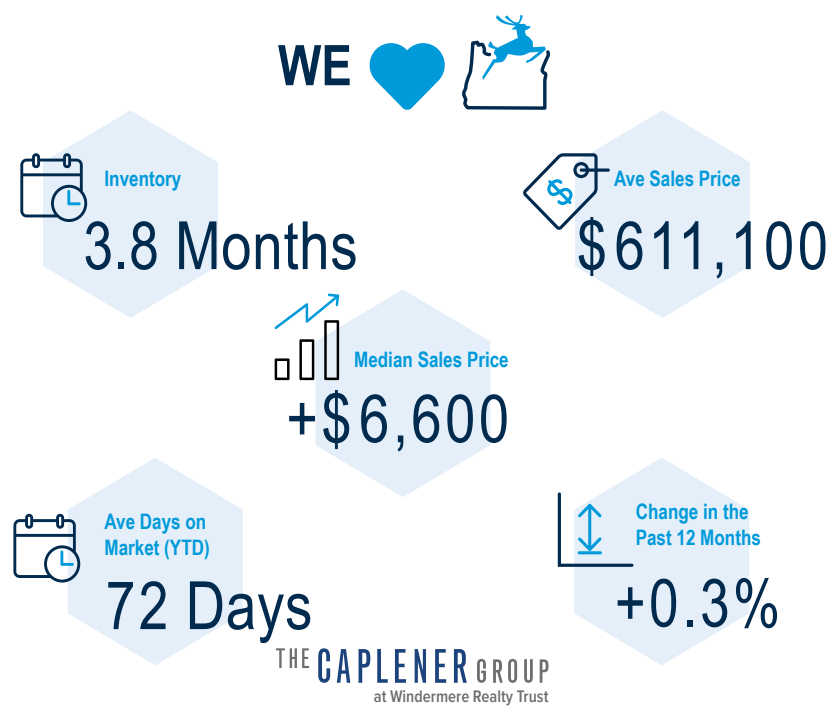
Portland's Folk Festival
January 30-31
portlandsfolkfestival.com
McMenamins Crystal Ballroom

Beginning in 2018, this annual two-day festival celebrates Portland's music scene featuring many local and regional artists. Visit the website above for ticket information and the 2026 lineup.

Central Eastside District Passport
Ongoing through September 7, 2026
centraleastside.biz/cepdx-passport

Central Eastside PDX has partnered with over 60 local businesses to create a District Passport. Pick up your free passport at any of the designated locations on the website and start collecting stamps from any of the participating businesses. Explore through September 7, 2026 to enter for prizes and enjoy special discounts!

HOW'S THE PORTLAND MARKET DOING?



Data is courtesy of the RMLS.

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